

7th Sunday Ordinary Time (a) 19th February 2023

Introduction

- Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)
- Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.
- Remind everyone that there will be refreshments ????
- Announce the theme of the liturgy (see next)

Theme – GOING BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE LAW

commentator: We have been setting our course for the year by considering Jesus' Sermon on the Mount found in the Gospel of Matthew.

Jesus has been speaking about going beyond the limits of the law.

In the Gospel reading we have two more statements setting out the way of keeping the Law, which Jesus, the new Moses, demands.

- Announce the opening hymn:

Greeting

presider: *Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, whose table we share, be with us.*

all: **And with your spirit**

Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance*

presider: *Jesus offers the way of non-violence and unconditional love that reflects the Father's love:*

- "Be holy", the LORD tells us, because I am holy";
*but we are a community of sinners: - (pause) - **LORD, have mercy.***
- "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect",
*but we too easily accept our negligence and our imperfections: - (pause) - **CHRIST, have mercy.***
- "Be merciful as your Father is merciful";
*but sometimes our hearts are hard: - (pause) - **LORD, have mercy.***

*May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life:*

all: **Amen.**

GLORIA *invitation*

commentator: *With all the voices of heaven, let us sing praise, honour and glory to GOD*

Opening Prayer

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou: ...) Heavenly Father,
in Christ Jesus You challenge us
to renounce violence and to forsake revenge.
Teach us to recognise as Your children
even our enemies and persecutors
and to love them without measure or discrimination.
We ask this through our LORD Jesus Christ.*

*all: **Amen.***

Introduction to the first reading: (Leviticus 19 : 1 – 2 , 17 – 18)

commentator: Leviticus reminds the people that Israel belongs wholly to the GOD of the covenant. Their moral stance must match the holiness of GOD.

Introduction to the second reading: (1 Corinthians 3 : 16 – 23)

commentator: Paul reminds the Christian community at Corinth that It is not only hatred which can cause divisions between people. The community will only find unity in a common reference to Christ, who is GOD's supreme Wisdom.

Gospel Acclamation:

*all: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Whoever keeps the WORD of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of GOD. Alleluia!***

Introduction to the gospel reading: (Matthew 5 : 38 – 48)

commentator: The Gospel states there is a higher justice than that which makes the punishment fit the crime; there's a greater joy than the simple doing of what one ought; and a greater love than that which confines itself only to one's friends. This is due to the unfailing universal love of our heavenly Father.

Homily Notes *presider:*

- *Does GOD have problems? Can GOD have problems? Of course; you all know so. Look at the evil in the world that goes counter to GOD's will. Look at the amount of unbelief in the world. Look at the things that believers do that give GOD a bad name. Look at some of the things you do. Look at what a hard time people have in trying to believe. At the very least, GOD has a public relations problem.*
- *But if we grant that the Creator of the universe can have problems, what evidence is there that there might be a solution? Might we be that solution? And, even if it is possible that I am the solution or at least a solution, what must I do?*
- *I once asked a political activist what he hoped to achieve in life. His answer was simple. I want to be holy'. That is what GOD needs of us and what GOD wants of us.*
- *GOD tells Moses in today's first reading to give a command to the people: 'be holy, for I, the LORD your GOD am holy.' That is what GOD needs of us and what GOD wants of us.*
- *GOD tells Moses in today's first reading to give a command to the people: 'Be holy, for I, the LORD your GOD am holy.' That is the basic reason for all the commandments of GOD. The commands of GOD, or for that*

- matter, of the Church, have one object, the formation of holy people*
- *In the Gospel, Jesus tells us in a word, you must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.' My becoming holy is obviously very important not only to me, but to GOD. But why?*
 - *The first reason is that GOD loves me and therefore wants me to grow more and more as GOD's image that I am meant to be. But there is another reason as well, one that touches upon GOD's public relations problem.*
 - *I must be perfect as GOD is perfect, for otherwise how will the world know how GOD loves?*
 - *How am I to do this? There is much I can do to show the world that GOD is real, that GOD really cares about men and women, that people can know GOD and become holy like GOD. I can be GOD's PR agent, loving and being holy like GOD and thus becoming a solution to GOD's problem.*
 - *What would this perfect holiness look like? It faultlessness? In that case, god is out of luck. I'm not able to be faultless. I'm not even sure what it would look like, since I have never met anyone else who is able to be faultless.*
 - *The same gospel passage that tells to be perfect tells us what perfection looks like, and it is not a matter of being free of sins or defects. Neither is it some unchanging state of being. The perfection that GOD needs and wants from me is an activity.*
 - *It is acting like Christ in the face of his murderers, offering prayer and loving service instead of revenge. Its generosity toward those in need. It is treating all as members of my family whether they or I like it or not. That is, when you think of it, what families are all about anyway; we cannot choose our families. We can only decide to love them.*
 - *What makes other people my sisters and brothers is not a decision on my part or theirs. The choice is GOD's. GOD has chosen to be Father not only within the relationship we call Trinity, but has created, loved and redeemed, us, making us children of GOD and therefore brothers and sisters of one another. GOD's choice does not depend upon whether we are good or bad. The rain falls on us all. GOD's choice is made out of love and we have no say in the matter.*
 - *Therefore for me to be perfect as my heavenly Father is perfect means that I must love as my Father does, without being choosy.*
 - *That's not easy. I don't know how GOD could manage it except that 'GOD is love'. But I am not love and so many of my sisters and brothers are not lovable. What can I do?*
 - *I must remember that for Catholics our highest activity is called 'Eucharist', thanksgiving. That means that my faith is about recalling GOD's love for me. In return, though I cannot love as GOD does, in Gratitude I can try, That willingness to try is perfection enough to satisfy our doting Father.*

