



Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

Sunday 31 March 2024
Easter Sunday



May the joy of
His resurrection
strengthen us in
living out our
Mission

from the Ministry Team



Important Dates

Holy Thursday
28 March

Mass of the Last Supper
7.00pm St Joseph's Church

Good Friday
29 March

Passion of the Lord
Liturgies at
St Patricks Okato 2.00pm
and 3.00pm at
Bell Block Catholic Centre
Our Lady Help of Christians
St Joseph's Church

Holy Saturday
30 March

Vigil Mass at St Joseph's
7.30pm

Easter Sunday
31 March

Closing dates
Sacramental Registrations
Friday 12 April



**PARISH
PRIEST**

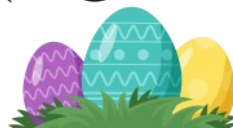


Fr Simon Story

Happy Easter everyone! Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Therefore, surprising as it may seem to some, He is Lord of all. And all other authorities are not. From the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth comes the principle proclamation: "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you." *Pope Francis*. Over Easter Sunday take some time to digest what this means for us. Since the launch of the parish vision on the Feast of Christ the King last year we have been building on the momentum and enthusiasm for such a great vision. Many of us are praying that the Holy Spirit will lead our parish and pray the prayer to the Holy Spirit for our parish every day (Copies in the foyer).

We desire our parish to be filled with missional disciples of Jesus Christ. The Mission Discernment Team is working on the mission plan, meeting weekly, led by Shanon Stallard. This plan will be completed in July. The Leadership Team and Parish Council led by Kevin Kerr are developing strategy and leadership for mission from within the parish family. We all have the parish vision in mind. Fr Chris Ryan was our first big event for 2024. We hope everyone was lifted with passion for mission after hearing him speak. Our core ministries are developing, please see the middle pages...

Fr Simon



How many hidden
eggs can you find in
this newsletter?
Look for me on
Page 6



OUR NEW PARISH VISION
A COMMUNITY CALLED BY GOD FOR MISSIONAL DISCIPLESHIP
GATHERED AROUND JESUS CHRIST FED WITH THE EUCHARIST AND
SENT TO TRANSFORM LIVES EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION – 29 March 2024

The Holy Father's Good Friday Collection is a small gesture of solidarity for the Christian communities that still walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

In 1342 the Apostolic See confirmed the Franciscans as the legitimate guardians of the Holy Land. Funds gathered by each country is forwarded to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.

Our New Zealand collection is given for the upkeep of the Shrine Church in Cana, Galilee, and twenty University scholarships to Bethlehem University.

Please give generously to this collection in support of our brothers and sisters living in the land where our Lord ministered.

EASTER SUNDAY DUES SPECIAL COLLECTION – 31 MARCH AND AT THE VIGIL MASS

Many thanks to parishioners who in the past have contributed to the Easter Dues/Offerings Special Collection. The collection is used by the Clergy Trust Fund to support the priests in the various costs pertaining to their ministries and personal lives. The Clergy Trust Fund is responsible for every aspect of our priests' wellbeing. The priests have always expressed their gratitude for the people's financial support and the care that they receive.

Your support and help is always appreciated!
Mons Brian Walsh (Chairman of the Clergy Trust Fund)

PLEASE NOTE: For both collections, specially marked envelopes are attached to the hard copy newsletter today and will also be available in the foyer. Those on planned giving will already have donation envelopes. Alternatively please pay by direct credit 02 0630 0288002 03 using your name and planned giving number (if available) and the collection name, *Holy Places* or *Dues*, as a reference. And of course cash as the collection is taken up, is welcomed.

DONATIONS AND TAX RECEIPTS

31 March 2024 is not far away, and with it comes the end of the tax year. If you want to bring your giving up to date or make an annual donation before 31 March 2024, you will receive the tax receipt for this giving and be able to claim the 33% rebate tax this year.

Donations can be put on the plate, brought into the office, or made online. Please contact the Parish Office for the bank details and references if you don't have a planned giving number.

