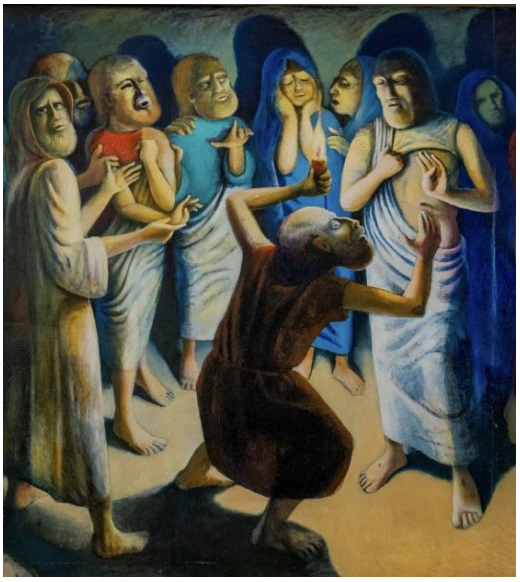
Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Second Sunday of Easter

12 April 2026

THINKING THOMAS

Doubt is not a bad thing. To doubt one's ideas, one's principles, one's work, even one's very eyes at times is a proof that your life is not on automatic pilot, that you have not finished thinking and weighing things up. Doubt is not always the opposite of faith; the real opposite of faith is a certain kind of fear. Fear makes you curl up and do nothing, or it makes you run away. Faith pushes you to take chances, to risk yourself, to pit yourself against difficulties. Thomas was a careful man, but he was not a fearful one; he was capable of fearless action: "Let us go to Jerusalem and die with him," he said (John 11:16). It is not that Thomas lacked faith, it is simply that he did not want to be deluded. He wanted to see the holes that the nails made in Jesus' hands and put his finger into the holes they made. He wanted to experience it for himself. There is no blame to Thomas for wanting to experience the reality for himself.



Thomas was also a thinking man; he always wanted to understand and figure things out. Once when Jesus was speaking obscurely about going away and said, "You know the way to where I am going," Thomas cut in and said, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (John 14:4-5). It was a practical man's question, and you can see the puzzled look on his face. It was puzzlement, not doubt. He didn't doubt Jesus or lack trust in him. If he doubted him he would have abandoned him as so many others had done (Jn 6:66). But then why was he missing from the group when Jesus appeared?

Isn't it very likely that he had gone away by himself to think? It would be entirely in character. Perhaps we dishonour him by calling him 'doubting Thomas'. Maybe we should call him 'thinking Thomas'. There is no area of life more subject to delusion than religion. We have to thank Thomas for his distinctive combination of carefulness and courage and try to imitate him when we don't fully understand. Irish Jesuits

EASTER A moving celebration of Holy Thursday marked the beginning of the Easter Triduum (three days) followed by an appropriately solemn celebration of the Passion of our Lord on Friday. Unfortunately, all the hard work and care which we put into preparing the Easter Vigil was lost when Mass was cancelled at the last minute - with Bishop John's approval. What happened? A man who is not known to us made a nuisance of himself throughout last week. The situation escalated on Saturday afternoon, when he showed up at my home with a knife. On Easter Sunday morning he confronted me waving his fist in my face and threatening me with physical violence. The police have since issued him with a trespass notice. There are a number of "interesting" people who visit our church on a regular basis. Most are fine. If you ever feel threatened, or experience threatening behaviour towards others, contact the police immediately, using the emergency number. Lastly, thank you to everyone who expressed support for me at the time. Fr Craig

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 13 April
9.00am C/s Holy Family

Tuesday 14 April
9.30am Mass Holy Family
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Wednesday 15 April
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 16 April
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Friday 17 April
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Saturday 18 April
9.30am Mass St Mary's
5.30pm Mass Holy Family

Sunday 19 April
9.30am Mass St Mary's
5.30PM Mass St Mary's

UPCOMING EVENTS

22 April ALPHA starts

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Office
Jo Boult 06 345 3872
admin@cpow.co.nz
Parish Priest
Fr Craig Butler 021 272 4401
Assistant Priest
Fr John Roberts 027 634 6877
Hospital Chaplain
Norma O'Connor 027 233 4557
Youth Minister
Rain Shore 021 256 0608

PRAYER FOR PEACE During his Easter message, Pope Leo invites all this weekend to join him in praying for peace in the world. In response, we will have a short prayer for peace after Mass today, asking for Our Lady's intercession for peace, praying with Pope Leo and invoking peace in our own lives.

