

## 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) Graeme Black

### 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)

**St John's College**—This week has been a busy week at the College. On Wednesday we held Pō Toku Taonga in the performing arts centre which recognises achievement for students doing Te Reo Maori. It was a wonderful, well supported evening and the hāngi after it was delicious. Thanks to Matua Maia and his supporters for all the hard work that went into organising this event. On Thursday, we had our final school assembly at which we held our endeavour awards, announced the winner of the 2024 Legacy Scholarship and also announced the winning house for the house shield. What a wonderful way to have our first assembly back in the Fr Barry O'Connor Centre (the Gym) after twelve months. Jayden Mathers was the winner of the Legacy Scholarship which is awarded to a young man in Years 10 to 13 who exemplifies what it means to be a St John's man. A big congratulations to Jayden. Forest House edged out Redwood to win the House Shield. There was 15 points separating the first three houses. Thanks to Tracy Russell and Peter Connell for organisation of the event and to Jason Pearson and the PE department for all the work that went into getting the gym ready for this day. Please keep our senior students in your prayers as they prepare for their upcoming external examinations. *Conor Bolton (DRS)*

The Central Hawkes Bay Parish community warmly invite the parishioners to farewell Vicar Joan and her husband Andrew in a service at St Mary's Church, Waipukurau on the 29th October at 2pm. This will be followed by an afternoon tea party in the hall. At 6pm a BYO finger food and drinks there will be a gathering at the Vicarage

**Pro Life**—Safe zones around Thames hospital were effective from October 5th. Not to be deterred, the group now assembles at the entrance to town, which in fact provides the opportunity to witness to many more people because of the increased traffic. For more pro-life information, contact [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).

**Bishop John** encourages you to make a time of prayer available in your parishes, for Pope Francis's Invitation to a day of Penance, this Friday 27 October 2023. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-10/pope-francis-appeal-peace-gaza-palestine-israel-day-of-prayer.html>



### 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

29th Whiringa-ā-nuku 2023

30th Sunday of Ordinary Time

29th October, 2023

Sometimes, no matter how well-meaning and no matter how eloquent, words only detract from the meaning of a statement. This week's Gospel is one of those occasions. I have come at it from all kinds of angles – the meaning of love, the importance of loving ourselves, who Jesus meant by 'my neighbour', and so many more – and each time I have deleted what I wrote saying to myself, "this adds nothing to what Jesus said in this Gospel. In fact what I'm saying cheapens its meaning." There is a time, therefore, for simply letting the words speak for themselves.....and this is that time. Now, lest anyone think that I am taking the easy way out this week and finding an excuse for being lazy, let me say that there is a precedent for this approach. When Jesus himself went into the synagogue in his home town, Nazareth, we are told that he opened the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah and read the passage: "He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." The person reading would then explain the text and teach its meaning. It was usual that this 'teaching' would last about forty minutes. When Jesus finished reading we are told that, "every eye was upon him" as they eagerly awaited what he would say. In fact he said one sentence: "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled just as you heard it." It was the shortest sermon ever preached! So, if it's good enough for Jesus, why not for me? "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. Saying anything more only takes from the awesome simplicity and power of these words. Just Imagine how different our world

would be; how different Israel and Palestine would be; how different Ukraine would be; how different my family would be; how different my work place would be; how different I would be, if I could only do it? "Love God. Love your neighbour as yourself." The overwhelming question is this: Why can't I? Why don't I? or at least, Why don't I try - [b.maher@oblates.ie](mailto:b.maher@oblates.ie)



**Fr Richard Laurenson appointed Catholic Bishop of Hamilton**—Pope Francis has appointed Father Richard Laurenson from the Diocese of Hamilton as the new Catholic Bishop of Hamilton. The appointment was announced in Rome at 11pm New Zealand time tonight, Wednesday 25 October. Bishop-elect Laurenson replaces Bishop Stephen Lowe, who was appointed Bishop of Auckland in December 2021. It means all six New Zealand dioceses now have a bishop, following the recent ordination and installation of Bishop John Adams as Bishop of Palmerston North. Bishop-elect Laurenson says he is looking forward to his new role with a mix of fear and peace and is praying that he does not disappoint. “When I was ordained Deacon in December 1994, I gave my life to the Lord, singing a hymn of St Ignatius: ‘Take Lord, receive, all my liberty, my understanding, my entire will.’ I have reaffirmed that gift many times over the years. Being a sinner I often ‘take’ the offer back, but I do intend once more to submit my will to his. This I resolved again to do when I was asked to by Pope Francis to become the bishop for Hamilton. Since then I keep moving between peace and terror, especially when I look at the future only known to God. Trust is an easy word, but difficult to live. I find it hard to believe that the Lord wants me to do this, I pray that I do not disappoint him too much.” Currently the parish priest at All Saints by the Sea, Papamoa Coast, Bishop-elect Laurenson was born in Hamilton in 1968. He was ordained as a Hamilton diocesan priest by Bishop Denis Browne in 1995 and has since served as parish priest in many parts of the diocese, including St Joseph, Waihi; Immaculate Conception, Taumarunui; St Joseph, Fairfield and St Peter Chanel, Te Rapa; and Holy Cross, Hamilton North. Bishop-elect Laurenson attended Holy Cross Seminary in Mosgiel. He has a Baccalaureate in Theology from Otago University (1992) and studied for and obtained a Licentiate in Canon Law from Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome from 2007 to 2010. He is also currently diocesan Chancellor, Vicar for Marriage, a member of the College of Consultors and, since 2019, Defender of the Bond at the Tribunal of the

