



Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Christ the King

23 November 2025



CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 24 November

9.00am C/s Holy Family

Tuesday 25 November

9.30am Mass Holy Family

12.05pm Mass St Marys

Wednesday 26 November

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 27 November

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Friday 28 November

10.00am Mass St Joseph's
Cullinane

11.20am Reconciliation
St Mary's

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Saturday 29 November

9.00am Rite I St Mary's

9.30am Mass St Mary's

5.30pm Sun Vigil Mass
Holy Family

Sunday 30 November

9.30am Mass St Mary's

5.30pm Mass St Mary's

Upcoming Events

Sunday 7 December

11am Parish AGM

Wednesday 10 December

2pm Anointing Mass

Thursday 11 December

7pm Rite II Reconciliation

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - the ruler of all *and* the servant of all. This feast day was created by Pope Pius XI in 1925, on the 1600th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which gave us the Nicene Creed, which we continue to profess today. This creed both confirmed and defined the doctrine about the relationship between God the Father and the Son - Jesus. In precise theological terms, they are consubstantial or, of one substance.

This feast was also important because of the era in which it was implemented. In 1925 the world was still reeling from the terrible effects of the First World War. Pope Pius determined that the most effective defence against the destructive powers of evil was the promotion of the kingship of Christ. In his thinking, *a feast which is celebrated every year by everyone is a far better way of deploying that defence than any number of books written by learned people.*

The following passage from Fr Gerard Darring is a helpful description of what Christ's kingdom looks like when we do our part. *'The Kingdom of God is a space. It exists in every home where parents and children love each other. It exists in every region and country that cares for its weak and vulnerable. It exists in every parish that reaches out to the needy. The Kingdom of God is made present whenever someone feeds a hungry person, or shelters a homeless person, or shows care to a neglected person. It happens whenever we overturn an unjust law, or correct an injustice, or avert a war. It happens whenever people join in the struggle to overcome poverty, to erase ignorance, to pass on the Faith. The Kingdom of God is in the past (in the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth); it is in the present (in the work of the Church and in the efforts of many others to create a world of goodness and justice); it is in the future (reaching its completion in the age to come). The Kingdom of God is a condition and it is found wherever there is love, justice, and peace...'*



Castile Leon, Spain 1150AD

ADVENT Next Sunday we begin the season of Advent. This season marks the beginning of the church's liturgical year. It is a time of anticipation and preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ, both in remembrance of his birth at Christmas and in hopeful expectation of his return at the end of time. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin "adventus," meaning coming or arrival. During the four weeks of Advent, we are invited to reflect on themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Advent is a time for extra prayer, penance, and spiritual readiness, encouraging believers to prepare their hearts to receive Christ in a new way. It is not just about recalling a historical event, but about deepening our relationship with Christ in preparation to meet him.

PARISH AGM This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 7 December following the 9.30am Mass (10.45am) in the parish hall. We are currently in the process of compiling the Parish Report which will be distributed next weekend.

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

THANK YOU Last weekend was one of happiness and quite humbling. Happiness at all the very kind wishes, prayers, Masses, and gifts. Humbled because so many people gathered around for the occasion. Thank you for making the time to join with me and other parishioners. Gerard Lynch, with his helpers, Mike O'Sullivan, Norma O'Connor, Helen Dougherty, Rain Shore, and Kate Lynch organised the Sunday event: they deserve not only my thanks but those of all who attended, making a wonderful lunch, the This is Your Life and the Power Point (which I could not see from my seat.) Thank you everyone, as I said to various people, it was a wonderful parish event, and quite humbling. I am so very grateful to you all. Fr John

SPRING CLEAN- Holy Family and St Mary's Churches Saturday 13th December starting at 8am. Please let us know if you can help. Also could someone offer to make scones for the workers 😊

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT Wednesday 3rd Dec 2025 at 6.30pm at Whanganui Hospital (meet in the main cafeteria) Please RSVP to Rev Amail Habib (Chaplain) by Mon 1st Dec 06 348 3318/027 248 7540 amail.habib@wdhb.org.nz

BIBLE DIARIES 2026- will be available to purchase in December at Holy Family 6th and 13th Dec. St Mary's 7th and 14th Dec. They contain all the gospel readings for every day of the year with accounts of the lives of the Saint for day, daily prayers. Hard cover only \$20 each cash. Please see Kathleen Orsborn

PRE-SCHOOL MUSIC GROUP Sadly our music and movement sessions for pre-schoolers will close next month. This music group was started at St Anne's Church by Lisa Mancer in 2005. It continued there with a peak of 50 children at each session until we moved to Marist Rugby Club in 2021 under the name Marist Moovers & Groovers. Over the 20 years we had hundreds of children take part and we thank all the parishioners whether you were a team member, a parent, a grandparent or a caregiver who were part of our sessions. Our last day on 8th November we will have a shared morning tea at 10am for anyone who would like to attend at Marist Rugby Club, Hatrick Street. God bless you all.

ANNUAL SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS Special Collection | Sunday, 30 November 2025

The Clergy Trust Fund supports the well-being and care of priests in our Diocese. This includes stipends, food, travel home for overseas priests, retreats, and all healthcare-related costs. As medical expenses continue to rise, the Fund is under increasing pressure. Your contribution to this special collection is deeply appreciated—especially by our elderly and retired priests who directly benefit from your generosity. Supporting this collection is a meaningful way to express gratitude for the pastoral care and service our priests have provided over the years. Every contribution helps. With sincere thanks and blessings, Monsignor Brian Walsh Chairperson, Clergy Trust Fund, Diocese of Palmerston North

THANK YOU for Supporting the Holy Land Appeal (Good Friday Collection) The diocese extends our heartfelt thanks to all who generously supported the Holy Father's Good Friday Collection on 18 April 2025. This annual appeal is a small but powerful gesture of solidarity with the Christian communities who continue to live and witness in the land where Jesus walked. Your contributions are combined from across New Zealand and help support the upkeep of the Shrine Church in Cana, Galilee, and provide twenty university scholarships to Bethlehem University - offering hope and opportunity to young people in the Holy Land. We are pleased to share that **\$18,309.50** was raised through this year's collection form within our diocese. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and will make a meaningful difference. Thank you once again for your kindness and prayerful support. May God bless you for your generosity.

TE KUPENGA Online Webinar: Reflections on Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope. As we draw near the end of the Jubilee Year in January 2026, Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College is offering its last webinar for the year "Reflections on Jubilee 2025-Pilgrims of Hope" with Fadi Yalda, Lecturer in Biblical Studies. This webinar is on Wednesday, 26 November 5:00-6:00pm via Zoom. Fee is \$20. To register, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinar2025

COLUMBAN CALENDARS 2026 are available at the office. \$15 each

HOMELESS HUB OUTREACH - The SUMMER roster for next week is Pat Garforth'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.
6.30-8.30pm Saint Mary's Church Hall.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP Our meetings are on Thursdays 7-9pm. 8 Glasgow Street Whanganui



RECENTLY DECEASED: Neville Hirni, Vincent Keating, Janet Fawcett, Fiona McIntyre, Betty Kiff

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: Victor Silveira, Bob Wilson, John Wicky, Blair Gleeson, Andy Mora, Pat Smith, Leo White, Charles Phillips

TODAY'S READINGS First: 2 Samuel 5.1-3 Second: Colossians 1.12-20 Gospel: Luke 25.35-43

NEXT SUNDAY 30 November First: Isaiah 2.1-5 Second: Romans 13.11-14 Gospel: Matthew 24.37-44