

Catholic Parish of Whanganui

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



ST MARY'S CHURCH
1 Campbell Street

ST ANNE'S CHURCH
47 Raine Street

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

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
22 Tawhero Street

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

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4th February 2024; Year B / Weekdays Year 2

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday 5th February

9.00am C/S St Marys

Tuesday 6th February (Waitangi Day)

9.00am Mass St Mary's

Wednesday 7th February

12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Thursday 8th February

9.30am Mass St Annes
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Friday 9th February

11.20am Rite 1 St Mary's
12.05pm Mass St Mary's

Saturday 10th February

9.00am Rite 1 St Anne's
9.30am Mass St Anne's
5.30pm Mass Vigil Mass
Holy Family

Sunday 11th February

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

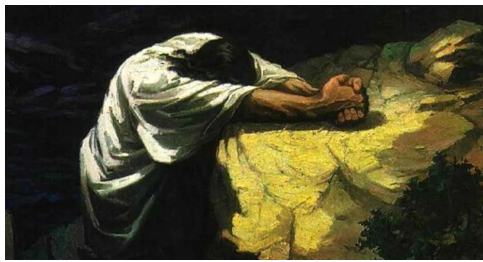
Ash Wednesday 14 Feb

First Reconciliation Session 1
Tuesday 20 Feb 7.00pm

Lenten Programmes

Sunday Readings: Deut: 18.15-20; 1 Cor: 7.17,32-35; Mk: 1.21-28

Next Week: Job: 7.1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor: 9.16-19, 22-23; Mk: 1.29-39



HOW ABSURD!

In the morning, long before dawn, Jesus got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' Mark 1

When Jesus comes to Peter's house, he finds that Peter's mother-in-law is sick, and he heals her. And then look what happens. The whole town hears of her healing and they rush all their sick to Peter's house. The house is surrounded, and so is Jesus. Now, all of a sudden, Jesus seems to have become a one-man hospital. He is so besieged that he can't even pray in the house. He has to head out secretly into the countryside in the dark of early morning. When his absence is detected, his disciples go looking for him. "Hey," they say when they find him, "Everybody is looking for you!" They seem to think that his urgent care clinic should be open at all hours. Now, of course, it is a good work to heal the sick. And, of course, those who love the sick are right to want them healed. And yet how absurd it is to suppose that prayer should take second-place to work, no matter what the work is! And how sadly and understandably absurd it is to suppose that the mission of Jesus is to be a Doctor Without Borders. So maybe it isn't hard to figure out what Jesus was praying about in the early morning in the countryside. Each healing Jesus does is a good thing. But good things can actually get in the way of serving God well. To serve God well, a person has to do not just any good things that others want him to do. He has to do those good things that God has called him to do. It may take prayer to figure out which good things to turn down. Jesus' disciples feel that Jesus needs to hurry back to Peter's village to keep practicing medicine.

What Jesus tells them, after his prayer, is that he is leaving Peter's village to continue his ministry - not of medicine but of preaching - in other towns. Preaching is the purpose for which Jesus came. What is needed to serve God well, then, is not endless good things that other people want from you. What is needed for the Lord's service is prayer first. And after that comes fidelity to just those few good things that fulfil that particular purpose to which the Lord has called you. Eleonore Stump

Fr Craig's Corner Lent begins in a little over a week's time. Lent is traditionally a time of fasting, prayer and penance in preparation to celebrate the great feast of Easter. The following is a contemporary reflection on fasting and feasting, which is an excellent complement or alternative to fasting in the usual sense. I encourage you to give it a go.

Fast from judging others; feast on trying to see Christ in them.

Fast from looking for differences; feast on what unite us.

Fast from words that cut down; feast on words that uplift.

Fast from gossip; feast on kindness.

Fast from anger; feast on trying to understand.

Fast from fear of illness; feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from pessimism; feast on hope.

Fast from resentment; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.

Fast from self-centeredness; feast on loving others.

Fast from complaining; feast on looking for the good.

Fast from anxiety; feast on trust in God.

Fast from focusing on problems; feast on unceasing prayer.

