

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, Graeme Annear, John Graham

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 John's College—We are now well over halfway through Term One and it seems like the first week back was only yesterday. Last week our senior students of Te Reo Māori spent several days in Mahia learning about tikanga and Māori tradition. We had a combined Mass with Sacred Heart College at St Patricks Church on Sunday, which was well attended and lovely celebration. This week our Senior Canoe Polo Team participated in the National Secondary Schools Competition held in Palmerston North. Conor Bolton (DRS)

Chrism Mass - The Chrism Mass for the Palmerston North Diocese will be celebrated on Tuesday 15 April, 12:05pm at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. All welcome. Divine Mercy Conference | Auckland, May 23 - 25 2025

Divine Mercy NZ is excited to be bringing back to New Zealand Fr Chris Alar MIC from the US as keynote speaker, plus several other international speakers.

Divine Mercy Conference 2025 will be in a real sense an encapsulation of all that has gone before, and yet more, and to the point - how that is lived out, witnessed, in the Third Millennium. Please join us for this important event in the Jubilee Year. Registrations are essential:

www.divinemercyconference2025.co.nz.

St Joseph's Hāwera | 150 Years

St Joseph's Parish & School, Hāwera, will be celebrating 150 years over Labour Weekend, 24th-26th October 2025. All past and present members of the parish and school community are invited to participate in the Jubilee cele-

brations. Registration Forms & Event Calendar are available at www.stjoeshawera150celebration.co.nz. Hard copies of the registration form can be collected from the Church Foyer and the Mission Centre (School & Parish Office). For further details email: stjosephshawerajubilee@gmail.com



Dovecotes:

Join Us - We invite you to become a part of Dovecotes, where you can experience the warmth of friendship the power of prayer, and the joy of worship. Together, we can grow in our faith and reach out to others with love and compassion.

Prayer **Sharing**

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Growth

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Support **Small Groups**

For more info - Contact: Gloria Stafford
dovenational.leader@gmail.com Mobile 027 2456742
Website: www.dove.org.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

Website—www.holytrinitychb.com

Facebook—The Holy Trinity CHB



The Holy Trinity Parish Rātini Kupu

23rd Poutū-te rangi 2025
3rd Sunday of Lent



Learn from the gardener

Death stares out at us from our newspapers and TV screens. Apart from natural deaths, somewhere in the world there's always some natural calamity, a terrorist attack, ethnic brutalities, murder for gain, epidemics, tsunamis, earthquake or famine. Death does not predict its calendar, but is a certain fate for us all. People who were expected to live to old age die suddenly while others whose childhood was marked by illness often survive to a remarkable age. Our reactions to other people's death can be either a philosophical acceptance like, "Maybe it was his/her time to go" or a more shocked sense of loss: "It should not have happened so soon!" When people told Jesus how some Galileans died, victims of Pilate's anger, they wondered how God could have let this happen; but instead of explaining it, Jesus asks "do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?" He goes on to warn about the need of repentance.. "unless you repent, you will all perish as they did!" and illustrates this with the parable of the fruitless tree. Real repentance is a reflection about whatever is unfruitful in our lifestyle. Jesus' words "Repent or you will perish" remind us of what Socrates said at his trial, after he had opted for death rather than exile: "The un-examined life is not worth living." The parable of the fruitless fig tree is thought-provoking. It is not about doing wrong but about failure to do what is positively right. The fig tree that bore no fruit is like a Christian who attempts no good work and lives a purely selfish life. Francis of Assisi once invited a young friar to go with him into town to preach. Francis and the young friar spent all day walking through the streets and then came home. When the day's journey was done, the young friar was disappointed and asked "Weren't we supposed to preach today?" Francis replied, "Son, we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking. We were seen by many and our behavior was noted. It is of no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach wherever as we walk!" He summed up his idea in these words "Preach the Gospel everywhere, and if necessary, use words." To him witnessing to Jesus wasn't merely quoting some words out of the Bible from time to time but one who lives by the word of God each day. The gardener in the Gospel asked the owner of the vineyard to give the barren fig tree another chance to produce fruit. He promised to dig around it and manure it, to give it one last chance to prove itself. It suggests that we too need to nurture our faith and commit ourselves to being helpful to the lives of others. Are we nurturing our faith and trying to love, so as to bear the kind of fruit God wants from us? associationofcatholicpriests.ie



2025 the year of Jubilee—

Webinars for 2025 | Te Kupenga

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College is offering online webinars in 2025. This series features our current and past students who will inspire us as they talk about growing in faith, leadership in ministry, and their role in ministry. For more information and to register, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinar2025

