

Anniversary's in March

Christine Wypych (Chrissy)
Sybil McCloskey, Doreen de Stackpoole
Kathleen Kilkolly, Margaret Hallagan
Thomas Lyons, Thomas Bird (Noel)
Rosalie Beachen, Joseph Carpenter

Australian Catholic University

awards Br Peter Bray FSC honorary doctorate for his work at Bethlehem University - Br Peter Bray, a De La Salle Brother originally from Taranaki, New Zealand, has received the Doctor of the University (Honouris Causa) on February 17, 2023 for embracing the values and principals of education in the Catholic tradition and for significant contributions to education and educational administration in Australia and overseas. Br Peter recently undertook a well-attended national tour of NZ on behalf of the bishops, Caritas and the Catholic Enquiry Centre, speaking about issues in Palestine today.

Pro Life Facts—Family Life International in Auckland are hosting a pro-life and pro-family conference with an impressive line up of speakers, both local and from Italy, USA and Britain. The theme is “Go Forward in Hope” (23 -26th March). For more information, see visit the website of Family Life International NZ (fli.org.nz), or phone 09-629-4361. For more pro-life information, visit voiceforlife.org.nz

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

—Online Sessions (Evening):
Genesis – In the Beginning... (Repeat on Special Request)
The Creation Stories (incl. study material) with Kieran Fenn fms.
Monday, 20 March, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$25

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/in-the-beginning/>

YouTube Recording—The Notion of ‘Church’ with Prof Thomas O’Loughlin
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/03/02/muffin-talk-with-prof-thomas-oloughlin/>
For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

Divine Mercy Sunday

Since the year 2000, the universal Church has concluded the Octave of Easter by celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday. This great solemnity calls the faithful to rejoice in the merciful love of God as it is most profoundly manifested in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. Jesus promised a profound and immense grace to those who would celebrate this feast of His Divine Mercy. This grace is the forgiveness of all sins and the removal of all punishment due to sin. This is essentially like the grace of baptism. In other words its effects are the same as baptism. “To receive these graces, the only condition is to receive Holy Communion worthily on Divine Mercy Sunday (or the Vigil celebration) by making a good confession beforehand and staying in the state of grace and trusting in His Divine Mercy.”



Divine Mercy Sunday falls on the Second Sunday of Easter. **In Holy Trinity Parish it will be celebrated at St Joseph's at 3 pm.**

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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Rātini Kupu

12th Poutū –te-rangi, 2023
3rd Sunday of Lent

12th March

Slaking our thirst at the fountain of life

The thirsting soul: Our need to drink regularly is obvious; without water we would quickly die. Not so easily recognized is the soul's thirst for meaning, for vision and purpose in life. We can be fully preoccupied with the surface of things, and quite neglect our spirit's obscure longing for eternal life. Like the Israelites, we worry constantly about physical needs, but are often unmindful of God who supplies them. Today, Jesus offers us the refreshing water of eternal life, a power of faith and union-with-God which is our deepest need, and can satisfy the thirst of our soul. How the desert blossoms, when water is brought to it. (We may cite dramatic examples of successful irrigation in Israel, Egypt, California.) The same miracle of growth can take place in the parched soul, if God lets his Spirit flow over me. All the ravages of doubt, fear and sin will yield to the new life of grace. A sacramental washing: Already in baptism, the sacramental washing with water by the Christian Church was a first contact with the grace of Christ. I was given a good start, planted well in the garden of God, with room to put down roots, and draw vital nourishment from the living spring of the Saviour. Yet, I need continuing help, to keep my spirit alive and pleasing to God as life goes on. Like the desert-wandering Jews, I suffer from thirst; I grow weary in confronting problems and temptations (sketch examples —) Jesus guarantees me the “living water” I need. His own Spirit is always at hand, as a force of encouragement and fidelity. “To dwell in the house of the Lord”: Our deep desire remains, something not confined to Christians but shared by the mystic tradition in other religions: namely, the yearning to come into the presence of God, and be welcomed by God. All of us are called by him to drink of that “fountain of water, springing up to everlasting life.” In times of widespread religious scepticism, the hope of heaven as eternal life after death is often cast in doubt as wishful thinking. But we cling to this hope, relying on the word of Jesus. For Paul and the early Christians, the hope of eternal life breathed joy into all their efforts and sacrifices. Fidelity until death seemed well worthwhile, “for the weight of glory that will be revealed in us.” Our part to play is turning aside from sin, and trying to live by the gospel. God can be absolutely relied on to fulfil his promise, and will in time satisfy the deep thirst of our spirit. associationofcatholicpriests.ie



