

St Augustine's Family Service  
4th October 2009 at 11 am



# **"Living like Jesus"**

## *The Story of St Francis of Assisi*

We welcome you here in the name of Jesus !

Our sentence for today is from John Chapter 8 verse 12 :

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows Me will have the light of life, and will never walk in darkness".

*Please stand to sing hymn 6 :*

### **"All creatures of our God and King"**

*From the New Zealand Prayer Book Page 404 :*

*Leader :* Grace and peace to you from God;

**ALL :** God fill you with truth and joy.

*Leader :* The Lord be with you;

**ALL :** The Lord bless you.

*Leader :* This is the day which the Lord has made;

**ALL :** Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Almighty God,  
to Whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from Whom no secrets are hidden;  
cleans the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit,  
so that we may truly love You  
and worthily praise Your holy name;  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**



# The Story of St Francis of Assisi

## FRANCIS I : his childhood and youth.

about  
lifestyle

"A born leader, wealthy, he became the leader of a crowd of young people who spent their nights in wild parties."

points  
of view

"Ambitious ... Francis longed to be a noble, a knight winning glory for himself. He felt the best place to win the glory and prestige he longed for was on the battlefield."

"I've just seen some lepers – someone was giving them bread. Seeing people like that always upsets me and the thought of helping them sickens me."

call to  
action ?

"We've some good news! We're at war!"  
"Now's my chance to win glory and honour and meet with the nobility, great!"

Let us pray :

*We thank You, Father, for the gaiety and enthusiasm of young people.  
We pray that You would guide them to use this enthusiasm to extend  
Your Kingdom rather than the kingdoms of this world.*

*We thank You for all peacemakers and pray that they may work together  
to bring peace to this world.*

*We thank You for Your peace that passes all understanding.  
Amen.*

Please stand to sing hymn 911 :

**"When Jesus was my age  
He played with His friends"**

Please sit.

think  
again ?

"Now I really can be a knight ! Let's go and enlist !  
Oh, the glory ! Oh, what glory !"

**ALL :** We're off, we're off, we're off to the  
crusade !

But God said :

***YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG !***

## FRANCIS II : the merchant.

*Narrator :* Francis gave his armour, fancy gear and horses away to a poor knight and returned home in the poor clothes of that knight to jeers and scorn.

**ALL :** **Ha, ha, ha ! - look at him ! Some crusader he is.  
What's he doing, coming home the very next day ?  
Scarred cat ! Ha, ha, ha !**

about  
lifestyle

"So, just as Jesus was obedient to His father and became a carpenter, Francis was obedient to *his* father and became a cloth merchant. He turned out to be a very good business man."

points  
of view

"One day while Francis was riding through the fields he met a leper.  
'Oh! A leper! Oh, how I loathe anything dirty or diseased. Ugggh! .... But I have given up the old way of life. Now I am a free man. .... I remember how I was dirty and diseased whilst at war and in prison. I must go and speak to him. I must.' "

call to  
action ?

"On another occasion as Francis was wandering through the fields he found an old church, the church of San Damiano.

*Jesus :* Repair My church."

think  
again ?

To pay for the stones he sold some of his father's cloth.

*Father :* What ! This is robbery ! You steal from your own father to follow some fantasy you say is from God !

*Narrator :* So Pietro dragged Francis to the Bishop ...

*Bishop :* Francis, it was very wrong of you to steal from your father. You must return to him all that is his. If God wants you to repair his church he will provide what you need.

## FRANCIS III : repentant.

about  
lifestyle

*Leader :* Lord Jesus, forgive us for the times when we get things wrong.

**ALL :** Forgive us, Lord.

*Leader :* Show us how to put things right.

**ALL :** Show us, Lord.

*Leader :* Guide us to do Your will, Lord, and follow Your way.

**ALL :** Guide us, Lord. Amen.

*Please stand to sing hymn 686 :*

**“Through all the changing scenes of life”**

*Please sit*

points  
of view

“So Francis went joyfully on his way into the freezing woods singing, filled with the joy of serving God.”

call to  
action ?

