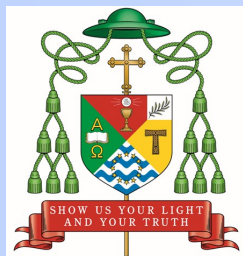


Catholic Parish of Whanganui

Te Pārihi Katorika ki Whanganui (2015)
Diocese of Palmerston North, New Zealand



ST MARY'S CHURCH
1 Campbell Street

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
22 Tawhero Street

ST ANNE'S CHURCH
47 Raine Street

TE RONGO O TE POI
(Beat of the Poi to the Gospel)
584 Kaiwhaiki Road
Kaiwhaiki Marae

NGAKAU TAPU (Sacred Heart)
4491 Whanganui River Road
Rānana (London)

HATO HŌHEPA (St Joseph's)
600 Whanganui River Road
Hiruhārama (Jerusalem)



Fourth Sunday of Lent

10th March 2024; Year B / Weekdays Year 2

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 11th March

9.00am C/S Holy Family

Tuesday 12th March

9.30am Mass Holy Family
12.05am Mass St Marys

Wednesday 13th March

12.05pm C/S St Mary's

Thursday 14th March

9.30am C/S St Annes
12.05pm C/S St Mary's

Friday 15th March

10.00am C/S St Josephs Chapel
12.05pm C/S St Mary's
5.30pm Stations of the Cross
St Marys

Saturday 16th March

9.00am Rite I St Anne's
9.30am Mass St Anne's
5.30pm Mass Vigil Mass
Holy Family

Sunday 17th March

9.30am Mass St Mary's
5.30pm Mass St Anne's

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 21st March
7pm Rite of Reconciliation
And Rite II St Marys Church

Sunday Readings: 2 Chron: 36.14-17a, 19-23; 1 Eph: 2.4-10; Jn: 3.14-21

Next Week: Jer: 31.31-34; Heb: 5.7-9; Jn: 12.20-33



Today is the fourth Sunday of Lent and it is commonly known as 'Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday'. Joy is the theme of today's Liturgy. Today's readings beg the question "Can joy be turned on and off?" In our Christian understanding, joy is a fruit of God's Spirit, not a feeling that can be turned on and off. Paul's letter to the Galatians reminds us that "*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*" (Galatians 5:22) Joy is a gift, not a commodity we can pay for or demand. The readings at Mass this Sunday remind us that it is through God's grace that we are saved and that God's love is the source of our joy, whether we actually notice it. When some people look at our faith they reduce it to a kind of morality. A series of demands about what we should and shouldn't do, how we should love God and our neighbour.... These are true but not our starting point. St John is very clear, "*In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us (first)*" (1 John 4:10). We can only love because God first loved us first! Again, God's love is the source of our joy. Happiness, by contrast is conditional: it depends on good fortune, pleasant surroundings, congenial friends, good food etc, but joy is unconditional. It depends on nothing. You can even experience joy in times of unhappiness. It is like a ray of sunshine that suddenly penetrates the clouds, a reminder that it is always there, whether you see it or not. These are glimpses of God's love. Even when we are at our worst, God never stops loving us. God loved us before we were even born and continues to love

us like the Prodigal Father in Luke's gospel, even when we turn away from him. God is never further away than outside our door - knocking and waiting for us to open from the inside. The picture above is a modern take on a famous image, showing Jesus standing outside a door, knocking. The door symbolises the human heart. A close examination of the image shows that the only door handle is on the inside! Jesus knocks, but we have to open ourselves up. As we get closer to Easter, I encourage you to recognise the glimpses of light and colour in the midst of the darkness of your worries and know that God is there with you and for you.
Fr Craig

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR OUR PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024

If you are year 11 at school and over and have been baptised this is for you. The Sacrament of Confirmation is a continuation of the graces you receive at Baptism. When you receive the Sacrament you are sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

How to register: Please pick up a form from the Parish office, from Rain at Cullinane College, or email admin@cpow.co.nz to be sent a copy. This needs to be returned to the Parish office or emailed back.

