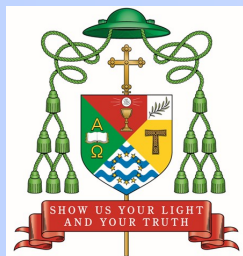


# Catholic Parish of Whanganui

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)



## Fifth Sunday of Lent

17th March 2024; Year B / Weekdays Year 2

### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

#### Monday 18th March

9.00am C/S Holy Family

#### Tuesday 19th March

9.30am Mass Holy Family

12.05am Mass St Marys

#### Wednesday 20th March

12.05pm **Anointing Mass** St Mary's

#### Thursday 21st March

9.30am Mass St Annes

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

7pm **Rite of Reconciliation  
And Rite II** St Marys Church

#### Friday 22nd March

10.00am Mass St Josephs Chapel

11.20am Rite I St Mary's

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

**5.30pm Stations of the Cross**  
St Marys

#### Saturday 23rd March

9.00am Rite I St Anne's

9.30am Mass St Anne's

5.30pm Mass Vigil Mass  
Holy Family

#### Sunday 24th March **Palm Sunday**

9.30am Mass St Mary's

5.30pm Mass St Anne's

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Chrism Mass

Tuesday 26th March

12.05pm The Cathedral  
Palmerston North

**Sunday Readings** : Jer: 31.31-34; Heb: 5.7-9; Jn: 12.20-33

**Next Week**: Isa: 50.4-7; Phil: 2.6-11; Mk: 14.1-15,47

A tiny grain plants itself deep within the soil. It is tucked into complete darkness. It is fearless, comforted by the tough,



safe shell that is its home. It belongs there, and knows it. In quiet. In growth. Home. Then the shell-shelter turns tight and invading and painful. The growing seed's former peace is replaced by shock. Its earlier great protector is now opposing it, holding it back. Crushing it. Then, suddenly, as if planned from all eternity, the protecting shell cracks right open, letting in the outside. "Wait, wait, I need you," shouts the seed. Nothing doing. The shelter is going to pieces! Moisture trickles in, and bits of dank, cold soil. Anything and everything can now wriggle right into the heart of what was a quiet, pure place. The seed goes crazy. But it copes somehow, wildly extending a new, thin arm outward, then slithering out its whole self. "Steady by jerks," it says, through the cracks in its shell. It had to get out of there, so it dares its way into the rough, cold mud. How foolish and how shaming. Stay where safety is, you fool! But the transforming tiny self seems to take on a new life. Is this its new home now? Buried in the slippery soil? Ok, it moves with caution. Too much is in its path, including a huge, unyielding rock. A jagged, rough, uncaring rock, heedless of tiny green shoots. And so the story ends, but not yet. The former seed appears to have will power. It is seeking something - urging itself toward some pressing objective, rooting its way by intuition. Along the under-edge of the rock it goes, brutally, fearfully and with rending pain. After what seems like years it achieves the far under-edge of the gnarly rock and, guess what. It starts upward again. Now there are hard clods it has to press through, and plenty of pebbles. The higher it goes the more dry the surrounding soil. Finally, the top crust. But it too forbids penetration. It is an ultimate, intractable, stupefying barrier. And so the story ends. Except for one voice from deep within. Push, push, it murmurs. I am with you. Now just a thinnest lesion in the tough crust. With a certainty that might have been written on its heart, this vine-to-be squeezes through and gets to the place it was meant to be all along. In a haven of light and warmth, bathed in the sun's astonishing rays. It is now a plant and it relaxes and stretches and yawns in the wafting

breezes of Spring. This is just like our own journey, isn't it? Of course, dark mud can take a chokehold on our life. But, Jesus says, do not worry, child, trust me. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" John Foley, SJ

Last weekend, six of our parishioners spent a day in Palmerston North with other parishioners from throughout the diocese, learning about the recently released WINGS programme. This programme focuses on helping Catholics better understand what they believe and deepening their faith. From what I've learnt, this programme sounds very good. This week Fr John and I attended the annual Priests Assembly in Palmerston North. We heard from a variety of speakers covering a variety of topics including parish renewal, preaching with purpose, Alpha, and the most recent Synod meeting in Rome. These meetings give us a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues we don't see very often, pray together and just sit and talk about how things are going.