EMAILING TAX RECEIPTS: This year we will be generally emailing the tax receipts to donors. Tax receipts will be emailed to the email addresses we are using to send out the newsletter each Friday. If this is not the email address you would like the receipt to be sent to, please contact the Parish Office.

If you do not receive an emailed newsletter each week, it means we don't have your email address. And of course, if you would rather receive a printed copy, again please just let us know. We can easily issue printed receipts rather than emailed receipts.



BEQUESTS

If at any time you are preparing a will, please consider the long-term needs of the parish.

As current parishioners we enjoy the use of Church facilities, be it at St Joseph's, Our Lady Help of Christians, Bell Block Mass Centre, or St Patricks, Okato. These facilities were funded by the past generations of parishioners.

All these buildings require ongoing maintenance and renewal of equipment.

Your bequest will be put to good use in helping to ensure we have well-maintained facilities for our communities, present and future, to worship and to continue to grow in faith and fellowship.



LET'S STAY CONNECTED



Did you know you can receive the weekly parish newsletter and other occasional important parish information by email?

If you are not receiving emails from the Parish Office, it means we don't have your current email address.

Please email:
office@catholicparishnp.nz with your name and current email address and we will put you on the distribution list.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES



DIocese of
PALMERSTON
NORTH



The Tindall Foundation
Contributing to a stronger New Zealand

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE:

Applications open for those applying for funding, close 31 March 2024. The aim of the Catholic Charities Allocation Committee is to assist with funding Catholic and community organisations who are working in areas identified as priorities by the Tindall Foundation and aligned with diocesan goals. Applications are judged on the basis of need, resource availability and the fulfilment of set criteria. Application forms are available in the Parish Office or on the Diocesan website.

SACRAMENTAL – Registrations close Friday 12 April 2024

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS IN THE PARISH 2024:

For details of our sacramental programmes for Older Childrens Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation, please look at the Parish website homepage for more information www.catholicparishnp.nz.



Any questions, please contact:

Susilo – Youth Minister for Confirmation enquiries: youth@catholicparishnp.nz

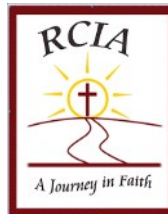
Karen – Young Family Minister for Older Children's Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion enquiries: youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz



RCIA

RITE OF RECEPTION AT EASTER VIGIL:

Congratulations to Catherine McVey who will be receive into full communion of the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Mass at St Joseph's Church.



FROM POPE FRANCIS

APRIL MONTHLY INTENTION: We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.



GENERAL NOTICES

MARIAN MOTHERS: Our next meeting will be held on the 4th April at 2pm. The venue is 3 Karamea Street, Whalers Gate, NP. Please bring a small plate and come join in and share prayer over a cuppa. Any questions ring Glenda on 021 323 765. Thank you.



CWL COMMITTEE MEETING: Friday 5 April - Committee Meeting at 10.30am in St Joseph's Church foyer.



CWL FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH: Friday 5 April, after the 12.05pm Mass at St Joseph's. CWL offer a delicious lunch. Plated sandwiches and cakes with tea or coffee for just \$7, and this also includes a raffle ticket! This is a fundraising activity for the CWL, so the more lunch guests there are, the more CWL can help others.

ANOINTING MASS: The monthly Mass of Anointing will be held at 11.00am Saturday 6 April at St Joseph's Church. Everyone is welcome.

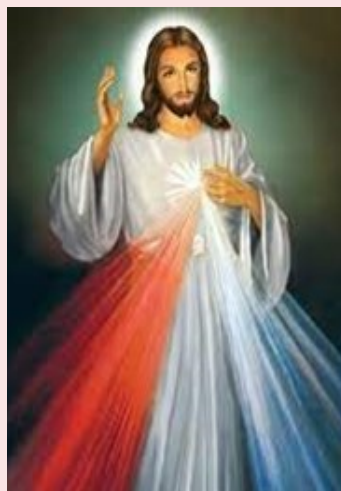
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CATERING: Warm and welcoming hospitality is an important aspect at our parish functions. Some events for 2024 can be managed by our parish hospitality teams, for example offering tea/coffee/finger food. Other larger events which include simple meals such as lasagna, cottage pie, or curry, require greater management.

