

## 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time (b) 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### Introduction

*leader: Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)  
 Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.  
 Remind everyone about refreshments at the end of Mass ???  
 Announce the theme of the liturgy: ( see next )*

### Theme – **BE WITNESSES TO LIFE!**

*leader: Two strange incidents are described in today's readings;  
 the first is in the Book of Numbers;  
 The other in the Gospel of Mark.  
 Both concern outsiders and yet  
 outsiders exercise the power for life-giving!  
 In Numbers the outsiders prophesy.  
 In Mark, the strange exorcist  
 drives out demons in Jesus' name.  
 We don't find that it is easy  
 to assimilate new and unexpected developments  
 when we belong to an institution as old as the Catholic Church.  
 These readings warn us against condemning  
 new developments too quickly.*

*( Announce the opening hymn: . . . . . )*

### Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu: /  
 In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:  
 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord,  
 be with you all: . . . . .*

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

### Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance*

*either (confer with the Projectionist beforehand if you choose the: 'I confess'.)*

*leader: Gathered together in Christ,  
 let us be conscious of God's gift of the Earth;  
 the rich diversity of its life;  
 its suffering from human over-consumption:*

*all: **I confess: . . .**  
 and / or*

*leader: Loving God, You have revealed to us Creation's power and beauty;  
 yet too often we respond with greed and abuse,  
 rather than with gratitude and care: - ( pause ) - Lord, have mercy:*

*all: **Lord, have mercy:***

*leader: Christ Jesus, our human community is polluting Earth's air, land and  
 waters, devaluing human life and tearing the Web of Life of which we  
 all are a part: - ( pause ) - Christ, have mercy:*

*all: **Christ, have mercy:***

leader: *Holy Spirit of God, You are at work in us and among us, reweaving the Web of Life of which we all are a part: - (pause) - Lord, have mercy:*

all: **Lord, have mercy:**

leader: *May God our Creator, Who is raising up prophets and inviting humanity into one loving community in a New Creation, have mercy on us and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to sit at the table of the God's realm:*                      all: **Amen**

### **GLORIA** *invitation*

leader: *The beauty of the created Universe reveals to us, a God of unimaginable Beauty, Creativity, Vibrancy of Life and of Love. As we contemplate our true reality, let us join our voices with all Creation to sing honour and glory to God: . . .*

### **Opening Prayer**

leader: *(Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ... ) Holy Gracious God  
You pour Yourself out into Creation,  
from the first flaring forth of matter to this day.  
Through the slow unfolding over billions of years,  
You have brought forth a richly diverse, powerful  
and nurturing home for all that You ave created.  
Open our eyes in awe at the wonder of the Universe.  
Turn our hearts in gratitude for Your on-going work of Creation.  
Awaken our hope and stir us to prophetic action  
for the dream of a renewed Creation  
where Your Justice and Love will govern all  
and all will live in Your peace. We ask in the name of Jesus  
and in the name of Your lif-giving Spirit,  
in whom we live and move and have our being, now and always:*

all: **Amen.**

### **Introduction to the first reading:** *(Numbers 11 : 25 – 29)*

leader: *The story of Eldad and Medad in the Book of Numbers suggests that the power for life-giving, can be exercised apart from the easily recognised and publicly legitimated channels of religious authority:*

### **Introduction to the second reading:** *(James 5 : 1 – 6)*

leader: *Although the rich who are denounced in the reading from James, were most likely not members of the Christian community, but outsiders, the early Christians feared the oppression and injustice that could flow from material wealth within the community:*

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

all: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Your Word, O Lord, is Truth:  
make us holy in the Truth. Alleluia!**

### **Introduction to the gospel reading:** *(Mark 9 : 38 – 43, 45, 47 – 48)*

leader: *John told Jesus, that a stranger was "driving out demons in his (Jesus') name" and they had tried to stop the stranger doing it. But Jesus replies*