We now have some concrete tools and some great people to begin moving forward as a parish, towards what (and who) I believe Christ is calling us. I've been here in Whanganui a little over twelve months and I am thoroughly enjoying being here and getting to know people. I'm also very conscious of our need to grow in our relationship with Christ, and be who we are called to be as his disciples. We face some significant challenges and, as you know, we have brought to your attention some very practical issues we face, including paying off our debt, how to overcome our lack of income to cover day to day expenses, the possible leasing of St Annes church, the possible sale of the presbytery at Tawhero St and changing our status as a "needy parish" - continuously asking the diocese for money.

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#### Died Recently

Bernie Gudsell, Bev Sandlant, Virginia Aroha Hina, Howard Wilson, Jack Kaveney, Hinemoa Haami, Zita Fennerty, Beverley Fearn

#### Anniversaries

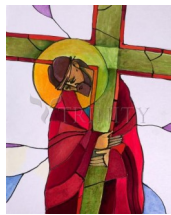
Alan Cameron, Priscilla Mitchell, Dionisia Secretaria, Josephine Boland, Kathryn Haddock, Margaret Shaw, Gordon Wham

(continued) As you know Easter is only two weeks away so all our energy will go into making Holy Week a great celebration of our faith. Speaking to our principal speaker this week and Bishop John, it became clear to me that now is a good time to move. So, after Easter, I will be calling a meeting of all who have expressed interest in Parish leadership and those interested in deepening their understanding of our faith.

To complicate matters a little, last week I was approached by the NZCBC (NZ Bishops) to represent New Zealand at the next stage of the Synod in Rome, together with representatives from all over the world. I feel honoured and not a little overwhelmed by this opportunity and after some prayer and discernment I have agreed to attend. I only have sketchy details about what is involved but I do know that I have asked to go late April, this year. I'm feeling excited by this opportunity and looking forward to sitting at the same table as Pope Francis. At the same time, I've been informed that I will be the only NZ representative so I'm (understandably) feeling a little overwhelmed. We've got some work to do! I believe that God is with us and we need to listen to what he's calling us to so we have nothing to fear and so much to gain. Please pray for our parish and our world. God bless. Fr Craig

### 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>

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR COLLECTION AT ST MARYS CHURCH FOYER.**

### 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 Special Collection-31 March 2024

Many thanks to parishioners who in the past have contributed to the Easter 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)

### RITE OF RECONCILIATION THURSDAY 21ST MARCH AT 7PM

—if anyone is able to help out scooping ice cream for the children for after they have made their first reconciliation— could you please let Jo know in the office. Thank you :) PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

### REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR OUR PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024

Forms available -the Parish office, from Rain at Cullinane College, or email [admin@cpow.co.nz](mailto:admin@cpow.co.nz) to be sent a copy. Starts Mon 6th of May 7-8.30pm

### 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.

### 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](mailto:youth.cpow@gmail.com)

**HOMELESS HUB OUTREACH**—The summer roster for next week is the Pat Gayforth'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](http://www.marymackillop.org.nz)

### Community Liturgy - *The Circle of Life*

Sunday 17 March, 4 – 5pm

### 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. Mon 18 March (final Session) 2-3.30pm

### Tui Motu Group

Where articles from the current Tui Motu magazine are explored and discussed. with Liz Hickey rsj Wednesday 20 March, 4 – 5.15pm Enquires, please call Pam on 06 345 5047 ext 3 Or email [pam.hopper@sosj.org.au](mailto:pam.hopper@sosj.org.au)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:craigbutler@xtra.co.nz)

#### Assistant Priest

Fr John Roberts  
027 634 6877  
[jroberts@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jroberts@inspire.net.nz)

#### Parish Secretary

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

#### Youth Minister

Rain Forest  
0212560608  
[youth.cpow@gmail.com](mailto:youth.cpow@gmail.com)

#### RCIA Parish Catechist

Tony Hore  
[thecoot1944@gmail.com](mailto: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