



Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

14 September 2025



NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 15 September

9.00am C/s Holy Family

Tuesday 16 September

9.30am Mass Holy Family

12.05pm C/S St Marys

Wednesday 17 September

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 18 September

12.05pm Mass St Marys

Friday 19 September

11.20am Rite I St Mary's

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Saturday 20 September

9.00am Rite I St Mary's

9.30am Mass St Mary's

5.30pm Sun Vigil Mass
Holy Family

Sunday 21 September

9.30am Mass St Mary's

5.30pm Mass St Mary's

Upcoming Events

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

LOVE COSTS NOTHING SHORT OF EVERYTHING!

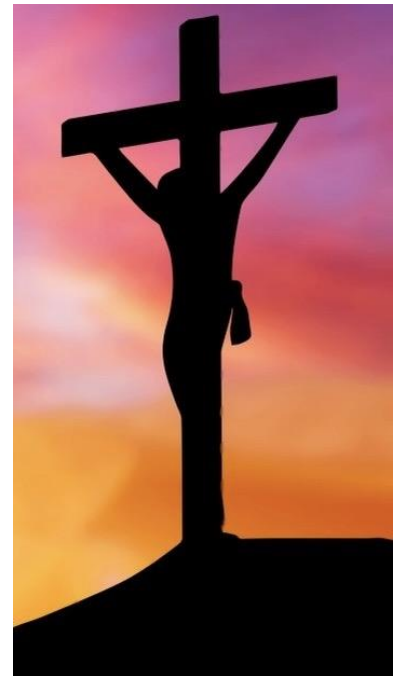
Today we celebrate the Triumph of the Holy Cross of Jesus, believing that Jesus' death is not the end of the story. In his letter to the community of Christians in Phillipi, St Paul focusses on one of our central beliefs as Christians - that Jesus consciously and willingly chose to let go of his equality with God, so as to share in our humanity. We call this self-emptying Kenosis. We believe that a moment in history, Christ let go of his divinity so as to become fully human, to become vulnerable, to identify with us in both life and death, in suffering and in joy. In short, he embraced our humility to its absolute depth.

Jesus' humility reached its most profound expression in his accepting death on a cross. Crucifixion, in the Roman world was reserved for the lowest, most shameful criminals. This instrument of torture and death represents not only physical suffering but also utter humiliation and rejection. Again, central to our Christian belief Christ willing allowed himself to die a terrible death, trusting that his death was not the end of his story - that it would end in glory. Further on in his letter Paul says that "God raised Jesus high and gave him the name which is above all other names." This is the exaltation of Jesus, where God honours Christ's humility and obedience by elevating him above all creation. The result is that every living being in the universe, heavenly, earthly, and even those in the realm of the dead, will acknowledge the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ultimately, St Paul reveals a profound mystery: true greatness is found not in seeking or grasping power, but in humble service and self-giving. Christ's journey from glory to humility and back to glory is offered as both a model and a promise - the path of humility leads, by the grace of God, to exaltation and the fulfilment of God's glory.

In short, Jesus' death on the cross gives us a glimpse of the extent of the Father's love for each and every one of us and gives us a model for our own lives. Like Christ, we are called to let go of power and control in favour of service and humility, believing that such choices will lead to our own share in Christ's life - not so much in this life as the next. In this life choosing humility and service will bring ridicule and rejection. Be strong in faith and be like Christ in all things. Fr Craig

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE We are preparing for a Parish Council Strategic Planning Meeting which will be guided by a facilitator trained in the Synodal Process. This half-day will focus on listening to the "Parish Voice" through both a survey/questionnaire and group conversations. Parishioners will soon be invited to share their thoughts about the future direction of our parish. Upcoming Parish Events include an opportunity to, meet the Mayoral Candidates on Sunday 21 September, following the Miha Māori at 9.30am, parishioners are warmly invited to morning tea in the hall where Mayoral candidates will chat about their vision for Whanganui and meet with parishioners.

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(continued) On Sunday 28 September at the 9.30am Mass, we will honour Sr Litia Vakameitangaka, Sr Lusiana Puleosi (Sisters of Compassion), and Sr Colleen Woodcock (Sister of St Joseph) as they celebrate their milestone Jubilees. We will also celebrate Fr John Roberts' 80th Birthday, with a parish lunch.