(Continued overpage)

Died Recently

Sr John Bosco Kendall (rsj) Kevin Edmonds

Anniversaries

Craig Shore, Nat O'Neill, Joan Phillips

Eternal Rest Grant to them O Lord

(cont) Following your request, we are going to provide at least two options for people to meet for Lenten Reflections beginning after Ash Wednesday. We will be offering the *Caritas Programme* and a programme from St Paul's called *Exodus and Exile - a journey through this Lent*. If you would like to participate in either group, please send your name and contact mobile (or land line) number and/or email to Jo in the Parish Office. I will be on leave this week and will return on Tuesday 13 February fully fit and ready to go. *I met one of my Marish Colleagues during the week and he's taking 9 weeks off!* I'm not jealous (much:) Lastly, we farewelled Sr JB aka Sr John Bosco Kendall RSJ on Friday. Everyone spoke about her passion for life and faith to say nothing of all the hard mahi (work) she put into nurturing people's faith over more than 70 years. The Vigil the night before and the Requiem Mass were both very good and pointed to a life well lived. JB has earned her rest. May she now know the joy of seeing God face to face and the peace that only Christ can give. Have a good week. Fr Craig

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP

Starts back this week!!

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

ON SALE NZ Catholic \$4 

HOMELESS HUB OUTREACH—The summer roster for next week is Liz Hickey's Team.

Further information contact Maureen 027 491 2168 or Pat 343 6313.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS—are still available at the office. \$15.00 each **AND....**

SUNDAY MISSALS— \$16.00 each



PALMS— If you have old palms to be burnt for ashes please bring these to the office.

FOUND—Rose gold bracelet in the St Marys Church car park. Contact the office for more details.

FIRST RECONCILIATION —The first session starts on Tuesday 20th February at 7pm 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"](#)

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

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY Tuesday 13 February

Tuesday 13 February is World Marriage Day. In his 2023 apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis says: "Marriage based on an exclusive and definitive love becomes an icon of the relationship between God and his people and vice versa. God's way of loving becomes the measure of human love." The National Liturgy Office has published special resources for this day. Please go here: <https://www.nlo.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/world-marriage-day/>

BILLINGS OVULATION METHOD TRAINING SEMINAR Christchurch Saturday and Sunday 27 and 28 April

Natural Fertility Management This seminar will benefit Health Professionals and Natural Health practitioners interested in women's health and fertility, those wishing to become accredited Billings Teachers, and those using or considering using the Billings Method.

The seminar will also interest those involved in pre-marriage counselling and those wishing to promote the Method within their community. The Billings Method teaches accurate, evidence-based, scientific self-knowledge about human fertility. The "Billings Ovulation Method Natural Fertility Training Seminar" activity has been endorsed by the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and has been approved for up to 11.15 CME credits for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) purposes. It is also supported by the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference.

For further information and to register go to: <https://www.billingslife.org.nz/training-seminar>

Fr MICHAEL PUI appointed National Director of MissionNZ

Congratulations and ka pai Fr Michael Pui, who has been appointed National Director of MissionNZ, the local face of the Pontifical Mission Societies, perhaps best known for overseeing the World Missions Sunday collection each October. Fr Michael has most recently been the Parish Priest of Good Shepherd Parish Hurunui in North Canterbury. He will remain based in the Diocese of Christchurch. Details: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/missionnz/>

JOSEPHITE RETREAT CENTRE

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

Soul Pages Join us for a five-week course that will connect you with the rich soul world of the visual journal. with Tracey Young *BYO craft supplies and your lunch. \$10 per session.* Monday 12 February, 10am – 2pm

Shrove Tuesday Come and celebrate the beginning of Lent leading up to Easter. *Please bring palms to burn for Ash Wednesday.* Tues 13 February, 9.15 -10.30am

Women Who Dare - Film: God of the Piano For Anat, music is everything. Having never been able to reach her father's musical standards, she rests her hopes on the child she is about to have. with Marie Skidmore rsj

Tuesday 13 February, 2pm, Koha for a cuppa Enquires, please call Pam on 06 345 5047 ext 3 Or email pam.hopper@sosj.org.au

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