

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

Pro Life—This weekend provided an opportunity for Cantabrian pro-lifers to participate in a March for Life, on Saturday 16th September. Speeches followed the March, as well as a minute of silence for the lives lost to abortion and singing of the national anthem. For more pro-life information, go to www.voiceforlife.org.nz

Real Life with John Cowan—This Sunday night (17th September), John Cowan's guest will be comedian, writer & author Michèle A'Court. Michèle trained in journalism and has a degree in English literature and drama from Victoria University of Wellington. She started doing stand-up comedy in the 1990s and has toured New Zealand and international venues with her stand-up comedy shows. Michèle has appeared in many TV shows, including What Now, 7Days and The Project, and was the winner of "Comedienne of the Decade" at the 2010 NZ Comedy Awards. Michèle has written two books, *Stuff I Forgot To Tell My Daughter* and *How We Met*, has written guest columns for *Stuff* and is a regular columnist for *The Spinoff*. She was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the entertainment and comedy industries in the 2023 New Year Honours. Michèle has one child and two grandchildren and lives with her husband on Auckland's North Shore.

St Joseph's Catholic Church
Dannevirke, Celebrating 125 years Jubilee

| 14 & 15 October 2023 Please register your interest by emailing stjodvke@xtra.co.nz with your details.

Fr Chris Skinner Concert: St Brigid's Feilding—Fr Chris Skinner, Priest of the Society of Mary based in Auckland and a renowned Composer and Singer is coming to St Brigid's Parish, Feilding for a Concert: 2.30pm, Sunday 15th October Tickets: \$25,

\$10 for students Afternoon tea will be provided. To book tickets email: stbrigids@xtra.co.nz

Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College accepts enrolment for the Bachelor of Divinity and Graduate Diploma in Theology starting September 25. "With a dedicated and qualified faculty of theologians, and access to a wealth of resources, our program will empower you to critically analyse complex theological issues, foster spiritual growth, and prepare you for a meaningful career in ministry, education, or other fields where a profound understanding of theology is invaluable." To learn more about the programmes, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/programmes



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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
17th Mahuru 2023
24th Sunday of Ordinary Time
17th September, 2023

Let bygones be bygones - She slipped upstairs to find a few more playthings. Her neighbour had just left her two little ones with her to mind and, with her own two, there wasn't enough to go round. They had started squabbling already. Rummaging in the toy-box, she came across an old photograph. She looked at it, daydreaming for a moment. Just long enough for one of her little charges to toddle out the front door which had been left slightly ajar. The little body was found later in the pond at the bottom of the garden. She went to pieces. While she was being treated in a psychiatric hospital, the mother of the dead child came to see her, the worst of her grief now over. Her forgiveness helped enormously to set her on the road to recovery. But she was never the same again. She could never forgive herself for that moment's neglect. There is a young couple in Paris, with whom I am friendly. They have two little children. Since they don't have a car, they occasionally call on my services to ferry them somewhere or other. I am always delighted to do so. Once the two little ones are firmly strapped in the back seat, I dangle the keys in front of the parents and ask: "Now, which of you is going to drive?" They are both excellent drivers. I just couldn't take responsibility for them. If anything were to happen, God forbid, I would never be able to forgive myself. Forgiveness is a hard thing. "Forgive and forget", we are told. If only we could forget, forgiveness would come easy. But the scars of old hurts fester on, refusing to heal. And our resentment grows each time we remember the rejection, the insult, the injury. Our resentment wells up again, as if it was only yesterday. Bygones refuse to be bygones. The closer the friendship, the deeper the hurt. The only forgiveness we can muster, is usually reserved for strangers. Our lives are strewn with broken friendships. And all because we couldn't find it in ourselves to forgive. "Shake hands and make up" we were told, when we fought as little boys in the school playground. That lesson seems to have disappeared with our schooldays. "May God forgive him!" we mutter to ourselves, recalling for the umpteenth time some ancient hurt. We could spare ourselves that prayer. What God would like to know is will we forgive him. Jonathan Swift, with all his satire, was closer to the truth than we care to admit: "We have just enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another." How else explain those murderous wars between those who claim allegiance to their God? Not long ago it was claimed that, of all the thirty wars going on in the world, none were simple defence against foreign aggressors. Most of the belligerents were compatriots, separated only by their religion. Such wars will last as long as we refuse to forgive. *associationofcatholicpriests.ie*



Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

Women in the Bible - The Book of Esther with Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 18 Sep, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$20/session.

