

Anniversary's in March

Christine Wypych (Chrissy), Sybil McCloskey

Doreen de Stackpoole, Kathleen Kilkolly

Margaret Hallagan, Thomas Lyons, Thomas Bird (Noel), Rosalie Beachen,
Peter Barrett, Joseph Carpenter

Email Addresses—I have had trouble with the storage on the parish computer and as a consequence I have lost some email addresses. Please email the office at cat.chb@xtra.co.nz so I can update our address book. Many thanks.

Adoration—It is a privilege to have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament regularly in our Parish. As we uplift our parish family in prayer, it's a blessing on all!

The first Friday of the month, there will be Adoration from 10am until 3pm, commencing after Friday Mass at 9.15am.

Pro Life -St Joseph's Parish Takapuna has held two open sessions on the recent document published by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops: Te Kahu o te Ora—A Consistent Ethic of Life. Both sessions have been challenging, enlightening, and thought-provoking, as they provided a space in which to consider the impact of, and possible responses to various life issues in Aotearoa New Zealand. For more pro-life information, visit www.voiceforlife.org.nz.

Vacancy: Director, National Liturgy Office - The NZ Catholic Bishops are seeking applications for the role of Director of the National Liturgy Office. This important role promotes sound liturgical practice, supports the liturgical aspects of the work of national agencies and provides resources for parishes and schools in Aotearoa. Ad hoc projects include preparing national liturgical events and providing an Aotearoa point of contact for major liturgical initiatives of the universal Church. Key to the role is good working relationships with people involved in liturgy at the diocesan level and sharing the bishops' commitment to a bi-cultural and inclusive approach to liturgy.

Mass Times

Sunday—9.30am @ St Joseph's

Saturday—Vigil -5.30pm @ St Patrick's

Week Day

Saturday—9.00am @ St Joseph's

Tuesday—9.00am @ St Joseph's

Thursday—9.00am @ St Patrick's

If you have a passion for the liturgical life of the Church, qualifications and experience in liturgy and good relationship-building skills, please consider applying. The role is part-time (minimum 20 hours per week negotiable) and fixed term (two years). The office has space alongside the NZCBC Secretariat in Thorndon, Wellington; however the role can be based remotely



The latest issue in your church Sunday Mar. 24

\$4

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The Holy Trinity Parish Rātini Kupu

24 Poutū-te-rangi, 2024
Passion of the Lord



GOSPEL REFLECTION The act of anointing, or pouring oil on someone's head, is a traditional act of compassion and affection. The value of the ointment emphasises the love that the woman feels for Jesus. This was obviously an object of high value, and she certainly wouldn't have used it to anoint someone unless they were very dear to her. The people with Jesus when this happened didn't know that his Passion was coming; Jesus tells them that she anointed his body for burial, but this wouldn't have made much sense to them at that time. The act of anointing ties back to the theme of preparation from the first week of Lent, as the woman is unknowingly helping Jesus to prepare for his death. Jesus knows that he is about to enter his Passion, and he shows appreciation for the kindness that the woman showed to him, saying, "She has done what she could." Perhaps this woman's act of love gave Jesus hope and reminded him of the reason for the suffering that he was about to face. The Gospel reading itself fulfils what Jesus says: "Wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her." This story can be found before the accounts of the Passion of Christ in the Gospels of John, Mark, and Matthew. The woman's act of love reminds us that there are many ways to love and honour God, and that the path we take is our choice. We are also reminded of the power of our actions. What we do can touch the lives of others and create a legacy of love for years to come.

GROUP DISCUSSION • Think of a time in your life when someone did a small act of kindness for you. Why does it stand out in your memory? Do you think the person who performed the act remembers it in the same way? • How do we use our talents and resources to bring hope to others?

LUJAN HOME FOR GIRLS, PAPUA NEW GUINEA- We support Lujan Home for Girls in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea. This refuge home is run by a religious order, the Sister Servants of the Lord and the Virgin Matará. They look after around 30 girls as young as two years old. They operate Lujan Home like a family, caring for the girls like they are their own. Malnutrition is a significant issue in Papua New Guinea, so the Home provides the girls with a nutritionally balanced and varied diet and teaches the girls about nutrition and cooking so that they can bring these skills back to their families and communities when they leave the Lujan Home. Bridgith Jene is a 20-year-old resident of Lujan Home for Girls. Her life was marked by considerable hardship before finding refuge at Lujan Home. She used to endure a challenging five to six km trek to school through unsafe and poorly maintained roads, complicated even further by residing in a remote rural area. This often led to her arriving late. At the home, she enjoys the company of the other girls and the sisters, as it provides a safe refuge and access to education. As a result of her time at Lujan Home, Bridgith's future appears promising and full of opportunities, as she is supported and empowered to follow her dreams and lead a Christian life of purpose and dignity



Good Friday Collection | 29 March 2024- The Holy Father's Good Friday Collection is a small gesture of solidarity for the Christian communities that still walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Our New Zealand collection is given for the upkeep of the Shrine Church in Cana, Galilee, and twenty University scholarships to Bethlehem University. In 1342 the Apostolic See confirmed the Franciscans as the legitimate guardians of the Holy Land. Funds gathered by each country is forwarded to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. Please give generously to this collection in support of our brothers and sisters living in the land our Lord ministered. Many thanks for your anticipated generosity again this year, it is very much appreciated. There are also specially marked envelopes in the foyer, or alternatively please pay by direct credit (parish bank account number) your name as payee, and 'Holy Places' as referee

