

From the Pulpit
with Very Reverend Allister Kelley OSFS
The Vicar-General of New Zealand

I was asked why I talk a lot about God's love and a relationship with Jesus. That got me thinking about how easily we forget our human dependence on God and focus instead on ourselves.

It is only in recent centuries that humans have come to accept that the earth on which we live is not the centre of the universe. While the Greeks a couple of thousand years ago suggested that the planets might revolve around the sun rather than the earth, it was only after the 16th century, Polish astronomer and mathematician Nicolaus Copernicus presented this clearly that people accepted this understanding.

Today it's hard to understand how our ancestors could have misunderstood something that is to us so obvious. But then each of us can have the same misunderstanding of reality when we think, speak and act as if we ourselves are the centre of our own existence. We forget that a human can be fully human only when living in relationship with Jesus Christ. We are not our own centre. We are created to be centred on and totally dependent on God.

Only when we let God take central place in our lives can we live and love fully. Too often we focus on ourselves, even when full of good intentions. Shift your gaze to Jesus, the perfect remedy for human stress. Release your burdens and trust that He will work in your life in response to your invitation.