

# MASS TIMES AND PARISH DIARY

| SUNDAY MASS TIMES:                | Miha Maori                                      | Patea            | Waverley         | RECONCILIATION:              |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| St. Anne's Tues 11.30am, Sat 9.30 | Sun. 1 Kaiwhaiki 11.00am                        | Sun 1 & 3 9.30am | Sun 2 & 4 9.30am | St Annes Sat. 9.00—9.20am    |
| St Mary's 9.30am & 6.00pm         | Sun. 3 St Mary's 9.30am                         | Wed 2 & 9.30am   | Wed 1 & 3 9.30am | St Mary's Fri 11.00—11.40am  |
| Holy Family Sat. Vigil: 5.30pm    | Sun. 4 Jerusalem/Ranana 10.00am<br>(Hiruharama) |                  |                  | Holy Family Sat. 5.00-5.20pm |

# WHANGANUI PARISH BULLETIN 24 DECEMBER 2017 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Readings for this week: II Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38**

Today we hear the beautiful story of the Annunciation. The dialogue between the archangel Gabriel and a virgin called Mary stirs our hearts. Would she not have been so young to make such a momentous decision? Yet, she is humble and courageous in her response. She knows that what the angel is saying is amazing yet she is able to take the message on board and say: "here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Lk 1: 38)

This can be contrasted with Zechariah's defiance when the same angel brought him good news which answered his prayers over so many years. Gabriel tells him: "But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." (Lk 1: 20) The priest is shown up by the teenager for lack of faith! Let us imitate the Blessed Virgin in her holiness, obedience and courage: "By reason of the gift and role of divine maternity, by which she is united with her Son, the Redeemer, and with His singular graces and functions, the Blessed Virgin is also intimately united with the Church.

As St. Ambrose taught, the Mother of God is a type of the Church in the order of faith, charity and perfect union with Christ. For in the mystery of the Church, which is itself rightly called mother and virgin, the Blessed Virgin stands out in eminent and singular fashion as exemplar both of virgin and mother. By her belief and obedience, not knowing man but overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, as the new Eve she brought forth on earth the very Son of the Father, showing an undefiled faith, not in the word of the ancient serpent, but in that of God's messenger. The Son whom she brought forth is He whom God placed as the first-born among many brethren, namely the faithful, in whose birth and education she cooperates with a maternal love." (*Lumen gentium*, 63)

Fr Marcus

## DECEMBER 25TH, 2017: CHRISTMAS

Regardless of which Scripture readings we listen to as we celebrate our Christmas Eucharist tonight or tomorrow, perhaps it's worth remembering that we wouldn't be celebrating Christmas at all if Jesus hadn't risen from the dead. Regardless of anything else, it's the death and resurrection of Jesus that gives significance to his life. The fact is that the early Christians were conscious of Jesus' resurrection long before they gave any thought to his birth.

It wasn't till the Edict of Milan in 313AD that Christians were able to worship freely rather than be forced to worship the Roman God, Sol Invictus or the Invincible Sun, on December 25. At that point Christians began to insist that December 25 was really the feast of the 'Son of Justice', Jesus the Christ, the true **Sun**, the true **light**, who had come to inaugurate the reign of God, to save the world, to change how people looked at life itself. As Sister Joan Chittister OSB writes: "We do not come to Christmas to pretend that the baby Jesus is being born again or even to pretend that he is being born again in some spiritual way in us."

The real point of Christmas is that it reminds us all over again that, in Jesus, we can see God - an absolutely extraordinary thing because the Jewish people always thought that no one could see God who was not flesh and blood like them. But in Jesus, we can actually see God, see how God acts, see who God is.

Christmas, then, should be a celebration of that Divine Presence in the person of Jesus, permeating the whole cosmos and calling us to recognize the presence and power of God within ourselves, calling us to live in that Godliness so that, through us, the kingdom of God becomes a reality in this time and this place.

JB Kendall rsj



|                 | ST MARY'S                 | HOLY FAMILY                                | ST ANNE'S/OTHERS                     |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| MONDAY 25 Dec   | 9am Carols<br>9.30am Mass |  |                                      |
| TUESDAY 26 Dec  | 9am Mass                  |  |                                      |
| WEDNESDAY 27    | 9am Mass                  |  |                                      |
| THURSDAY 28 Dec | 9am Mass                  |  |                                      |
| FRIDAY 29 Dec   | 9am Mass                  |  |                                      |
| SATURDAY 30 Dec |                           | 5.00pm Reconciliation<br>5.30pm Vigil Mass | 9.00am Reconciliation<br>9.30am Mass |

Sunday Missal and daily Mass calendars  
Could you please ensure you have paid Pat at Holy Family if you have already received one of these. Thank you.

