



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

Recently I celebrated Mass for the New Zealand Catholic Primary Principals Conference. It was a real pleasure to be with Principals from all over New Zealand and to witness just how they give themselves to their role as Principals. We are blessed to have so many women and men dedicated to Catholic education.

The theme for the Conference was REIMAGINE, RENEW AND REJOICE. Various speakers reminded the Principals of how important it is to take care of themselves when they are constantly giving and responding to endless and sometimes unreasonable demands.

In trying to address the Conference theme in the homily I began by quoting a few words from the Book of Lamentations 3: 32-33. ***“The steadfast love of our God never ceases; God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness, O God”.***

Helpful questions for any of us to ask, and to ask every day are ***“what do I do to become aware of God’s never-ending mercies? Do I know that God’s mercies are new every morning? Do I rejoice daily in God’s faithfulness?”***

We all want a relationship with God, but such a relationship/friendship needs a relationship with ourselves. There are many ways we come to know God and to know ourselves better. A favourite website of mine is GRATEFULNESS.ORG, within which there is a site called ***“The Angel of the Hours”***. This site that offers us an opportunity to direct our lives from within and not be swept away by the demands of the clock.

This site has eight “hours” spread throughout the day; they are basically the monastic hours of prayer. I find them very helpful. For example, the Angel of Lauds near the beginning of the day takes us out of the darkness into the light. It is a time which encourages us to have the attitude that each day is a gift, that everything in our life is gift, prompting us to see that the appropriate and only response to this day given to us is GRATEFULNESS, even when life is difficult and there are challenges. The Angel of Lauds invites us to ask ***“what attitude should I bring to this day? What is it time for? What do I need to nourish my soul for the day ahead?”***

The Angel of Lauds is just one of the “hours” of the day, there are seven others. Try them, pray with them, they will all help you to know that ***“The steadfast love of our God never ceases; God’s mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness, O God”.***

Nāku noa. Nā

John

Angel of Lauds



‘Wisdom means bearing your own identity, accepting yourself through and through, being proud of yourself, no matter what.’

Pope Francis, From Sharing the Wisdom of Time

NOTICES

- Please continue to pray for the **sick and frail clergy**, especially Monsignor John Carde, Frs Maurice Carmody, Don Morrison, Colin Durning and Frank Whitaker.
- **Use winter to Plan your Season of Creation** - Winter is the time to plan and lay the groundwork for our spring gardens ... it's also the time to weed and prune.
The Season of Creation is a worldwide movement of Christians, including Catholics, acting for our planet's future. Pope Francis is a big supporter of this event, which takes place from 1 September, and concludes on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. Have a look online [here](#) at what Christian communities across the globe did in 2020, it might inspire you to plan something for this year. You might plan a special prayer time, act on an environmental issue, research changes you can make at home, plant a tree, gift someone else a tree.
- **Clergy Day**—as agreed at the recent Assembly a Clergy Only Day will be held on Tuesday July 13, St Theresa's Plimmerton from 10—4pm. I look forward to seeing you there.
- **Jubilee Mass** will be celebrated on Wednesday 14 July at St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie at 11am followed by lunch at The Pines, Houghton Bay. All are welcome to attend Mass and celebrate with the clergy of the Archdiocese.

A reminder to all as we are still in **Alert Level 1** of the **Covid19 pandemic** to

- If you are unwell, stay home and seek advice from your medical centre or Ministry of Health Covid19 Healthline 0800 358 5453
- Sneeze into your elbow
- Wash hands constantly
- Use the Tracer App

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are *merely inconvenienced*
remember **those whose lives are at stake.**

May we who are *no risk factors*
Remember **those who are most vulnerable.**

May we who have *the luxury of working from home*
respect and support **those who must choose** between preserving their health or paying the rent.

May we who have *flexibility to care for our children* when their schools close
remember **those who have no options.**

May we who have to *cancel our trips*
remember **those who have no options.**

May we who are *losing our investments*
remember those **who have no money to invest.**

May we who settle in for a *quarantine at home*
remember **those who have no home.**

During this time, when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other
let us find ways to be the loving embrace of humanity to our neighbours.

Be aware. Be accepting, Be supportive. Be kind.