Programmes & Initiatives include hosting the Alpha Programme. Our youth group is also using Alpha resources with good engagement. Hope and Renewal Conference. Fourteen parishioners are attending. Plans are underway to welcome Katrina Mitchell-Kouttab, who will speak later this year about justice and peace in Gaza. Inter-church Dialogue – An invitation has been received from the Quaker community to join in fellowship with other Christian groups. An afternoon tea meeting will be held on October 4 - please contact the Parish Office if interested in attending.

Community Support Parishioners are encouraged to continue supporting our foodbank by bringing grocery items to leave in the church foyer. Our next meeting will be early October. Please pray for our Council as we continue to plan and listen, guided by the Holy Spirit. *"Come, Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth – and renew our parish."*

CONGRATULATIONS -To Veronica Hannan on her 100th Birthday. We hope you have a lovely day with family and friends.



MINISTRY OF HOLY COMMUNION A formation event for new Eucharistic Ministers will be held on Tuesday 16 Sept at 5.30pm at St Mary's Church. Existing ministers are equally welcome to attend. Refresher sessions will be made available following Sunday Masses soon. Suhair Pedley

SAVE THE DATE! On Sunday, 16th November, we will be holding a Parish Lunch to celebrate Father John's 80th birthday—a milestone we simply cannot let pass by! This will be a wonderful occasion for our parish family to gather together and give thanks for Father John's life, ministry, and many years of faithful service. ✨ More details will be shared in the coming weeks—please mark your calendars now!

HOPE AND RENEWAL SUMMIT The date for Early bird registrations has been extended by one more week. Parish renewal isn't just for one person it's a shared mission. Come as a parish. Be renewed. Palmerston North 3-4 October 2025. Register today and save: www.hoperenewalsummit.com

Hope and Renewal Summit – Pray for Speakers and Worship Teams This week, we lift up in prayer all those who will speak, teach, testify, and lead worship at the Hope and Renewal Summit. May the Holy Spirit inspire their words and music so that hearts may be opened and the Church renewed.

Let us pray:

Lord, anoint those who will teach, testify, and lead us in praise at the Summit. May their words lift hearts and their music awaken hope. Mary, born to bring Christ to the world, pray for every speaker and worship leader. May their hearts glorify God and help renew your Church. Amen. To learn more or support the Hope and Renewal Summit, visit hoperenewalsummit.com or email hoperenewal@pndiocese.org.nz.

JUBILEE OF JUSTICE WEBINAR — SEPTEMBER 19: Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is hosting a 30-minute webinar to celebrate the Jubilee of Justice. This will include an update on the progress of the global "Turn Debt Into Hope" campaign focusing on debt justice, and expert advice on how to advocate for justice in your local community. The webinar will feature guests from NZ and Australia with specialist expertise. Mark your diaries for 12.30pm on Friday, September 19. Find out more and learn how you can get involved at www.caritas.org.nz/season-of-creation-2025

PARKING- When parking in the church carpark please take care not to block others in. (This has happened twice in recent weeks). **ALSO....** Please ensure you arrive early for mass—don't walk into Church in the middle of the reading.

HOMELESS HUB OUTREACH-The SOUP roster for next week is the Laurie Team. Further information contact Maureen 027 491 2168 or Pat 027 491 9637

<p>JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP – NO JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP THIS WEEK SENIOR YOUTH GROUP – If you're year 9-13 come along on a Sunday night 6.30-8.30pm Saint Mary's Church Hall. YOUNG ADULTS GROUP Our meetings are on Thursdays 7-9pm. 8 Glasgow Street Whanganui</p>	
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RECENTLY DECEASED: Marie Greenwell, Jennifer Falconer

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: Purificacion Ajoc, Gordon Smith, Paddy O'Hara, Patricia Kavanagh, Patricia Moriarty, Muriel Fleming, Kirsty Campbell, Gordon Harrison, Marie Harrison

TODAY'S READINGS First: Numbers 21.4-9 Second: Philippians 2. 6-11 Gospel: John 3.13-17

NEXT SUNDAY 21 September First: Amos 8.4-7 Second: 1 Timothy 2. 1-7 Gospel: Luke 16.1-13