

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—This week our 1st XI cricket team was in Palmerston North competing in the "Ross Taylor Bat" competition. One of our students headed off to the East Coast as part of the Young Marists' Neighbours program and last Sunday three Japanese students arrived from Tokyo to spend a few weeks at St John's and explore Hawke's Bay. Next Friday we are holding our joint Fiafia Evening with Sacred Heart College which will be held in our school gymnasium. Our young men have settled into the routine of things and are gearing up for the winter sports as we head into Autumn. 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 celebrations. 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



Jesus rides into the holy city as king, but finds His Father's house has been turned from a place of prayer into a corrupt market. As the Jewish High Priest schemes against the would-be Messiah, Jesus strikes first—turning the tables on religious corruption.

Thursday 17th April | 7pm

Saturday 19th April | 2pm



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

30th Poutū-te rangi 2025
4th Sunday of Lent



Stations of the Cross—6th April @ 5pm St Patrick's and 13th April @ 5pm St Joseph's

Reconciliation—will be offered at 4.30pm before Stations of the Cross

A statement from the Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand

Every year in this sacred time, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference asks Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand to run a six-week fundraising campaign on their behalf called the Bishops' Lent Appeal. The money raised during this time is essential to the mission of Caritas. It provides much of the funding necessary for them to continue their life-changing work in Aotearoa, the Pacific and beyond. This year's appeal is even more urgent than usual. The US government recently stopped almost all foreign aid. France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and the UK have also cut their overseas development aid budgets. These decisions will cause significant suffering for those facing poverty, conflict, disasters and the effects of climate change. Your support is needed so Caritas can step in across the Pacific as donor governments withdraw. Every year, individuals and parishes across New Zealand demonstrate great generosity by donating to this appeal. We hope that this will continue for this Lenten season. The theme for the Lent appeal in 2025 is Restoring hope: Your compassion in action / Kia puawai te Tūmanako. Caritas' mission, as the Catholic agency for justice, peace and development, is of vital importance to us all. The Bishops' Lent Appeal is the best way to directly fund Caritas' work - supporting vulnerable communities around the world. For the Catholic community, Caritas is how we help our brothers and sisters in need, upholding their human dignity through local partnerships grounded in Catholic social teaching. Over the last few years there has been a drop in giving to Caritas, putting pressure on their ability to fund the programmes that serve those most in need. We ask that during this time of preparation, prayer and almsgiving, you make a special donation to the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2025 at caritas.org.nz/lent or by using the envelopes provided at Mass.

This act of almsgiving is an act of generosity. It will mean so much to the people Caritas serves across our region. In Christ,

- ✠ Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Auckland
- ✠ Richard Laurenson, Bishop of Hamilton
- ✠ John Adams, Bishop of Palmerston North
- ✠ Paul Martin SM, Archbishop of Wellington
- ✠ Michael Gielen, Bishop of Christchurch
- ✠ Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin



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

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy—

Bible Stories - What do they mean? with Beate Matthies

Sunday, 06 April 2025, 5-6pm (Zoom).

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/bible-studies-what-do-they-mean-12/>

YouTube Recording - Snippets from Muffin Talks:

The Prodigal Son & the Parables of Compassion - with the late Br Kieran Fenn:

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2025/03/25/kieran-fenn-fms-snippets-from-muffin-talks/>

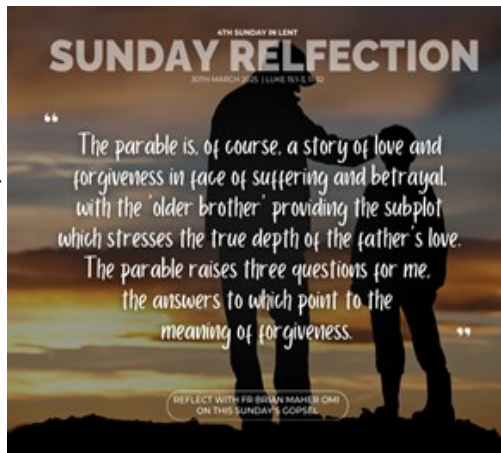
For more information: www.studyjoy.nz

First things first - In the 1963 novel by Australian Morris West (a popular [movie in 1968](#)) a Ukrainian archbishop is elected pope.

