



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)

First Sunday of Advent

3rd December 2023; Year B / Weekdays Year 2

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 4th December

9:00am C/S Holy Family

Tuesday 5th December

9.00am C/S Holy Family
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Wednesday 6th December

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 7th December

9.00am C/S St Anne's
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Friday 8th December

10.00am Mass St Joseph's
11.20am Rite I St Mary's
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Saturday 9th December

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

Sunday 10th December

9.30am Mass St Mary's
11.00am AGM St Marys
5.30pm Mass St Anne's

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

13 Dec Advent Reconciliation
Rite II 7.00pm
St Marys Church

Sunday Readings: Isa: 63.16b-17, 64.1, 3-8; 1 Cor 1.3-9; Mk: 13.31-37

Next Week: Isa: 40.1-5, 9-11; 2 Pet 3.8-15; Mk: 1.1-8

ROBERTS' RAMBLE

Advent is a multifaceted season. Today's readings carry on the "end of the age" theme we enjoyed before the Solemnity of Christ the King.

However, in Advent we are invited to consider

how we are preparing ourselves. Perhaps the easiest questions are: "If the Lord returned in glory today would I be ready to greet him?" Or "If christianity became a crime is there enough evidence to convict me?" We love the Lord, we seek to serve him wisely and well, so neither question should faze us. But Wisdom reminds us not to be presumptuous. Hence most of us will want to go to Confession before we celebrate the Incarnation of Christ.

The Season takes us through the work of St John the Baptist: his call to us to prepare a way for the Lord, just as he did in his life. It cannot have been an easy task, despite the numbers of people whose lives were changed by his call to holiness. I personally do not find the Advent Wreath particularly helpful. However, as I was writing it occurred to me that we could see the candles as a sign of time running down until the Lord appears in his glory.

From 19 December until Christmas Eve Mother Church insists that we prepare to wonder at the incredible love of our God whose Son, born of the Virgin and cared for by St Joseph, came to live among us. The readings at daily Mass invite us to reflect on God's plan for us.

And then, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent we hear the prophecy of Isaiah telling of the need to be "heralds of good tidings [Isaiah 40; 9] You and I who will rejoice in the Incarnation of Christ will want to join the throngs wending their way to Mass singing praise to God with the angelic host and the shepherds at Christ's Mass.

I wondered whether you and I could think of Advent as a time when we have received an invitation from a beloved older sibling and are packing our bags for the long awaited visit, making absolutely sure we have everything we will need for every occasion.

Enjoy the Season, Father John.



ANNUAL RETREAT This week, from Monday through Friday, I will be on retreat. Adult retreats are about silence and stillness, reflection and prayer. I am looking forward to some time and open space to breathe and be still. It will give me an opportunity to reflect on the past year and listen to hear what God is asking of me, moving forward. I would be very grateful for your prayers, so that I can hear what he's saying.
Thank you. Fr Craig

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.

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/>

The Office will be closed on Monday 4th December.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT— Wed 6th Dec at Whanganui Hospital 6.30pm. Rsvp to Hospital Chaplain Amil Habib 3483318.

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING— will be held on Sunday 10th December at 11am at St Marys Church

Died Recently

Anniversaries

Philomena Kingstone, Maria Watts, Wendy McGarva, Joyce Poka, Sr Catherine Ryan

Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord

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 First Sunday in Advent is 3 December. 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/>

The Annual Sick & Retired Priests Special Collection - Sunday 3 December 2023

The Clergy Trust Fund provides for the well-being and care of priests in the Diocese. This includes stipends, food, travel home for 'overseas priests', retreats and all costs relating to healthcare. The Clergy Trust Fund is struggling to meet growing medical costs. Hence, your giving to this special collection is most appreciated, especially by our elderly priests who then benefit from your generosity. Your support is a great way of showing your gratitude to your priests. Many thanks and blessings to all who contribute to this special collection. Every contribution helps.

**Mons Brian Walsh Chairperson
Clergy Trust Fund
Diocese of Palmerston North**

ST MARCELLIN SCHOOL CAROLS AND FAMILY PICNIC— You are invited to Carols and picnic on the lawn at St Marcellin School. When: Tuesday 5th December at 5.00pm. Bring along a picnic and your singing voice.

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

Exploring Faith -our final gathering for both groups on Saturday 16 December at 10am. We will resume in the new year. Place: Quigleys-193b Great North Rd Ph 347 8177.

BISHOP JOHN ADAM'S MEMORIAL CARDS— Commemorating his ordination. As we have limited supply-if you would like a memorial card they are available at

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 

MARIST RUGBY AGM
Monday 4 December 7pm at 25 Hatrick St. All are most welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS—Claudia Rees and her family. Claudia was baptised at St Marys Church on Friday 1st December.

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.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY—to Ellen Woods. We hope you have a lovely day with friends and family.



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.) Sun 17 Dec, 4 -5pm

Tui Motu Group

Where articles from the current Tui Motu magazine are explored and discussed. Wed 20 Dec, 4 -5.15pm with Liz Hickey rsj
Enquires, please call Pam on 06 345 5047 ext 3 Or email pam.hopper@sosj.org.au

St Vincent de Paul Holy Family Conference of Wanganui Christmas Raffle Results 2023

<u>1st Prize:</u>	No 110	Jo Limpus
<u>2nd Prize:</u>	No 108	Brian Vaughan
<u>3rd Prize:</u>	No 449	Barbara Smith
<u>4th Prize:</u>	No 30	Hannah Quayle
<u>5th Prize:</u>	No 428	Collen Woodcock
<u>6th Prize:</u>	No 406	Patricia Russell
<u>7th Prize:</u>	No 253	Paul Watkins
<u>8th Prize:</u>	No 140	Pat Garforth

A huge THANK YOU is extended to all parishioners who supported our Christmas Raffle by either providing prizes or buying tickets in our raffle. We were delighted to raise \$1068.00 which will go straight back into the community in the work that we do. Thank you, also, to all parishioners who support The Vinnies Shop by providing goods for sale and purchasing goods through out the year. We wish you all a blessed, holy and peaceful Christmas with your loved ones.

DID YOU KNOW? ROSARY—is held every Friday at 11.10am at St Marys Church. All are most welcome to come and join in.

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