

11<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

If I was going to guess what is going to happen next, the Bishop will allow weekday Masses for a maximum of 50 people. We need to be organised and make plans. The door needs to be managed, people need to be counted and ensure that everyone scans the QR code or leaves their details in the box provided.

There would be Mass either in the morning or evening for working people. Everyone would need to book in for Mass. A link would be sent out by email and Parishioners can assist those who don't have access to the internet or are not internet savvy, to book in. Alternatively, Parishioners could contact me to make bookings. Parishioners should only go to one Mass per week to give everyone a chance to go. Raglan and Te Mata would be given their own day (Monday) and they won't need to book in.

We need volunteers to manage the door and sanitize the church at St Columba's. This is important and if you are able to assist, please email me at [freamonkennedy@gmail.com](mailto:freamonkennedy@gmail.com).

This management of numbers and contact tracing will also continue in Alert Level 1.

Currently, under Alert Level 2 there will be no Masses on weekdays or Sundays, 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)

St Columba's Church will be opened during the day for private prayer, not for group prayers.

Normal Confessions will happen on Saturday morning at 9.30 am.

Please remember to scan the QR code or place your details into the box provided and wear a mask.

The Parish office will be open and operating more like a 'click and collect' set up. Parishioners are welcome to contact the Parish by phone or by email [stcol.parish@xtra.co.nz](mailto:stcol.parish@xtra.co.nz) or you may email me at [freamonkennedy@gmail.com](mailto:freamonkennedy@gmail.com)

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**

Isaiah 50:5-9

Psalm 114:1-6,8-9

St James 2:14-18

Mark 8:27-35

### **A short reflection on the Scriptures**

The first reading today from Isaiah is the same Scripture we use for Palm/Passion Sunday, which is in preparation for Good Friday. It is a good Scripture to use for your prayer. We are reminded of Jesus' Passion and Crucifixion. "I did not cover my face against insult and spittle." The Gospel picks up the same theme as the first reading. "...take up your cross and follow me." I wonder what those who

heard Jesus say this would have felt about his words 'carry your cross'. These would be the last words they would want Jesus to say. Crucifixion was the most horrible way to die and here Jesus is asking them to carry their cross daily.

Finally, St James has a powerful message for us today. "Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead." If someone is in need and we don't help them, then our faith is dead. We prove we have faith by showing our good deeds. It is a powerful Scripture from St James.

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

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

#### **Lord hear us.**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11, we pray for those who have been affected and those who need healing.

We pray for healing for those who were stabbed in the supermarket in Auckland, and we pray for those who are caring for them.

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 more Priestly vocations for our diocese.

We pray for peace in the world and particularly in Afghanistan.

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

Kind regards

Fr Eamon Kennedy

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