

## 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.

### Mindful of our Jubilee Year of

**Hope**, we can reflect on the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church in offering Catholic Social Teaching to the people of our time, a doctrine that “flows.... from Hope in a fullness of justice...” (para 3) We are very pleased to advise that our diocese now has a recently formed Justice Peace Development and Ecology Commission (JPDEC). Bishop John sent letters of invitation to all members towards the end of last year. He was then able to meet with Catholic members of the Commission representing the New Plymouth, Kopua, Napier and Palmerston North areas of our diocese. In January, Bishop Peter, on behalf of Bishop John, welcomed Inter Faith members comprising representatives from Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran (and Te Ao Māori) Methodist, Muslim, and Presbyterian faith traditions. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, the hope of the Commission is that by the end of our Pilgrimage of Hope, the heart of every parish in our diocese will be beating vibrantly with their own Parish JPDE Group. The Lenten period is traditionally a time with a particular focus on Justice and Peace issues throughout the Universal Church. It will be a good time for any parish currently without a JPDE Group to form one, hopefully with an ecumenical membership. Pope Francis in announcing the Jubilee Year of Hope calls us to “abound in hope” (Rm 15:13) so that we may bear credible and attractive witness to the faith and love that dwell in our hearts.” As Church, our involvement in action for justice,

will remain ineffective if it is not given flesh in the life of our local Churches at all levels. In our diocese, we have 22 parishes. We know of two JPDE parish Groups (Napier and New Plymouth). Let's build on that together. If you have an existing JPDE Group, please let us know. If you want assistance in forming one, please get in touch. If you would like to learn more about the Commission, feel free to ask. The Commission can be contacted at: [pndiocesejpdec@gmail.com](mailto:pndiocesejpdec@gmail.com) For Lenten programmes Caritas provides an excellent resource at: <https://www.caritas.org.nz/lent-resources> Ben Schmidt, Chairperson. [pndiocesejpdec@gmail.com](mailto:pndiocesejpdec@gmail.com) Ph 0220726743

### 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:  
St Patrick's Day is always in Lent... - Prof Thomas O'Loughlin:  
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2025/03/11/st-patrick-muffin-talk-with-thomas-oloughlin/>  
For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.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

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Facebook—The Holy Trinity CHB



## The Holy Trinity Parish Rātini Kupu

16th Poutū-te rangi 2025  
2nd Sunday of Lent



**Transformed by Prayer**—For older Catholics, our experience of the Church has straddled two worlds, what things were like before and after the Second Vatican Council. We can rummage in the storehouse of our mind and compare things old and new. Can you remember how important private prayer was in that pre-Conciliar world, when people were more used to devotional practices than they are today. In the town where I grew up, called in to the church every day for a quick visit to the Blessed Sacrament. Of course, that was before television came and changed the shape of our evenings. Probably we weren't any more virtuous than the people of today. Maybe we had nothing much to do in the evenings and we wanted to get out of the house and meet our friends. All those habits of private prayer seemed to quickly disappear after the Council, though the modern means of entertainment had much to do with it. Change always demands its price, and even the liturgical changes after Vatican II somehow seemed to sideline private prayer. Here and there we can find signs of prayer making a comeback, as indeed it should. Inside each one of us is a need for prayer, trying to reach out to God. We feel that need to get away from distractions, to be alone for a while, to help make more sense of our lives. What else is that but an urge to pray. Today's gospel gives a remarkable insight into the nature of prayer. Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. We too have to find the high ground, remote enough to give us an overall view of our petty world with all its preoccupations. A mountain can give us that perspective, as indeed can a lake or a desert, places where Jesus also liked to pray. Lent is a time for us to try and create a space for prayer somewhere in our lives. Only by prayer can we be transfigured and then try to transfigure our world. By reflecting deep inside ourselves we will transfigure our many and often complicated relationships. Prayer can transfigure our marriages, our homes, our work and our communities. The American writer, Thurber, at the end of one of his fables, penned this couplet: “All men should learn before they die,/Where they are going, from where and why.” Only in prayer will we find the answer to these questions. *association-ofcatholicpriests.ie*

### Second Sunday of Lent



## 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](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinar2025)

### Caritas -Gospel reflection In Luke 9:28-

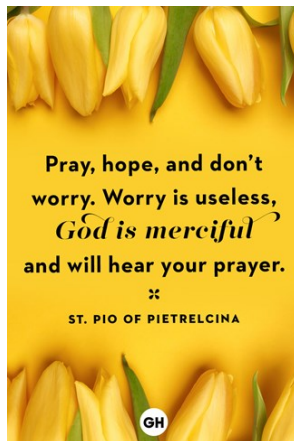
36, Jesus' ascent of the mountain to pray highlights the sacred nature of mountains, both physically and metaphorically, as places where we encounter God. For many people, including Māori, mountains represent deep connections to ancestors and land, offering truth, beauty, and protection. Likewise, during Lent, we are invited to ascend our own spiritual mountains through intentional prayer and sacrifice, reconnecting with God. The Transfiguration reveals Christ's glory, shining through His humanity—just as the divine image can shine through each of us. These moments, rare and privileged, remind us of the dignity and beauty in ourselves and others. Yet, like Peter, we can be tempted to stay in these moments of comfort, wanting to remain on the mountain. God's voice, however, calls us out of that comfort zone, inviting us to embrace challenges and step into the unknown. This story also speaks of hope, a prefiguration of the resurrection, moving us beyond our present struggles and toward the promise of future glory. In moments of trial, we are reminded of the enduring hope that sustains us. Lent encourages us to awaken to this hope, to see Christ's light in the faces of others, and to trust in the promise of resurrection.