*with the principle, "Anyone who is not against us, is for us".*

**Homily Notes** (presider)

- *In the first In the reading from the Book of Numbers, God bestowed some of the Spirit that was on Moses on 70 elders, who immediately began to prophesy. Two other elders who were not present at this gathering also received the Spirit and began to prophesy. Joshua was upset and wanted to stop them, but Moses was clear:*
- *"Would that all the people of God were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow the Spirit on them all!" Biblical prophets are inspired to speak God's Word to the people of their time. Moses' response needs to be ours today. May God bestow the Spirit on everyone, raising people up around the planet as prophets.*
- *Today's prayer for all of God's people to be prophets provides a perfect context for asking ourselves how these Laudato Sí Action Platform Partners in our communities can respond more fully to this commitment.*
- *The reading from the Letter of James is a devastating, direct condemnation of the rich. It reflects the judgment widespread through the early centuries of Christianity that those who have more than they need are in effect stealing from those who don't have the basics they need.*
- *James' words are a sharply appropriate prophetic warning. Today it is clear that this warning applies not just to wealthy individuals or groups but also to the wealthy industrialized nations. The widespread culture and systems of competitive consumption and accumulation have consolidated global wealth, creating what Pope Francis has called "throw-away societies."*
- *In the gospel passage, John plays the same role Joshua played with Moses. He tells Jesus that he and the others tried to stop someone who didn't follow Jesus, from driving out demons in his name. Like Moses, Jesus rejects exclusive ownership to the good works. He urges his disciples to respect those doing these works, "For whoever is not against us is for us."*
- *This message is important to remember as members of the Catholic community collaborate with and form networks with people of other faiths or no faith who do not share all the Church's beliefs or moral positions. And our prayer needs to be, "Would that everyone were a prophet!"*
- *In the latter section of the gospel, Jesus gives grave warning about how seriously we need to take our sins and what terrible punishment will lie ahead for teaching the young our sinful ways. In the context of the Season of Creation, those sins include the destructive patterns of living identified by Pope Francis in Laudato Sí, patterns of ecological degradation, greed, overconsumption, lack of solidarity across*

*economic classes and many others referred to throughout these materials and identified by so many other contemporary ecological prophets.*

- *Jesus's warning demands we look at how we are raising our children and how they are learning to relate to Earth. Jesus's repeated reference to the horror of the fiery abyss, the unquenchable fire of Gehenna, draws upon the imagery of Jewish apocalyptic eschatology. And his injunction to cut out of our lives what causes us to sin is vivid and effective use of Jewish hyperbole.*
- *But the imagery of Gehenna is eerily contemporary when we see video of the massive wildfires destroying everything and everyone in their paths in Australia, the western United States, Siberia and the Arctic, Indonesia, and the Amazon Rainforest, to name just a few.*
- *Until the human family can embrace what Pope Francis calls an integral ecological conversion, until we can cut out of our lives the sinful, destructive patterns of living on Earth, that are accelerating climate change, we will continue more and more to face the fiery abyss, the unquenchable flames that are the contemporary incarnation of Gehenna.*

#### **Apostles' Creed**

**Intercessions - 26<sup>th</sup> Week Ordinary Time** [ Sun 29<sup>th</sup> September – Sat 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024 ]*invitation to pray:*

- leader: *Friends in Christ, before we offer thanks for the bread of Christ's Body and the wine of Christ's Blood, we join in prayer for Creation:*
- 1: *For a deepening trust in the faithful presence and loving work of God among us and through us, to respond effectively to the Cry of the Poor and to the Cry of the Earth: - (pause) - God of Creation, hear us:*
- all: **God of Creation, hear us.**
- 2: *For the leaders of the different groups, organisations and institutions within our community, who are addressing the destructive effects of climate change: - (pause) - God of Prophets, hear us:*
- all: **God of Prophets, hear us.**
- 3: *That we may take up our prophetic responsibilities in this time of crisis to speak God's Truth with courage, calling each other into ways of living on Earth wisely: - (pause) - God of Wisdom, hear us:*
- all: **God of Wisdom, hear us.**
- 4: *For Samantha Connery and Bradley Wilkins who were married yesterday (Saturday). May they experience the fulfilment of what the Sacrament of Matrimony promises; - (pause) - God of Blessings, hear us:*
- all: **God of Blessings, hear us.**
- 5: *For the sick: we pray for:*
- Mangawhai: **Matteo Gray, Petronella Brom, Tina & Sharvita MeHarry, Lorna Boccock, Geraldine Choromanski, Judy Perry, Veronica Grigg, Maureen Rissman, Roselle & Owen McGrane, Richard Henry, Bob Walters, Colleen Griffith, Theresa McCarthy, Kathy Brokliss (Hokianga), Emelia Brockliss, (Mexico), Eric Burson, . . . . .**
- Maungaturoto: **Trevor Brljevich, Tony Ruiterman, Bill Lewis, Beverly Simons, Adolph Layec, . . . . .**
- Wellsford: **Dallas Colville, Alec Colville, Lucille Jenneker, Wilma Jansen, Gerard McCurran, Iris Barrow, Lagi Sands, Tim Emberson, Theresa Graham, Caroline Milner, . . . . .**
- Restore their health, that they may offer You joyful thanks in the midst of Your Church: - (pause) - God of Well-being, hear us:*
- all: **God of Well-being, hear us.**
- 6: *For those who have died in the conflicts in Gaza, Lebanon and the Ukraine, . . . And for Tom Ryan, Bartley Wech, . . . . . who died recently. For those whose death anniversaries occur about now: Robert Tayler, Peter Beveridge, Trevor Kerrisk, Leo Butler, Brett Anderson, Tony Perry, . . . . . Number them among Your saints: - (pause) - God of New Life, hear us:*
- all: **God of New Life, hear us.**
- Concluding Prayer:*
- leader: *May we speak God's Truth to each other and call each other into ways of living on the Earth sustainably, and reverently. We ask this through Christ, the Way the Truth and the Life:*                      all: **Amen**

