

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter 20 December 2021

Look at Ourselves

A woman left her house and went shopping. To her disgust, every shop she entered, she found to be somewhat foul smelling. 'Phew,' she said to the clerk in the grocery store, 'It stinks in here.' She stepped into the bank to make a deposit and complained to the cashier about the bad smell. Going next door to the dry-cleaners, she grumbled about the unpleasant smell.

Returning home, she took off her shoes and discovered the source of the smell. She had stepped on something earlier and she was the problem!

It is very human and something we are all guilty of at times – we criticise or judge when we ourselves are far from blameless.

'Why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own?'

Matthew 7:3

'Judging a person does not define who they are. It defines who you are.' Anon

Finances

At the end of November we remained in deficit for the year – not by much but a deficit is a deficit. It would be good to move into credit by December 31st and finish the year on a good note.

Job Vacancy

If you would like a career change or simply looking for a job, there is an opportunity working with special needs adults. Perhaps you have a passion for everyone to have equal rights, along with a desire to have fun with the people you support. If you tick any of these boxes, contact Arishma Highman – Arishma.Highman@idea.org.nz or 022 017 3099.

This comes as a request from Viv Siu.

Build

We have encountered a small obstacle with regards our building project. We have been waiting for the revised tender for stage 1 so that we could sign off the contract before Christmas and get the build under way in January. We have finally received that but unfortunately it is \$400,000 above what we had budgeted for and what we can cover financially at this point.

Naturally, we are aware that prices have increased in the past few months and this had been factored into the calculations. This has taken us a bit by surprise and we are exploring ways of reducing this figure. But bottom line, we are unable to sign off on a contract at present. It is certainly disappointing but I know we will prevail and that our good Lord wants us to prevail. I just wish he would give me a sneak preview as to how it's going to happen and I can get some sleep!

Ordination

Onosai Auva'a was ordained priest in a wonderful service at the Cathedral on Saturday. Congratulations, Sai!

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm Carols in the Park. This will be an outdoor event. Chairs will be available but please feel free to bring your own or even a rug to sit on. Mince pies will be served following the service.

Christmas Day : 9.00am Holy Communion in the church.

Please note – My Vaccine Pass required for attendance.

There will be NO service on Boxing Day.

Time for a Smile

The Christmas rush is on and a very stressed Irishman is struggling to find a parking space. 'Lord,' he prays, 'I am almost at the end of my tether. If you open a space for me, I swear I'll give up Guinness and go to mass every Sunday.'

Suddenly, the clouds part and the sun shines on an empty parking space. Without hesitation, the Irishman calls out, 'Never mind, I've found one!'



To Ponder

"Nothing ever seems too bad, too hard, or too sad when you've got a Christmas tree in the living room." Nora Roberts

A very happy Christmas to you all and may 2022 bring you countless blessings.

Reverend Warner Wilder

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