

30<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Currently, we are in Alert Level 3 and the churches remain closed for the mean time.

Bishop Steve's live streamed Mass is at 9.00 am everyday and here is the link:

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

Shine TV will broadcast Mass at 2.00 pm on free-to-air TV Channel 25 and Sky Channel 201.

### **Mission Sunday**

This weekend we celebrate Mission Sunday and here is the link to the MissioNZ website:

<https://missio.nz> where you can find more information about how the Catholic Church in New Zealand supports the missions and how to donate to support the missions this year.

This is one example of a current project which we support through our donations.

### **Sri Lanka Seminary Appeal in time of Covid**



### **ST. ALOYSIUS MINOR SEMINARY**

Fr Basil Fernando, National Director of Mission Sri Lanka writes: We are hit with COVID -19 very badly at present as the third wave is spreading very fast over the whole country. Every day, we are confronted with reports of a high number of deaths. And this morning our Cardinal Malcomb Ranjith personally called me and informed me that St. Aloysius Minor Seminary in Colombo has been very badly infected.

They have found, at this time of writing, 57 seminarians who have been tested positive with COVID19, and still the PCR tests are going on.

Our hospitals in Colombo are full. So, the Cardinal is going to convert the minor seminary as a COVID treating hospital for the seminarians and children. We have over 150 seminarians in the minor seminary now. It is reported that more positive cases will come up within these next two days.

The Cardinal has asked me for some financial support to make the seminary into COVID hospital. Any support is most welcome at this crucial moment. Because we need to look after them with the necessary treatments. We have very limited resources and ask for your assistance that we may help safeguard the situation of our seminarians and many others who live around the area. We feel helpless, but we really must act. We humbly ask for your help at this troubled time.

The Parish office will be closed. 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)

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

### **Sunday's Scriptures**

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Psalm 17:2-4,47,51

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 12:28-34

### **A short reflection on the Gospel.**

Jesus' words to the scribe would have been familiar to every good Jewish person who would have recited them 2 or 3 times every day, which were part of the Shema. However, Jesus ties to the commandment to love God, the commandment to love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these two commandments Jesus says. We could say, we show we love God by loving our neighbour. It would seem the scribe is overjoyed to hear what Jesus has to say, as he totally agrees with Jesus' words. As Jesus is also surprised to see the scribe's reaction.

### **Prayers of the Faithful:**

Let us pray for those in our community who have Covid. We pray for their speedy recovery.

We pray for those who are caring and looking after those who have Covid, that the Lord will keep them safe and assist them in their medical work.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the decisions of our government.

We pray for God's blessing on those working in the Missions.

Kind regards

Fr Eamon Kennedy

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