

## Anniversary's in April

Adriana Koolen (Jean), Jack Hallagen, Murray Durham, Ellen Logan  
Vaughan Hallagen, Brian Bird, Charlie Percy, Ivan Ujdur  
John McDonald, John Stanely, Lenva Martin, Leo Frings (Geoff)  
Malcolm Heaven, Michael Ransfield, Robert Frost (Bob)  
Thomas Butler (Tom), Gavin Logan, James Cook  
John Muelan, James Harris, Emmett McElhinney, William Field (Bill)

**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](mailto: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.

### St Peter's College 50th Jubilee

St Peter's College in Palmerston North is celebrating their 50th Jubilee on Labour Weekend. More information and registrations at <https://www.stpeterspn.school.nz/50-jubilee>.

**Pro Life**—Right to Life's Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 5th April 2024, at 7.30pm at Christ the King Parish Centre, 90 Greers Rd, Burnside, Christchurch. The guest speaker will be Mr. Paulo Garcia, MP for Grey Lynn, who will be speaking on "Defending the right to life in 2024." For more pro-life information, visit [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).

**A Catholic food bank** which served Christchurch people for 60 years had to close earlier this month. Catholic Social Services says the cost of essential food items and a lack of donations were behind the decision to close. "It's terribly sad that our efforts to feed those who cannot afford food ceased because it had become unaffordable" says Simon Thompson, general manager of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch. "The difficult decision came after 12 months of effort to find additional funding streams. "With Catholic Social Services receiving very few donations of food and only a tiny discount from supermarkets, it was no longer financially viable to operate

the food bank." At the time the food bank closed down, it was able to supply only about a dozen food parcels which volunteers were delivering each week to people in need. Thompson says people seeking food parcels from Catholic Social Services should try approaching St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies) which is its partner organisation. Although the food bank has closed, Catholic Social Services is planning to reopen its soup kitchen programme soon. Catholic Social Services offers a range of programmes through its Christchurch agency. These include promoting a holistic approach by offering many things – counselling, social work support, group courses for children and adults, advice about budgeting/advocacy, practical needs advice and assistance, and post-adoption services. [Cathnews.co.nz](http://Cathnews.co.nz)



### 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

Parish Priest—Fr Paul Kerridge

Phone—Office 8586416 Presbytery 8589383

Email—[cat.chb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cat.chb@xtra.co.nz)

Website—[www.holytrinitychb.com](http://www.holytrinitychb.com)

Facebook—The Holy Trinity CHB



## The Holy Trinity Parish Rātini Kupu



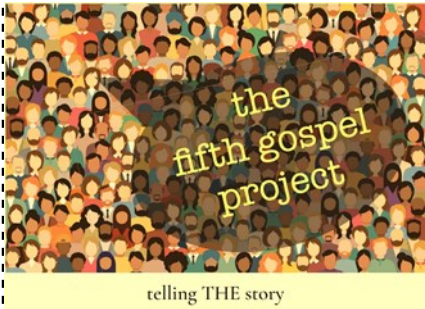
7 Paenga-whāwhā, 2024  
Divine Mercy Sunday

**Doubting Thomas**—In today's Gospel reading from John for Divine Mercy Sunday Year B, we hear the familiar story of Doubting Thomas. After the resurrection, Jesus appears to the disciples, but Thomas is not with them. When the other disciples tell him that they have seen the Lord, Thomas responds that he will not believe unless he can see and touch the wounds in Jesus' hands and side. A week later, Jesus appears again, and this time Thomas is there. Jesus invites Thomas to touch his wounds and to believe. Thomas responds with a powerful declaration of faith: "My Lord and my God!" Similarly, when Thomas doubts, Jesus does not rebuke him or shame him. He simply offers him the evidence he needs to believe and invites him into deeper relationship. This is a powerful message for us today. We all have moments of doubt and fear, times when we struggle to believe or to trust in God's plan for us. But like Thomas, we are invited to bring our doubts and questions to Jesus, who offers us peace and the evidence we need to believe. On this Sunday after Easter, let us pray for the grace to be like the disciples, who were able to find peace and renewed faith in the presence of the risen Lord. And let us pray for the courage to continue Jesus' mission of forgiveness and reconciliation in our own lives and in the world around us. Forgiveness and Reconciliation - On this Divine Mercy Sunday Year B, we are called to reflect on the profound message of forgiveness and reconciliation that the resurrected Jesus brings to his disciples. The resurrected Jesus seems to suddenly appear out of nowhere, even though the doors are locked. He is not the same as he was, but he is also not a ghost. He does not dwell on their abandonment and betrayal, but instead focuses on calming their fears and commissioning them to continue his mission of forgiveness and reconciliation. He calms their fears. It is striking to note that Jesus does not simply offer forgiveness and reconciliation as an abstract concept or an individual spiritual experience. Instead, he calls his disciples to live in community and to work for right relationships within that community and beyond. The restoration of all creation must include God, all people, and even the natural world. For us today, this mission of forgiveness and reconciliation must start within our own communities. We must strive to live in harmony with one another, to overcome division and conflict, and to work towards the common good. This is not always an easy task, as we are all flawed and prone to sin. However, we can draw inspiration and strength from the example of the early Church, which was able to live in remarkable unity despite the challenges it faced. As Catholics, we are also called to extend this message of forgiveness and reconciliation to the wider world. We are called to be agents of healing in a broken world, to work towards justice and peace, and to bring the light of Christ to all those we encounter. On this Divine Mercy Sunday Year B, let us pray for the grace to live out this mission of forgiveness and reconciliation in our own lives and in the world around us. May we be instruments of God's mercy and love, bringing healing and hope to all those we meet.

