

Anniversary's in April

Jack Hallagen, Murray Durham, Ellen Logan, Vaughan Hallagen
Brian Bird, Charlie Percy, Ivan Ujdur, John McDonald
John Stanely, Lenva Martin, Leo Frings (Geoff)
Malcolm Heaven, Michael Ransfield, Robert Frost (Bob)
Thomas Butler (Tom), Gavin Logan, James Cook
John Muelan, James Harris, Emmett McElhinney, William Field (Bill)

PROLIFE FACTS

The Abortion Legislation Act 2020 law allows abortion on demand up to and including 20 weeks of pregnancy. After 20 weeks a woman may obtain an abortion if her doctor or other qualified clinician (midwife, nurse practitioner, registered nurse) believes the abortion is 'clinically appropriate', and that continuing the pregnancy would endanger her 'wellbeing'. For more pro-life information, visit voiceforlife.org.nz.

Achieving Pregnancy Naturally—The Billings Ovulation Method™ can help you to optimise your chances of conceiving naturally. Our Fertility Educators will teach you to recognise your body's natural signs of fertility and pinpoint the most fertile day in your cycle. The Billings Ovulation Method™ is effective, non-invasive and affordable! It is backed by over 50 years of medical research. For a free information leaflet, contact Billings LIFE NZ. 0800 693 378 info@billingslife.org.nz or visit www.billingslife.org.nz

Mass of the Oils -Tuesday 4 April 2023. Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerton North at 12noon. For the first time in a number of years, we are now able to celebrate the Mass of Oils in a 'normal' way together with all the parishes from around our Diocese. All welcome.



Divine Mercy Sunday

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.**

For Divine Mercy Sunday, remember to reflect on our sins, repent of our sins, receive the mercy of God and respond to the graces which flow from your Reconciliation with God. Jesus said to Saint Faustina Kowalska: "I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (Diary 699). "Whoever sincerely says, "Jesus I trust I You", will find comfort in all fears" – St Pope John Paul II.



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

2nd Paenga –whāwhā, 2023
Palm Sunday

2nd April, 2023

Healed by his wounds

"He was oppressed and was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth" (Is 53:7). For the followers of Christ, this Isaiah text evokes a response deep down within us, seeing how they apply to God's only beloved Son, and how he died for all of us. In the words of St Peter, "without having seen him you have come to believe in him, and so you are filled already with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described" (1 Pet 1:8). Without this sincere love of Christ, we are no true followers of his. We cannot say we fully love him, until we appreciate what he suffered for us. After hearing the Passion narrative there is no need to retrace in great detail the events there described. But we might reflect how Christ was no stranger to hardship, privation and suffering, long before that final day of his life. "Being in the form of God," as St Paul says, from the moment he came on earth, Jesus emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are (Phil 2:6f). He, the most high God, suffered the hardships of the poor, at times not even having a place to lay his head. He endured hunger and thirst, and after long days surrounded by crowds seeking a cure, he often spent whole nights at prayer in the hills. Despite his compassion for all who came to him, he met with hatred and rejection, in particular from Pharisees and priests, who planned to have him killed. How this rejection and hatred must have grieved him. King Lear knew "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is, to have a thankless child;" and how must Jesus have felt at being rejected by the people he had chosen, above all others. The sweat-stained features of Jesus were the features of the Son of God. The forehead streaming with blood, the hands and feet nailed to the cross, the body wounded, the side pierced with a lance, were the flesh of the eternal Word, who dwelt among us. Why did he suffer so much? In the words of Isaiah, "On him lay the punishment that brings us healing, through his wounds we are made whole." May the grace of his Passion bring healing to us. *associationofcatholicpriests.ie*

Easter Triduum

Holy Thursday

7pm @ St Joseph's, Waipukurau

Good Friday

3pm @ St Joseph's, Waipukurau

Easter Vigil

5.30pm @ St Patrick's, Waipawa

Easter Sunday

9.30am @ St Joseph's,
Waipukurau

Walk with the Cross—Good Friday

All welcome @ 9.30am @ The Green in
Waipukurau

Reconciliation—2nd April @ 4pm at St
Joseph's



Anniversary—Please pray for Peter Barrett whose anniversary was on the 25th March. May he rest in peace.

I never enter Holy Week willingly or comfortably, and perhaps that is as it should be. The Cross, with its attendant betrayal, pain, cruelty and humiliation, rises up before us with a frightening starkness. It is easy, maybe natural, to try to avoid the Cross in our lives. Just as Jesus prayed that “this cup would pass from me”, we too will be tempted to pray for the same thing. Yet, Jesus did not avoid his Cross, accepting it with courage and humility. It brought him pain, humiliation, injustice and ultimately, death. It was, for his followers on Good Friday afternoon, the victory of evil over good; of darkness over light. Then Easter Sunday morning dawned and a man Mary Magdalene thought was a gardener spoke her name, “Mary.” That was all it took for her world, and our world, to be changed forever. With Palm Sunday, and the reading of Matthew’s Passion, we enter Jerusalem with Jesus, listening to the crowds greet him as “the prophet, Jesus of Nazareth of Galilee.” This is the same crowd who, paradoxically, will be baying for him to be crucified less than a week later. How fickle we are, and how shallow the motivations of our hearts! b.maher@oblates.ie