Catholic Church in New Zealand. He was a judge and associate judicial vicar from 2016 to 2019. As a military chaplain for a decade, he served for a time with peacekeeping forces in Bougainville and Timor Leste. Bishop Lowe, who is also President of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, says: “I was delighted to receive the news that Pope Francis had appointed Fr Richard Laurenson as the fourth Bishop of Hamilton. Bishop-elect Richard will be the first Bishop of the Diocese who was born and grew up in the Diocese [Bishop Max Takuiria Mariu, also a son of the Diocese, was Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton 1988-2005]. Bishop-elect Richard brings a wealth of experience to the role and will be a blessing to the people and priests of the Diocese of Hamilton.” Bishop-elect Laurenson says being a parish priest means always thinking parochially, with a nod to diocesan impacts. “This change in my situation will take some getting used to, so I beg the indulgence of my brother priests and the good people of God in the diocese as we all get to grips with my new situation. “What do we need to be doing in the diocese once the dust settles?” asks Bishop-elect Laurenson. “Given that it is too early to make pronouncements in this area, I have always had a passion for evangelisation and the RICA/RCIC [Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children], and this passion will continue. “The worship of God is our number one reason for being Catholic, so the promotion of Good and Godly Liturgy will be a personal priority. To enable the right worship of God we need priests, holy priests, so calling our young men to a life of brave adventure with the Lord is more necessary than ever. One thing generally lacking in all our dioceses is widespread, good parish-based Catechesis for our practising adults of all ages. This too is something that would benefit from our attention.” Bishop-elect Laurenson is expected to be ordained on Friday 8 December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception,



**The human side of holiness** - No one could disagree with the ideal of loving God and loving one’s neighbour. In preaching this can be a difficulty, in that no one who joins in the Sunday Eucharist could conceivably reject such a basic attitude of the faith. One could politely listen and agree. The celebrant might take the road of spelling out examples of how we might better show love of neighbour, but people are not so eager to hear a harangue about the preacher’s pet sins of omission. Since mere generic ideals could fail to register effectively with many people, the homilist might develop the gospel theme of the one charity that reaches to God and neighbour with the same life; or might instead focus on the second reading. It is clear that Paul mixed closely with the communities whose lives he shared and the authority of his word seems to have sprung from the quality of his life. His attitudes and work-habits were in tune with the message that he delivered. His commitment to the task was evidenced by the troubles he had to bear, while spreading the good news. There was an intrinsic link between what he said and how he lived. The word spoken gave meaning to the life lived and the quality of the life guaranteed the sincerity of the word. The people of Salonika accepted his message and found that it had a power to change their own outlook on life. Paul names their experience “joy of the Holy Spirit.” They touched the living Spirit of God in the midst of their own lives. Genuine human concern that touches lives is an effective sacrament of the transcendent love of God. The homilist might look at the mystery of the Christian God from the point of view of God’s transcendence and immanence. The love of God is actually enfleshed in the nitty-gritty of human interpersonal relationships. The authenticity of our religion is guaranteed by the value of our love for real people. One could use the image of the flower that is rooted in the soil; it grows slowly by transforming the elements of the soil in to its own living cells and eventually reaches up to the beauty of the sky with its own form, colour and scent. The one sap enlivens the root, the stalk, the flower and produces the perfume. A truly Christian life is rooted in the earth and yet reaches up to the mystery of God through liv-

ing in love. Another possible development might stem from Paul’s noting of the Thessalonians’ reputation spreading through the surrounding area. People were drawn to the Christian faith by the way these people were leading their lives. The word of the good news diffused itself quietly through people admiring the way the Christians lived. People can be quick to condemn those who have offbeat values or live a different lifestyle. We can fail to appreciate the faltering efforts others make to cope with the struggles of frail human nature. If we could plumb the depths of meaning in our own personal life histories we might be able to forge more effective link with others. The gift of our humanity, savoured and appreciated, can become mirror and window to the mystery of God for ourselves. It can be more a more effective means of evangelisation than all the hype of religious words that often only confirm the “converted” in their convictions. *associationofcatholicpriests.ie*

**Joint Anglican-Catholic Bishops' statement on Palestine** - The Anglican and Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand, have jointly issued a statement expressing their horror at the latest acts of violence in the Holy Land and joining international voices in calling for an immediate ceasefire. Their joint statement is online here in PDF format: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Joint-Anglican-Catholic-Bishops-Statement-on-Gaza.pdf>  
**Sacred Heart Parish Eketahuna** | 125 Years - Celebrating 125 yrs on Sunday 26th November with mass at 5 30 P.M Followed by finger food, drinks and cutting of cake. Come and join us in the celebration. Names need to be in by the 17th November for catering purposes. Replies to Eketawere@slingshot.co.nz or phone Margaret 06 375 8416