Creed / Statement of Faith

Intercessions - 7th Week Ordinary Time [Sun 19th – Sat 25th February 2023]

invitation to pray:

commentator: May Jesus' teaching on loving GOD and our neighbour inspire our prayer, that it may be pleasing to the Father:

1: *May our Church community mirror the holiness of the Father:*
- (pause) - *We pray to the LORD:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

2: *GOD of Love, You promise blessing to those who experience loss. May the victims of the cyclone find support in their time of need:*
- (pause) - *We pray to the LORD:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

3: *GOD of Justice, promote movements for reconciliation and peace and for innocent victims of war in the Ukraine and Russia:*
- (pause) - *We pray to the LORD:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

4: *GOD of Love, may all our lives reflect GOD's goodness and may we be true sons and daughters of You, our heavenly Father, who causes the sun to rise on the good and the bad: - (pause) - We pray to the LORD:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

5: *GOD of Healing, we pray to you for: . .*

(Maungaturoto) Trevor Briljevich, Tony Ruiterman, Lourdes Crisostomo, Bill Lewis, Beverly Simons, Peter Aukett, . .

(Mangawhai) Petronella ter Veer, Matteo Gray, Sarah Lambert, Frances Palmer, Phillip Cotching, Aloyius Brom & family, Rose Quigley, Dan Van Jaarsveld, Helen Bremford, Jocelyn Dahl, Tina Meehary, Lorna Bocoock, Laurel Ensor, Tony Holloway, Michael Sosinko, Michael Hynd, Noel Paget, . . .

(Wellsford) Dallas Colville, Lucille Jenneker, Maree Cameron, Rita McCurran, Wilma Jansen, Gerard McCurran, Noo & Paerangi Tainiau, William Jones.

Bless them for they share in Christ's passion through their suffering:

- (pause) - *We pray to the LORD:*

*all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

6: *GOD of the Living and Dead, look kindly on those who have died during the cyclone in NZ, the earthquake in Turkey and Syria; the casualties in Russia's military operation in the Ukraine; and for our own dead including Monsignor John Carde, Marie Davie, Ronald McColl, Clive Smith, Henk Zeeven, John Merrick . . And those whose death anniversaries occur about now: Margaret Ohlson, Myrtle Lambert, Cyril Joseph, John Peacock, and Jacinta Schicker, . . .*
Number them among your saints:

- (pause) - *We pray to the LORD:* *all: **LORD, hear our prayer.***

Concluding Prayer:

*commentator: GOD of Graciousness, give answers to our prayers in your great kindness. We ask through Christ our LORD: all: **Amen***

Prayer over the Gifts

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou: ...) LORD,
as we celebrate these mysteries
with fitting reverence,
grant that the offering we make
to the glory of Your name
may lead us to salvation.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our LORD.*

*all: **Amen***

Preface

presider: The LORD be with you.

*all: — **And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

*— **We lift them up to the LORD.***

Let us give thanks to the LORD our GOD.

*— **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal GOD.
We know that Your boundless glory is shown in this,
that You, the most high GOD,
came to the rescue of our mortal nature.
In our very weakness You found a remedy:
that nature which led to our downfall
became the means of our salvation,
through Jesus Christ our LORD.
Through him the hosts of angels adore You
and rejoice in Your presence for ever.
May our voices join with theirs
in the triumphant chorus of praise:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER - II

Memorial Acclamation

(the Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great 'AMEN')

Introduction to the LORD's Prayer

*commentator: With trust in GOD, who nourishes us in the hour of need,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, LORD, we pray, from every evil;
graciously grant peace in our days,
that by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always freed from sin
and safe from all distress,*

*as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,
now and for ever. Amen.***

Sign of Peace

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

presider: The peace of the LORD be with you:

*all: **And with your spirit.***

commentator: Let us offer each other an appropriate sign of peace:

Lamb of GOD

*all: **Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us (x2)
Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.***

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, Son of the living GOD,
who by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your death gave life to the world;
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood
from all our sins and from every evil:
keep us always faithful to your commandments
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

*presider: Behold the Lamb of GOD. Behold him who takes away the sins of
the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

*all: **LORD, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.***

Holy Communion

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:
(Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti:)*

Prayer after Communion

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou: ...) All-powerful GOD,
grant that we may come to the fullness of salvation,
which is pledged to us through this eucharistic mystery.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our LORD.*

*all: **Amen.***

(an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. . . .)

Dismissal

*commentator: We are sent; in the name of the GOD,
who entrusted the Law to Moses;
In the name of Jesus,
the Living Law of GOD;
In the name of the holy Spirit,
who makes us temples of holiness still.
To set no limits to our loving
just as You, O GOD, set no limits
to Your loving us.
Help us to work towards this,
until we gather again.*

*all: **Amen***

The Blessing

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,
e te Matua, e te Tamaiti ✠ e te Wairua Tapu.*

*all: **Amene***

commentator: The Mass has ended, go in peace.

*all: **Thanks be to GOD.***