



Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 October 2025



Hope and Renewal Summit

We are destined for a life of love. The Holy Spirit's love and flame of hope were reignited for 20 parishioners from Whanganui last weekend, as well as 500 others from across New Zealand at the Hope and Renewal Summit in Palmerston North. We were inspired by keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and conversations with each other. Our discussions involved sharing a God-inspired Parish vision, starting the Alpha Programme, and uniting our Catholic schools to the Parish. We pray that the Holy Spirit will breathe life into our efforts.

Those with 'no religion' haven't experienced God's presence. In our personal relationships with God, we know He is love. We recognise ourselves as vessels of His love and allow God's love to pour out unto others. Religion needs to be about relationships. When our authentic identity is in Christ, our relationships with others could lead them to a faith decision. Are we forming a connection, or rejection? Are we having conversations, or proclamations? Are we having a mission that extends beyond our walls? Are we looking to love and not to judge?

One session acknowledged that people need to feel they belong, to believe in the love of God. For instance, we could establish hospitality and welcoming teams. From my own experience, in 2022, I felt no belonging anywhere. I didn't feel that I mattered in the Parish. One Sunday Mass, I looked at my reflection in the bathroom mirror and told myself, "This is the last Sunday I'm coming here." God had other plans, as the moment I returned to the foyer, a parishioner asked me to do a Reading. All it took was for one person to extend the invitation. Reading for the first time, I recall the sunlight streaming on me and the stained glass windows reflecting an array of colour. I knew that God did see me, and love me, and he wanted me to be a part of this Parish.

Now, I've found my places of belonging, such as the Parish Youth Group. I can be myself, without fear of judgement, and I can accompany young people as they encounter God's love. We are all on a life journey, and just a smile can open doors to the light of Christ. Let us serve and empower with our God-given gifts and create a culture of generosity, for when we enter our Parish, we enter Jesus' home. Victoria Arrowsmith



NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 13 October

9.00am C/s Holy Family

Tuesday 14 October

9.30am Mass Holy Family

12.05pm Mass St Marys

Wednesday 15 October

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 16 October

12.05pm Mass St Marys

Friday 17 October

10.00am Mass St Joseph's
Cullinane

11.20am Rite I St Mary's

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Saturday 18 October

9.00am Rite I St Mary's

9.30am Mass St Mary's

5.30pm Sun Vigil Mass
Holy Family

Sunday 19 October

9.30am Mass St Mary's

5.30pm Mass St Mary's

Upcoming Events

Saturday 18 October

7pm Parish Quiz Night

Sunday 19 October

10.30am Katarina Mitchell-
Kouttab

Saturday 1 November

11.30am Car Boot Sale

Thursday 6th November

7.00pm Memorial Mass

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

Victoria Arrowsmith and Kareshma Martin at the Hope and Renewal Summit

HOPE AND RENEWAL SUMMIT This week's front page reflection is a thought provoking and hope filled reflection, from one of our parishioners who attended the Hope and Renewal Summit last weekend. I think it's fair to say we all came away feeling uplifted and inspired by the Holy Spirit, working through ordinary people (just like us) who have taken the risk of embracing renewal. We heard wonderful stories of transformation and God's grace. Unlike so many other experiences at which those who returned have felt isolated, this time, we have the support of one another and a real desire to bring about life giving renewal to our parish and the wider community. We want everyone to be part of this renewal, so we ask you to begin by praying with us this prayer...



***Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in our parish the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.
Stir in each of us a desire for mission,
a deep trust in your guidance,
a willingness to serve as disciples
and a joy that draws others to Christ. Amen.***

🌻 **SUMMER'S COMING AND SO ARE OUR YOUTH MINISTRY SUMMER CAMPS!** Summer is just around the corner, and with it comes an amazing opportunity for our teens to encounter Christ and community at two life-changing Summer Camps. The cost to attend these camps is significant, so throughout October and November we're ramping up our fundraising efforts to help make this possible for our young people. Our first big event is a **Parish Quiz Night** Saturday 18 October, 7pm 📍 St Mary's Church Hall 💰 \$10 per ticket. Form a team of 3-6 people, or come along solo and we'll help you join a team on the night. Come for a fun evening of laughter, friendly competition, and great community spirit — all while supporting our teens! Our second event is a **Car Boot Sale & Fair** Saturday 1 November, 11:30am 📍 St Mary's Church Grounds 💰 \$20 per car boot or table stall To book a space or find out more, email Rain at youth.cpow@gmail.com or call 021 265 6068. Come along, grab a bargain, and enjoy a great community day out while helping our young people get to camp!



SVDP Wanted: soft toys for The Vinnies Shop. We are very low on toys stock. Please drop them into 217 Victoria Avenue.

OCTOBER ROSARY for the month of October will be prayed before Masses/Communion Services each day from Monday to Saturday morning. All urged to attend.

ANNUAL MASS TO CELEBRATE JUBILEES OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION

Everyone is invited to the Mass which will be celebrated on Thursday, 23 October at 12.05pm in the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Those celebrating Jubilees this year are: Fr Nathaniel Brazil (10 years) Fr Brian Carmine (25 years) Fr Craig Butler (30 years) Fr Tom Lawn (50 years) Fr Bernard O'Donnell (50 years) Monsignor Brian Walsh (50 years) Fr John Dykes (60 years) Congratulations and blessings to all our Jubilarians!

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH AND SCHOOL HAWERA 150 YEARS Registrations are still open for St Joseph's Parish & School Hawera 150 years. Celebration which will be held 24 – 26 October 2025. Register at <http://www.stjoeshawera150celebration.co.nz> or by downloading the registration form and emailing to stjosephshawerajubilee@gmail.com

HOMELESS HUB OUTREACH - The SUMMER roster for next week is Marie Pye's Team. Further information contact Maureen 027 491 2168 or Pat 027 491 9637

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP – If you are year 5-8. Come along at 4-5.30pm on a Sunday at Saint Mary's Church Hall.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP – If you're year 9-13 come along on a Sunday night 6.30-8.30pm Saint Mary's Church Hall.

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YOUNG ADULTS GROUP Our meetings are on Thursdays 7-9pm.

8 Glasgow Street Whanganui



RECENTLY DECEASED: Yvonne Meynell, Paul Vodanovich, Anne Murray, Pat Ryan

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES: Colleen Cavanagh, Patrick McGonigle and Frances Tyler, Clodisa Oliva, Veronica McAfee, Margaret Connors, Maurice Gallagher, Muriel Fleming, Laurence and Maxine Conder, Florence Smith, Tiny Catherine Smith

TODAY'S READINGS First: 2 Kings 5.14-17 Second: 2 Timothy 2. 8-13 Gospel: Luke 17.11-19

NEXT SUNDAY 12 October First: Exodus 17.8-13 Second: 2 Timothy 3. 14-4.2 Gospel: Luke 18.1-8