Dates: The sessions are held weekly from Monday the 6th of May 7-8.30pm

The Confirmation Programme includes a weekend camp, this is being held from the 7th-9th of June at Vertical Horizon Camp in Inglewood.

Confirmation Mass will be 9.30am on Sunday the 23rd of June and will be celebrated by our Bishop. You can expect fun games and activities, learning about Confirmation and your faith, meeting lots of people and making new friends. Honestly you won't regret signing up!

On Wednesday 13th to Friday 15th March Fr Craig and Fr John will be away for Clergy Days.

Died Recently

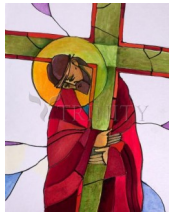
Bernie Gudsell, Bev Sandlant, Virginia Aroha Hina, Howard Wilson, Jack Kaveney

Anniversaries

Alan Cameron, Priscilla Mitchell, Dionisia Secretaria, Josephine Boland, Kathryn Haddock, Margaret Shaw, Tony Haddock

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This Lent, I encourage you to join our parish in making a pilgrimage around our Stations, *outside* St Mary's church each Friday evening at 5.30pm. Please gather by the front entrance of the church. If it is wet, we will pray inside the church.



WEAR STURDY, NON SLIP SHOES!!!

LENT—This year, Pope Francis has chosen the Book of Exodus as the focal point for his Lenten message. Find resources for your reflection for your reflection at <https://tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz/2024/02/through-the-desert-god-leads-us-to-freedom-lent-2024/> Lent 2024 is now upon us and resources have been sent to parishes, communities, and chaplaincies throughout Aotearoa. These resources include information on the overseas work with partners serving the needs of the most poor and vulnerable. <https://www.caritas.org.nz/lent-resources>

BAPTISM— Congratulations to Areia Bennik and her family. Areia was baptised on Saturday 2nd March at St Marys Church.

Good Friday Collection – 29 March 2024

The Holy Father's Good Friday Collection is a small gesture of solidarity for the Christian communities that still walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Our New Zealand collection is given for the upkeep of the Shrine Church in Cana, Galilee, and twenty University scholarships to Bethlehem University. In 1342 the Apostolic See confirmed the Franciscans as the legitimate guardians of the Holy Land. Funds gathered by each country is forwarded to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. Please give generously to this collection in support of our brothers and sisters living in the land our Lord ministered. Many thanks for your anticipated generosity again this year, it is very much appreciated. There are also specially marked envelopes in the foyer, or alternatively please pay by direct credit 020630 0288029 01 your name as payee, and 'Holy Places' as reference.

Easter Sunday Dues Special Collection – 31 March 2024

Many thanks to parishioners who in the past have contributed to the Easter Dues/Offerings Special Collection. The collection is used by the Clergy Trust Fund to support the priests in the various

costs pertaining to their ministries and personal lives. The Clergy Trust Fund is responsible for every aspect of our priests' wellbeing. The priests have always expressed their gratitude for the people's financial support and the care that they receive.

There are also specially marked envelopes in the foyer, or alternatively please pay by direct credit 020630 0288029 01 your name as payee, and 'Dues' as reference.

Your support and help is always appreciated!

Fr. Brian Walsh (Chairman of the Clergy Trust Fund)

FIRST RECONCILIATION —The fourth session is on **Tuesday 19th March at 6.00pm** at St Marys Church. If you child has been baptised you can register for this sacrament by emailing the office or picking up a registration form. Or download here: [2024 Enrolment First Reconciliation Holy Communion Registration email.pdf](https://www.pndiocese.org.nz/2024/02/through-the-desert-god-leads-us-to-freedom-lent-2024/)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

RITE OF RECONCILIATION THURSDAY 21ST MARCH AT 7PM— if anyone is able to help out scooping icecream for the children for after they have made their first reconciliation- could you please let Jo know in the office.