As I reflect on my first year in the Catholic Parish of Whanganui I am aware of the great potential of the parish and the great breadth of charisms we have in this community. It would be fantastic to see a good number of parishioners at our first ever Parish Focus meeting after the 9.30am on Sunday 28 January. As well as the questions given us by Bishop Charles:

1. **How can we grow and strengthen and make more dynamic our parish this year through the sacraments and liturgy?**
2. **How can we strengthen our parish through greater participation of Māori and other ethnic groups?**
3. **How can we grow participation in our parish this year with more children, young families and teenagers?**
4. **How can we enliven our parish this year through social justice and service initiatives?**

Parishioners can also contribute their own ideas for activity in the parish so that our Leadership Group can use this to establish priorities for pastoral action in 2018. The meeting will conclude with a shared lunch.

*Please keep in your prayers those of our parish and school community who are sick, lonely or going through hard times and need our help and comfort. Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of:*

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Helen Kennedy, Jean Boyce

**CONDOLENCES: ANNIVERSARIES:**

Mary O'Neill (1/12), Bryce Orsborn (20/12), William Dawson (22/12), Dorothy Hackett (30/12), Tom Manson (16/12); Caroline Bourke (17/12); Faith Haddock (18/12); Eleanor Batchelor (23/12); John Joseph Bourke (30/12);, Johanna Mannex (30/12), Loretto Daws (07/12),

**MASS OFFERINGS:**

Pat O'Leary (4/12), Carmela D. Cortez, Trevor Robin Blakemore, James Worthington (25/11), Eileen Hoskin (18/12), Departed souls of Hagenaars and Van der Linden families, Harris and Knuth families, Michael and Peggy Power, Pat White, Paddy Gallagher, Bryce Orsborn, Walsh and Manson Families

GENERAL BUSINESS

MASS OFFERINGS

**St. Mary's**  
1 Campbell St, Ph. 345 3872  
Office hours: 8.30am—3pm  
Jo Boulton Parish Secretary

**Holy Family**  
22 Tawhero St,  
✉ holyfamily@extra.co.nz  
**St. Anne's**  
47 Raine Street

**Fr. Marcus Francis**  
PP 021 02283349

**Norma O'Connor**  
Parish Assistant  
Hospital Chaplain  
027 2334557

**Fr. Adonis Rancho (Fr. Don Don)**  
021 02735829

**Jane O'Connell**  
Convener of Care & Concern  
Team 348 9303

**Father John Roberts**

**Kevin Foley**  
Chairperson of Liturgy  
345 0542

## FAITHSHARING GROUPS

### WOMEN'S FAITHSHARING

Will resume next year.

### FAITHSHARING

Rosary and Scripture  
Wed. 10.30am  
St Mary's Meeting Room.  
All welcome.

### MOTHER'S COMBINED PARISHES PRAYER GROUP

We will resume next year.

### MEN'S FAITHSHARING

Fri. 7.00am. Contact Peter  
ph. 342 5812 for venue.

### LEGION OF MARY

Holy Family Church  
Tuesdays @ 4pm. For more  
info contact Paul Daws,

### EXPLORING FAITH GROUPS

EVENING: Monday 7.30pm -  
9.00pm

Holy Family Meeting Room.

MORNING: Tuesday 10.30am -  
12.15pm

St Mary's Community Room

**We will be taking a break  
until 5th February.**

**Wishing you all a Christmas  
full of the awareness of God  
in your life.**

Hosts: Mary Wood 344 3552,

Nancie & Brian Quigley 347  
8177

Jo Smillie 345 0609 (Morning  
Group)

Led by Sr John Bosco

344 4828

## SOCIAL GROUPS

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Holy Family Conference meet on the 2nd &  
4th Mondays of the month at 4.45pm.  
ph: Kevin Foley on 345 0542. Or 345 0161.

St Annes/St Marys Conference meet 1st  
and 3rd Wed of month at 5pm.  
Contact Marianne Vine 3450281

### HOLY FAMILY CRAFT GROUP

Meet weekly on Thursdays at 9.30am.  
For further information phone Shirley on  
344 6365

### ST MARYS CRAFT GROUP

Meet every second Sunday of the month in  
St Marys Church foyer 2-4.  
Contact Marianne 3450281  
or Richelle 3452652.

### LADIES GUILD GROUPS

#### St. Anne's

Meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.  
Ring Kay Wilkinson  
Ph. 343 3367

#### MAINLY MUSIC

Contact Anne 3446569  
Facebook: Mainly music-st annes

#### FOCOLARE

Monthly meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month  
at 1.30 at Anne's Place, 58 Bedford Ave,  
Ph: 3454709  
All Welcome



14 Hillside Tce,  
Whanganui  
P (06) 345 5047 ext 3  
ssjoseph@xtra.co.nz  
www.ssj.org.nz

### Liturgy – mere Kirihimete

*(Please bring a non-perishable food  
item to assist those in need at this  
time.)*

Sunday 17 December, 4 – 5pm

### Tui Motu Group

Tui Motu, an Independent Catholic  
Magazine, will challenge us to look with  
fresh eyes, with gospel eyes, at current  
social, ecological and spiritual  
values.


Come along and contribute to the  
**discussion-inter-church and inter-faith  
dialogue** is welcomed.

