

## Anniversary's in October

Elaine O'Dowd, Fay Field

Gerard Minehan Snr, Joan Brown

John Alfred (Ian) Duthie, Leonard Myers, Norris Durham

Maurice Reidy, Marion Brown (Twiggy)

### Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

—The Gospel of Mark with Kieran Fenn fms.

Mondays, 13 and 20 November, 7-8.30pm.  
ZOOM. Free.

Donations/Koha are appreciated.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/10/10/the-gospel-of-mark/>

YouTube Recordings

Muffin Talk radio programmes are available online at:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/category/resources/muffin-talk/>

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

### Job Vacancy | Caritas Aotearoa NZ

Caritas Aotearoa NZ has a vacancy for a Communications, Marketing & Engagement Manager. This is a permanent full-time senior leadership position, managing a competent and committed team. Based in Thorndon Quay, Wellington. For details and to apply, visit: <https://mclaren.co.nz/vacancies/?ja-job=4151885>

**The Hastings Hibernian Catholic Education Trust** was set up to mark the Centennial of St. Joseph's Branch No. 172 of the New Zealand District of the Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society. The objects of the Trust, as established, are to generally provide financial support for the educational needs of students, who practice the Catholic Religion, provided they reside in New Zealand and are nominated either by a Branch of the Hibernian Society in New Zealand, or by their Parish Priest. The administration of the Trust is vested in a "Trust Board", made up of the four Trustees represented by St. Joseph's Branch No. 172, and the National Body of the Society. Applications are now called for from those who meet the criteria of needing financial assistance for the furtherance of their education. This assistance may be in the form of supplementing costs of fees, books, and travel and/or accommodation overheads. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications for assistance. The deci-

sion of the Trust Board will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. Applications must be in the hands of the Secretary on or before 1 November 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jo Close @ [snoopmjb2@yahoo.com](mailto:snoopmjb2@yahoo.com) or phone 06-879-9040 or 0221 009 754.

### Pope's climate exhortation a clarion call, say NZ Catholic Bishops

Bishop Stephen Lowe as President of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference has issued a public and media statement on Laudate Deum. In it, he

says: "Laudate Deum is a clarion call to us all, as individuals, as industry and as nations, to examine whether our attitudes and actions towards care of Mother Earth are consistent with the passing on of this taonga, this treasure, to our future generations. "Bishop Steve's statement is attached. It is also online here: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/laudate-deum/>

What does Laudate Deum mean for climate action in Aotearoa New Zealand? <https://www.caritas.org.nz/advocacy-newsletter/laudate-deum-nz-climate>

How does Laudate Deum relate to the work of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand? <https://www.caritas.org.nz/advocacy-newsletter/laudate-deum-can-z-work>



### 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

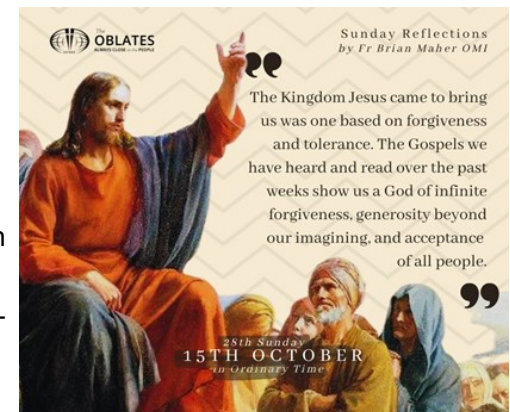
## Rātini Kupu

15th Whiringa-ā-nuku 2023

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

15th October, 2023

**It is not possible**, I think, to begin a reflection on a Gospel about the coming of the 'Kingdom of God' without acknowledging the intense suffering and the terrible tragedy presently afflicting God's own people of Israel and the Palestinian people who have long shared that land. I can think only of the suffering I see on both sides – the young Israeli people joyfully and innocently attending a music festival and the woman and children brutally killed in Palestinian villages a little later. I can only feel intense grief and sadness that all of this blood is being shed on the very roads and trails walked by Jesus. The true values of the Bible, the Koran and the Gospels have no part in this suffering. When Jesus looked over his beloved Jerusalem he wept for the coming suffering that would destroy his city. He wept for all mankind and for all who fall to violence and war in the world. I feel sure that today Jesus weeps again as he looks over Israel and Gaza. We too must weep for innocent lives lost, for human rights trod upon by both sides, for ideologies born in blood and greed, for hostages and their families held unjustly as pawns in a game they never joined and for those individuals and groups who continue to work and die to encourage peace. We must also pray for the political and military leaders on both side of the conflict. We pray that the voices of terrorised and suffering children may reach them and that the blood of the innocent may touch their hearts. The Kingdom Jesus came to bring us was one based on forgiveness and tolerance. The Gospels we have heard and read over the past weeks show us a God of infinite forgiveness, generosity beyond our imagining, and acceptance of all people. How terribly sad that even as we read the qualities of God's Kingdom, we see them trampled upon and ignored by both sides in this conflict. Today in our Gospel we see that God's Kingdom is for all peoples; that none are excluded or denied entry. Today we see that self-righteousness, hypocrisy and complacency have no place in God's Kingdom. This is a conflict that goes back to the time of Moses. It is a conflict which is politically and culturally complex and affects many peoples and Nations. Probably nobody fully understands what is happening or why. But God understands and God's constant and only wish is for our happiness. We weep with Jesus for those who are suffering or have died. We trust in the truth of the Gospels we read each week. We pray that sane voices and wise hearts will prevail and that peace, with justice for both sides, will come from this pain. [b.maher@oblates.ie](mailto:b.maher@oblates.ie)



## October WelCom contents include:

Ordination and Installation of Bishop John Adams as new Bishop of Palmerston North  
NZ Catholic bishops publish expanded statement on importance of respecting all life – Te Kahu o te Ora – A Consistent Ethic of Life – and encourage everyone to read it.  
Bishops issue statement ahead of general election 14 October 2023.