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP

Runs every week

6.30-8.30pm at Saint Mary's Church Hall.

If you're year 9-13 (or you're a super keen year 8 I'll sneak you in) this is for you!!

What to expect: Games, challenges, prizes, chocolate, learning about faith, making new friends, it's honestly so much fun!! Please come along and check it out. For more info contact Rain on 0212560608 or email youth.cpow@gmail.com



HOMELESS HUB OUTREACH—The summer roster for next week is the Marie Pye's Team. Further information contact Maureen 027 491 2168 or Pat 027 491 9637

JOSEPHITE RETREAT CENTRE

14 Hillside Tce, Whanganui, 06 345 5047, Ext 3 www.marymackillop.org.nz

Creative Card Making Suitable for beginners and regular crafters alike. with Julia Martin Sat 9 March, 10am-12.30pm or 1.30-4pm \$10

Caritas Lenten Sharing Programme For 2024, the Caritas Lenten Programme is entitled The Time is Now! Ko Tēnei tonu te Wā! A key part of this is reflecting on the Sunday Gospel reading each week. with Liz Hickey rsj & Pam Hopper

Monday 4 March & subsequent Mondays during Lent. 2 -3.30pm

Lord's Prayer

An exploration of how Jesus originally prayed this. with Marie Skidmore rsj Sat 16 March, 10am-3pm Enquires, please call Pam on 06 345 5047 ext 3 Or email pam.hopper@sosj.org.au

EXPLORING FAITH GROUPS—Mondays 7.30pm - 9pm Zoom meeting & Tuesdays 10am- Noon St Mary's Meeting room. Contact and enquires to Nancie & Brian Quigley 06 347 8177 (Evening Group) Jo Smillie 06 345 0609 (Morning Group).

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION—An opportunity to better understand the Scriptures throughout Lent. Join us each Thursday morning (7-8am) for Scripture Reflection and lively discussion 😊 St Mary's church. All welcome. Coffee provided Contact Kate Lynch 027 2430430 or Helen Dougherty 027 4136273

EASTER MUSIC PRACTICE- CHOIR SINGERS—Practice sessions will be held at St Mary's Church on Wed 20th March at 7pm & Sunday 24th March at 7pm.

VOLUNTEERS FOR HOLY WEEK—feet washing x 12, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Data projector, collectors and offertory. If you are able to help please contact the office. Thank you :)

CHRISM MASS-

An invitation to the Chrism Mass at The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit Tuesday 26 March, 12.05pm Music— A warm invitation is extended to anyone who would like to sing in the choir at the Mass of Chrism.

If you can participate, please rsvp to: music@pncathedral.or.nz and we will email the music for the Mass. It would be wonderful to have representation from the wider Diocese.

St Marcellin School

Principal: Belinda Backwell
7a Totara St, Wanganui
06 349 0023

St Mary's School

Principal: Jacqui Luxton
DRS: Cath Daignault
30 London St, Wanganui
06 343 1227

St Anne's School

Principal: Ann-Maree Manson-Petherick
DRS: Jo Gichard.
45 Raine St, Wanganui
06 343 8389

Cullinane College

Principal: Tony McBride
DRS: Helen Dougherty
15 Peat St, Wanganui
06 349 0105

Parish Priest

Fr Craig Butler
021 272 4401
craigbutler@xtra.co.nz

Assistant Priest

Fr John Roberts
027 634 6877
jroberts@inspire.net.nz

Parish Secretary

Office hours: 8:30am-3pm
Jo Boulton
06 345 3872
admin@cpow.co.nz

Youth Minister

Rain Forest
0212560608
youth.cpow@gmail.com

RCIA Parish Catechist

Tony Hore
thecoot1944@gmail.com

Parish Care & Concern Network

Contact Parish Office

Hospital Chaplain

Norma O'Connor
027 233 4557

Prison Chaplain

Sean Ryan
06 349 6887