The Shoes of the Fisherman movie is

worth the two and three quarter hours of watching since it anticipates many of the issues that surface in the church and in the world in the following half century leading to the present. While Shoes of the Fisherman almost sixty years before this year's popular Conclave film (review [at this link](#)) there are as many surprises and intrigues, and both movies show clear evidence of the Spirit of God working powerfully in the midst of and through imperfect structures and people. There is one scene in West's book/movie where the new pope (Kiril) feels constrained by the restrictions of the Vatican walls and disguising himself as a priest wanders the streets of Rome one evening. A doctor asks his help to fetch a prescription for a dying man and as he gets back to the house the man dies. Kiril begins to pray a Christian prayer but the family interrupt him to explain that the man who has died is Jewish. Immediately the pope is silent, then begins again praying in Hebrew.

The prayer he prays features in today's gospel reading. "One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him: 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. When Jesus is asked by a scribe to name the greatest commandment he quotes the heart of Jewish law which forms the "[Shema Yisrael](#)" prayer from [Deuteronomy 6:4](#) prayed by the faithful Jew every morning and evening: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. If you're like me there are a dozen and more things pressing for centre space in your life. While some of these things are unhealthy compulsions and temptations, other pressures are good things and valid responsibilities. But when we make these important things (eg. family and work responsibilities) the one central thing, we suffer stress and even life's pleasures become a burden. A healthy and happy person is one who keeps first things first. Once again, lest we forget: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. foodforfaith.org.nz



Voice For Life-Maxim Institute have launched a new initiative for Kiwi women passionate about making a difference to the future of New Zealand society. The first meeting will explore euthanasia, palliative care, and the implications of liberalising access to euthanasia. It will be held on 10 April 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the Mt Roskill War Memorial Hall, 15 May Road, Wesley. For more pro-life information, visit www.voiceforlife.org.nz.

Liturgy is a quarterly magazine, curated to support liturgical life in parishes, schools, and faith communities. The Liturgy Centre, from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland in New Zealand, has been producing this magazine for nearly 50 years. Liturgy is available online and for free: liturgycentre.ca Publisher Publications - Issue For queries or previous issues, please contact liturgycentre@cda.org.nz | (+64) 9 360 3061

Forgiveness is at the heart of Jesus' message. "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near at hand..." was his very first public statement. "Your sins are forgiven...", "Go, and sin no more..." When asked the question, "How often must I forgive?" Jesus replied, "...seventy times seven..." (or always!). And yet, as every person knows, forgiving others and allowing ourselves to be forgiven are among the hardest things we are ever asked to do. That is why this week's Gospel (the Parable of the Prodigal Son) is so important. All three characters in the story – the two brothers and their father – show us 'forgiveness' from different angles, with 'the father' pointing to the true meaning of forgiveness. For anyone living in 'fear' or 'dread' of God's judgement, this parable has to be wonderfully comforting if we can only open our hearts to accept it. It is also challenging, because the forgiveness we are called to show as Christians, is far, far greater than anything our world demands. Join me in reflecting on this familiar but important story. Brian. b.maher@oblates.ie

Coming to his senses - We can identify with the soliloquy of the prodigal son, especially if one is cynical enough to read it not as an undiluted expression of heartfelt conversion, but rather as a calculation about survival. If read as a straight narrative of religious con-

version it can appear clumsy or wooden, and the indignation of the elder brother merely churlish. But thanks to the penetration of biblical studies by the subtleties of modern literary criticism we are learning to read Luke as a great master of narrative art, insinuating a wider spectrum of intricate motives than conventional piety normally takes account of. The phrase "coming to himself" (15:17) "does not on its own signify repentance. As one exegete says: 'Coming to one's senses' is more the idea," although "shades of repentance are clearly evident." At best they are shades, and even then they are far from evident. The "conversion" is prompted by destitution and impossible to dissociate from economic considerations. The speech the prodigal rehearses for his father is skilfully calculated to win back his favour, and in what he says to himself there is no reference to any injury done to his father: "How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants'" (15:17-19). A more honest speech would begin, "Father, I've come back because I am dying of hunger," so, as another exegete says, "the lie by omission is flagrant." This soliloquy, like the other calculating soliloquies that dot Luke's Gospel, meets reversal that overthrows the petty standards of the calculator, for the father forgives the son when he sees him at a distance and interrupts his rehearsed speech before he can say "treat me as one of your hired servants," a phrase that is not the deepest level of self-abasement, since the servants were paid; "the finesse of a narrator without any illusion about certain discourses of repentance" is to be admired. The paternal response is not in the same key of calculation as the soliloquy, and its generosity undercuts the son's cautious and mistrustful performance. The son's judgement thus fell short of the mark, just as his brother's calculations of merit and reward (15:29-30) are tangential to the father's uncalculating love for the sons. (Joe O'Leary) associationofcatholicpriests.ie