



Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Second Sunday of Lent

1 March 2026



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 2 March

9.00am C/s Holy Family

Tuesday 3 March

9.30am C/s Holy Family

12.05pm Mass St Marys

Wednesday 4 March

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 5 March

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Friday 6 March

10.30am No Cullinane

11.20am Rite I St Mary's

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

**5.30pm Stations of the Cross
St Mary's**

Saturday 7 March

9.00am Rite I St Mary's

9.30am Mass St Mary's

5.30pm Sun Vigil Mass
Holy Family

Sunday 8 March

9.30am Mass St Mary's

5.30pm Mass St Mary's

UPCOMING DATES

Older Children Baptism

10 March

St Mary's Church

Chrism Mass 31 March

The Cathedral Palmerston North

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

JESUS CAME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

In today's gospel we read about Jesus going up a mountain, where he is transfigured. He seems to glow with divine light. This was a special moment in his earthly life, but even more important for those who were with him - his disciples, Peter, James and John. To really make sense of this experience, we need to understand the context in which this extraordinary experience is set.

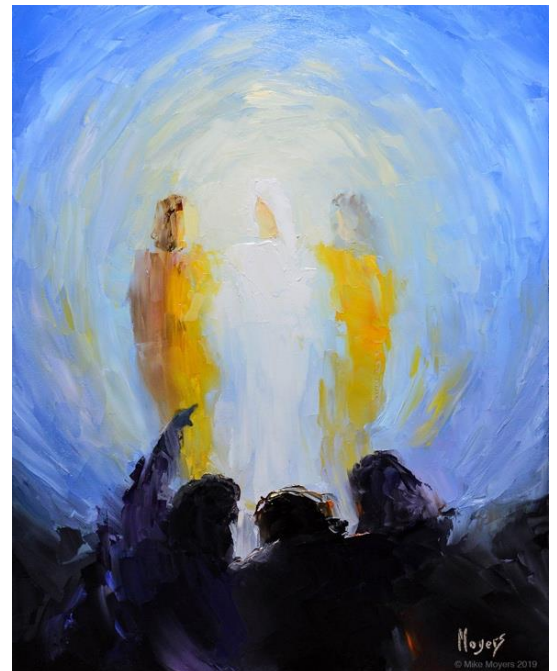
Immediately prior to this mountaintop experience, Peter had identified Jesus, as the expected messiah of Israel. This key moment was also one of misunderstanding. Peter and the others were expecting a political messiah, a military King who would destroy Israel's enemies. Jesus quickly puts Peter right, explaining that he was not this kind of messiah. Far from being a king in the usual sense, his kingdom was to be one of peace and love and, that he would be rejected by his own people and killed. This news was too much for Peter, whose expectations were shattered. After openly rejecting what Jesus had to say, Peter is strongly critiqued by Jesus who calls him Satan, because he is an obstacle to what God wants. Worse still, Jesus tells him that those who want to be his followers must face the same rejection, suffering and perhaps even death. Understandably, in my humble opinion, Peter would have felt devastated by this news.

It's within this context that Jesus takes Peter and James and John up the mountain where they experience a *glimpse* of Jesus' glory - Jesus is shining like the sun. At the same time a voice comes from the cloud telling them to trust in Jesus, and most importantly accept what he was saying to them - clearly this was the voice of God! It must have given Peter and James and John a real boost, now knowing that everything Jesus taught them was true and that his suffering and death would not be the end of the story - that in the end, Jesus would rise from the dead and be glorified. Peter wants to hold on to this moment but Jesus knows that his

work must continue and so he brings his disciples back down the mountain. Jesus is demonstrating to Peter (and us - in our own time) that Jesus came down from the mountain to be with people in their suffering, in their fears and anxieties, in their sicknesses and disabilities and in their sinfulness.

