

**Anniversary's in September**  
Eileen Butler, Martin du Fresne  
Mary Fieldsend, Robert Gordon  
Zita Ryan, Ruth Lawrence,

**Real Life with John Cowan**—This Sunday night (10th September), John Cowan's guest will be broadcaster Matt Gibb. Born and raised in Christchurch, Matt attended Burnside High School. He performed in the improvisation comedy Scared Scriptless. Matt started as a teenager presenting kid's television show Squirt, before moving on to Studio 2 Live. He recently returned to New Zealand after 6 years in Sydney where he was a Senior Producer for the Australian Broadcasting Company. Before leaving for Sydney in 2015, he hosted the travel segments on TVNZ's weekly lifestyle show Kiwi Living. He was a regular host on TV1's Good Morning and has also had co-hosting duties on TV1's Breakfast and Seven Sharp. In late 2010, he helped launch Television New Zealand's first interactive music television channel, TVNZ U. In 2023, Matt has fronted TVNZ 1's Country House Hunters NZ and regularly appears on TVNZ 1's Breakfast.

**Pro Life**—Please join other pro-life Christians on December 2 in Wellington this for the March for Life. Follow March for Life on Facebook and Instagram for updates. Spread the word and invite all your family, friends, and colleagues to participate. Find out more and register at <https://marchforlife.nz/get-involved/> For more pro-life information, go to [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz)



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## Hidden angels return



## 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**  
**10th Mahuru 2023**  
**23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**10th September, 2023**

**Where the buck stops**—In recent years, disclosures about paedophile priests have shocked and dismayed many Catholics. Old priests with long experience of dealing with sinners and their sins, with all their sordidness, were known to have broken down and wept. That a fellow-priest betrayed his sacred trust with the most innocent of all victims, a child, was beyond their comprehension. What angered people most of all was that his superiors knew about his child abuse aberration for years. How many victims might have been spared had those superiors removed him from ministry. This issue is clearly linked to today's gospel where Christ said to his disciples: "If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother." Then there is a further process if he does not listen, and finally, "if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector." One wonders whether Christ had anything as heinous as child-abuse by a disciple in mind, when he gave them those practical instructions. Ironically some who preach against permissiveness can be guilty of its grossest forms. Permissiveness, with its tragic consequences, is symptomatic of our times. From bishops to bosses, politicians to policemen, parents to teachers, "passing the buck" is rampant. We want the privileges of power without its burdens. We shy away from problems, cast a blind eye, shirk the responsibility to speak out. And when the scandal leaks out we want to claim we didn't know. But such ignorance is rejected in Ezekiel where the Lord says: "I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel." And he went on to state plainly: "If you do not warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then I will hold you responsible." American President Harry Truman had a card on his desk in the White House declaring in bold capitals THE BUCK STOPS HERE!, "The buck stops here." This message would fit in any office where people are "their brother's keepers." But nowhere would it fit better nowadays than on the kitchen mantelpiece, with its four simple words pointing straight at us like an accusing finger. For people with others in their care, the main task is not be to be popular but to be of help. And we help most by accepting our responsibility.

[www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie)



# Archatia te Reo MAORI LANGUAGE WEEK

**"Saint John Paul II** re-minded New Zealand of the strengths of Māori culture. One of the ways we

can all benefit from Māori culture is by embracing the gift of Te Reo Māori in our liturgies.... My plea to you in this Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori is to do just that." Embrace the gift of Te Reo Māori.

*Cardinal John Dew WelCom 2016*

## Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy - Women in the Bible with Kieran Fenn fms.

Mondays, 11 and 18 Sep, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$20/session. All sessions are connect but also stand alone.

Videoclips on previous sessions are available here:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/07/10/women-in-the-bible/>

Liturgical Spaces with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin.

Series on Muffin Talk radio programme freely available online at:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/07/17/liturgical-space-thomas-oloughlin/>

For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz).

**I have a tendency to overthink**—maybe you do, too. I think about all the destruction in our world and the lives cut short by violence ... all the hopelessness ... all the despair ... and I become despondent. What kind of world are we leaving our children? Is there any hope for our present—or our future?

