



Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

21 January 2024



THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 22 Jan

9.00am C/S

Tuesday 23 Jan

9.00am Mass St Mary's

Wednesday 24 Jan

9.00am Mass St Mary's

Thursday 25 Jan

9.00am Mass St Mary's

Friday 26 Jan

9.00am Mass St Mary's

Saturday 27 Jan

8.30am Reconciliation

9.00am Mass St Mary's

5.30pm Vigil Mass

Holy Family

Sunday 28 Jan

9.30am Mass St Mary's

5.30pm Mass St Annes

Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday 14 Feb

Today is the *Word of God Sunday* - a day, instituted by Pope Francis in 2019, devoted to the celebration and study of sacred scripture. The sacred scriptures or bible is one of the pillars of our faith and is the primary way in which God speaks to us, through the action of the Holy Spirit.

The bible looks just like any other book. It's got a title page and a table of contents. A big section at the front, usually called the Old Testament and a shorter section at the back, usually called the New Testament. But, it's not a single book, the bible is a collection of different writings from both the Jewish and Christian traditions. It's written by different people, in different places, over many hundreds of years. In effect it's a library of books.

The sacred scriptures are made up of history, poetry, song, prayer, moral teaching, story and religious instruction. Despite all this diversity, there is a common theme. The bible tells the story of God's plan for humankind, from the creation of the world to the end of time. It speaks about God's love for all people; the coming of the Saviour, Jesus Christ; His life, death and resurrection; the gift of the Holy Spirit; the beginnings of the Christian Church and finishes with an interesting vision of heaven.

In our Christian tradition, the four most important books in the bible are the gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These gospels tell the story of Jesus, including his life and his teaching from different perspectives and were written for different audiences. Christians believe that the Bible is *inspired* by the Holy Spirit. This does not mean that God dictated it by speaking into the ears of the authors. We believe that these authors were guided by God but free to write as they felt called, to present us with the truth we need for our salvation.

The words in the bible are living words. When proclaimed, we believe God speaks to his people, using the reader as an instrument of the Holy Spirit. That's why our readers are more than just simply readers, they are ministers of the Word. There is a spiritual power in the God's Word. Jesus, is the Word who created the universe and who walked among us to save us and show us the way. Jesus, the Word has the power to change our lives today. This is why it's said that Christianity is a religion of the Word, rather than a religion of the Book. When we read the bible and especially when we hear it proclaimed, with faith we hear Christ speaking to us here in our own time and situation.

Some of us read the bible regularly and draw inspiration from it. Some of us not so much. We all hear it proclaimed during Mass and all of us, priests and people sometimes struggle to make sense of what we hear. My dream for this year is that we all deepen our understanding of our sacred scriptures by the introduction of some formal learning. Our scriptures are sacred and precious. The better we understand them, the more we will grow in our faith. Fr Craig

Recently Deceased Valerie Bradley, Wilma (Billie) Watson, Mons Charles Cooper, Lynair Burling and Kenneth Fitzgerald

Recently Married Congratulations to Greg Novak and Riette Havenga who married this weekend and Curtis Fatiaki and Angela Boswell who married last weekend.

Congratulations to Srian and Priscilla Fonseka who celebrated 50 years of Marriage last week

Homeless Hum Outreach The summer roster for next week is Raewyn Hoskin's team. For more information please contact Maureen 027491 2168 or Pat 343 6313

Coronavirus As you know the number of cases has increased recently and medical authorities are encouraging us to take extra care when it comes to engaging with others. Rather than limiting receiving Holy Communion under both kinds, I encourage you to take extra care and not receive (and especially not minister) the chalice if you are not feeling well. It goes without saying that it's not helpful to judge someone who is coughing or sneezing. (hay fever is rife at the moment :)

Marcellin School is looking for a Board Secretary. The applicant will need good administration and typing skills. For further information please contact principal, Belinda Backwell principal@stmarcellin.school.nz

Youth Group is on Holiday

Fr John is on holiday and will return to work on Wednesday this week

Parish Office	06 345 3872
Fr Craig	021 272 4401
Fr John Roberts	027 634 6877
Rain Forrest	021 256 0608