

4th September 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I wish all the fathers in the Parish a Happy and Blessed Father's Day.

At 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)

The Parish office at St Columba's will remain closed under Alert Level 3. Parishioners are welcome to contact the Parish by phone or emailing me at 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 35:4-7

Psalms 145:7-10

Letter of St James 2:1-5

Mark 7:31-37

A short reflection on the Gospel

During the baptism of a child there is the option of using the Ephphetha or Prayer over the ears and mouth which goes like this: "The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father. Amen." This prayer comes from today's Gospel reading where Jesus cures the deaf man and assists him to speak. Even the infants or children who are baptised, are being called to hear the word of God and proclaim it to the glory of God the Father. We all need ears that can hear the word of God and a mouth that can proclaim the glory of God. Our mouth cannot be silent, and our ears need to allow the word of God to go into our hearts. The word of God that we read daily for our prayer is powerful. Jesus is working in his word.

Prayers of the Faithful

We pray for our fathers; may the Lord bless them abundantly. **Lord hear us.**

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 peace in the world and particularly in Afghanistan.

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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