How can we possibly right what seems to be a sinking ship? And then, the God of Surprises appears. The good Lord comes to my aid, giving me an idea of how, in my own little way, I can help rebuild our society, one heart and one life at a time. This was, after all, the philosophy of that great saint of the 20th century, Mother Teresa. She believed wholeheartedly in doing little things with great love. The founder of the Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa knew that she could not singlehandedly end poverty or sickness or violence. But she realized that, like a pencil

in the Hand of God, she could leave her mark—and the world would be better for it. One quote attributed to Mother Teresa has given me a great deal to contemplate: "Peace begins with a smile." How many times have I been tempted to frown my way through the day, thinking of all the trials and tribulations I encounter? In fact, at one point in my life, it actually hurt to smile. Thankfully, with God's help, I rediscovered my smile. I still don't use it enough, but I am trying. It is comforting to think that that smile could help bring peace to the family, the neighborhood, and the community. Mother Teresa also knew the value of a little bit of cheerleading. She believed in encouraging people with our words, giving them a boost to brighten their day. As she stated, "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." Is there someone in your life who could use a little pep talk? Just a few helpful words could place them on the path of joy and accomplishment. So often, mothers have to engage in correction. But can you also deliver a few words of praise today?

Each of us is called, in our own little way, to make the world a more hospitable place.

Mother Teresa noted this, saying, "I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."

Our little acts of kindness may not be re-tweeted, posted on Facebook, or profiled on evening news telecasts.

But they can make a tremendous difference in the lives of those who cross our path and, thanks to a ripple effect, can bring about the change we wish to see in our world.

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## St Joseph's Clean Up

On Saturday 23rd September @ 10am there will be a working bee to give the church and grounds a spruce up in preparation for the **Festival Mass** which is on the 1st October. (rain day will be following Saturday)

1st October there will be only one Mass at St Joseph's due to the Ordination of our new Bishop.

**St John's College-** This week is social justice week, so special prayers were said in class to reflect this. Over the next few weeks our senior students will be completing internal assessments and also doing benchmark exams. The benchmark exams are important because the marks are relied upon should a student be unable to sit an external examination paper at the end of the year. Please keep our young men in your prayers as they complete these important exams. *Conor Bolton (DRS)*

**Most of us know** what a "thin place" is, but it's not easy to describe it. Perhaps that is because the experience is beyond our limited sensory system and, therefore, beyond logical thinking and description. Yet we have all had experience of a "Thin Place" as something belonging to a greater reality. Like you, I have felt this many times but am unsure whether the "Thin Space" belongs to me or something outside me. Perhaps it's about both. In Ireland, the thin space is so well known that no one tries to describe it. It seems that everyone walks with a foot over a spiritual border. Here, we might use terms like "serendipity" or "coincidence," or we might shiver and call an experience "creepy" because we can't logically define it. When we are older and able to track years of experience, we realise that the thin Space has always been close to our hearts. We then dare to think that the great presence that we call God, has been steering our lives in an inexplicable way.

Where do you experience the Thin Space? For me, it is mostly before Mass when the church is empty and silent. The Thin Space is a preparation for the Mass, and it is held in prayer-soaked walls and the lives of people who are the church's history. Is that an adequate explanation? No. But that's how I explain the connection I feel. Priests are part of that feeling of history. Thousands of Masses are still there. It seems that they remain in the church. I call it a feeling of "Isness". But actually, it is beyond words. I have no language to de-



scribe this adequately, but maybe Jesus described it when he said, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." If you are reading this, you may like to pause and reflect on the thin places in your life. How often have you had an experience that you could not explain? In retrospect, how do you now interpret that feeling? When you are in a garden or walking through a forest, you may decide to empty your mind of busy thinking. What happens? Can you call that a Thin Place? And does the Thin Place get active? How often have you had a need that has been met beyond expectation? What kind of need was it? How has your understanding of the Thin Place changed as you have aged? As our bodies get older and show signs of desiring to return to earth, so does the inner self grow stronger. The teaching of youth has expanded to the knowledge of the adult, and that ripens as the wisdom of age. The Thin Place is no longer thin. It is now who we are in Christ. *Joy Cowley is a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and retreat facilitator.*

**Vandals**—we have had vandals at St Joseph's last weekend. Please make sure our front door is closed at all times and we will be locking the door outside of Mass times. We were lucky this time but may not be in the future. Thank you for looking out for our church!