

## Anniversary's in January/February

William Martin, Fay Orgar, Terrance Loughan, Trevor Hulena. Brett Gray  
Clarice Barclay, Constance Margaret Frasier, Timothy Carpenter  
Alan Cameron, Daniel Taylor, Margaret Parsons  
Fred Allen, Mary Butler (Molly), Peter Robinson (Skip)  
Vera Lawrence, Jack Moran, Bernard Skidmore  
Malcolm Wenzlick,

The Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College is offering a course starting 08 February to 05 April (every Wednesday, 3:30-5:30) via Zoom with Br Kevin Dobbyn. For more information, contact Br Kevin at k.dobbyn at ctc.ac.nz or call (04) 819 8380. For schedule of fees, go to [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/fees](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/fees) and for other courses, go to

[www.tekupenga.ac.nz/palmerston-north](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/palmerston-north).

**NZ Catholic response** to Synod's Continental Stage document published - Last October, diocesan and national groups were invited to take part in a discernment process on Enlarge the Space of Your Tent – the Document for the Continental Stage, which took place between late October and early December. Those responses were synthesised into the New Zealand response which has now been published by the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference. A copy of this New Zealand document, along with a statement about it, is online here: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/synodresponse/>

**NZ Catholic Church leaders** publish statement of commitments to abuse survivors. The bishops and congregational leaders of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand have published a statement of commitments adopted in response to the continuing work of the Royal Commission on Abuse in Care. The set of 10 commitments – along with others previously made – will become part of what the Church calls the “Tautoko Roadmap” for the path the Church is taking in response to the Royal Commission and the wishes of abuse survivors. The statement is online here: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/jan10-letter/> and the Tautoko Roadmap is here: <https://tautoko.catholic.org.nz/roadmap/>

**Today, in our Gospel**, we begin in earnest our journey towards Easter 2023. Christ-

mas is over – Jesus is born and is already a man. He becomes friendly with John the Baptist and is baptised by him. Now comes the time for Jesus to launch out on his own journey, a journey that will lead, as it does every year, to his death and Resurrection. Each year, Sunday after Sunday, we are invited through the Gospels we hear, to make that journey with Jesus. We stop each Sunday at a particular moment in Jesus' journey, to ponder and ask questions, to reflect and to pray. By seeing each Sunday's Gospel as one more step towards Easter we are enabled to fully enter into the mystery that is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Our first stop, today, is Jesus first act of his mission. He gathers around himself a group of friends who will support and help him along the way. Sadly, they will also betray, deny and abandon him when he needs them most. Peter, Andrew, James, John and the others are very human, even though they were called by Jesus and made a commitment to follow him. We too are called to follow Jesus. He understands that we are weak and vulnerable and very human, but he still calls us, and needs us, and relies on us to continue his message of love and forgiveness, of healing and compassion.

Brian Maher OMI

<communications@oblates.ie>

### Mass Times

#### **Week Day Masses**

Saturday—9am @ St Joseph's

Tuesday—9am @ St Joseph's

Thursday—9am @ St Patrick's

#### **Sunday Masses**

Vigil Mass—5.30 @ St Patrick's

Sunday Mass—9.30am @ St Joseph's



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Facebook • The Holy Trinity Parish CHB

## Rātini Kupu

22nd Kohitātea, 2023

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

22 January

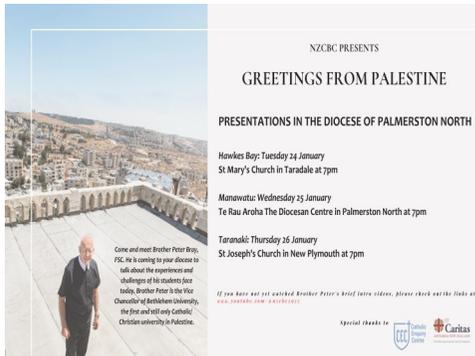
### Can we change our way of living?

When Jesus began his public ministry of preaching and healing, John the Baptist had already been arrested, putting an end to his movement of religious revival. At that point, instead of going back to Nazareth (i.e. instead of going home), Jesus went to Capernaum. This marked a new beginning, whose purpose is described in a verse of prophecy: “The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who lived in the land of the shadow of death, light has dawned.” Jesus would later refer to himself as the light of the world; and, in commissioning his disciples, he would tell them to send us out also, to be light to the world. His vocation is our vocation too. In times past the idea of “vocation” was focussed mainly on doctors, nurses, priests and religious. But now it has been restored to its original, wider application, and all our baptised people are invited to experience their calling from God. There is nothing dramatic about this. It just means that I don't just stumble into the Christian way by default, but that God has chosen me: “I have called you by name; you are mine.” “You didn't choose me; no, I chose you, and I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that would remain.” If the gospel is now, and I am every person in the gospel, then, through the gospel of today, I am being called again. The starting-point of Jesus' message was very like that of John the Baptist. “Turn from your sins, and back turn to God, because the kingdom of heaven is near.” Turning away from sins is a voluntary act, which can be reversed. There is a story to illustrate that point. When Leonardo da Vinci was asked to do a painting of the Last Supper, he searched far and wide for models for each person in the scene. He found a fine-looking young man, full of vitality, as the perfect model for Jesus. In the following months he did the same for models for each of the apostles, leaving Judas till last, not knowing how to represent him. Finally, he came across a tramp whom he thought was ideal for the part. Leonardo brought him to his studio, but while the work was in progress, he came to a shocking realisation. This man had been with him months before, representing Jesus. In the meantime he had taken to drink and lost his way, and was now homeless. It was a shock to Leonardo, and a prod to conversion for the man who modelled as Judas. [www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie)