It was time for the little soul to go into incarnation. An angel spoke about the beauty of life on earth, but the little soul was reluctant to leave the place of perfection. It told the angel, "I was told that incarnation has suffering and trial and something called darkness. I want to stay in this perfect place." The angel smiled. "Perfection is complete. It has no room for growth. Little soul, you like it here, but you must go into incarnation if you want to grow." "How will I grow?" "You will grow through suffering to experience healing. The trial will bring triumph, and darkness will carry you into light. It is the tension between opposite states that brings growth. There is no other way." The little soul said, "But what if I fail?" "The Sacred Presence will be with you at every stage of your human journey," said the angel. "Everything that happens to you will be teaching to help you grow. Then the angel smiled at the little soul. "You will know through it all that you are greatly loved." That gave the soul some courage. It asked the angel, "How will incarnation happen?" "A man and a woman have been chosen. They will give you a body, and you will come into the world to grow in life-school. In the early years, you will receive love and learn how to look after yourself." "And then?" "As you grow, you will be able to love and look after others. That is an important stage of development." The little soul was puzzled. "How can I remember all this?" "You won't," said the Angel. "Once you're in life school, you will have no memory for any of this. But I can assure you, you will have guidance all the way, and new stages of growth will keep coming to you." "How do they come?" "In many ways. "Something new will be added to your prayer. "You will make some discovery of faith that will change your view of the world. "Occasionally, there will be a big change in which you are emptied so that you can be filled with something greater." The little soul thought for a while. This angel knew many things. "Have you been through incarnation?" it asked. "Of course," the angel replied. "All angels have. Even the Sacred Presence took human form." "Really?"

"I celebrated his birth in the manger," the angel said. "I was sent to welcome him out of his tomb." The little soul was silent. The Sacred Presence was everywhere. All things in the greater reality and on earth, had been created through the Sacred Presence. Why would it want to be made incarnate? The angel knew what the little soul was thinking. "It's all about love," it said. "Love?" "Yes, love. "The Sacred Presence became incarnate so that the fire of his love could be everywhere on earth. "When you go into incarnation you will recognise that spark of love because it will make its home in you." "What will I do with that love?" asked the little soul. The angel said, "Dear soul, you will fan it into a flame." *Joy Cowley is a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and retreat facilitator. Joy Cowley is a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and retreat facilitator*

Applications open for next funding round | Diocese of Palmerston North Allocations Group. Parish groups, agencies and church organisations that provide a helping hand by supporting Families and Social Services are invited to apply for funding from the Catholic Charities Foundation of Palmerston North and the Tindall Foundation through the Diocesan Allocations group. The priority is to fund Catholic and community organisations who are working in areas identified as priorities by the Catholic Charities Foundation of Palmerston North and the Tindall Foundation, and aligned with the diocesan goals. We are charged with the funding support of groups committed to social, pastoral, charitable and educational needs in the diocese. Applications are judged based on need, resource availability and the fulfilment of set criteria. Applications are now open and are due by Friday 31 March 2023. Application forms and more information can be found here: <https://pndiocese.org.nz/catholic-charities-application> or please contact Ashley Dahl at adah1@pndiocese.org.nz or ph (06) 354 1780 ext 842.

Lenten Giving Envelope Packs have been distributed for the Bishops' 2023 Lenten appeal. You can either use the weekly donation envelopes or use a single donation envelope. You may either return your donation envelopes during the parish offertory collection or send them to Caritas directly.

WelCom March 2023 edition is out this week to parishes and schools for **Sunday, 5 March.**

Contents include:

- Catholic Cyclone Relief Appeals.
- Cardinal John Dew writes on Pope Francis Message for the 57th Day of social communications
- Pope Francis' 10th anniversary as pontiff.
- Oceania bishops call for 'deeper ecological conversion'.
- Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses' Catholic College awards 2022 and leaders 2023 – photo feature.
- Plus, more features, local and international news and views, Young Church.

This Sunday's Gospel can, at first sight, seem heavy with reflections on the nature of marriage and Jewish worship laws, but under the surface swims something much more simple and much more important. As Christians, we follow a person – Jesus Christ. Meeting this person in the Gospels has to be our first priority. This Sunday's Gospel gives us, I think, a tiny glimpse into an aspect of the person of Jesus we can so easily overlook. What



was it in Jesus that changed the Samaritan woman at the well forever? And what did the entire village see in Jesus that had them begging for him to stay on with them?

The latest issue
in your church
Sunday Mar. 12

\$4

This Sunday night (12th March), John Cowan's guest will be media specialist Bev Adair. Bev has worked in the music industry for over 20 years from music management to event coordination, working alongside Ricky Martin, Janet Jackson, Mick Fleetwood, and many more. She has been on the Homegrown Festival team since 2001 and was director for NZ Street Dance for 8 years, developing the talents of many young dancers and facilitating opportunities to dance for Ricky Martin and So You Think You Can Dance US. Currently specializing in PR, Bev has worked on music releases and booked media tours for many artists including Stan Walker, Tomorrow People, and Tipene Harmer. Although Bev works with a steady flow of New Zealand's finest talent, she has a keen passion for emerging artists and even dearer to her heart is the overall empowerment of today's youth. She has facilitated world leadership conferences, spoken in Washington DC as a keynote speaker alongside American Civil Rights Movement activists, and in New York about her involvement with Beyond Water Global, an organization bringing clean water and sanitation solutions to communities in East Africa.