

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Parish Priests:

Fr. Talipope Tuala Vaifale mf

Fr. Vijay Kumar Palle mf

Fr Consedine Fuiava Toleafoa

Presbytery: 97 Galway St. Onehunga

Ph: 09 636 4647

Parish Office: Ph: 09 320 4558

Parish Secretary: Therese Ulberg

Email: assumptiononehunga@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.onehungacatholic.org.nz



**ALLELUIA
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EASTER VIGIL – 3rd April 2021

Easter Sunday: Masses of the Day

8.30am and 10.00am

The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil

At the Easter Vigil, the Church represents the mystery of the light of Christ in the sign of the Paschal candle, whose flame is both light and heat. The symbolism of light is connected with that of fire. The second symbol of the Easter Vigil – the night of Baptism – is water. The third great symbol of the Easter Vigil is something rather different; it has to do with man himself. It is the singing of the new song – the alleluia.

This is the most blessed and most joyful night of the year as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. We are so accustomed to hearing of Jesus risen from the dead that we could say "Oh yeah, we know all about it" and miss the grace of entering fully into this celebration. But think about it, Jesus rose from the dead! Death is not the end. It is only the door to beyond. Let us not allow the resurrection of Jesus to have to fight for room in our lives, let Jesus' death and resurrection be the centre of our lives. We began our celebration tonight with a service of light, which symbolized Jesus rising from the dead and bringing light to all of us. The light of Christ has shone in the world, scattering darkness forever. We had been waiting for this moment for thousands of years. We heard in the readings tonight an account of the creation of man and woman (first reading) and the liberation of the Hebrews from Egypt (third reading). This was in God's plan for mankind, but the highpoint in God's plan for us was the resurrection. This is the greatest celebration of the Church. This night is the most blessed of all as we heard in the Exultet, the Easter Proclamation. Jesus' resurrection reminds us that there is life beyond the grave. Jesus' resurrection reminds us that there is more to each of us than meets the eye, that we have an immortal soul. Although our body will return to dust, our soul will live forever with God.

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR EASTER VIGIL 3RD APRIL 2021

**BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE, PREPARATION AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE,
EASTER PROCLAMATION (EXSULTET), READINGS FOR THE EASTER VIGIL**

First Reading:

ASSUMPTION ILALIO

A reading from the book of Genesis 22:1-18
Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac.

Responsorial Psalm 15: 5, 8-11 (**Sung by Youth Choir**), Prayer
'Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.'

Second Reading

DILYNNE MULLER

A reading from the book of Exodus 14:15-15:1
Tell the children of Israel to march on, to walk through the sea on dry ground.

Responsorial Psalm Ex 15: 1-6,17-18 (**Sung by Tongan Choir**) Prayer
'Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.'

Third Reading

ALISON FINEKIFOLAU

A reading from the book of Isaiah 55:1-11
Come to me and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant.

Responsorial Psalm Isa 12:2-6 (**Sung by the Parish Choir**) Prayer
'You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.'

Fourth Reading:

SU'E LEAVASA TAPU

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 36: 16-28
I shall pour clean water over you and I shall give you a new heart.

Responsorial Psalm 41:3, 5; 42:3, 4. (**Sung by Samoan Choir**) Prayer
'Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God'.

GLORIA

Epistle

LOIS ARMIGER

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 6:3-11
Christ, having been raised from the dead, will never die again.

Responsorial Psalm 117

(The Priest solemnly intones the Alleluia, which is repeated by all)
'Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.'

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 28: 1-10
He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee

**BLESSING OF THE WATER, LITANY SUNG, CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF
INITIATION, RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES, SPRINKLING OF FAITHFUL
WITH THE HOLY WATER.**

Prayers of the Faithful:

MALIA FUSI

Extra-Ordinary Ministers:

Eseta Oloa, Amanda Peters, Brandon Peters