Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Fourth Sunday of Easter

3 May 2026

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 4 May
9.00am c/s Holy Family

Tuesday 5 May
9.30am Mass Holy Family
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Wednesday 6 May
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 7 May
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Friday 8 May
10.30am Mass Cullinane
11.20am Reconciliation St M
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Saturday 9 May
9.00am Reconciliation St M
9.30am Mass St Mary's
5.30pm Sunday Vigil Mass Holy Family

Sunday 10 May
9.30am Mass St Mary's
5.30PM Mass St Mary's

UPCOMING EVENTS

8 May Anniversary of Election of Pope Leo XIV
18 May Prayer for Christian Unity
30 May The Hub Whanganui
2 June First Reconciliation begins

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Office
Jo Boult 06 345 3872
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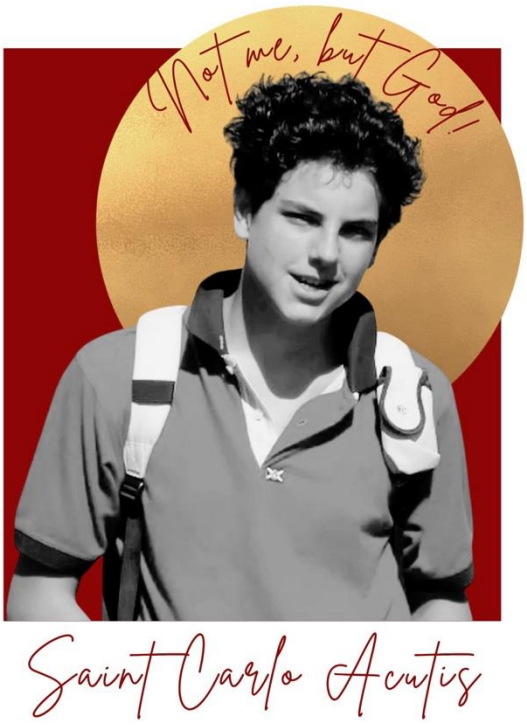
Parish Priest
Fr Craig Butler 021 272 4401
Assistant Priest
Fr John Roberts 027 634 6877
Hospital Chaplain
Norma O'Connor 027 233 4557
Youth Minister
Rain Shore 021 256 0608

A SAINT FOR OUR TIME - ST CARLO ACUTIS

Saint Carlo Acutis lived a life that was both deeply faithful and completely normal. He was a typical teenager who loved joking and laughing, spending time with friends, and making videos together. He enjoyed quizzes, flying kites, watching action films, playing soccer, and using his PlayStation. Like many young people, he loved games like Pokémon and Super Mario. He also had a deep affection for animals, caring for his dogs, cats, and even his goldfish. Carlo's friends knew they could rely on him, especially during difficult times at home, he was someone who listened, cared, and stayed present. Carlo's faith wasn't separate from his everyday life; it shaped how he lived. He volunteered at the Church helping younger children prepare for Confirmation, sharing his love for God in a relatable and joyful way. He had an extraordinary talent for computers, teaching himself how to design websites at a level comparable to university graduates. He used these skills not for recognition, but for mission. He helped create websites for his school and parish, but his most impactful project combined his love of technology and the Eucharist. Carlo began researching and documenting Eucharistic miracles from around the world, travelling with his parents when possible to visit shrines and take photographs. His goal was simple but profound: to help people understand that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. The website he created to share this work is still accessible today and continues to inspire people globally. He said "The Eucharist is my highway to heaven." And If we get in front of the sun, we get sun tans. If we get in front of the Eucharist, we become saints." At just 15 years old, Carlo was diagnosed with an aggressive form of Leukaemia. Despite the sudden and serious nature of his illness, he responded with remarkable faith, offering his suffering "for the Pope and the Church." Even in hospital, he thought of others first. Nurses noticed he would endure pain quietly rather than wake his mother, saying she was already tired and worried enough. Carlo died on 12 October 2006, only a week after his diagnosis. He was buried in Assisi, a place he loved. Many gathered for his funeral, unaware of the quiet generosity he had shown in life, giving his time and money to support the poor and homeless in Milan. Canonised by Pope Leo XIV on 7 September 2025, Carlo reminds us that holiness is possible in ordinary life. Saints can wear jeans, enjoy games, and still live lives of extraordinary love and faith. Rain Shore



St Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition | 7 - 12 May This exhibition consists of 40 panels of Eucharistic miracles from around the world, gathered and presented by St Carlo Acutis. Carlo was 15 when he died, and this exhibition is his gift to the Church. This week this exhibition will arrive in Whanganui and be on display at each of our schools later this week and in the parish churches next weekend. The purpose of this exhibition is to highlight this young saint and give us the opportunity to learn more about him, in anticipation of the visit of his relics in June this year.

