



Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

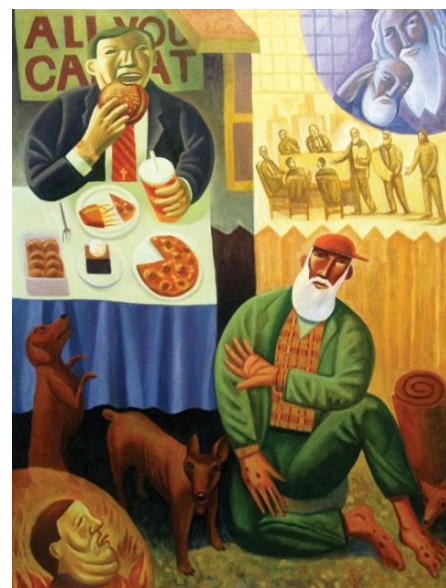
28 September 2025



RICH MAN - POOR MAN

Today's gospel is the parable of Lazarus and the wealthy man. This parable invites us to reconsider what it means to be a follower of Christ in a world obsessed with material gain. To some, this parable appears unjust. A wealthy man is condemned, while a poor man is rewarded. This seems to contradict our merit-based society, where success is celebrated and failure is often considered to be the result of personal failure. This gospel is not about the essential goodness or badness of either man but about the values Jesus teaches - values that often run counter to what our society takes for granted. Our society values what people achieve and acquire, often overlooking the means by which success is obtained and perhaps more importantly, its impact on others. The rich man in the parable did nothing overtly evil, but what he did not do, was to notice and do something for the suffering man on his doorstep. This is the heart of the problem and the reason he was condemned. He was indifferent to the needs of another human being and did nothing to help him. The church's preferential option for the poor, is not because of their goodness, but on their being deprived of what is necessary for a fully human life. Likewise, the rich are not condemned for being wealthy, but for being indifferent to those who are suffering around them.

Some churches promote a so called "Gospel of Prosperity" believing that wealth is a sign of God's blessing. This parable challenges the belief that material success is inherently virtuous or deserved and invites reflection on what it truly means to be rich or poor. Another aspect of wealth, which is worth mentioning is its relativity. Many people here in New Zealand do not consider themselves rich, but by global standards we are. This in no way denies the very real poverty in this country. For those of us who have more than enough, sometimes we benefit from systems that perpetuate inequality. As disciples of Christ, we are called to engage in addressing social problems and injustices and doing something about them, no matter how small a difference our efforts seem. Central to the parable is the image of the table. This table is overflowing with food, symbolising both the Kingdom of God and the Eucharist. "The rich man's failure was not merely a lack of charity but his inability to create a community of equals, where all share in dignity and resources. The Gospel calls us not only to acts of charity but to genuine solidarity, where each person's needs are met through mutual care and sharing." Irish Jesuits. The parable of Lazarus and the rich man encourages us to rethink our approach to wealth, success, and faith. It challenges us to move beyond individualistic morality and to embrace values of rooted in justice, compassion, and shared humanity. It's these values that are at the heart of Jesus' message. Some months ago, I encouraged everyone to be generous in supporting our local food bank - and we were, but it has slowed down. Please remember to think of our poor brothers and sisters when you get your groceries and bring them to the Altar at Mass on Sunday. Fr Craig



NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 29 September

9.00am C/s Holy Family

Tuesday 30 September

9.30am Mass Holy Family

12.05pm Mass St Marys

Wednesday 1 October

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 2 October

12.05pm C/s St Marys

Friday 3 October

12.05pm C/s St Mary's

Saturday 4 October

9.00am Rite I St Mary's

9.30am Mass St Mary's

5.30pm Sun Vigil Mass

Holy Family

Sunday 5 October

9.30am Mass St Mary's

11.00pm Mass Kaiwhaiki

5.30pm Mass St Mary's

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Office

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Parish Priest

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Assistant Priest

Fr John Roberts 027 634 6877

Hospital Chaplain

Norma O'Connor 027 233 4557

Youth Minister

Rain Shore 021 256 0608



Don't forget to put clocks forward.

SISTERS OF ST JOSEPH from across New Zealand and Australia are gathering in Sydney for their six yearly Chapter - a three-week meeting of delegates, at which they will be making decisions about their future. Please pray for our own delegates, Sr Colleen Woodcock, Sr Marie Skidmore, Sr Liz Hickey and Sr Lee Tan

CONGRATULATIONS to Karyn Coleman and Christine Conder who were commissioned as members of the local St Vincent de Paul conference this past week. This dedicated group of (mostly) women do wonderful work, caring for the poor and vulnerable here in our city.

HOPE AND RENEWAL During the week parishioners gathered with me to prepare for the upcoming Hope and Renewal Summit in Palmerston North. More than 500 people have registered for this Summit and our own group includes 19 adults, of whom 4 are young adults. This is very encouraging! Please pray that this commitment and investment leads to much needed renewal, moving forward. Fr Craig

Hope and Renewal Summit – Pray for Unity and Mission

As we approach the final stretch before the Summit, we pray for unity in the Body of Christ and boldness in mission. May the Holy Spirit bind us together across parishes and ministries and send us out with joy to share the hope we have in Christ.

Let us pray:

Father, make us one and send us out. Unite our efforts in the mission of hope and love. St Padre Pio, lover of Christ and servant of the Church, pray for us. Holy Spirit, teach us to walk together with courage, compassion, and joy. Amen.

To learn more or support the Hope and Renewal Summit, visit hoperenewalsummit.com or email hoperenewal@pndiocese.org.nz.



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, Palmerston North, with Bishop John Adams presiding. 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!

CARDINAL JOHN DEW'S CONCLAVE EXPERIENCE SHARING

The Conclave is one of the most secretive and sacred gatherings in the world. You are invited to join Cardinal John Dew – the only living New Zealander to have taken part in a Conclave – as he pulls back the curtain, speaking about his time at the Vatican earlier this year during the funeral of Pope Francis and then taking part in the Conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV. The morning event takes place from 6:30am (with the presentation commencing at 7am) on Tuesday, 7 October at The Wellington Club (88 The Terrace, Wellington Central). There will be light breakfast nibbles, tea and coffee. Tickets are limited, and can be booked at <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/YVJ>

St JOSEPH'S PARISH AND SCHOOL HAWERA | 150 Years Registrations are still open for St Joseph's Parish & School Hawera 150 year 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 stjoesphshawerajubilee@gmail.com

LEGION OF MARY- are looking for new members. We meet at Holy Family Church on a Tuesday at 10.30am. 0210488635 (Secretary)

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.

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

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP WILL RETURN 12 OCTOBER

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP WILL RETURN 12 OCTOBER

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: Marie Greenwell, Jennifer Falconer, Bruce Isted

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

TODAY'S READINGS First: Amos 6.1a, 4-7 Second: 1 Timothy 6. 11-16 Gospel: Luke 16.19-31

NEXT SUNDAY 5 October First: Habakkuk 1.2-3, 2,2-4 Second: 1 Timothy 1. 6-8, 13-14 Gospel: Luke 17.5-10