Gospel reflection - In Luke 13:1-9, the parable of the fig tree in the vineyard carries deep symbolism about repentance, second chances, and hope. The fig tree, oddly placed in a vineyard, might point to something out of place or unseen, much like the people's failure to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. The tree's failure to bear fruit over three years reflects the refusal of many to accept His message, yet the gardener's plea for more time shows God's mercy. There is a grace period, a season of reprieve, to nurture growth and repentance. The gardener, willing to tend to the seemingly barren tree, embodies hope and unconditional love. Sometimes even when a situation looks hopeless, care and attention can bring it back to life. However, action is required—the tree won't bear fruit without help, just as people need to take responsibility for their spiritual growth. The parable is also a call for humility. The suffering of the Galileans, juxtaposed with the peaceful scene of the tree, reminds us that not all suffering is tied to sin. Bad things happen outside our control, and we are all equal before God, no matter our status. Repentance is for everyone—no one is exempt from the call to change. The gardener's request for more time shows God's patience, but there is still a time of reckoning if no fruit appears. This parable invites us to recognise the opportunities for repentance, urging us to use the time we have to grow spiritually, with the hope of bearing fruit.

Group discussion • If the fig tree is in the garden to provide shade and sustenance for the workers; what 'fig trees' are available for workers (i.e. the poor, marginalised) today? Who are we called to give other opportunities to? (Who do we need to show mercy to?) How do we cultivate merciful love in our

own gardens and communities? What can you do to protect and nourish God's creation using your special gifts and talents?

Case study: Fiji Life in rural Fiji is tough for young people. But with your support, our



local partners like Tutu Rural Training Centre are changing lives every day. The mission of our partners Tutu Rural Training Centre embodies the Catholic social teaching principle of Stewardship, which calls for responsible guardianship of both the environment and one another, encouraging us to care for the gifts God has given. At Tutu, students like Sitiveni and Sera learn sustainable farming methods and financial management, enabling them to use resources wisely to support their family and village. Sitiveni and Sera transformed waste into products for sale, making the most of what they had. With the support of dedicated Tutu staff, Sitiveni and Sera not only changed their own lives but now share their knowledge with their community, exemplifying the call to care for both people and planet. Learn more or donate at Caritas.org.nz.

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy—

Incense - A Taste of Heaven? (Repeat on request) with Beate Matthies

Monday, 24 March 2025, 7-8.30pm (Zoom). <https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/incense-a-taste-of-heaven-repeat/>

YouTube Recording (5min):

The Story of St Joseph - Fr Merv Duffy sm:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2025/03/18/the-story-of-st-joseph-by-fr-merv-duffy-sm/>

For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

Voice For Life- March 11 marked the anniversary of a stalwart pro-life worker, Gary Menzies, who passed away suddenly in 2017. His contribution to pro-life work was prolific. He was always ready to pray with, and help anyone, and he was regularly involved in public witness. For more pro-life information, visit www.voiceforlife.org.nz.

If there is one Old Testament account, that is a must for every adult and child of faith it is the great Exodus epic which begins with Joseph and his amazing technicolour dream coat. The entire saga is a pre-Christian primer in discernment preparing us for a God who in Jesus is available, personal, powerful, and eager to carry us through any captivity and challenge through death to resurrection. As I ponder Joseph the dreamer beginning this great Old Testament adventure I'm thinking of Pope Francis's recent book Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future. Francis begins his book referring to our contemporary context in these early years of the third Christian millennium convinced that the Covid pandemic is (as was Joseph being sold into slavery) a crisis that both challenges and changes us: "The basic rule of a crisis is that you don't come out of it the same. If you get through it, you come out better or worse, but never the same." Such

an ability to not only survive but to thrive through a difficult situation (and even a crisis) is the measure of human (and therefore of Christian) maturity. While this thriving is a human desire, it is a divine achievement. Francis often speaks of dreaming and discerning in the same paragraph: "when you lose the capacity to dream you lose the capacity to love and the energy to love is lost." Remembering this Old Testament Joseph, and Joseph the spouse of Mary Francis reflects that neither settled for survival but both were dreamers aware that "dreams were

considered a means by which God revealed Himself." While dreaming is usually considered a sleep-time activity, people of faith are also day-dreamers. Now there's a great Lenten penance – giving time to the divine activity of day-dreaming. This is a pretty-good definition of the contemplation that is the highest form of Christian prayer: day-dreaming with God. The great thing about setting time for day-dreaming is that there is no programme, no right way and wrong way, it's the ultimate in mind and heart relaxation. That's why it's such a good analogy for prayer. We are not in control. God is. While Jesus can break into our lives any place any time, when we set time to listen for the voice of Jesus letting our minds and hearts wander and wonder, Jesus doesn't miss a chance to get through to us. foodforfaith.org.nz

Third Sunday of Lent



Morning Reflection

"Do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach."

Matthew 23:3

The Scribes and Pharisees were continually trying to catch Jesus out by their questions. However, in today's Gospel reading Jesus denounces them to his followers. We are very familiar with the sayings 'practice what you preach and walk the talk'. It's all too easy to talk about the poor and disadvantaged and what should be done to help them but without putting our words into actions they just become empty words. So maybe during Lent we can make a promise to ourselves to convert some of those words into actions.



Reflection by
Veronica Conlon