<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

As I sat on the porch of my sister's home in the mountains of Georgia recently, my gaze fell upon the grouping of trees in her horseshoe driveway. Although the cluster created a perfectly symmetrical fan of lime green leaves, looking closer, I realized none of the trees themselves had that same perfection. A botanist would have said it was because the trees didn't have enough room. Each one had to vie for space and sunshine and grew in a shape that gave them both. I saw it differently. It's as if each tree saw the need to compromise, ceding space and sunshine to the other trees where they could. They understood that existing as a group was important, and worth the sacrifice for the cluster to thrive. Not to get too preachy, but I don't think this mentality exists much anymore, and society is suffering because of it. The message being pushed is solely focused on the individual: "You do you," "Live your best life," and hundreds of other sayings all focused on me, my, and I! What happened to "our"? We're all meant to live as one body—supporting each other, compromising for the other's good. The true definition of love is to die to oneself in order to lift the other up. It's not to take and do whatever brings fleeting pleasure for oneself. Those trees outside my sister's house are all the more

Episcopal Ordination & Installation of Fr John Adams | 30 September 2023 at 11am | Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North

There will be **no Mass** on the 30th September at St Patrick's 1st October—Festival Mass @ St Joseph's @ 9.30am with a morning tea to follow. See you there!

beautiful for each and every tree, despite each one's imperfections. We as a society become more life-giving when we look beyond each other's limitations, nurture each other's gifts and come together to work as one.

Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27) Copyright 2023 Claire McGarry



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)

St John's College-

This week was Maori language week, so staff and students were encouraged to use simple Te Reo phrases in their interactions during the week. Senior students have been busy with benchmark exams and completing internal assessments. A group of students have been involved with a competition over the last two terms run by the Paiheretia Community Trust. This had teams working on community solutions to social issues, and the SJC team won the regional competition with their pitch presentation for an app that helps with everyday English to Te Reo translations. They will now head to Christchurch for the national competition. Finally, St John's College and Sacred Heart College are putting on a "You've Got Talent" competition on 12 October to be held in the newly refurbished SJC gym. This is a fundraiser for the SJC legacy scholarship. Go to <https://www.trybooking.co.nz/PKE> to enter. Conor Bolton (DRS)

This Sunday's Gospel takes us to the very heart of Christian life – forgiveness. All of us, I think, know inherently that forgiveness is at the heart of a 'good' or 'happy' life. Without the ability to forgive others, and the ability to allow ourselves to be forgiven by others, our lives will be lonely and our relationships will be self-centred and shallow. At the centre of today's Gospel is the most basic of human questions: When the surface layers of our lives are peeled away and when we truly see ourselves as we were created, what do we see? The gospel calls us, not just to for-



**Prayer of the faithful
Te Reo**

E te Atua o te Pūaroa
I a mātou e whakakotahi nei me te whakamoemiti ki te atua, ka whakawhetai mātou mō te wā i a tō mātou Kahurangi a Meri Hōhepa. Ka inoi mātou kia ora tonu tōna whakapono, tōna maia, tōna pūaroa anō hoki ki roto i tēnā i tēnā o mātou...

E te Ariki: Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou



give, but to forgive from 'the heart'. The words 'from the heart' are the critical words. Are we, as human beings, capable of forgiving 'from the heart'? Forgiveness so that we can be forgiven ourselves is fine but a little self-serving. Forgiveness so as to have others think well of us is Ok, but also a bit self-centred. Forgiveness to avoid punishment or criticism is more the forgiveness of a child than an adult. But 'forgiveness from the heart' is a totally different call. To 'forgive from the heart' means to forgive for no other reason than that we can forgive, that we are capable of forgiveness. We can forgive 'from the heart' only if 'at heart' we are good people. But are we 'good' people? If we are, why is there so much evil around us? If we are, why is there so little forgiveness evident in our world? If we are, why is it so difficult for me to forgive? Join me in reflecting of this difficult and challenging Gospel.

b.maher@oblates.ie

Congratulations to the Following tamariki who are receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Sunday

Chase Aati, Emily Ayto, Georgia Carver, Anjie Dabu, Maisie Malcolm, Rex Malcolm, McEidref Dabu, Milly O'Donnell, Andrei Ramos