We invite any individuals, groups or businesses who would be interested in being involved in catering for such events to contact us. Schools - this could be a fundraising opportunity you may wish to consider? For further information or to register your interest please contact the Parish Office.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

A devotion that was revealed by God to St Faustina in Cracow, Poland in the 1930s. During the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, St Faustina's countryman, the devotion was given a special place in the life of the church when he designated the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. A novena leads up to this celebration. Brochures for the novena, which is a private novena, beginning Good Friday, are available in the church foyers.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY DEVOTION: The Divine Mercy devotion will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians church Sunday 7 April at 2.30pm. There will be Rosary and Exposition followed by the Chaplet at 3.00pm. The Veneration of the Image will follow, finishing at approx. 3.15pm. Reconciliation will be available during this time. Please come and learn about this devotion. All are welcome.





YOUTH MINISTRY



Susilo—Youth Minister

"Youth Ministry, at its core, is important in the life of the parish! It's exciting to do the ministry in this "moment of grace." It is important for youth to engage the Parish community because parishes "are the place where God's people meet Jesus in word and sacrament" in a concrete way (New Parish Vision)

The Youth Group has seen a significant increase in the number compared to the previous year. Currently, we have between 30 and 35 attendees. The annual Confirmation Programme has also experienced growth in attendance. With 77 candidates last year, it marked the highest number in the history of the Palmerston North Diocese. Collaborating with Sacred Heart Girls' College and Francis Douglas Memorial College through year-level retreats, class Masses, and various events has fostered unity, connection, and fellowship within the parish. Our youth are full of life, are experiencing many transitions, and have incredible gifts to offer parish life.

It is an honour to witness the deep connection our youth in the parish have with Jesus Christ. A key focus of parish life is empowering our youth to actively engage in the mission of the Church, not just as the future of the Church but as the now of God, as emphasised by Pope Francis in *Christus Vivit*. He declares, "...Young friends, don't wait until tomorrow to contribute your energy, your audacity and your creativity to changing our world. Your youth is not an "in-between time". You are the now of God, and he wants you to bear fruit. For "it is in giving that we receive". The best way to prepare a bright future is to experience the present as best we can, with commitment and generosity." (#178) If the parish wants youth to commit to parish life, it must commit to their development because ministry with young people requires the involvement of the entire parish community.



YOUNG FAMILY MINISTRY



Karen—Young Family Minister

Over the last few years, we have been working to change the way we guide the children and families in our parish through the sacraments. This is due to our hope for our parish to become a more missional parish, to grow missional disciples of Jesus Christ. We want to move our attention from preparing children, to supporting parents and families to become their children's first teachers of faith and give parents the confidence to prepare their own children to receive these very special sacraments.

Our desire is for families to be having regular faith conversations in their homes. We hope to see many more families connecting and being actively involved in our parish. We will be supporting and empowering parents as they journey with their children.

Parents who have had children preparing for Sacraments and have attended Alpha over the last year have spoken strongly about how it has been a life changing step in their faith for their whole family. So.... We encourage parents to accept our invitation to Alpha! You will be warmly welcomed.

Our junior youth group, Shine, continues to be a lovely way for children to form connections in our parish and make friends through their shared faith. Children that come to Shine are from families who are all at different stages in their journey of faith.

Coming together as children of God at Shine allows all of these children the opportunity to grow in their faith in a fun way. Shine runs from 4pm on Sunday's during term time in St Joseph's Church Hall. Many of our Shine families come along to 5.30pm Mass afterwards. A typical Shine session involves fun, faith and chocolate!





MUSIC MINISTRY



Amelia—Music Coordinator

The Music Ministry is exciting to be leading as the parish vision moves us forward, now with five music groups active within the parish.