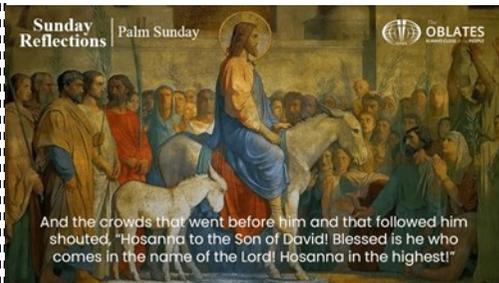
St John’s College—Last week our gateway students spent two days on a health and safety course. Over the week-end our junior canoe-polo team were crowned national champions and we had a wonderful combined mass with our sister school, Sacred Heart College, at St Patrick’s Church in Napier on Sunday. This week, we held our annual athletics sports at Hastings Sports Park. It had been postponed because of the cyclone so it was good to be able to have athletics sports

again after so many years of it being cancelled because of Covid. The weather was kind to us and a great day was had by all. Thanks to Mr Pearson and his crew for all their hard work in organising the day

The beginning of Holy Week is an invitation to partake in the Passion of Christ, his ultimate love for us. We listen for the authentic voice of God, the challenge to trust the voice we know we need, free from distractions and people who would influence us in ways that “are not God’s ways, but man’s”. How will we follow Christ this week? In the Gospel, the time is dark, people mock and do not believe in Jesus, Pontius Pilate is swayed by the crowds and God is dead. But revelation breaks through in the darkness and even in Jesus’ silence before his accusers. All is fulfilled: the highest peak of salvation history, when all that has been anticipated and promised is to be fulfilled. Yet after all of this, it is a non-Jew, the centurion, who says ‘Truly, this was God’s Son!’. This is not the death of a criminal but of God himself – for us. What happens to the Light of the World in this journey? We see how Jesus holds onto his life and dignity. He is in control of the situation. Whereas he had so much to say before, now is the time for silence. He accepts this as an inevitable part of his journey, and at the end, he “gave up his spirit”. But even Jesus needed Simon of Cyrene to help him carry his cross, and sometimes we are called to be ‘Simons’. There is a mutuality in being a follower of Christ, a recognition that though each of us walks an individual journey and sometimes faces trials alone (as Jesus did, deserted by his disciples in the garden of Gethsemane) in some way, “we are in this together” and need to support one another. 38 We meet lots of different people in the Passion readings and Holy Week. Jesus connects with and engages with all of them, in ways appropriate to them, even in his silence or short, curt answers to Pilate. Will we risk following Jesus, taking the risk worth taking? or follow the shouts and demands of the crowd to “crucify him”?



Caritas.org.nz



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.

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy
The Book of Job – a Book of Hope?... with Kieran Fenn fms.
Monday, 24 April, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$25 (incl. study material)
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/03/28/the-book-of-job-a-book-of-hope/>
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

Contents for April WelCom include:
Palm Sunday and Holy Week.
A Catholic faith and leadership response to Cyclone Gabrielle – Sacred Heart College Napier principal Maria Neville-Foster.
Wairoa, Hawke’s Bay and Central Hawke’s Bay Catholic communities – stories after Cyclone Gabrielle.
Vocations Sunday and National Vocations Awareness Week.
Pacific nations concerns on climate and debt crises – Cardinal Soane Patita Paini Mafi, Tonga.
Anzac Day, 25 April 2023, National Day of Remembrance – Chaplain Brian Fennessy ED, RNZChD.
Litany of Loreto – new series by Fr James Lyons.
Plus, more features, local and international news and views, Young Church.

Executive Director sought for NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, Wellington-based
The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference-Te Huinga o ngā Pīhopa Katorika o Aotearoa is seeking a Wellington-based Executive Director who will be responsible for working with NZCBC agencies in implementing the decisions of the bishops. The closing date for applications is 17 April, 2023. Full

details of the position and how to apply are here: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/exec-director/>

International Rural Churches Association 2023 Conference Sequel Oceania
Flourishing: Land, People, Community | Friday 26 to Saturday 27 May 2023 St Enoch’s Church, 12 Centennial Road, Alexandria, 9320 Aotearoa New Zealand
You are invited to join us to explore the theme of the international conference for our own context, using ZOOM links and other resources from the conference, as well as input from people who attend the conference. More information at <https://irca.online/irca-2023-conference-sequel-oceania/>

‘The icon of Christ is the centre of sacred iconography. The centre of the icon of Christ is the Paschal Mystery: Christ is presented as the Crucified, the risen Lord, the One who will come again and who here and now hidden reigns over all. Every image of Christ must contain these three essential aspects of Christ, and in this sense, must be an image of Easter.’

