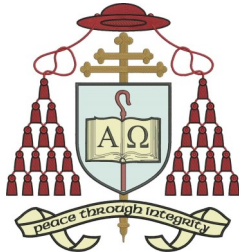


19
May
2016



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From +John...

Dear Friends

Last Sunday morning I was reading "Rome Reports", a report emailed every day with short video clips telling us of what Pope Francis is saying and doing, and many other interesting items about the Vatican and prayer. I read of a mobile application that sends a daily prayer via text message. This particular one is called 'Mi vida en Xto,' and is all in Spanish. I know it is not much use telling you that, but **Laudate**, a free Catholic app, also offers similar services in English. There are many such applications and services available, all intended to help us to grow closer to God and to remember that God is actually searching us out and waiting for us.

Sunday 8th May was the 50th World Communications Day. In his message for that day, entitled "Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter," Pope Francis wrote "As sons and daughters of God, we are called to communicate with everyone, without exception. In a particular way, the Church's words and actions are all meant to convey mercy, to touch people's hearts and to sustain them on their journey to that fullness of life which Jesus Christ was sent by the Father to bring to all. This means that we ourselves must be willing to accept the warmth of Mother Church and to share that warmth with others, so that Jesus may be known and loved. That warmth is what gives substance to the word of faith; by our preaching and witness, it ignites the "spark" which gives them life."

We know that the Pope is an excellent communicator, he uses simple and easy to remember phrases, he uses Twitter, YouTube and all forms of modern social communication to relay the message of God's love and mercy. He uses YouTube to tell the world of his prayer intentions each month. Some of our parishes have begun showing these short YouTube messages to their Congregations. They are very powerful, I have heard many people saying how good they are, it helps them to know and remember what the Pope is asking the world to pray for. I highly recommend parishes doing this and that we as individuals also look these up regularly. The site is very easy to access, just search for "**Pope's Prayer Intentions for (Month) YouTube.**" You will see the Holy Father speaking and will also see powerful images of families (March), small farmers (April), women (May), you will see beautiful scenery and hear lovely music....all in about one and half minutes.

In his Communications Day Message Pope Francis said "Communications, whatever and however it takes place, has opened up broader horizons for many people. This is a gift from God which involves a great responsibility."

I encourage you to use some of the many apps which are available for us to help us to pray and reflect. I encourage you to use the Pope's Prayer intentions YouTube. They are easy to access and will move and inspire us.

The last word belong to Francis;

"In a broken, fragmented and polarized world, to communicate with mercy means to help create a healthy, free and fraternal closeness between the children of God and all our brothers and sisters in the one human family."

With every blessing

+ John

NEWS...

• RIP

Deepest sympathy to Fr Patelo Maunga, whose brother died recently in Samoa. May he rest in peace.

- We also remember Paul Bayliss, General Manager of the Catholic Centre, Wellington, and his family at this time. Paul's father died in Palmerston North on the evening of 18 May. May he rest in peace.

- **Fr Brian Fletcher** is currently in Kenepuru Hospital. Please remember Fr Brian in your prayers.

- **Fr Ray Stachurski** has recently moved to the Home of Compassion, Silverstream. Fr Ray is settling in and being well cared for.

- The **Gospel Reading** to be used for Confirmation Mass this year is Luke 2: 51-52

- **Congratulations** St Catherine's College on winning the O'Shea Shield for 2016.

- **Congregational Leaders** meeting with Bishops 15 June 2016, at Viard House from 10am. Please RSVP to my secretary by 8 June. t.halliday@wn.catholic.org.nz

- **Date to diary**—Clergy Jubilee Mass 21 June 2016 St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie. Those attending please RSVP to Fr David Dowling by 15 June. office@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org, 173 Clyde Street, Island Bay

May the showers of God's blessing fall upon you
May the streams of Christ's love refresh you
May the rivers of the Spirit uphold you
May the blessed Trinity fill you with joy and peace.



"Salt and Light Together"