We welcome new members to the Adult song-leaders, supporting those already serving on the roster. Some new members have also joined the cantors as well. Song-leaders singing with other music ministry groups at our larger Masses proved to be a positive experience for both parishioners and song-leaders alike. The Mustard Seeds have continued strongly this year under our new band leaders. The band are youth music missionary disciples, bringing youth to Mass and Adoration through the music they provide. Recent purchase of new musical equipment helps sustain and support their music missionary work. The Worship Band has delivered uplifting music to Adoration, bringing all ages and new faces to Church. Worship music continued twice a week through Lent, with sessions providing a time to sit, pray, reflect and connect with other parishioners. The Seedlings have also continued strongly this year under their new seedling leaders. As the group has grown, we are now able to explore more part singing which is exciting!

I warmly welcome all the new members who have joined us, a lovely way to connect the younger singers and their families to the Parish. It's also wonderful to have our two older Seedlings cantoring. Little Angels is nurturing our youngest singers! This group provides a nourishing, relaxing, fun and safe space for our little angels and their families to start their week. This group brings the Parish to these young families through conversation, connections and building relationships. During term time, I'm so grateful to start my week off making music with them.

Supporting music at School-led Masses is also very important to Music Ministry, providing another connection between schools and parish.

Feedback indicates enjoyment of how Music Ministry is evolving and the balance between new songs and traditional hymns. Very old and very new alike can be just as moving and powerful. Thank you for all the kind feedback. Music Ministry will continue its mission to serve you through the music we bring. If you have a desire to join music ministry, please come and have a conversation with me!




ALPHA

alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz

We have aligned our next Alpha with the preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion. All these parents have been invited to come to Alpha. The Alpha Team is preparing to start our next Alpha. We pray that the Holy Spirit will transform their lives.



We are developing hospitality following every Sunday Mass and now following the Wednesday morning Mass at OLHC with SJB class Mass.



WHAT ARE YOUR GIFTS TO SHARE?

Do you have a gifting for an element within the parish vision? We are conscious of the need to align peoples gifts with the ministry in which they serve the parish.

HOLY WEEK 2024 TIMETABLE

MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH 7.00pm
 Night prayer at the Altar of repose
 in the St Joseph's Church Hall 9.00pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS GOOD FRIDAY

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH 10.00am

SYRO MALABAR 5.00pm
 Arranged by the Syro Malabar Community on Good Friday
 starting at 5.00pm at the Western Park Gates on Morley Street
 Hill and then on up to Churchill Heights.

GOOD FRIDAY 29 March 2024

Morning Prayer at St Joseph's Church 8.30am

PASSION OF THE LORD

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH 3.00pm
 OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS 3.00pm
 BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE 3.00pm
 ST. PATRICK'S OKATO 2.00pm

HOLY SATURDAY 30 March 2024

Morning Prayer at St Joseph's Church 8.30am

EASTER VIGIL MASS

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH 7.30pm
 There is no Vigil Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians or
 at St Patrick's Church

EASTER SUNDAY MASS TIMES

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH 9.00am
 OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS 10.30am
 BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE 10.30am
 OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA 10.00am (Opunake)

CHRISM MASS 2024



Pictured above from the left: Tommi, Connor, Ben, Nicholas, Connell, James, Clarence and Zach who is holding the Holy Oils.



Last Tuesday 12 parishioners together with 8 Francis Douglas students travelled to the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Palmerston North to collect the Holy Oils. Fr Simon, Fr Trung and Fr Tom also renewed their Priestly promises during this very special Mass.

... that on the Gregorian calendar (the one we use), Easter is a movable feast day. It is always the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon (our autumn equinox), which is the first full moon koror (rising) after March 21. Thus Easter always falls between March 22 and April 25. Full moon this month was Monday 25 March.



EASTER EGG HUNT

After 9.00am Mass on Easter Sunday, we will have an Easter egg hunt at St Joseph's for the children. Thank you to the Youth group for helping out Mr Bunny.

Ask Me - Mr Bunny
 after 9.00am Mass
 on Easter Sunday
 to find the answer!



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

OLHC KINGDOM KIDZ CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Will be on throughout the Easter and Term Holidays. We are loving seeing the number of kids come each week with numbers now averaging 40 - 50 kids.

EASTER SUNDAY: We will be having a special Children's Liturgy with Easter Crafts and some Chocolate surprises!!!!!!