**Group discussion** • Think about a time you felt closest to God? (Focus on the moment. What did you do with this and how might you recreate it.) • Do you have a sacred "mountain"? Where are you on the mountain? • What gives you hope at the present time? Or where do you see hope? • What actions can you take to recognise the human dignity of others? Especially those who are different to yourself?

**Case study:** Ukraine—In Ukraine, our local partners are ensuring those fleeing the violence and bloodshed are supported and have access to the supplies they need. At Caritas, all of our work is grounded in the belief that all are made in the image and likeness of God and therefore the human dignity of every person must be upheld and respected. Since Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Caritas has been active on the ground promoting peace and providing lifesaving aid and support to those most in need.

Tetyana and her young daughter fled Ukraine fearing for their safety. When the war began their lives were turned upside down. The war broke out while Tetyana was at work, at a local kindergarten. She returned home to find everything destroyed. Forced to leave their home in Ukraine for neighbouring Poland, Tetyana reached out to volunteers and found the Caritas Centre – who helped her with accommodation for her first month in Poland. With thousands of others, just like Tetyana and her daughter, crossing the border every day – Caritas is there to provide food, shelter, psychological support and accommodation to those most in need. We have been supporting our partners lifesaving efforts since the war began. In this time, they have provided humanitarian assistance to more than 3.8 million people.

*Learn more or donate at [Caritas.org.nz](http://Caritas.org.nz).*



## Well we're almost a week into Lent.

Think back to the gospel for Ash Wednesday: the good deeds we do for Lent are not to be paraded before others. If we do this we have had our reward since others know the good we have been doing. In the same way that reading reminds us not to be pray so that others will see us praying because if this is our purpose in prayer, then that is its own reward. Instead that first gospel of Lent reminds us to go to our inner room, to 'close the door' and to pray in that secret place, to be in relationship with God in the alone place where we are most ourselves. The Ash Wednesday reading then skips ten verses and jumps to an instruction on fasting, reminding us not to make a public show of our fasting but rather to fast in that hidden place, the place of meeting between you and Jesus. These scriptures present to us two worlds: an outer world and an inner world. How easy it is to live in the outer world where things are done for show, to receive the affirmation of others, or to appear successful in the eyes of the world. But the place where we really seek confidence and peace is in the depth of our being, our heart, our soul. Each day and especially in the midnight hours we can become anxious about many things: health, those we love, financial worries and an endless list of other anxieties. In the middle of the night when there is no one else to talk to and our day-time escapes are not available, things can get uncomfortable and the night seems long. But Jesus is there looking forward to that secret conversation we might initiate in that secret and lonely place. Today's gospel is those ten missing verses from the sixth chapter of Matthew's gospel focussing on prayer: when you pray don't use lots of words, because your Father knows what you desire in the depth of your heart and prayer is the expression of the desire of your heart. In these verses the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray and he responds: Our Father. We know well the rest of the prayer, but even those two opening words are a rich prayer in themselves: Our Father. Take the word FATHER. To hear Jesus refer to God as Father was a great shock, even a heresy, to the people of his time since the relationship with

God was not understood to be as intimate as the healthy relationship between a father and a



child. But here Jesus is saying Father, even daddy, (Abba) in a close intimate way. We are called into relationship with God who is not a distant ruler, but a God who in Jesus is present, with us, in as intimate a love as the relationship between the healthy father and his child. Now let's consider the word OUR. When we pray this prayer we don't pray "my" Father but OUR Father. In this first word of the prayer we are reminded that we are not alone. People all over the world in every moment are praying this prayer. We are related to each other because of our relationship with God and are members of ONE family. This is why we use these words so often to pray for others. We are not alone and even as we pray for others we know too that others are praying for us. I was moved a few years ago to hear a father share that he taught his child to pray this prayer especially in the middle of the night when the child woke and felt sad or anxious. This father went on to explain that he taught his son this prayer because when he himself was a small child and woke anxious in the middle of the night: "my grandfather told me to pray this prayer, and I did and it works!" I invite you throughout the day whenever you have a moment to pray the Our Father, Prepare now to take a few moments in stillness and silence and pray slowly, as a mantra, growing to appreciate at a deeper level the beauty of these two words. Our Father. Our Father. [foodforfaith.org.nz](http://foodforfaith.org.nz)

### Voice For Life

Open Adoption NZ have announced an Essay Competition with an \$800 prize. The question for the Essay was: What are the long-term implications and solutions for NZ? Open Adoption: the Gift of Love have designed a comprehensive and informative website, with touching personal stories. It can be found at: [openadoption.org.nz](http://openadoption.org.nz). For more pro-life information, visit [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).