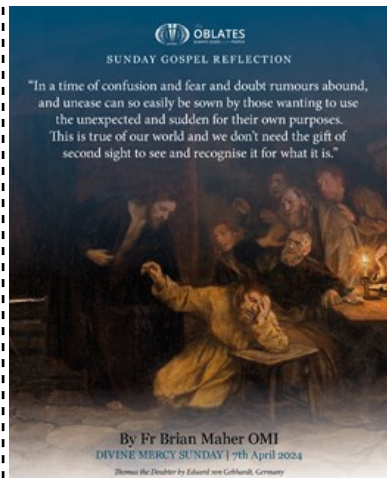
[young-catholics.com](http://young-catholics.com)

**Sunday 7th April is Divine Mercy Sunday;- There will be a Holy Hour at St Joseph's from 3-4pm on Sunday**

**The Fifth Gospel Project-** Father John O'Connor's Food For Faith forum is collecting and collating for publication stories of personal experience of God. Please share this invitation, and send an experience (up to 400 words - before the end of April) by email to [john@fff.org.nz](mailto:john@fff.org.nz) More information on this mission is at <https://foodforfaith.org.nz/2024/03/telling-the-story/>



**In a time** of confusion and fear and doubt rumours abound, and unease can so easily be sown by those wanting to use the unexpected and sudden for their own purposes. This is true of our world and we don't need the gift of second sight to see and recognise it for what it is. The immediate aftermath of the Resurrection of Jesus was also a time of confusion and doubt. All kinds of stories and rumours were circulating – that his body was stolen; that he didn't die on the cross, revived in the tomb and escaped; that it was only a



type of 'ghost' they were seeing and not the real Jesus. In light of these rumours and the confusion they generated, it was important that Pe-

ter, the Apostles and those closest to Jesus while he lived, took hold of the narrative of his Resurrection and used their authority as 'friends and companions' of Jesus to give an honest and balanced account of what happened on that first Easter Sunday morning. Sunday's Gospel shows us the Apostles taking control of the narrative of the Resurrection and sharing with us what they know to be the truth. It is a wonderful, beautiful, and humbling truth which cuts through the confusion and fear, bringing us to the Risen Jesus who says to us, "Peace be with you. Do not fear." This is an important Gospel. Join me in reflecting upon it. [b.maher@oblates.ie](mailto:b.maher@oblates.ie)

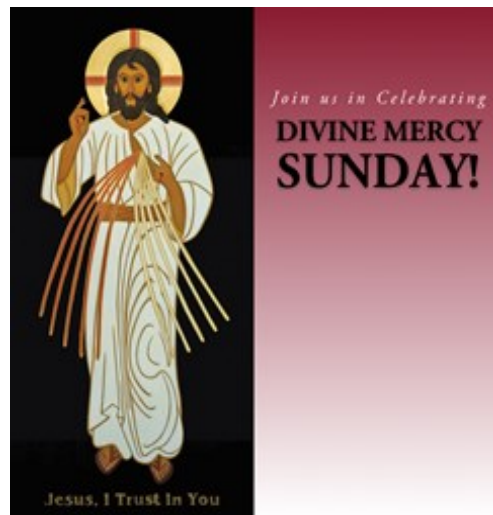
**Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy**—Bible Stories - What do they mean? Join us in unravelling Bible stories and looking for answers within a group, and with Bible Scholar Kieran Fenn fms. Sundays, 07 Apr, 05 May 2024, 5-6pm (Zoom). Koha

<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/>

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



**St John's College**—This week was a three day week for students. On Wednesday evening, our Deputy Principal (Curriculum), Tracy Russell, lead an NCEA information evening for parents. This was especially important given the big changes made to the Level 1 standards and qualification. Winter Sports practices formally began this week, however, some of the senior, premier teams have already had some pre-season friendlies. Next week is the last week of term 1. *Conor Bolton (DRS)*



**A few years ago** I picked up a John August Swanson work. Only a print unfortunately but still full of power in an abundance of colour. So much colour. Today's post-resurrection encounter with Jesus reminds me of this great Swanson work which he named The Big Catch. These fishermen previously endured an existence in black and white, just getting through each day, their regular routines dictated by the demands and fears of friends and foes. That's not really living at all – a mere existence, a survival, endurance, coping, managing, getting-through. But too often it's what we settle for, an endurance we accept as normal and inescapable. But here they are today these disciples of Jesus, still overwhelmed by their limitations – fishermen who can't even catch fish – and feeling shame and guilt at their abandonment of their friend and his mission. Yet Jesus comes to them, seeing them as they are, loving them, and making them truly productive. Jesus is with them filling their pitiful existences with the cosmic and eternal colour of abundant life. They have heard that he has risen from the dead and he has appeared to them but they are still strugg-

ling to know what this means. It's probable that they are even doubting their earlier experience of the risen Jesus. One sign of their uncertainty is that some of them have returned to their previous work as fishermen. Peter has already been forgiven by Jesus, and this personal experience of undeserved love has transformed him into a fearless preacher of the power of Christ. Peter doesn't pull any punches in today's first reading when standing as a prisoner before the rulers, elders, scribes and Annas the high priest: "If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today." And then early one morning at the Sea of Tiberius Jesus calls to them from the shore: Have you caught anything friends? After they had proved that they were not good friends (denying, abandoning etc.) Jesus still calls them friends. I like the ordinariness of the question, "Have you caught anything friends?" Jesus asks them not about their level of faith and love (that will come soon) but about fishing, something they knew about, their ordinary practical human reality. His question gives them a chance to express their feeling at their lack of success. I imagine that there would have been frustration with humour and even laughter when Jesus (even though at this stage they did not recognise him) suggests: "throw out the net to starboard and you'll find something". Their success was immediate: they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in leading John to admit to Peter "It is the Lord!" *foodforfaith.org.nz*

