



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

We live in an age in which we are told to be careful of so many things. Health and Safety regulations are everywhere, and it is right that they are. We need to be kept safe on our roads, around building sites, and crossing the street. We could easily trip in our homes, harm ourselves carrying something, or get into difficulties when at the beach. Being careful is part of our life, and all the signs and the regulations are about keeping us physically safe. Usually when we are careful, we are safe.

At Mass last Saturday morning I suddenly thought as we prayed the Psalm that I don't always hear the verses of the Psalm and concentrate more on remembering and making the response. What I noticed just before Mass last Saturday were the following words from Psalm 119:4

“You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care.”

I was very taken by and intrigued by the words “with care”, and later in the morning looked up another translation of that verse. One translation said:

“You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.”

They are wonderful words, worth thinking about more deeply in this time of Lent, a time when we are invited to pay closer attention to the Word of God. Do we keep God's commands “with care” or “diligently”? Do we take “care” to ponder on the Gospel and the many invitations Jesus puts before us? Are we “diligent” in trying to live the Beatitudes and the Commandments? With the way we listen and pray at Mass?

“With care” and “diligent” might be good words to use to reflect on our lives as we try to grow closer to the Lord in this Lenten season. They are words we can also apply to our daily living, the way we speak to others, go about our daily work, and take time to pause and be aware of God's presence.

Living the Gospel means that everything in our day to day life is enriched if we live “with care” and with “diligence.”

Nāku noa. Nā

+ John



NOTICES

- Please keep in your prayers all our clergy. The frail and those who are experiencing ill health at present are Frs Frank Maguire, Peter O'Connell. We also pray for our clergy who have tested positive for COVID and are now isolating. We wish them a speedy recovery.
- We pray for all those who have been effected by the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle. The Caring Foundation, Auckland have set up a donation page for those able to financially support the people of Hawkes Bay and Tirāwhiti/Gisborne region. No donation is too small. Donations can be made [here](#) or online to the Foundation's bank account: **BNZ 02-0100-0242648-00** (Please use your surname and initials as reference, and Cyclone as a particular.) To receive an emailed receipt please email info@caringfoundation.org.nz to let them know you have made your donation.
- **Safeguarding Day** This Workshop is already fully booked. It is helpful for everyone to know that Safeguarding is part of our Mission as a Church. Safeguarding is promoting an environment which respects and acknowledges the dignity of each human being., and where people feel valued and safe.
- **Chrism Mass**
The **North Island** Chrism Mass will be held on **Monday 3 April 7pm** at the St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral, Karori
St Mary's Blenheim will host the **South Island** Chrism Mass on **Tuesday 4th April at 11am**
Archbishop Paul will be celebrating both these Masses.



Caritas Lenten Appeal to support the work of advocacy, Education, Aid and Development. Envelopes can be collected from parishes or to make an online donation click the link [here](#)

“Lent serves to remind ourselves that the world is bigger than our narrow personal needs, and to rediscover the joy, not of accumulating material goods, but of caring for those who are poor and afflicted. Let us take stock of ourselves, to free ourselves from the dictatorship of heavy schedules, crowded agendas and superficial needs, and choose the things that truly matter.”

Pope Francis