



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)

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

Third Sunday of Advent

17th December 2023; Year B / Weekdays Year 2

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 18th December

9:00am C/S Holy Family

Tuesday 19th December

9.00am Mass Holy Family
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Wednesday 20th December

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 21st December

9.00am Mass St Anne's
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Friday 22nd December

11.20am Rite I St Mary's
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Saturday 23rd December

5.30pm Mass Vigil Mass
Holy Family
7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass
Jerusalem

Sunday 24th December

9.30am Mass St Mary's
5.30pm **NO MASS** St Anne's
7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass
St Marys
9.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass
Holy Family

Christmas Day



Monday 25th December

9.30am Mass St Marys
10.30am Mass Kaiwhaiki Marae

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Readings: Isa: 61.1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thess: 5.16-24; Jn: 1.6-8, 19-28
Next Week: 2 Sam: 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom: 16.25-27; Lk: 1.26-38



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising. John 1.6-28

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and our Saviour. These together were the earliest affirmation of faith in Jesus: "Jesus Christ, Son of God and Saviour," in Greek, Ἰησοῦς Χριστός Θεοῦ Υἱός Σωτήρ - *Iesous Christos Theou Uios Soter*. The initial letters of these words taken together create the acronym ICHTHUS, which happens to mean fish. And so the fish became the secret sign of being a Christian in the times of persecution. It can be seen scratched on the walls of the catacombs in Rome.

John the Baptist was a rough-cut individual, appearing from the desert, offering a "baptism of repentance." To be very clear, John's was a kind of moral baptism, not Christian baptism. They were turbulent times, and people were looking for a powerful and charismatic leader. John could be the one. The people thronged to him, wanting to be cleansed of sin by immersion in the Jordan (the word 'baptism' means 'plunging').

John was very clear about the limits of his own message. He pointed to another and greater leader to come. "I baptise with water... he baptises with the Holy Spirit" (Jn 1:26, 33). In other words, I plunge you in water, but he will plunge you in God's Spirit.

There is a world of difference between what we might call 'salvation from below' and 'salvation from above'. Today there is a great attraction in the former. Our world has countless self-improvement programmes, and it is true many people are greatly helped by them. However, there is some built-in limitation in all of these. What if I were to succeed in improving myself, according to own view? It is always in danger of coming at great cost, because the 'I' that is improving itself may be entrenching itself even more deeply in itself. In Zen they call it 'polishing the tile', after an anecdote about a monk who was attempting to turn a tile into a mirror by polishing it. The best things, we discover, are *given*, not *produced*. In Christian terms we speak of the "grace of God". The word 'grace' means 'gift'. A gift is from beyond, so I can receive it in simplicity of heart. This is 'salvation from above'. If I improve myself I can experience a certain *satisfaction*, but when the grace of God floods me I know what is meant by joy. Real joy is from beyond. *Irish Jesuits*

CHRISTMAS SINGERS FOR ALL MASSES.

Practice at St. Mary's Church at 7pm on Sunday 17th December. Music provided.

SCAM ALERT STILL ACTIVE—Please delete and do not reply to a request from an email or text claiming to be Fr Craig for gift cards or similar— he would always speak to you in person or on the phone if he was to ask for anything.

PLEASE LET FR CRAIG KNOW IF YOU DO RECEIVE ANYTHING FROM THIS SCAM.

Died Recently

Fiona Stobie

Anniversaries

Philomena Kingstone, Maria Watts, Wendy McGarva, Joyce Poka, Sr Catherine Ryan, Faith Haddock, Bernadette Thompson

DON'T MISS OUT.....

COLUMBAN CALENDARS—are now available at the office. \$15.00 each.

AND....

SUNDAY MISSALS— are now available from the office \$16.00 each

ADVENT | NATIONAL LITURGY OFFICE—The National Liturgy Office has prepared substantial resources for all four Sundays of Advent, a time during which we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth through prayer and reflection. Go here: <https://www.nlo.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/dec-2023-come-lord-jesus/>

PREPARING FOR ADVENT?

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

ENROLMENT FOR THE BACHELOR OF DIVINITY AND GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

is still on-going until the end of January. The Certificate and Diploma in Christian Studies are also accepting enrolment for 2024. Semester starts on 19 February 2024. For courses offered on campus, online and each diocese, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/timetables. To enrol, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/apply.

NEED EXTRA PRAYER ??

The Prayer Vine is made up of a group of 14 Parishioners who will pray for you or your family, and or friends who need extra prayer. Any request is prayed for. Christian names only are used, so it is confidential.
Please call either Maureen Ph 345 5480 or Barbara Ph 342 5812

THE PRAYER TREE

Details: contact Anne Smith text 021 0488635 with Christian name of person to be prayed for.

RCIA—If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or know someone who is, please contact Tony Hore 0273425516. This is an opportunity to ask any questions and to find out about the process of exploring the Catholic faith.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS:

To Mason Frater and his family. Mason was baptized on Sunday 10th December at St Marys Church.

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

STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR YOUTH SPACE

Do you want to keep in touch with what's happening for young people in our parish??

Find us on social media:

Facebook - Life Teen Whanganui


Instagram - Lifeteen_Whanganui

LIFE TEEN SUMMER CAMP AOTEAROA 2024

Life Teen Summer Camp is a national Catholic camp for teens. It's held between 16th-20th of January in Cambridge. 5 day of epic fun, faith, inspiring speakers, praise and worship, sports, messy games, team building and so much more!!
If you are a teen or know a teen who would be interested in attending this please get in touch with Rain on 0212560608 or email youth.cpow@gmail.com

SPONSOR A TEEN TO ATTEND CAMP

Life Teen Summer Camp costs \$250 for a teen to attend which is a barrier for some families especially when more than one teen from the same family is attending. We're inviting the wider parish community to support our young people by sponsoring or part sponsoring a young person to attend. Sponsorship forms will be available in the Church foyer with more details.

ON SALE NZ Catholic \$4 

FOR SALE—copies of Emeritus Bishop Peter Cullinane's engagingly insightful autobiography, called **Knowing my Place** at \$20 each. Please phone Sue Seconi on landline 3437384 to buy one or copies are available at the office.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER—

For persons with disabilities
Let us join the Holy Father in praying that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



JOSEPHITE RETREAT CENTRE

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

Meri Kirihimete – Christmas Liturgy

(Please bring a non-perishable food item to assist those in need at this time.)

Sunday 17 December, 4 – 5pm

Enquires, please call Pam on 06 345 5047 ext 3

Or email pam.hopper@sosj.org.au

DID YOU KNOW? ROSARY—

is held every Friday at 11.10am at St Marys Church. All are most welcome to come and join in.

TE KAHU O TE ORA | A CONSISTENT ETHIC OF LIFE—

The landmark bishops' teaching document Te Kahu o te Ora: A Consistent Ethic of Life is now available online as an easy-to-read flip book: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/resources/te-kahu/>

Christmas Dues Special Collection

Many thanks to parishioners who in the past have contributed to the Christmas Dues/Offerings Special Collection. The Special Collection planned giving envelopes gifted on Christmas Day are for this collection. The money is sent given to the Clergy Trust Fund to support the priests of the Diocese. There are also specially marked envelopes in the foyer, or alternatively please pay by direct credit BNZ 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)

St Marcellin School

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

stmarcelin@welearn.school.nz

www.stmarcellin.school.nz



St Mary's School

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

school@stmarys.ac.nz

www.stmarys.ac.nz



St Anne's School

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

office@stannes.school.nz

www.stannes.school.nz



Cullinane College

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

office@cullinane.school.nz

www.cullinanecollege.school.nz



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