

## 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)

**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.

**Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy**—Parrhēsia with Prof Amy-Jill Levine (USA).

Jesus is the model of someone speaking truth boldly and taking risks. What can we learn from his example?

More info: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2026/03/28/parrhesia-muffin-talk-with-prof-amy-jill-levine/>  
Interreligious Dialogue. with Fr Joseph Victor Edwin SJ (India).  
Christian-Muslim Dialogue in Dehli, India - what are the challenges and joys? More info: <https://www.studyjoy.nz/2026/04/05/interreligious-dialogue-in-india-fr-joseph-victor-edwin-sj/>

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

**Prolife**— Twenty-six countries joined the 40 Days for Life campaign in Lent 2026. Rooted in peaceful prayer and compassionate presence near abortion facilities, the movement offers life-affirming support and alternatives to abortion. Since 2007, 26,214 babies' lives have been saved because of this witness. For more pro-life information, visit [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).

**Pope Leo welcomes** the news of a ceasefire in the Middle East and asks that all parties engage in prolonged dialogue to reach an end to the conflict. He also invites men and women of goodwill across the world to join him in prayer for peace on Saturday 11 April.

## Mass Times

**Sunday**—9.30am @ St Joseph's

**Saturday**—Vigil -5.30pm @ St Patrick's

## Week Day

**Tuesday**—9.00am @ St Joseph's

**Thursday**—9.00am @ St Patrick's

At the conclusion of his General Audience on Wednesday, 8 April, Pope Leo turned his thoughts to the weeks of tension that have been escalating in the Middle East. In light of the announcement of a two-week ceasefire on the evening of 7 April, the Pope said he welcomed the news "with satisfaction and as a sign of deep hope". Addressing the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square, the Pope emphasised that "only through a return to the negotiating table can we bring the war to an end". He went on to urge those gathered to accompany this time of delicate diplomatic work with prayer, "in the hope that a willingness to engage in dialogue may become the means to resolve other situations of conflict throughout the world". Iran, the United States and Israel said they reached a deal for a two-week ceasefire in the war that is ravaging the Middle East. On Tuesday evening, U.S. President Donald Trump pulled back from his threats to destroy Iranian "civilisation." *Vatican news*



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## The Holy Trinity Parish Rātini Kupu

12th Paenga-whāwhā 2026  
Divine Mercy Sunday



**Background on the Gospel Reading** - The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the disciples on several occasions after they discovered that his tomb was empty. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until he speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize him until he breaks bread with them. The resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the disciples couldn't recognize Jesus unless he allowed them to. His resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of his crucifixion. From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in his resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the disciples who had seen him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really risen. Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first disciples.

We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.

[www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)



**Helped by a doubting apostle** - The expression “Doubting Thomas” comes from this remarkable Easter story. The apostle Thomas, one of Jesus’s inner circle, was slow to believe in the resurrection. He demanded concrete evidence before he could believe that the risen Jesus had appeared to his fellow apostles. His story offers some comfort to those of us who are always nagged by doubts. With the memory of our Lord’s crucifixion fresh in their hearts, the nervous disciples had locked the doors of their meeting room. They had locked themselves for fear of Jewish reprisals. They were afraid that what was done to Jesus could be done to them. The turning point came when Jesus appeared among them and breathed the Holy Spirit into them, filling them with new purpose. “As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.” In the power of the Spirit they left their self-imposed prison, to go out and spread the message of Jesus. In today’s reading from Acts St Luke shows them witnessing to the resurrection both in word and by the quality of their living. Some people who cannot believe profess to envy those who do. They would like to experience the certainty of believers and share the faith of their parents. And indeed, most ordinary mortals have moments of doubt during our spiritual journey. Thomas’s recovery from his doubts offers a valuable insight into God’s mercy and kindness. Are we sometimes like those disciples, indecisive, inactive, unwilling to promote the faith. The “slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” have dented our confidence. Are we tempted to abandon our faith journey, unable to see a way forward? Our past failures make us hesitant to try again. Today’s gospel offers a solution. The Lord himself has power to revive our courage and our faith. No locked doors, nor even locked hearts, can keep him out. At first, Thomas refused to believe that the others had seen him. He demanded definite and demonstrable, tangible proof. Jesus gave him the proof he needed. “Put your finger here,” he said, “and feel my wounds.” He

forgives our fears and doubts too, and offers us a fresh start. We need to say in our turn, “My Lord and my God. Today we meet with the risen Christ, just as St Thomas did. Sharing in the Eucharist is our statement of loyalty, our act of personal and shared faith. In praying the Eucharist together we help each other’s faith and strengthen our Christian community. It was because the members of the early Church in Jerusalem met in public for prayer and seemed such a joyful little community, that so many others came to believe and the church grew steadily in those early, Spirit-filled days. No-one else can do our believing for us. Eventually Thomas came to believe in the resurrection, when he saw the risen Jesus with his own eyes. The story ends with a message for all who have received the gift of faith: ‘Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’ Our faith is a gift from God. But it is not an inert gift that can we lock away like some precious heirloom. It is a living gift that needs nurturing, to grow and mature. Like other life-forms, faith can wither from neglect. We need to pray about it, think about it, and express it in actions arising from love. This does not mean that we will never have any doubts. But if like Thomas we continue seeking, we too will come into the presence of Jesus and say “My Lord and my God!” *associationofcatholicpriests.ie*



**Morning Tea** –On Sunday 12th April we will have a shared morning tea after Mass to farewell Clare and Terry Story who are moving to Havelock North. All welcome

**So much colour** - 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 struggling 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!” In is with this context of confidence that we pray for and with those whose names are listed. So many of you have added a word or two about your prayer intention. In the more than 2000 lives listed ever human experience is represented, from conception and into eternity. Every set of initials is a life, rich in colour covering every emotion and the height, depth and breadth of human experience. When someone asks me to pray for them or for someone they love I make a decision on the spot to do this, to pray for them. I present their name or initials to God – or with our list below I consciously give the list to God, often, whenever i think of this during the day. Sometimes I use formal prayers, perhaps an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be. Sometimes I pray saying ‘Jesus, you know the initial on this list who most needs to know your presence and power right now.’ And sometimes when I’m intentionally sitting with Jesus, I allow the image below to come to mind, and Jesus and I in silence together gaze at your initials, holding you and those you love in our communion. *foodforfaith.org.nz*