“Free at last  
Free to follow Jesus  
Free to live Jesus’s way.”

*Robbers* That’s got rid of him ! He won’t be singing after that beating.

*Narrator :* But still he got up singing.

think  
again ?

*Not so far !*

## FRANCIS IV : humility, then leadership.

about  
lifestyle

He finally returned to the little church of St. Damiano and was welcomed by the priest there. Francis continued to repair the church. He spent his time begging for money to buy stones.

Gradually companions joined him.

*Leader :* Thank You, Jesus, that You desire that each one of us should follow Your way.  
Thank You that Francis heard Your call and followed Your leading.  
Help us, too, to choose to follow You.  
Be our guide, be our redeemer, be our Lord, we pray.  
**Amen.**

*Please stand to sing hymn 437 :*

**“Make me a channel of Your peace”**

*Please sit.*

points  
of view

Francis based his ideas for the brotherhood on the following reading -

*Matthew Chapter 10 verses 5, 7-10 and 16  
Page 1059 of the church bibles.*

*The Mission of the Twelve disciples*

call to  
action ?

“Listen : I am sending you out just like sheep to a pack of wolves. You must be as cautious as snakes and as gentle as doves.”

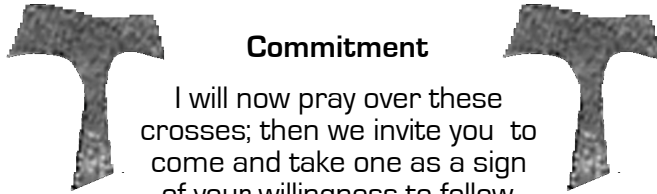
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**ALL :** Thanks be to God.

# Message

## WHAT ABOUT US ?

about  
lifestyle



### Commitment

I will now pray over these crosses; then we invite you to come and take one as a sign of your willingness to follow Jesus and His teachings as He leads and directs you.

Let us join in singing the Lord's Prayer :

points  
of view

**ALL :** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, in earth, as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread;  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil,  
for the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever.  
Amen.

call to  
action ?

*Please stand to sing our final hymn, 565 :*

**"Praise, my soul, the King of heaven"**

think  
again ?

***Over to you !***

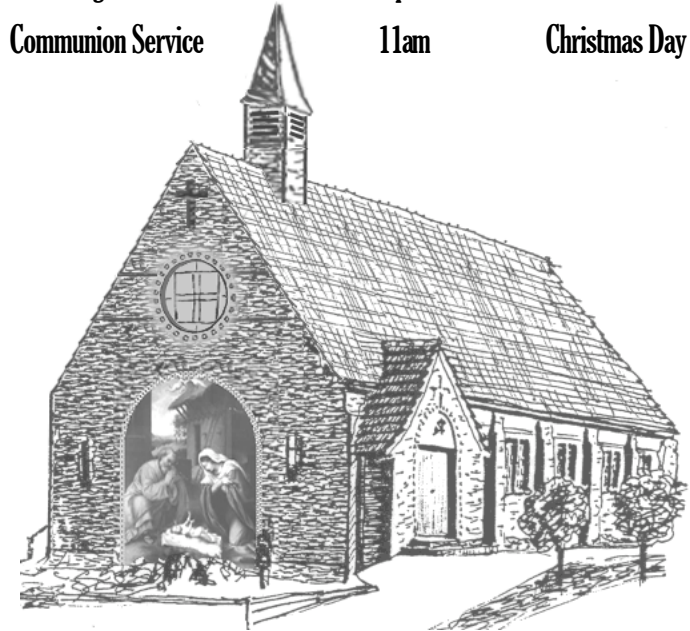
*Blessing*

## Contributors

*Names omitted*

## Christmas services

Carol Service (with communion)	11am	29th November
<i>( Please bring Christmas Fare to share for lunch afterwards )</i>		
Christingle Service	6pm	24th December
Communion Service	11am	Christmas Day



*- which reminds us that St Francis was the first to introduce a nativity scene into the Christmas ceremonies, so we thought we should fit one in somewhere.*