



The Parish of the Holy Spirit - *Te Wairua Tapu*

Archdiocese of Wellington

41 Britannia Street, Petone 5012 P.O. Box 33143 - New Zealand

Date: 6th September 2020

Reflection on 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Reaching Out

Sometimes in the Bible we come across certain passages that are as relevant and practical in our lives today as they were thousands of years ago when they were first written. Today's readings are good examples of such passages. Together they remind us that as **faithful Christians it is our responsibility to reach out to our not-so-faithful brothers and sisters and bring them back into the Church.** They even go on to recommend practical steps on how to go about doing this.

In our present world, *'reaching out'* is not an easy task at all, as this requires humility and courage.

However, today's readings invite us to review our **I-don't-care attitude**, it reminds us that, yes, it should be our business to reach out to our not so faithful brethren. Why should it be our business whether somebody else decides to serve God or not? As members of the church, we are not just a *priestly people* who offer sacrifice, we are also a *prophetic people*, meaning, **we are God's spokespersons**. Today's first reading is, in fact, a compact job description that God gave to the prophet Ezekiel on what it means to be a *prophetic person*. ***"...But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life"***. (Ez. 33:9)

The clear and practical nature of this message is continued in the gospel, where we are told not just what to do but how to do it.

"If another member of the church sins (against you), go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one" (Mt. 18:15).

Let us thank God for the clear and practical message of today's readings. As good hearers of God's Word, the next step is for us to now go and put it into practice.

Fr. Marlon

Notices

"The Pastoral Teams of *Te Wairua Tapu* and *Te Awakairangi*, at the suggestion of Cardinal John, met on 20 August at Pa Maria, Thorndon, for an afternoon of prayer and discernment in regards the Parish Consultations. Fr Brian Cummings, SM, facilitated the afternoon, and the Teams will continue to prayerfully consider the implications of the consultations over the month before meeting again. Please keep our Pastoral Teams in your prayers."

Baptisms:

We warmly welcome *Orla Patsy Maguire* (San Antonio, Eastbourne), *Corbyn Mae Jury-Williams* (Sacred Heart, Petone) who are to receive the Sacrament of Baptism in our Parish of the Holy Spirit, Te Wairua Tapu this weekend. May all of you always walk in the Light of Christ's Love.

HAPPY FATHERS DAY

We thank God for the gift of fatherhood
and ask special blessings on them all.

E te Atua o te aroha, loving God

We pray for fathers-to-be about to embark on the journey of fatherhood,
and for new fathers adjusting to life with a newborn.

We pray for fathers who juggle work and family life and worry
about their need to provide and the future of their children.

We pray for grandfathers who treasure and support grandchildren,
for uncles and father figures who care for and mentor young people;
for spiritual fathers who guide our children on their faith journey.

We pray for lonely fathers who are separated from their children,
and for foster fathers who open their hearts to the children of others.

We pray for struggling fathers whose family lives have been disrupted by the pandemic.

We pray for fathers who grieve the loss of their children,
and for all men who long to be fathers.

Loving God, we thank you for all our fathers

Bless them with your loving kindness as they patiently guide and nurture our children.

On this special day, help us to show them how much we love and value them.

May St Joseph, patron saint of fathers, be their helper and protector.

Amen

Family Ministry - Building Families of Faith