---

*( If no priest, the leader introduces Lord's Prayer. )*

---

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

*presider: ( Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ... ) Loving Creator God,  
from the explosive death of a star  
You planted the seeds of life on Earth.  
Through billions of years,  
You have prepared and given us  
a rich diversity of Earth's gifts to share.  
From among them and representing them all,  
we offer this bread and wine,  
grateful for Your faithful care.  
Through them too, we offer our lives, our talents  
and our commitment to care for all in need on Earth  
and to work for the restoration of this planet  
as the Common Home for all who dwell on it and in it.  
Receive our offering and transform our gifts and our energies  
into Your true Bread of Life for our world.  
We ask this in the name of Christ, Jesus.                      all: **Amen***

### **Preface**

*presider: The Lord be with you.  
all: **And also with you.***

*presider: Lift up your hearts.  
all: **We lift them up to the Lord.***

*presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*presider: Holy Father, all things are of Your making,  
all times and seasons obey Your law.  
But You fashioned the human family in Your own image  
and set us over the world in all its wonder,  
that we might be stewards of Your creation,  
praising You day by day for the marvels of Your Wisdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. And so, with all the angels and saints,  
and with the whole of Creation we sing the joyful hymn of Your praise:  
all: **Holy holy holy!***

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II**

#### **Memorial Acclamation**

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

---

### **Introduction to the Lord's Prayer**

*presider: Let us pray for the coming of God's realm 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.***

*presider: Let us offer each other a 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: This is the bread come down from heaven;  
whoever eats this bread will never die.  
This is the cup of eternal life;  
whoever drinks of it will live forever:*

*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 / Let us pray: ... ) Gracious, Loving God,  
we have shared this Eucharist in thanksgiving  
for Your sacred Creation and for Earth*

*which we share with all creatures for whom it is home.  
 Now may the power of Christ's body and blood  
 reach deep into our hearts, our minds, and our bodies  
 to heal our wounds; to open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts.  
 Strengthen and protect us in the prophetic work  
 of integral conversion and of healing  
 and renewing all of Earth's communities  
 that You have entrusted to our care.  
 We make our prayer in the name of Jesus  
 and in the power of Your Holy Spirit  
 where we live and move and have our being  
 now and always: all: **Amen.***

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

### **Dismissal**

*leader: We are sent; in the name of God the Creator,  
 from Whose Hand all creatures come forth,  
 evolving through time and space,  
 filled with God's presence and tender love.  
 May God awaken our praise and thankfulness  
 for every creature and bless us with the grace  
 of feeling profoundly joined to everything that is. all: **Amen***

*We pray in the name of Christ,  
 through Whom all things were made.  
 Formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,  
 became part of this Earth,  
 gazing upon this world with human eyes.  
 May Christ bless us with eyes to see him alive  
 in every creature in his risen glory: all: **Amen***

*We are sent in the name of the Holy Spirit,  
 Who guides this world toward the Creator's love  
 and accompanies Creation as it groans in travail. all: **Amen***

- May the Holy Spirit dwell in our hearts and inspire us  
 to do what is good, to care wisely and with love for Earth,  
 our Common Home. all: **Amen.***
- And may our Triune God, wondrous community of infinite love, bless us all  
 with justice, peace, love and beauty, 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. /  
 May the blessing of God, the Father, ✠ the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
 be with us now and always: all: **Amene***

*leader: The Mass has ended, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
 all: **Thanks be to God.***