



CARMELITE OCDS NEWSLETTER

HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY

Through Lent to Easter in the Spirit of Carmel

Auckland OCDS April 2022



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Carmel, Pope Francis has called a world wide synod. The listening heart of the Church. Have you had your say and sent it in!! If not, here is your last chance. This short survey needs to be done before the end of April 2022.

Catholic Church Aotearoa Feedback Form

Pope Francis has asked the question-'how we journey together'.

The purpose is to 'listen to the questions, concerns and hopes of every church, people and nation'.

We'd like to hear from you!

People of all backgrounds are invited to contribute.

Completing this feedback form takes about five minutes and your input will feed into a diocesan/regional paper on how we as a Church and as Catholics 'journey together', which then informs a paper to the Vatican. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NZCBCSynod>

Pope Francis gives us such wise advice on the way of peace-the way of forgiveness. Please read his homily from Palm Sunday, 2022. www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/250930/palm-sunday-2022-full-text-of-pope-

'Let us look to Jesus on the cross and realize that we have never been looked upon with a more gentle and compassionate gaze. Let us look to Jesus on the cross and understand that we have never received a more loving embrace.

Let us look to the crucified Lord and say: "Thank you, Jesus: you love me and always forgive me, even at those times when I find it hard to love and forgive myself..

"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. According to the Gospel, Jesus "kept saying" this (cf. v. 34). He did not say it once for all as he was being nailed to the cross; instead, he spent all his time on the cross with these words on his lips and in his heart. God never tires of forgiving. We must understand this, but understand it not only with the mind but with the heart. Jesus – so the Gospel of Luke teaches us – came into the world to bring us forgiveness for our sins (cf. Lk 1:77). In the end, he gave us a clear command: to proclaim forgiveness of sins to everyone in his name (cf. Lk 24:47). Let us not tire of forgiving.

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News: strong is God's love for all.

RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

(After the homily, Bishop Steve Lowe addresses the priests)

Bishop Lowe: Beloved sons, on the anniversary of that day when Christ our Lord conferred his priesthood on his Apostles and on us, are you resolved to renew, in the presence of your Bishop and God's holy people, the promises you once made?

Priests: *I am.*

Bishop Lowe: Are you resolved to be more united with the Lord Jesus and more closely conformed to him, denying yourselves and confirming those promises about sacred duties towards Christ's Church which, prompted by love of him, you willingly and joyfully pledged on the day of your priestly ordination?

Priests: *I am.*

Bishop Lowe: Are you resolved to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God in the Holy Eucharist and the other liturgical rites and to discharge faithfully the sacred office of teaching, following Christ the Head and Shepherd, not seeking any gain, but moved only by zeal for souls?

Priests: *I am.*

(Bishop Steve Lowe then addresses the people)

Bishop Lowe: As for you, dearest sons and daughters, pray for your Priests, that the Lord may pour out his gifts abundantly upon them, and keep them faithful as ministers of Christ, the High Priest, so that they may lead you to him, who is the source of salvation.

People: *Christ, hear us. Christ graciously hear us.*



Seiger Koder - Last Supper

This week, Holy Week, after long weeks of restricted gathering around the table of the Lord, at last we can be together praising and thanking God.

I attended the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph and as I watched the priests of the Diocese process in and witnessed the covenant exchange between our new Bishop and his priests, I was aware of our mission as OCDS—prayer for priests. Deo Gratias!

At all times be the Good News! Let's live in Jesus as men and women in love with God. Nga mihi nui.

Through Advent you may like to **ponder the daily Gospel in the way of Ignatian meditation.**

Make yourself comfortable and take some time to quieten. Sit upright. Close your eyes. Settle your breathing. Ask for the Holy Spirit's presence and the grace of God to see what God desires for you.

Now, read the Gospel of the day twice.

First reading of the Gospel: **get a sense of where it is**, what is happening and what stands out for you.

Second reading: **put yourself in the scene.** Where are you? What can you smell, see, hear, feel? Who else is there? What is the attitude and response of those with you? Interact with the characters and the place in the Gospel.

In silence dwell in the Gospel and talk with the Lord about what you feel, how this Gospel may relate to your life. Listen to what God is saying to you.

Try this way of pondering the Word of God.

'Advent is a time to pause and to ponder with Mary, Mother of Jesus, and our mother. Mary, with us in all our sorrows and our joy. Mary, whose 'yes' gave flesh to Jesus.



(Carmelite garden, Auckland.)

We can ponder the message of Fratelli Tutti alongside this message from **BACK TO THE GOSPEL THE MESSAGE OF ST THERESE OF LISIEUX: A letter from the O.Carm and O.C.D. Superiors General on the occasion of the Centenary of the death of ST THERESE OF LISIEUX:**

19. In the plan of life presented and initiated by Jesus, relationships with others are summarised in the commandment to love our neighbour, based on the commandment to love God with all our hearts, our souls and our strength (cf. Mt 27:37-39).

20. Guided by this love, Jesus places himself on the side of the excluded and the marginalised, those condemned to various kinds of death: the poor, the sick, women, children, sinners, strangers. He offers life to them all. He struggles against all that opposes life, as he struggles against all that creates division — between neighbour and stranger, between pagan and Jew, between man and woman.

21. Each human being is a synthesis of creation, accomplished in and by the Word (see Col 1:15-16; Jn 1:3). Because of this, human beings possess a sacred quality which comes to them from God. In the light of Christ, human beings appear in the universe as those who hear the word of God and dialogue with God. By his incarnation, the son of God *"has in a certain way united himself with each human being"*.^[6] As Matthew's Gospel tells us (Mt 25:31-46), Christ is very near to us, present in every human being, *"and with particular tenderness he chose to identify himself with those who are poorest and weakest."*^[7]

<http://www.o.cd.pcn.net/OC-OCD/OC-OCD2EN.htm>

Some interesting links that have been shared in our Holy Family Community:

From Barbara Hempseed, a look at life in the Carmelite Monastery Christ-church, during times of lockdown: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/121230652/behind-the-grille-nuns-put-altar-breadmaking-on-hold-during-coronavirus-lockdown>

From Flora: I am forwarding this link to you in case the community is interested to participate on the Carmelite online retreat for advent 2020: **"Disalced Carmelites"** <retreat-online@karmel.at>

I can also suggest "Food for Faith" daily reflections from Fr John O'Connor **Advent - food for faith** and Leonila sent in the link for Communications:

https://www.carmelitaniscalzi.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Communicationes-360_ING.pdf

I thank Maria for sharing her fish recipe from the Philippines. I'll put it in the January 2021 newsletter. Does anyone else have a recipe to share: Hannah, your hummus? Leonila, your sweet sticky rice? In this little way we can celebrate each other !

**13th December
OCDS Christmas!**

In the peace of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. God bless each of you. Dianna, Marie Therese of Emmanuel OCDS