National Assembly of Diocesan Priests, 9–13 October, Rotorua, first such meeting since 2018.

Catholic Enquiry Centre's new director, Rebecca Taylor-Hunt, reflects on first few months into the job.

Synod on Synodality begins.

**St John's College**—The first week back in term 4 and our young men are back into things at full pace with bench mark exams, internal assessments and summer sport. This week we had our senior and junior tug-of-war competition which leads on from our SJC sports day and haka competition which was held on the last day of term 3. The competition is tight between the four houses with any house capable of winning the house shield this year. Time is counting down for our senior students who have less than four weeks left of school before they head-off for their external examinations. Please keep our young men in your prayers as they prepare for these important exams. *Conor Bolton (DRS)*

**Brother Peter Bray FSC** from New Zealand is the vice chancellor of Bethlehem University on the Occupied West Bank. He has given the NZ Catholic Bishops his first-hand candid view on what is happening in the region now as fighting continues between Hamas and Israel. "This is a watershed moment that could have long-term impact on life here in the Holy Land," he says. "I was not surprised by the attack on Israel by Hamas. While I do not approve of violence as a response, given the ongoing and increasingly violent attacks on Palestinians by the Israeli military and the settlers

## Bishops Prayer for Election

God of Nations

Bless our nation as we approach our election in these uncertain times,

As we discern our choices, guide us with your spirit

Grant us humble Parliamentarians of integrity who seek to serve for the common good.

E Ihowa Atua, unite our nation in the desire to protect the sanctity and dignity of every human life in all its stages. Help us recognise our families as a treasure and enable us to support those families that struggle.

Make us mindful of those in need in our communities and ready to work together for a just community. May we always delight in the beauty of your creation and ensure this beauty is enshrined for our children's children.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord  
Amen

over recent months, as well as the provocative moves by settlers around Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem during the Jewish feast, I can understand why the Palestinians reacted in the way they did." A statement based on his comments is online here: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/peter-bray/>

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Peace in our homes, our families, our schools and communities. Peace in all those places where war never seems to end. Peace for those faces which have known nothing but pain.

~ Pope Francis



**Tomorrow's World**—What does tomorrow hold for us? What is there to hope for? Often our imagination projects into the future. As children, we wondered “What will it be when like when we grow up?” Parents promised new freedoms and new possibilities “When you are older.” Human nature lives in vital tension between the Already and the Not Yet. As adults we may indeed have to trim down and focus our hopes and fantasies into more precise channels, with the passing years. But we are still gripped with interest in what lies ahead—not just for oneself and family, but for the wider society and world. What steps in science and technology lie just around the corner? How will society develop, between now and the year 2050? The changing balance between richer and poorer countries; the unstable marital climate of our own nation; proposed educational changes and law reforms; new employment initiatives; the provision of better medical and recreational facilities—all are subject to our keen analysis and hopeful projections. Elderly people may ponder more on the past than the future and to dwell on bygone events and treasured relationships. Their looking forward is more often marked with resignation or anxiety than with hope. In the dignity of their mature years, they accept that “Che sera, sera; whatever will be, will be”. And, if they have learned the habit of prayer, they peace-fully leave their future in God's hands. Today's Scriptures invite us all to raise our sights, and our hearts, when thinking of the future. Beyond this present life, God has planned a great future for all of us. Isaiah's prophecy of the heavenly banquet is an invitation to think of our eternal destiny. There is

more to live for than what we see in this present world, interesting and challenging though it is. What really counts, indeed, is whether we succeed in reaching our



eternal happiness with God. Perhaps our predecessors in the faith had a stronger sense of the afterlife than we have today. Like Saint Paul, they believed that history is in God's hands and that divine justice will have the last say. Difficulties in one's present life could then be seen as growth-pains, or as a means of purifying the spirit from selfishness and sin. Under it all, the world was “in travail,” in process of bringing a new era into existence. So it was that Paul—and many other men and women of faith—could be inwardly at peace, no matter how hard the circumstances in which they found them-selves. We can “do all things in Him who strengthens us,” if we hold on to the hope of everlasting life. The eternal banquet must not be abandoned as so much “pie in the sky”! Christians don't literally expect to sit down to an everlasting meal, an eternal eating and drinking festival somewhere in the stratosphere. While heaven is described in vivid anthropomorphic images, we realize that “eye has not seen.. nor can the human heart imagine, what God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Cor 2:9.) Still, the banqueting atmosphere of friendly conviviality is a good image for that perfect loving communion with God and with others towards which our lives are destined. Jesus emphasises that this wedding-banquet is open to all people indeed, that God sends his messengers out to scour the highways and byways in order to fill his house with guests. It is a comforting thought that God wants us to be saved, even more than we do ourselves. On the other hand, there is a special regalia or wedding-garment that must be worn. This is the level of personal commitment required, in order to accept our place at the wedding feast. I like to think that this refers primarily to community spirit, an ability to share our well-being with other people, in the presence of God. Though founded on faith in God's creative love, Christian hope retains a strong ethical dimension. Our wedding-garment is therefore being woven daily, by the quality of our interaction with others. In this sense, we hold tomorrow in our own hands, as with the help of God's grace we build our own eternal future. *associationofcatholicpriests.ie*