Wednesday 20 December, 4.30 – 6pm,  
with Sr Rita Cahill rsj

To register please call Pam on 3455047  
ext 3

or email [pam.hopper@sosj.org.au](mailto:pam.hopper@sosj.org.au)

### MARAE TIME

at Te Rau Oriwa Marae.   
The Drop-in Centre is open  
9-1pm every Monday to  
Thursday.  
Nau Mai, Haere Mai . All Welcome.

Kia ora tatou,

*At many moments in the past and by many means,  
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets,  
but in our time he has spoken to us in the person of his Son.  
He is the reflection of God's glory and bears the impress of God's own being,  
and sustains all things.*  
Hebrews 1:1-4

The birth of Jesus changed the world. God became one of us. And we moved  
into the new time of AD: Anno Domini, years of the Lord.  
There never has been and never will be an occurrence so filled with mystery.  
Little wonder the simplicity yet profundity of Christmas engages all our senses  
and emotions. Wonder, awe and bewilderment give rise to gratitude, gentleness,  
and compassion, and our hearts and minds are renewed.

The vulnerability of the manger rests in stark contrast to powerful yet jealous  
King Herod and his henchmen. Following Christ, we make our journey of life  
guided by the true light, the Prince of Peace, who dispels the lure of false lights  
and the dark temptations of greed and selfishness.

Let us rejoice at the gift of faith. Let us give thanks for our own tupuna who have  
guided us in the way of faith and let us embrace anew our life of light: in the  
words addressed to you at your baptism, "you have been enlightened by Christ  
... walk always as a child of the light ... keep the flame of faith alive in your  
heart..."

God bless you and your whānau this Christmas, including the sick or troubled  
wherever they may be.

Thank you for what each one of you does to make our Diocese a family of faith.

+ Charles

Bishop Charles.



### Cullinane College

Principal: Kevin Shore  
DRS: Helen Dougherty

15 Peat St., Wanganui  
Ph: (06) 349 0105  
Email: [office@cullinane.school.nz](mailto:office@cullinane.school.nz)  
[www.cullinanecollege.school.nz](http://www.cullinanecollege.school.nz)



### ST. Marcellin School

Principal: Maia Williams  
Acting DRS: Korty Wilson

Totara St. Wanganui.  
Ph: 349 0023  
Email: [stmarcellin@welearn.school.nz](mailto:stmarcellin@welearn.school.nz)



### ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Principal: Jacqui Luxton  
DRS: Cath Daignault

30 London St. Wanganui  
Ph: 343 1227  
Email: [school@stmarys.ac.nz](mailto:school@stmarys.ac.nz)



### ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal: Karl Zimmerman  
DRS: Jo Gichard.


Raine St. Wanganui East  
Ph: 343 8389  
Email: [office@stannes.school](mailto:office@stannes.school)



### Office Closed

The Office will be closed at midday  
Friday 22nd December. There will be  
someone in the office at St. Mary's  
between 9.00am-12.00pm Monday-  
Friday.  
Normal office hours will resume again  
on the 15th January.  
The next newsletter will be printed on  
the 21st January.  
"Merry Christmas and Happy New  
Year" Enjoy the holidays.

### Baptisms in our Parish

Congratulations to Natasha  
Yuen and her family.  
Natasha was baptised at St  
Marys on 16th December.   
Congratulations to Cole  
Gosney and his family. Cole was  
baptised at St Annes on 16th  
December.



## OUR SCHOOLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### WHAT'S UP?

### Christmas Mass Times

#### Sunday 24th December

9.30am @ St Marys  
9.30am @ Waverley  
10.00am @ Jerusalem

### Christmas Eve Masses

Carols @ 7pm Vigil Mass @ 7.30pm @ St Marys  
Carols @ 9.30pm Vigil Mass @ 10.00pm @ Holy Family

### Christmas Day Monday 25th December

Carols @ 9.00am Mass 9.30am @ St Marys  
9.30am @ Kaiwhaiki  
9.30am @ Patea

**Weekday Mass times from 26th December to 29th January  
(Vigil and Sunday masses as normal)**

**Reconciliation- NOT on Fridays at St Marys-  
but is available Saturday 9am at St Annes and 5.00pm Holy  
Family**

Tues 26th-Friday 29th Dec 9.00am @ St Marys

Sat 30th Dec 9.00am Reconciliation,  
9.30am Mass @ St Annes  
Vigil 5.00pm Reconciliation  
Sun 31st Dec 5.30pm Mass @ Holy Family  
9.30am Mass @ St Marys  
6.00pm Mass @ St Marys  
9.30am Mass @ Patea

Weekday Masses from Monday 1st January to Friday 26th January  
are:

**Monday to Friday 9am at St Marys only.**

Saturday 6th and 13th January  
St Annes 9.00am Reconciliation,  
9.30am Mass  
Holy Family Vigil 5.00pm Reconciliation  
5.30pm Mass  
Sunday 7th and 14th January  
St Marys 9.30am and 6pm Mass

There will be someone in the office at St. Mary's between 9.00-  
12.00pm Monday-Friday.

There will be no weekday masses in Patea and Waverley or at  
Kowhainui, Nazareth or Jane Winstone until the beginning of  
February.



SHARING  
— OUR FAITH —