The same is true today. Our Lord is with us, in our suffering and in our joys. And, as his disciples we are called to be like him and be with others in their need. We encounter Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament every time we celebrate Mass and receive Holy Communion. But we cannot stay up the mountain. Like our Lord we are called to come down the mountain to be with those in need. May our good God bless you on your Lenten journey with our Lord - up the mountain and down again.

Fr Craig




CONGRATULATIONS to Kayde Fifield. Kayde was baptised on Sunday 22nd February at St Mary's Church.


OLDER CHILDREN'S BAPTISM We will begin a programme of preparation for the baptism of school age children in March. Many parents want their children to choose whether they are baptised, so some years ago, we created a programme for children and their parents to learn about this sacrament. The programme starts Tuesday 10th March at St Mary's Church.

Wednesdays 7:30pm to 8:30pm
From Ashes to Hope

25 Feb *The Temptation | Led by the Spirit*
4 Mar *The Transfiguration | "Listen to Him"*
11 Mar *The Woman at the Well | "I am He"*
18 Mar *The Man Born Blind | "Now I see"*
25 Mar *The Raising of Lazarus | "Lazarus, come out"*
1 Apr *The Passion | "I will strike the shepherd"*

 **Scan the QR code to register**
or use one of the contacts below

caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars
0800 22 10 22
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Replays available



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LENT WEBINAR SERIES 2026

Scan the code or go to
caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars

CHRISM MASS | Save the Date This year's Chrism Mass will be held on Tuesday 31 March, 12:05pm at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is welcome.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER You are invited to attend the service prepared by the WDP Nigeria on Friday 6 March 11.30am at St Paul's in the City Church Worship Centre 112 Guyton Street. Followed by a bring-and-share finger- food-lunch.

Submissions on Liturgical Posture in the Diocese still open If you haven't had a chance to email Bishop John around the issue of Liturgical Posture in the Diocese, the deadline for submissions has been extended to Easter Sunday (5 April). Please send all submissions to bishop-pa@pndioocese.org.nz if you would like to share your thoughts. More information can be found at <https://tumanako.pndioocese.org.nz/2025/12/liturgical-posture-in-the-diocese-of-palmerston-north>

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE Join a pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 05-18 June 2026. Experience Our Lady's presence on a 'Medjugorje In-Depth' pilgrimage and a fulfilling 10 night stay in the holy valley. Booking now. Contact Patricia at www.mirpilgrimages.co.nz | E: <mailto:info@mirpilgrimages.co.nz> | Mob: 027 352 5217

FOODBANK Would like spaghetti, baked beans and noodles. Thank you for your donations.

ALPHA-Why am I here? Is there more to life than this? Two very thought-provoking questions helpfully unpacked in ALPHA 2026 coming soon...

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH OUR YOUTH GATHERING Join us for a parish gathering to hear what's been happening with our young people and the heart of youth ministry in our Parish. 8TH MARCH | 11AM-12PM SAINT MARY'S CHURCH HALL

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP Dates for term one: 1st March, 8th March, 22 March, 29th March 6.30-8.30pm at Saint Mary's Church Hall **There is no Youth Group on the 15th March**

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP Junior Youth Group is on hold temporarily. Come to the What's Happening for our Youth Gathering to find out more and keep an eye on this space for dates coming out soon.

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.

HOMELESS HUB OUTREACH – The Summer roster for next week is Marie Pye's team. For further information contact Maureen 027 491 2168 or Pat 227 491 9637

RECENTLY DECEASED: Eileen Seconi, Luise Mathijssen

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES Fr Harry Costello, Maulu Fa'i, John Cvitanovich, John Harrison

TODAY'S READINGS First: Genesis 12.1-4, 16-18,2-5;3.1-7 Sec: 2 Timothy 1.8b-10 Gospel: Matthew 17.1-9 11

NEXT SUNDAY 8 March First: Exodus 17.3-7, Sec: Romans 5.1-2, 5-8 Gospel: John 4.5-42