Jesus, Lord of our history, Faithful companion and living presence,
You who never tire of coming to meet us, Here we are, in need of Your peace.

We live in times of fear and division. Sometimes we act as if we were alone,
Building walls that separate us from one another,
Forgetting that we are brothers and sisters.

Send us Your Spirit, Lord, To rekindle within us
The desire to understand one another, to listen,
To live together with respect and compassion.

Give us the courage to seek paths of dialogue,
To respond to conflict with gestures of fraternity,
To open our hearts to others without fear of differences.

Make us builders of bridges, Able to overcome borders and ideologies,
Able to see others through the eyes of the heart,
Recognising in every person an inviolable dignity.

Help us create spaces where hope can flourish,
Where diversity is not a threat
But a richness that makes us more human.
Amen.

BAPTISMS Congratulations to Sophia Harding, Tiake and Tiare Hawira-Scanlon and Jonty Lawton. They were baptised on Sunday 5th April at St Mary's Church.

MISSION HUB – Bishop John Adams is our first guest speaker at Mission Hub this April. In this special session, Bishop John will reflect on "The Holy Spirit at the Heart of Mission. Monday 13 April 7.00–8.30pm (NZ time)Please register here: https://bit.ly/apr13zoom

ALPHA is starting on Wednesday 22nd April at 6pm for 11 weeks. If you know someone outside our parish who would like to know more about Jesus then this is for them too so please invite them to register also. If you would like to know more visit Alpha.co.nz or contact Mike 027 288 8015 or Thomas 027 296 1244 If you are ready to register please email us at alphacpw@gmail.com Please note you need to register to be able to attend as spaces are limited.

PRE MARRIAGE COURSE Are you thinking of getting married? Are you engaged to be married? Do you have a child or grandchild considering marriage? The Alpha Pre-Marriage course is a Christian based course and available to all couples. It is designed to provide the tools for a robust, long-lasting and happy marriage. A great investment opportunity! Five weekly sessions beginning the week of Monday 2nd June. Phone Gerard & Kate Lynch on 027 2430430 or book at the Parish Office.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY DEVOTIONS- St Mary's Church Sunday 12th April
3-4pm. Devotions will consist of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Veneration of Image, Divine Mercy Chaplet, concluding with Benediction. Rite I Reconciliation will be available during Adoration.

HOMELESS HUB OUTREACH – the SOUP roster for next week is Juliet Koji's team. For further information contact Maureen 027 491 2168 or Pat 227 491 9637

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES- are available to collect in St Mary's Church foyer.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP NO YOUTH GROUP DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP Junior Youth Group is on hold temporarily.

YOUNG ADULTS Young Adults will now be meeting the 1st and 3rd and if there's a 5th Sunday of the Month at Saint Mary's Church for 5.30pm Mass followed by a Young Adult Night meeting in the foyer after Mass. The location for the night might change but the meeting spot is always the foyer after Mass. All Young Adults welcome.

RECENTLY DECEASED:
APRIL ANNIVERSARIES Kathleen Trillo, Graeme McBride, Noel Boyle, Anna Scoullar-Jones, Tony Griffiths, Jonathon Parkes, John McDonald, Sister Damian Marlene Phillips, Terry Gra, Tim Morahan, Paul Alexander, Max Benseman
TODAY'S READINGS First: Acts 2.42-47 Second: 1 Peter 1.3-9 Gospel: John 20.19-31
NEXT SUNDAY EASTER SUNDAY 19 APRIL First: Acts 2.14, 22b-28 Second: 1 Peter 1.17-21 Gospel: Luke 24.13-35