



Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

15 February 2026



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 16 February
9.00am C/s Holy Family

Tuesday 17 February
9.30am Mass Holy Family
12.05pm Mass St Marys

Wednesday 18 February
Ash Wednesday
12.05pm Mass St Mary's
5.30pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 19 February
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Friday 20 February
10.30am Mass St Joseph's
Cullinane
11.20am Rite I St Mary's
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Saturday 21 February
9.00am Rite I St Mary's
9.30am Mass St Mary's
5.30pm Sun Vigil Mass
Holy Family

Sunday 22 February
9.30am Mass St Mary's
12.00pm Mass Ranana
5.30pm Mass St Mary's

UPCOMING DATES

Ash 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

LENT - A SPRINGTIME FOR OUR SOULS

Ash Wednesday (this week) marks the beginning of our Lenten journey, leading up to the great feast of Easter. In the same way Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the desert in preparation for his ministry, we are invited to spend 40 days preparing to encounter the Risen Christ anew at Easter. Growing up as a child most people did not look forward to Lent, mostly because we didn't really understand why we were being asked to give up stuff - especially things we liked. As adults we are fortunate to have a deeper understanding of what it's all about. Lent is a season of renewal and growth - better understood within the Northern Hemisphere context, where Lent is situated coming out of winter and into spring. But, we can still make it work here even if we are heading into Autumn.

Lent is a season of grace to help us reawaken the Spirit of God within, who may seem dormant or asleep. We believe the Spirit is always with us - but sometimes we don't feel his presence. Lent is about intentionally reawakening this powerful force within us. That's where discipline comes in. As a child discipline is something that is done to you. Then as we mature we come to realise that good things come from hard work and effort. As a child, we came to know that practice made us better at sport. As adults we know that love is more than just a feeling - that it takes effort and hard work. In the same way, spiritual growth comes from Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

The season of Lent is like a springtime for our souls. This season invites us to respond to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit, calling us to walk with our Lord into a closer relationship with him and experience the joy and peace that only he can give.



We have sourced four resources which you are welcome to look at on Sunday - and then purchase on line. I mentioned the Crux programme which I will speak about with those who are interested after each of our Sunday Masses this weekend and talk about the other resources.

This year we have made a commitment to renewal in our parish. Please take this opportunity to both fast and feast on the opportunity to renew yourself this Lent. A reminder - Tuesdays through Saturdays are fast days and Sundays are always feast days. We never fast on Sundays! Whether you choose to be part of a small group or with another person, or on your own I pray our good God will bless your journey beginning on Wednesday and reward you with new life this Easter. Fr Craig

ASH WEDNESDAY Masses will be celebrated at 12.05pm and 5.30pm here at St Mary's and 9.30am at Holy Family. Ashes will be distributed at each of these Masses.

LENTEN RESOURCES Small Group resources include Crux Reflection Groups - Ascension Press and the Caritas Small Group programme. Individual books include Quantum Grace by Judy Cannato, Daily Reflections for Lent by Mark Villano, The little Black Book by Ken Untener, Sacred Space for Lent - Irish Jesuits. These will all be on display after each Sunday Mass this weekend. There are some other options listed immediately below.

LENT 2026 with FOOD FOR FAITH. Visit www.foodforfaith.org.nz and sign up to receive daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor. Prepared especially for those seeking greater maturity of faith.

ASHES OF HOPE | Caritas Lent Webinar Series Journey through lent with New Zealand's Catholic Bishops and others of the faith as they guide us in prayer and reflection on each Sunday's Gospel. Wednesdays in lent, 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Visit www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars to register.

YOUNG ADULTS LENTEN RETREAT with Fr Hemi Ropata Step away from the noise, reflect on your journey of faith, and encounter Christ in a deeper way this Lent, 20 to 22 February 2026, Forest Lakes Camp, Ōtaki. \$150 per person, all meals and accommodation included. Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/BBPL>

PRAYER PARTNER This Lent, become a 40 Days for Life Prayer Partner and spiritually unite with the global 40 Days for Life movement to pray for an end to abortion and to bear witness to the dignity of every human person from conception - right where God has placed you. From Ash Wednesday (18 February) to Palm Sunday (29 March). Use the QR code to find the sign-up page:



CONGRATULATIONS to Amera and Tui Howell and their families. They were baptised on Sunday 25th January.

CATHNEWS NZ- share the big news from the Catholic Church and stories of relevance to Catholics every Tuesday and Friday. Sign up for the free digital newsletter and read the latest stories at cathnewsnz.com

CHURCH CODE OF CONDUCT SURVEY The Church Code of Conduct is an essential document used throughout the motu to support employees and volunteers in understanding expectations for their behaviour. It guides how we work, serve, and care for one another. We are extending the timeframe on this survey to ask everyone in the Church - what in our Code of Conduct works well, and what could be strengthened? Please share your perspectives via our brief online survey whether you are familiar with the Code or not. We also encourage you to share this invitation with others. You can read the existing document and complete the simple survey on the NOPS Reviews page: safeguarding.catholic.org.nz/reviews

DIOCESAN HUB – March Gathering Diocesan Hubs are gatherings for prayer, reflection, and conversation, open to all. The March Hub will reflect on Sacrosanctum Concilium, the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. The same gathering will be offered in two locations, and parishioners are warmly invited to attend either location, travelling where helpful to gather as one diocesan community. Dates: Saturday 7 March – Palmerston North Sunday 8 March – Hastings Register: <https://forms.office.com/r/si6GpNKWz9>

NZ CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION Retreat & Seminar- 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 and 21. For more information or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/NZCMA2026> or email newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com

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

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, Lorna Sorensen, Twinkle Moonsam

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES Shirley Bierman, Bernie Gudsell, Mary Gudsell, Tricia Moriarty, Anne Connors, Maria Watts, Maitland Watts, Nigel Watts, Anne Wham, Ellen Connors, Stan Connors

TODAY'S READINGS First: Sirach 15.15-20 Second: 1 Corinthians 2.6-10 Gospel: Matthew 5.17-37

NEXT SUNDAY 22 February First: Genesis 2.7-9, 16-18,2-5;3.1-7 Sec: Romans 5.12-19 Gospel: Matthew 4.1-11