## Bethlehem University's Br Peter Bray

– Diocese of Palmerston North Schedule  
Brother Peter Bray FSC, the Kiwi Vice-Chancellor of Bethlehem University, is making a NZ speaking tour on behalf of the bishops across Aotearoa, to talk about the Holy Land, his work with his students, and the lives of other ordinary Palestinians. Next week Br Peter will give presentations for the Diocese of Palmerston North in Hawkes Bay, Palmerston North and New Plymouth.  
24 January 2023: St Mary's Church, Taradale at 7pm  
25 January 2023: Te Rau Aroha - The Diocesan Centre, Palmerston North at 7pm  
26 January 2023: St Joseph's Church, New Plymouth at 7pm



## Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy—Online Sessions (Evening):

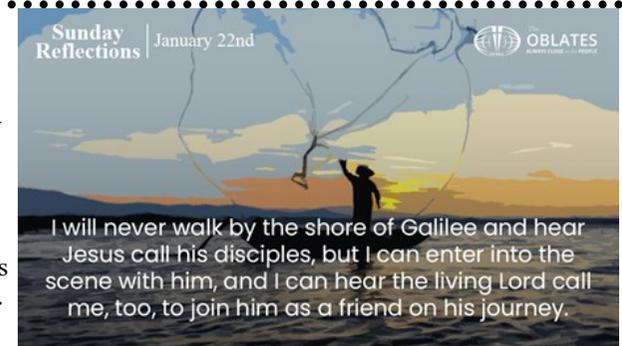
Genesis – In the Beginning...  
Part 1: The Creation Story (incl. study material) with Kieran Fenn fms.  
Monday, 27 February, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.  
Part 2: The Creation of Adam (Michelangelo) with Dr Christopher Longhurst.  
Monday, 06 March, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.  
Fee: \$25 (NZD)/session or \$40 (NZD)/2 sessions  
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/01/16/genesis-in-the-beginning/>  
**With two working teens** needing their paychecks cashed every week, and my husband running his own business, I spend a lot of afternoons at the bank. There's a new gym right next door. Every time I pass by, there's not a single person in it. It makes me wonder

how that gym stays in business. I keep waiting to see a "Foreclosure" sign on the front door. Last Tuesday, circumstances had me driving past the bank and gym at 6:35 AM. I was amazed to see the parking lot so full there wasn't an empty spot to be found! Apparently the most popular time to work out is very early in the morning before people head off to work. It made me realize how much happens that we don't see. Yet, we are such an independent and stubborn people, we can't understand something, or believe it, until we see it. It's the complete opposite of faith. God is always working for our good. But on those days when we feel as empty as that gym in the afternoon, we begin to wonder if God is still in business. When the world is falling apart around us, we begin to imagine a "foreclosure" sign on the gates of Heaven, as if God's resources have been depleted and He's given up. Our God is a mighty God, with an infinite amount of power. There is nothing He can't do—no hour He isn't available, no mountain He can't move. When it feels to us like He's closed up shop, that's just Him rolling up His sleeves. He's masterminding the plan that's best for us, ready to implement it when the time is right, so things get resolved in the best way possible. We may not recognize that God is always working on our behalf until that random moment: perhaps on a Tuesday morning at 6:35 AM, when we look around and realize our lives and hearts are filled to the brim with His blessings, grace and peace. *Copyright 2023 Claire McGarry*



## I was recently in Northern

**California** for a weeklong work trip. California in October is warm and sunny and just what I needed. My work colleague and I made the most of our down time by exploring the nearby towns. I am a mountain and ocean person, and the surrounding area did not disappoint. My friend was happy to drive, so I was the navigator. This job was not stressful, as all I needed to do was plug our destination into my phone and help interpret the directions if there needed to be more clarity. Although we were familiar with our starting point and were confident in knowing our destination, we were not quite sure what the road would look like as we traveled from point A to point B. One day we set out for a nearby town. I entered the destination into my phone, and we decided on a scenic route. It would be an understatement to say that it was a long and winding road. I was amazed watching our course play out on the map on my phone—it had to be a mistake. No road can be this winding, and there cannot be that many switchbacks. It was treacherous and stunningly beautiful—I'll never forget that drive. The destination that day turned out to be our least favorite of the trip, and it's because the road to get there was so incredible: what could top it? A few things we saw on the road that day: A caravan 100 vehicles long of vintage VWs, Hundreds of fearless cyclists careen around curves and up and down hills Breathtaking views from the very top of the mountain, Tiny towns carved into the mountainside It was the most amazing drive I've ever experienced. It was also stressful and terrifying at times. We didn't know what was around the corner and were going too slow for some of the other drivers. We were too stunned by the beauty around us to care much about what those drivers thought. I stopped thinking about getting to our destination because I didn't want the journey to end. Who hasn't wanted a road map that would safely get us from point A to point B in a series of easy-to-follow steps? We've all wished for it when we're unsure of ourselves or the path we've



committed to. We are excited about the destination; we choose a route and can't wait to arrive. And then we get there, and it's different from what we'd hoped it would be. It doesn't feel right; it doesn't live up to what we'd imagined. I discovered that day that although the destination may not be what you expected it to be, the beauty is the road. Winding, twisting, and longer than expected, and the sights you see along the way will forever change your perspective. It's a little scary and wonderful all at once, and it will push you to your limits. But when you get to the top, it takes your breath away to see how far you've climbed. Whatever your destination, I urge you to take the scenic route. It might be scary, and you may sometimes think you're too close to the edge. Others may be going faster than you feel you can go. It's ok—you'll all end up at the same place. And whether or not you love the destination, the journey will be incredible. I pray that you enjoy every beautiful mile. *Copyright 2022 Cathi Kennedy*