Special thanks to St John Bosco School for the use of their school for Children's Liturgy.

For Palm Sunday we had a lovely group of 50 kids come along and Cath McVey did a special kids liturgy with stations that the kids walked around and learnt about each Station. They also were given a bag and at each station there was something for them to take home to remember that Station.

From the OLHC Children's Liturgy Team: Cat Allen, Cath McVey, Jacqueline Welham, Kate Buchboeck, Kelly Soffee, Natasha Hinga, Abi Shelswell, Roly and Sarah Devine.



Pictured above: Cath McVey with the children talking about the Stations of the Cross.

LITTLE ANGELS MUSIC GROUP



Pictured above are the 'older' Little Angels on Monday with their beautiful Crosses made by a year 8 class at SHGC! After our Easter themed music time, they were very excited to choose their Easter Cross! The Girls at SHGC had made so many of these gorgeous Crosses that there was enough for them to take home to siblings!

Happy Easter from Little Angels! Little Angels is on holidays now and will resume in Term 2.



<p>SHINE</p> <p>WORTHY CORNER</p> <p>ILLUMIN8 YOUTH</p>	<p>WE MEET DURING THE SCHOOL TERM</p> <p>SHINE Junior Youth Group Year 4-8 Time: 4:00pm - 5:00pm</p> <p>Lightbulb Youth Group Year 9 - 13 Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm</p> <p>VENUE: ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL</p>
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Jesus is Risen!
He is Alive!

Rejoice in the resurrection of our Savior, who brings us eternal life.

Happy Easter!

With love,
Illumin8 Youth Group

Illumin8 Youth Group

will be back on
Sunday, 7 April 2024
with
FAMILY DINNER

Please inform me of the number of family members attending by Monday, 1 April 2024, either via email or Instagram Group Chat.

~ Susilo ~

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR THE CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME?

This program is tailored for students in year 11, 12, or 13. Look for more details on the Parish or your College Notice Board or visit the Parish Website.

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE ON FRIDAY, 12 APRIL 2024

"Dear young people, make the most of these years of your youth. Give yourselves over to the best of life!"

CHRISTUS VIVIT (CHRIST IS ALIVE) - PARAGRAPH 143 - POPE FRANCIS



We pray for our deceased family and friends: Dennis Walsh, Joseph Desker, Beatrice and Peter Desker, Clotilda Dias, Cajetan Dias, Anthony Terry Dias, Libby and Tilly D'Souza, Assumption Lobo, Giles Lobo, Regina, Paul Hartigan, Ahmai and Ahpai Fernandes, Alex Dias, Fermine Dias, Anthony Mendis, Marian Adamski, Mieczyslaw Dziobak, Reverend Father Garty and Laura Hiestand, Lois Novak, Bryan Novak, Peter Novak, Jennifer Middleton and Eileen McSweeney.

WEEKLY MASSES: 1 April to 7 April 2024

First Sunday of the month

	MON 1 April	TUES 2 April	WED 3 April	THURS 4 April	FRI 5 April	SAT 6 April	SUN 7 April
St Joseph's Church	Easter Monday 8.30am	8.00am	8.00am	8.00am	8.00am	8.30am 11.00am Anointing Mass	9.00am 5.30pm
Our Lady Help of Christians		9.10am	9.10am			5.30pm	10.30am
St Patrick's Okato						6.00pm	
Bell Block 132 Parklands Ave							10.30am
Sacred Heart Girls College				9.50am			
Francis Douglas Memorial College				No Mass			

MASS TIMES: Owing to unforeseen circumstances Mass times can be changed after the printing of the Newsletter, therefore please refer to the APP or website www.catholicparishnp.nz for updated information.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Good Friday 9.00am to midday and Saturday 30 March 11.30am to 12.00pm.



ADORATION: Our Lady Help of Christians Tuesday 9.35am to 10.30am after Mass.



SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

7 April 2024 2nd Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING: Acts 4. 32-35

PSALM: 118

SECOND READING: 1 John 5. 1-6

GOSPEL: John 20. 19-31



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