Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Easter Sunday

5 April 2026

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 6 April
9.00am C/s Holy Family

Tuesday 7 April
9.30am C/s Holy Family
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Wednesday 8 April
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 9 April
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Friday 10 April
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Saturday 11 April
9.30am Mass St Mary's
5.30pm Mass Holy Family

Sunday 12 April
9.30am Mass St Mary's
5.30PM Mass St Mary's

UPCOMING EVENTS

12 April Divine Mercy Devotions
St Mary's Church

19 April Older Children Baptisms
St Mary's Church

22 April ALPHA starts

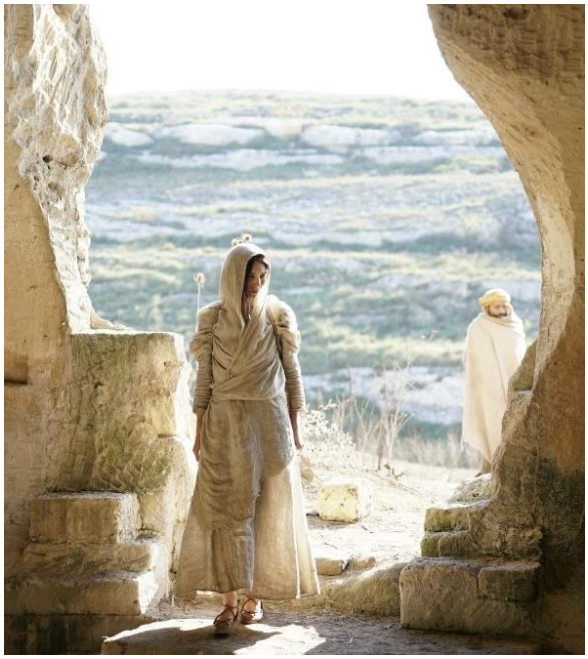
PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

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

LIGHT ALWAYS OVERCOMES THE DARKNESS

Happy Easter! Today we celebrate Jesus' victory over suffering and death. For the past six weeks, we have been preparing for today's celebration. During these past three days, we have reflected on those dark days, leading up to and including Jesus' death. Yesterday, we sat with tomb reminding us of the waiting we are all called to endure. Today though, is very different. In today's gospel, we read about Mary Magdalene going to Jesus' tomb to prepare his body for burial. This was to be their last act of love. But when the women arrived, an angel of God appeared to them. This experience left them filled with both fear and joy.

On their way back to tell the other disciples, they encounter Jesus himself. We are told that they fell at his feet, probably feeling overwhelmed. Everything changed for them in a heartbeat, as their sadness was transformed into joy. This encounter showed them, that everything Jesus had said and taught was true. Jesus encourages them to "not be afraid" and then insists they tell the other disciples about their experience and so pass on the joy they themselves were experiencing.



The Resurrection of Christ is not simply an event that took place long ago. It's an event that continues to take place whenever we choose to share our struggles and concerns with our Lord on this journey we call life. Today we remember especially all the promises he made and we pray we too may encounter the Risen Lord Jesus in every aspect of our lives, especially the dark and difficult moments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this season of Easter one of hope and joy, of new life and a life free from fear. May our good God bless you and your families richly and bring you the new life of Easter. Fr Craig

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION– 3 April 2026. Each year, the Holy Father invites Catholics worldwide to support the Good Friday Collection as a sign of solidarity with Christian communities in the Holy Land. In Aotearoa New Zealand, this collection helps maintain the Shrine Church in Cana and supports scholarships for students at Bethlehem University, as well as the pastoral and humanitarian work of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.
In the midst of ongoing hardship and conflict, our generosity is a tangible expression of hope and support for Christian families living where Jesus lived and ministered. Please give generously to this important collection.
marked envelopes are available in the foyer. Alternatively, you may give by direct credit to the parish bank account – St Marys Wanganui BNZ 020630 0288029 01. Please include your name as the payee and use "Holy Places" as the reference.

EASTER SUNDAY GIFT TO OUR PRIESTS– Special Collection, 5 April 2026 This collection supports the priests of our Diocese through the Clergy Trust Fund. It assists our priests with the various costs associated with their ministry and personal wellbeing. The Fund is responsible for every aspect of caring for our priests, and they are deeply grateful for the generosity and ongoing support they receive from parish communities. Specially marked envelopes are available in the church foyer. Alternatively, donations may be made by direct credit to St Marys Wanganui BNZ 020630 0288029 01using your name as the payee and "Dues" as the reference. Many thanks to all parishioners who, in past years, have contributed to the Easter gift to our priests. Your support and kindness are always very much appreciated. Monsignor Brian Walsh, Chairman, Clergy Trust Fund

MISSION HUB – The Holy Spirit at the Heart of Mission. We are excited to welcome Bishop John Adams as 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," inviting us to rediscover how the Holy Spirit continues to guide, inspire, and empower the Church in her mission today. Together, we will explore how we can grow in openness to the Spirit's movement in our own lives and be renewed in our call to share the Gospel. Mission Hub is a monthly online gathering that brings people together from across the country to learn, pray, reflect, and be encouraged in mission. It's a wonderful opportunity to deepen your faith and be inspired by others seeking to follow Christ. Monday 13 April 7.00–8.30pm (NZ time) Online Everyone is welcome and invited to 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.

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.

SVDP EASTER RAFFLE RESULTS 1st: 486 Nicole 2nd. 320 Janet 3rd. 106 John 4th. 432 Paul 5th. 541 Heather A big thank you to all parishioners for your wonderful support of our raffle. **SHOP RE-OPENING** We are very pleased to let you all know that the Vinnies Shop will reopen on Tuesday 7 April. We look forward to seeing you all again either shopping or dropping items off to us. Thank you for your prayers and financial assistance while the shop was under repair. The Vinnies Team

OFFICE CLOSED The office is closed from Friday 3rd April and will reopen on Wednesday 8th April. Have a Happy Easter.

HOMELESS HUB OUTREACH – the SOUP roster for next week is Heather Laurie'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 Dates for term one: 29th March 6.30-8.30pm at Saint Mary's Church Hall**.** Please bring a gold coin

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
TODAY'S READINGS First: Acts 10.34a, 36-43 Second: Colossians 3.1-4 Gospel: John 20.1-18
NEXT SUNDAY EASTER SUNDAY 12 APRIL First: Acts 2.42-47 Second: 1 Peter 1.3-9 Gospel: John 20.19-31