



The newsletter of the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter, Southern Cross Region – Easter 2021



## *From the Regional Superior...*

### ***Resurrexit sicut dixit! Alleluia!***

Dear Faithful,

“Christ has risen, as he said he would.” Alleluia!

With these words, as told by St Matthew, the angel announces to Mary Magdalen at the tomb

early on Easter morning that He who was slain has risen and can die no more. Our Lord has truly risen from the dead and the world is made new. The liturgy, with its beautiful Sequence for the Easter Octave, *Victimæ paschali laudes*, reminds us that because of the resurrection, we are reconciled to God the Father and now have the hope of heaven. And as the Collect for the Easter Day Mass says “Christ has vanquished death and opened for us the gate of everlasting life.” Since Christ has conquered death, all things are now possible. Christ has conquered both sin and death and this knowledge should fill us with great hope. For the fruits of that conquest are made available to us. We are redeemed and in a sense re-created because of Grace. Now there is no-one beyond the reach of God’s mercy, no-one who is incapable of accepting the offer

of salvation, there is no-one who cannot be reconciled to God. Because of the resurrection we are all capable of receiving grace and becoming new creations. This is manifested most fittingly by those who are fortunate enough to be baptized on Easter night.

St Paul speaks of this in his letter to the Romans, (6:4) “For we are buried together with him by baptism into death; that as Christ is risen from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also may walk in newness of life.” May we all walk then in that ‘newness of life’ in the year ahead, and may our lives show forth the joy and hope that the risen Christ brings to the world. May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly this Paschaltide.

*Regina cæli, lætare, alleluia!*

*Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!*

*Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia!*

*Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!*

Our Blessed Lady and St Joseph, Pray for us!

Fr. Michael McCaffrey,  
Regional Superior.



## Our New Zealand Apostolate reports

When Bishop Patrick Dunn gave permission for the FSSP to erect a canonical house in the Auckland Diocese of New Zealand in March 2018, it marked a “no u-turn” moment for the FSSP in Australasia. St Peter Chanel House was formally erected on the 22nd of March 2018 and the apostolate was no longer *ad experimentum*.

Although Bishop Dunn had been seeking a traditional order to take over from the ageing diocesan Latin Mass priest, Fr Denzil Meuli for some years, the conditions for an apostolate to truly take shape never became reality until 2016. In July of that year, Fr Antony Sumich took over the Latin Mass apostolate in Auckland as Fr Meuli was in a hospice and the Marist priest who had filled in for him was being transferred overseas. Bishop Dunn suggested that the FSSP take over a new “Latin Mass Chaplaincy” *ad experimentum*, and if, after a year it was agreed that the apostolate could work, then he would give the canonical status.

With any non geographical apostolate, location is very important. The Auckland diocese did not have a church to offer the Chaplaincy, but there was a



*Confirmations in Auckland 2020*

humble 80 seat chapel, with a two bedroom rectory, and a hall that needed some work available for rent from one of the parishes. Located 15 minutes drive from central Auckland and just off a motorway, St Anne’s Chapel became the home of the FSSP’s activities in NZ.

Since those humble beginnings, the canonical status has been given, two Bishops have given confirmations, one priestly and one diaconal ordination have taken place, a choir who sing wonderfully are flourishing, a weekly radio show is on air, weekly classes in Apologetics, Adult Catechism & marriage preparation are well attended, hundreds of houses have had Epiphany blessings and numbers have swollen so greatly that St Anne’s has been outgrown for Sunday Masses.



*Above and right:  
The FSSP Auckland apostolate’s  
Lenten Walk 2021.*



Sunday Masses (with over 200 attending) are held at the chapel of St Paul's College where beautiful liturgies are the norm. This year there have been a number of enquires about vocations to the sacred priesthood, and by the grace of God, two young men will enter Ezechiel House in August.



We continue to thank God for His blessings and pray for our own (larger) church and eventually full parochial status.

*Above: Requiem Mass*

*Left: Fr Sumich outlines the plans for the apostolate to a meeting of parishioners.*



## *Congratulations*

to Noel Soares, FSSP who was ordained to the Diaconate on March 13th in Nebraska, USA.



*Register and  
mark your calendars!*

**Retreat for Women  
Hartzer Park Retreat Centre  
October 18–21, 2021**

Given by Fr Adrian Wee FSSP  
on the Spirituality of St Catherine of Siena  
Cost per person \$400

For more information, please contact Fr Wee at  
[theoudoulos@gmail.com](mailto:theoudoulos@gmail.com)





## *The Desire of St Joseph for Jesus*

How ardent is the devotion and desire of St Joseph for our Lord! We see this when our Lord was lost for three days in the Temple. St Luke tells us that together with our Lady, St Joseph searched for our Lord for three days and three nights, which means that he did not stop until he found him. It was not just anxiety and fear that prevented him from resting even when he felt tired, because he was not just the foster father concerned about his son, he was also the creature longing for his creator, the creature who knows that he cannot rest content or find relief in any created thing, but only in God who had become his foster son. It was this desire and longing rather than anxiety and fear that removed all weariness and instead energized St Joseph not to rest until he found Jesus and was overwhelmed by the joy of finding him at last. How he took it in turns with Mary to take his twelve-year old boy and hug him tightly, embracing him, all the time rivers of tears flowing from his eyes and down his cheeks, tears of joy because he had not only found a son but his God whom he loved ever so ardently.

When we consider this joy of St Joseph, do we not

feel embarrassed at our coolness towards our Lord? How routine, how impersonal, how tardy and shoddy we are in our devotions! How one may have allowed one's fascination for the things of this world, and one's affection for another to cool one's love and devotion for Jesus! How promptly do so many people turn their back on Jesus in the midst of spiritual desolation to find relief in things that only lead them further away from Jesus!

How we have all the more reason to beg Saint Joseph to spare us at least one spark from that burning furnace of love which is his most chaste heart, just one spark to enkindle a consuming fire of love within us, love only for our Lord with all our might and main, a love that makes us turn away promptly from everything and everyone who seeks to lead us away from Jesus, a love that makes us want to empty our hearts of all unwholesome affection, so that we can conserve the intensity of its ardour only for Jesus, so that when Jesus sees this desire, he will even more promptly than ourselves fill our hearts with the same overflowing joy with which he filled the heart of St Joseph.