Men's Vocation Retreat | 26 – 28 June A relaxed weekend of prayer, honest conversation and space to listen. You'll have time to ask real questions, meet other men discerning their vocation and encounter God without pressure. 5pm Friday 26 – 3pm Sunday 28 June, Magnificat Retreat Centre, Featherston. Contact Fr Trung to register: pettrung89@gmail.com

Upcoming Webinar Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College will hold its second webinar on the WYD2027 Webinar Series, titled "Courage: A call for young people to be bold and confident in their faith", with Bishop Michael Gielen as speaker. This will be on Tuesday, 05 May 2026, 5-6pm via Zoom. Find out more and register at www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026

Cake Stall | 10 May A Mother's Day Cake Sale will be held next Sunday after the 9.30 am Mass to raise funds for the parish. Anyone wishing to contribute baking on the day may leave gratefully received donations of cake or biscuits at the sale table before Mass. Bring some cash for some Mother's Day treats and support our parish fund raiser. Please note, sales will only be available after Mass. Pat Garforth

Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship - 40th Anniversary The Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship will hold its 40th anniversary celebration on 14–16 August. Further information and registration details are available at https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua

Prophetic Intercession Training Chevalier Cyril John from the CHARIS International Intercession Commission will be in Auckland to lead a two-day formation on *Prophetic Intercession*. Cyril John has spent many years teaching and forming intercessors around the world. Intercession is urgently needed in our Church and communities, and all who feel called to this ministry are encouraged to attend. The training will be held 11–12 May 2026 at Christ the King Church, Mt Roskill. Registrations are now open: https://prophetic-intercession-training-with-cyril-john.lilregie.com

Prayer Retreat for Women | Magnificat Retreat Centre, Featherston All women are warmly invited to a Prayer Retreat for Women, a weekend to step away from daily life and grow in prayer. The retreat includes talks exploring the meaning of prayer, why we pray, and how to deepen our prayer through humility, along with time for personal prayer, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and spiritual direction. The retreat begins with dinner at 6pm Friday 15 May and concludes 3pm Sunday 17 May after the final session and Rosary. To register: https://www.trybooking.com/nz/BBMC

Rebuild My Church | Dr Mary Healy In June, internationally renowned Catholic theologian Dr Mary Healy will be in Hamilton for a three-day formation series, (June 9–11) exploring the power of God's Word, the life of the Holy Spirit, and our call to live our faith today. Known around the world for her engaging teaching on Scripture and the Holy Spirit, Dr Healy helps people hear God's voice more clearly and grow in confidence in the gifts He gives for the building up of the Church. Full details and registration are available at https://www.eventzilla.net/e/rebuild-my-church--dr-mary-healy-2138676397

World Youth Day 2027 | Seoul, South Korea Young adults aged 18 – 35 are invited to attend WYD27, where millions of young Catholics will gather. The NZ bishops aim to bring 500 young people. Fill out the expression of interest form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfUWcTPgzkxtwlH86NPEnHqvdt2scpc1nkj_4WjzGrbx4WKQ/viewform

"Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire." St Catherine of Sienna

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP 6.30-8.30pm at Saint Mary's Church Hall**.** Please bring a gold coin
JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP Junior Youth Group is on hold temporarily.
YOUNG ADULTS Young Adults will now be meeting the 1st and 3rd and if there's a 5th Sunday of the Month at Saint Mary's Church for 5.30pm Mass followed by a Young Adult Night meeting in the foyer after Mass. The location for the night might change but the meeting spot is always the foyer after Mass. All Young Adults welcome.

READINGS FOR NEXT EASTER First Reading: Acts 8.5-17 Second Reading: 1 Peter 3.15-18 Gospel: John 14.15-21