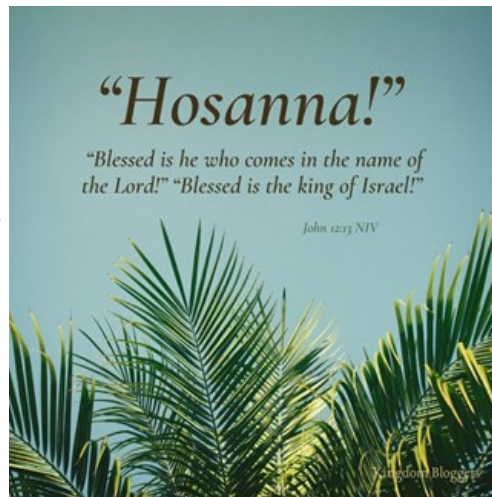
Easter Sunday Dues Special Collection | 31 March 2024- Many thanks to parishioners who in the past have contributed to the Easter Dues/Offerings Special Collection. The collection is used by the Clergy Trust Fund to support the priests in the various costs pertaining to their ministries and personal lives. The Clergy Trust Fund is responsible for every aspect of our priests' wellbeing. The priests have always expressed their gratitude for the people's financial support and the care that they receive. There are also specially marked envelopes in the foyer, or alternatively please pay by direct credit (parish bank account number) your name as payee, and 'Dues' as reference.

And so it begins...

That maybe sounds very dramatic but then again, the story of Easter is the most dramatic story ever told. It is a far greater story than just the final week in the life of one good and innocent man. It begins at the moment of Creation (In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.) and continues until the very end of time ("... and know this; I am with you always, even to the end of time."). Easter is the eternal Love story of a God who chose to create us in his/her own image and

likeness, always free, but invited to share in the very life of the God who created us. In the person of Jesus this love story between God and his creation is fully revealed. In Jesus we meet, face to face, a God who loves us passionately and always. We may reject the love God offers us – God loves us enough to give us the freedom to do so – but God never rejects us. The Death and Resurrection of Jesus shows us a God whose love accepts even death itself, before rising again with the promise, "I am with you always, even to the end of time..." This Sunday we read Mark's account of the Easter story. It is, as he tells us, the "Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God." b.maher@oblates.ie

St John's College—This week our gateway students attended a two day first aid course and a group of our students were away at the waka ama nationals. St John's and Sacred Heart Colleges celebrated mass together at St Patrick's church in Napier on Sunday 24 March (Palm Sunday). It was wonderful for our two schools to come together on such an important mass during the liturgical calendar. Conor Bolton (DRS)



Reconciliation—24th March @ St Joseph's at 4pm
St Patrick's 23 March from 4.45pm (prior to Mass)

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy

- Bible Stories - What do they mean?
- Join us in unravelling Bible stories and looking for answers within a group, and with Bible Scholar Kieran Fenn fms.
- Sundays, 07 Apr, 05 May 2024, 5-6pm (Zoom). Koha <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/19/bible-stories-what-do-they-mean/>
- The Mystery of Miracles
- Mondays, 08/15/22/29 April 2024, 7-8.30pm
- \$25/session or \$80/series, incl. study material. <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/01/11/the-mystery-of-miracles/>
- The Stations of the Cross - Reflections on Wood Carvings.
- Available in English, Fijian and Samoan. \$7 incl. postage in NZ
- <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/08/11/reflection-on-wood-carvings/>
- Display and prayer with this woodcraft on Sat, 23 Mar, 10-11.30am
- <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2024/02/27/stations-of-the-cross-meet-the-artist/>

This Sunday night (24 March), John Cowan's guest on Real Life will be MP for Nelson Rachel Boyack. Before becoming MP for Nelson, Rachel Boyack worked as a Health and Safety Coordinator for the Anglican Diocese of Nelson. In her previous role as an organiser with FIRST Union, she negotiated collective employment agreements with large companies like Nelson Pine, lifting wages for hundreds of workers in the Nelson region. A trained singer, she has a Music Degree from the University of Auckland and was a member of the New Zealand Youth Choir. Rachel previously volunteered on the Boards of Nelson Women's and Children's Refuge and the Nelson Environment Centre. She was the Chair of Labour's Policy Council leading up to the election. Rachel lives in Nelson with her husband Scott and their Labrador, Phoebe.

Most of us might define blasphemy as the taking of the Lord's name in vain. We know that we must not do this, and we accept the third of the ten commandments which makes this clear: "Do not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." Now read the opening of today's

gospel and notice Jesus' definition of blasphemy:
The Jews picked up rocks to stone Jesus. Jesus answered them, "I have shown you many good works from my Father. For which of these are you trying to stone me?" The Jews answered him, "We are not stoning you for a good work but for blasphemy. You, a man, are making yourself God." According to Jesus, we blaspheme when try to be God ourselves. This was the temptation for Adam and Eve in Eden. The serpent deceived them saying "For God knows that when you eat from the tree your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God..." (Gen 3) Of course we know better than to call ourselves God, but we often act as if everything depends on us when in reality everything depends on our co-operation with God. When we live in relationship with Jesus Christ who is God-with-us we can relax. Thanks be to God we humans don't have to be God. You might have heard the bedtime prayer of Pope John XXIII who in the late 1950's early '60's must have carried his fair share of worries for the church and world. At the end of a long day full of worries he would pray: "Well Lord, it's your church, I'm off to bed!" A few years ago at the annual Rimini meeting in Italy the most popular t-shirt on sale carried the caption: "There is a God but it's not you. Relax!" foodforfaith.org.nz

Easter Timetable

- Holy Thursday** – 7pm @ St Joseph's, Waipukurau
- Good Friday** – 3pm @St Joseph's, Waipukurau
- Easter Vigil** – 5.30 @ St Patrick's, Waipawa
- Easter Sunday** -9.30am @St Joseph's, Waipukurau

Walk with the Cross—Good Friday @ 9.30am at the Green Patch, Waipukurau