



Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 February 2026



A LIFE OF HOLINESS IS MORE THAN JUST NOT DOING STUFF

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 2 February

**9.00am Mass St Mary's
Presentation of the
Lord**

Tuesday 3 February

9.30am Mass Holy Family
12.05pm Mass St Marys

Wednesday 4 February

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 5 February

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Friday 6 February Waitangi Day

9.00am Mass St Mary's

Saturday 7 February

9.00am Rite I St Mary's
9.30am Mass St Mary's
5.30pm Sun Vigil Mass
Holy Family

Sunday 8 February

9.30am Mass St Mary's
5.30pm Mass St Mary's

UPCOMING DATES

**ANOINTING MASS for the Sick
on Wednesday 11 February**

**ASH WEDNESDAY on
Wednesday 18 February**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT on
Sunday 22 February**

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Office

Jo Boulton 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

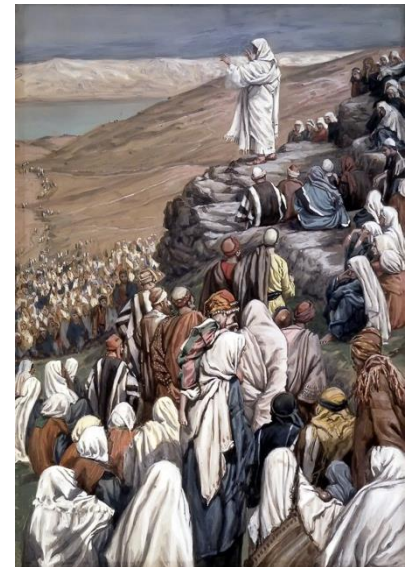
Youth Minister

Rain Shore 021 256 0608

The Beatitudes are a charter for holiness. Sadly, many Christians think of holiness as simply keeping the Ten Commandments. What we tend to forget is that the Ten Commandments are part of the Jewish law. They are, of course, still valid, and Jesus said clearly that he had not come to abolish the Jewish law but to fulfil it. In the teaching of Jesus, the Beatitudes go beyond the Ten Commandments in what he expects of his disciples. The Beatitudes have a central place in the teaching of our Lord and his church. They are a kind of mission statement saying what kind of person a good Christian will look like - and perhaps more importantly, how they will act!

The Ten Commandments follow a concept of religion primarily based on the observance of Jewish Law. By contrast the Beatitudes offer a concept of religion based on love. The word love is never mentioned in the Ten Commandments. Many of the Ten Commandments can be observed by doing nothing. For example, by not killing, not stealing, not committing adultery. Christian witness and the building of the Kingdom expects much more than not doing something.

What do the above Beatitudes teach us? They teach us to be willing to feel and sympathise for each other, to act with gentleness towards each other, to wish to do what is right. The objective is to have pure hearts and thoughts, and to live in peace with our neighbours. Such was our Lord's character, and as his disciples we are called to imitate him.



DO WE STAND OR DO WE SIT? We are being asked to reflect on the issue of posture at Mass. Our bishop, John Adams has created a YouTube clip about this matter, and I have enclosed a link to his talk below. I encourage you to watch it in full, so we are all clear about what he is asking for. I have also provided a transcript of his talk on a separate handout. In short, John wants to address the issue of standing and kneeling during our celebration of Mass. He has asked us to read the relevant chapters from the GIRM or *General Instruction on the Roman Missal*. The Roman Missal is the book which includes all the prayers prayed and instructions for the celebration the Mass in the Roman Rite - to which we belong. I have included this in the handout, together with the indult granted by Rome to the whole church in New Zealand. I have also printed copies of some of Bishop Peter's teaching which has guided our diocesan practice until the present day.

continued... Bishop John is aware this is not a straightforward issue, and he genuinely wants to know what we think. He is encouraging us to make use of the Synodal process. As you may or may not know, this process involves prayerful listening to each other about complex issues. Front and centre is our commitment to listening to the Holy Spirit and listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church - that's us. We will host a meeting using the Synodal process on Sunday 15 February. You are equally welcome to get together in small groups and again, use the Synodal Process to come up with a recommendation which will then be passed on to Bishop John. The following is a link to Bishop John's talk: <https://tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz/2025/12/liturgical-posture-in-the-diocese-of-palmerston-north/>

MASS TIMES This week we return to the usual weekday Mass timetable with Mass at St Mary's at 12.05pm, Holy Family at 9.00am on Tuesdays at Holy Family and the usual Masses at our four schools. Please note we will celebrate the feast of the **Presentation of our Lord** on Monday with Mass and blessing of Candles. Please note any changes to usual Mass times highlighted in bold in the Left Hand Column on the front page of this newsletter. During January we usually celebrate weekday Masses at 9.00am. I thought we had advertised it widely, but it was not made clear enough on our website and on a couple of occasions, people showed up at midday. I apologise for any inconvenience caused. Fr Craig

FOOD BANK Thank you to everyone who supports the Food bank with food items. I know that we don't get much feedback but please know that your gifts help transform the lives of those who are in need. Please be generous and bring items to Mass on Sunday and please include cleaning products, personal health items - in short anything you normally put in your own supermarket trolley - especially the expensive items. Thank you

WAITANGI DAY We will celebrate Waitangi Day with **Mass at 9.00am** followed by a cup of tea in the foyer.

ANOINTING MASS Wednesday 11 February is World Day of the Sick. We will mark this date with an Anointing Mass at St Mary's. If you are physically, mentally, spiritually unwell or need healing of any kind you are welcome to come along and celebrate this sacrament. If you are fit and well, you are equally welcome to come and pray for those who aren't.

NZ CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION RETREAT & SEMINAR The New Zealand Catholic Medical Association provides community, support and chaplaincy for those involved in health care in Aotearoa. The association welcomes doctors, nurses, midwives, carers, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologists, dentists, health administrators, counsellors, social workers, chaplains, lawyers, and anyone in allied roles. The next nationwide event is a retreat and seminar at the St Francis Friary & Retreat Centre, Auckland on March 20/21. For more information or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/NZCMA2026> or email newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com

NZ CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE | May 2026 Lourdes to Lisieux Pilgrimage 8–27 May 2026 Discover the sacred beauty of France on an inspiring 18-day pilgrimage. Visit Lourdes, Lisieux, Paray-le-Monial, Chartres, Normandy and Paris, and walk in the footsteps of beloved saints including St Thérèse of Lisieux, St Bernadette, St John Vianney, and St Vincent de Paul. This journey offers daily Mass, expert guides, and the chance to deepen your faith in some of the most grace-filled places in the Catholic world. *An unforgettable experience of faith, friendship, and spiritual renewal.* For details and bookings 0800 819 156 🌐 harvestjourneys.com/pv2659

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP - WILL RETURN 22ND FEBRUARY 2026
SENIOR YOUTH GROUP – WILL RETURN 22ND FEBRUARY 2026



RECENTLY DECEASED: Kevin Schimanski, Pam Oulaghan, Patricia Condon, Elizabeth Young, Fr Joe O'Sullivan
FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES Shirley Bierman, Bernie Gudsell, Mary Gudsell, Tricia Moriarty, Anne Connors, Maria Watts, Maitland Watts, Nigel Watts, Anne Wham

TODAY'S READINGS First: Zephaniah 2.3; 3.12-13 7.10-14 Second: 1 Cor 1.26-31 Gospel: Matthew 5.1-12a
NEXT SUNDAY 8 February First: Isaiah 58.2-6.10 Second: : 1 Corinthians 2.1-5 Gospel: Matthew 5.13-16