

28th August 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

In Alert Level 4 and Alert Level 3 there are no Masses, not until we move into Alert Level 2 with gatherings of a maximum of 100. You may watch livestream Masses by Bishop Steve via this link, every day at 9.00 am.

[Livestream Mass — Catholic Diocese of Hamilton \(cdh.org.nz\)](https://www.cdh.org.nz)

Please keep in contact by phone with fellow Parishioners and if you discover they are not getting an email from me please forward their email address to me so I can add them to the Parish Google Groups.

As a suggestion for your daily prayer, I would encourage you all to read slowly one the Scripture readings of the day.

Sunday's Scriptures

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Psalm 14:2-5

Letter of St James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

A short reflection on the Gospel

The Jews had traditions that had grown out of good practice eg. hygiene. They washed their hands before eating and these practices became part of their spiritual traditions. We originally washed our hands before coming into the church and now we bless ourselves with Holy Water, a reminder of our baptism. This shows that traditions can change.

Perhaps the Jewish traditions became more important than what they originally signified. Yes, hygiene is important but so is what comes out from our hearts, what are our intentions. Hopefully our intentions are to do good, to be kind, to forgive and not to judge. These are some examples of good intentions.

Prayers of the Faithful

We pray for peace in the world and particularly in Afghanistan. **Lord hear us.**

We pray for Pope Francis, Bishop Steve and church leaders, that the Holy Spirit will guide their decisions.

We pray for world leaders, that the Holy Spirit will guide their decisions also.

We pray for healing for those who have Covid, and we pray for those who are caring for them.

We pray for more Priestly vocations for our diocese.

We pray for those who have died, may they rest in peace and see God face to face.

Kind regards

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