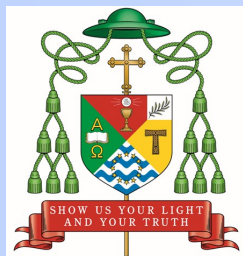


Catholic Parish of Whanganui

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)



Second Sunday of Lent

25th February 2024; Year B / Weekdays Year 2

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 26th February

9.00am C/S Holy Family

Tuesday 27th February

9.30am Mass Holy Family

12.05am Mass St Marys

**6.00pm Reconciliation Preparation
Session 2 St Marys**

Wednesday 28th February

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 29th February

9.30am Mass St Annes

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Friday 1st 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 2nd March

9.00am Rite I St Anne's

9.30am Mass St Anne's

5.30pm Mass Vigil Mass
Holy Family

Sunday 3rd March

9.30am Children's Mass
St Mary's

11.00pm Mass Kaiwhaiki

5.30pm Mass St Anne's

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Readings: Gen : 22.1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Rom: 8.31b-35, 37; Mk: 9.2-10

Next Week: Exo : 20.1-3, 7-8, 12-17; 1 Cor: 1.18, 22-25; Jn: 2.13-25

THE ANATOMY OF SACRIFICE

This week's First Reading about the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham is disturbing. The Canadian writer Ronald Rolheiser helps make sense of this in his article below

What do we mean when we say that we make a sacrifice? I have sacrificed my career for my children! I sacrifice a lot for my job! Love demands that we make many sacrifices! Sometimes we must sacrifice life itself for the sake of integrity! Christ sacrificed himself for our sins! The Eucharist is a sacrifice!

From what is common in all these expressions we can extract Webster's definition of a sacrifice: the surrender of something of value for the sake of something else.

That is a good definition, but it contains more than first meets the eye, as is evident when we look at the concept of sacrifice in the Jewish and Christian scriptures. Take, for example, the famous story where Abraham is asked to sacrifice his son, Isaac. What is ultimately behind God's invitation to Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on an altar?

Here are the outer elements of the story: Abraham has longed for a son for many years. Finally, after the situation was humanly hopeless, Sarah conceives and they are given a son, Isaac, who is described as Abraham's "only one," his "precious one." But then God invites Abraham to take Isaac and offer him in sacrifice. Abraham, with a heavy heart, agrees to the request and sets off with Isaac, carrying wood, fire, and a knife, all the while having to answer his son's curiosity about why they were not bringing a victim for the sacrifice.

When they arrive at the place of sacrifice, Abraham gathers the wood, lights the fire, binds Isaac, and then raises the knife to kill him. But God intervenes, stops the sacrifice, and gives Abraham a ram instead to offer. The story ends with Abraham walking back to his own land together with Isaac. What is the deep lesson inside this story?

At one level, the lesson is that God does not want human sacrifice, but there is a deeper, more intimate, inner lesson that teaches us something about the innate need inside of us to offer sacrifice. Simply put, the lesson is this: In order for something to be received as a gift it must be received twice. What is implied here? A gift, by definition, is something that is not deserved but given freely. What is our first impulse when we are given a gift? Our instinctual response is: "I can't take this! I don't deserve this!" In essence, that gesture, that healthy instinctual response, is an attempt to give the gift back to its giver. But, of course, the giver refuses to take the gift back and re-gives it to us with the assurance: "but I want you to have this!" When we receive it the second time, it is now more properly ours because, by trying to give it back, we healthily recognized that it was a gift, unmerited, undeserved.

That is the exact set of dynamics within the story of Abraham offering to sacrifice Isaac. Isaac comes to him as the greatest, most-undeserved, gift of his life. His willingness to sacrifice him parallels the instinctual gesture: "I don't deserve this! I cannot accept this!" He offers the gift back to its giver. But the giver, Love itself, stops the gesture and gives the gift the second time. Now Abraham can receive Isaac, without guilt, as gift. When they are walking back home, Isaac is now Abraham's son in a way that he never was before. Abraham had to receive the gift twice by sacrificing it the first time. Cont over...

Died Recently

Bev Sandlandt Sr John Bosco Kendall (rsj) Kevin Edmonds, Dennis Russell (Ireland)
Gloria Duncan, John Kavanagh, Bernie Gudsell,

Anniversaries

Craig Shore, Nat O'Neill, Joan Phillips, Maureen Hopkins, Tania Smith, David Haddock, Laurence Conder, Mary Gudsell, Patricia Moriarty, Anne Connors

Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord

Continued... That is the essence of sacrifice: to properly receive anything, including life itself, requires that we recognize it precisely as gift, as something undeserved. And to do that requires sacrifice, a willingness to give some or the entire gift back to its giver.

We see this as the dynamic underlying the ritual of ancient sacrifice. For example: A farmer would harvest a crop. But, before he or his family would eat even mouthful of it, he would take some of it (the "first-fruits") and offer it back to God in the form of a sacrifice, usually by burning it so that that the smoke rising up to the heavens would take some of the crop back to God whom the farmer saw as the real giver of that crop. After sacrificing some of it in this way, the farmer and his family could now enjoy the rest of it without guilt because, by trying to give it back to its author, they made themselves more aware that it was gift. They can now enjoy it without guilt precisely because, through sacrifice, they have acknowledged it as gift. That's the inner essence of all sacrifice, whether the sacrificing of a career for the sake of our children or Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Sacrifice recognizes gift as gift. Like Abraham, it tries to give the gift back to the giver, but the giver stops the sacrifice and gives it back in even a deeper way. We would enjoy our lives considerably more if we understood that. Ron Rolheiser

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, NOT SLIP SHOES!!!

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

FIRST RECONCILIATION—The second session is on **Tuesday 27th February at 6.00pm** at St Marys Church. If your 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](#)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

HOMELESS HUB OUTREACH—The summer roster for next week is Jenny Pitt's Team. Further information contact Maureen 027 491 2168 or Pat 343 6313.

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>



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 Kaiwhaiki 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

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 26 February & subsequent Mondays during Lent. 2-3.30pm

Women Who Dare - Film: Sophie Scholl
A dramatization of the final days of Sophie Scholl, One of the most famous members of the German World War II anti-Nazi resistance movement, White Rose. with Marie Skidmore rsj
Tues 27 February, 2pm, Koha for a cuppa
Enquires, please call Pam on 06 345 5047 ext 3
Or email pam.hopper@sosj.org.au

CHILDRENS MASS—On Sunday 3rd March is Children's Day so we are going to have a children's Mass at St Mary's 9.30am. If you would like your child or grandchild to help with the ministries i.e. reading, greeting, collectors and offertory please email Paula Carter : paula.john@hotmail.com. Thank you.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY—

Thanks to all who expressed interest in making a one-off donation or regular contribution. Our bank account no is 03 0791 0554578 000. For more info please call Henry on 027 471 2242 or Margaret on 027 277 0336.

FOODBANK—Desperately need items. You can leave in the baskets in the foyer of St Mary's Church or drop off at 7 Park Place.

ROSTERS—if you are able to help out with any of the mass duties on a Sunday we would really appreciate your help. If you feel you could help out with reading/offertory/ collection/ greeting or data projector in all the Churches please let Jo know in the office by email or phone. Thank you.

Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COKdE6mlojU>

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).

St Marcellin School

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

St Mary's School

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

St Anne's School

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

Cullinane College

Principal: Mr Tony McBride
DRS: Ms 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