

**EASTER RECONCILIATION** will be held on Wednesday 10th April, 7pm at St Francis in Stoke.

**SEVENTH HEAVEN Passionist Group** is holding a Chips and Chat function at the Rimu Bar on the Mapua wharf on Saturday 6th April from 4.30 onwards. People can choose to select something from the Rimu Bar's menu or have fish and chips from the fish and chip shop opposite the Rimu Bar. Anyone wishing to join us can contact Helen Jones on 544-2391 by Monday morning 1st April.



## ST PETER CHANEL 423 High St, Motueka



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS.** The set from our 'Old Marble Church' has been installed in our chapel as community history. Thank you, John Farrelly, for the wonderful job. Everyone is welcome anytime during weekdays and

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be prayed in the Church at 7pm every Friday evening in Lent.

**EASTER RECONCILIATION** will be held on Thursday 11 April at 7pm.

**ANNOINTING MASS** will be held at 9.30am mass on Thursday 4 April. All welcome.

**GOMFADIANS** Please note Brian Dunnill and Stan have swapped places. We meet at Stan Sivak's place this Sunday, and Brian will host in April. See you there.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** our faithful departed for this week. (01) Cath Lawson (03) Beth McKenzie. May they rest in peace.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** in your prayers the elderly, lonely, sick and infirmed of our community: Madhu Dey, Malcolm Garrett, Peter Goodman, Pat Stack, Bryan Hamilton, Trish Hall, Bill Nugent, Barbara Janson, Nancy Courtney and Therese Dunnill.

## ST JOSEPH'S 62 Pitfure Rd, Wakefield

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be prayed in the Church at 7.30pm every Friday evening in Lent.

**CONTACT INFO** We are in the process of updating Names, addresses, phone numbers and mail addresses. Could you please check the list in the back of the Church and correct if necessary on the sheet provided.

### PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE BAYS - SCHEDULE OF MASSES

<b>St Peter Chanel, Motueka</b>	<b>Sat Vigil 5pm / Sun 9.30am</b> / Tues, Thurs 9.30am
<b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Richmond</b>	<b>Sun 9.30am</b> / Tues 11.30am / Wed 9.30am / Fri 9.30am
<b>St Peter &amp; Paul, Waimea West</b>	<b>5pm on 4th Sat of the month</b> (next Mass 27th April)
<b>St Joseph, Wakefield</b>	<b>Sun 8am</b> / Thurs 9.30am
<b>Sacred Heart, Takaka</b>	<b>Sun 5pm</b> (all year round)

\* If there is a funeral Mass it replaces the Mass of the day.

\* Reconciliation: After weekday mass or by appointment with the priest.



A Catholic Parish of  
The Archdiocese of Wellington  
To Tatou Wahine O Nga Whanga Parahi Katorika

# OUR LADY OF THE BAYS

MOTUEKA • RICHMOND • TAKAKA • WAIMEA WEST • WAKEFIELD

31st March 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

ISSUE 91

**Readings:** Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 33; 2Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**Psalm: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

**Next Sunday readings:** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 125; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11

**D**ear Parishioners

This week's gospel reading on the prodigal son is a profound story of love, forgiveness and the human condition. It is a story that has inspired artists, writers, theologians and authors for centuries. One small, but profound book that has touched many over the last few decades (including me) is called *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* by Fr. Henri Nouwen. Nouwen's recounting of the Prodigal story is palpable with the vulnerability of his own humanity and yet so rich with joy and love. Basing his book on a vivid interpretation of Rembrandt's painting of the same story (worth a "Google" if you have a chance), Nouwen beautifully describes the elements of the painting and how they relate to aspects of his own life in which desolation, resentment, reconciliation and renewal are all manifest. The great insight into Rembrandt's painting that Nouwen's offers is the focus Rembrandt gives to the hands of the father. Placed around the son during their embrace on his return home, each hand is subtly and profoundly different. One distinctly more feminine, the other more masculine. Nouwen says, "On them all light is concentrated; on them the eyes of the bystanders are focused; in them mercy becomes flesh; upon them forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing come together, and, through them, not only the tired son, but also the worn-out father finds their rest". For Nouwen, the final meaning of this parable is, "not whether you see yourself as the younger son or the elder son, but rather, the realisation you are called to become the father"!! This we know, we are all loved sinners. Yet God calls us to be so much more than this. God's compassion described by Jesus is not simply to show me how willing God is to feel for me, or to forgive my sins or offer me new life and happiness, but to invite me to become like God and to show the same compassion that he is showing me, to others.

God Bless, Fr. Seph

### PASTORAL TEAM

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### SCHOOLS

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Phone: 03 544 2243

**St Peter Chanel School, Motueka**

Phone: 03 528 7366

**Garin College, Richmond**

Phone: 03 543 9488

### PARISH OFFICE

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**Website:** www.ourladyofthebays.org

**OLOB Newsletter:**

**Deadline Wednesday night**

ourlady.newsletter@gmail.com

**St Vincent de Paul**

Motueka: 03 540 2824

Richmond: 03 544 0893

Takaka: 03 525 9809

## AROUND OUR LADY OF THE BAYS PARISH



A reminder that **DAYLIGHT SAVING** will finish at 2am **next Sunday 7 April**. Make sure you adjust your clocks so that you are not an hour early for Mass and sitting on the doorstep waiting for the Priest to arrive!

**THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** met last Sunday in Takaka. We would like to thank the members of the Takaka Leadership team who made us so welcome, provided afternoon tea and gave us a tour of the Marble Church and an insight into the strengthening project they have been working on over the past few years. It was a pleasure to be able to join with them for Mass that evening.

**TAIZE New Season** Taize Hour will be open this year on Tuesday 9 April at 7.30pm in St Francis of Assisi Chapel, Stoke. We come together for silent prayer, Taize music and verse in a candlelit chapel. Come and rest awhile. Contact ~ Diane 547 3356

**LAST WEEK CARDINAL JOHN** wrote these words in his newsletter regarding the response of people after the tragedy in Christchurch: "Last year Pope Francis wrote that wonderful document on Holiness called "Gaudete et Exsultate," he wrote powerfully about the call to holiness and used the Beatitudes from Matthews Gospel to help us reflect on what holiness is. He wrote: *Being poor of heart: that is holiness. Reacting with meekness and humility: that is holiness. Knowing how to mourn with others: that is holiness. Hungering and thirsting for righteousness: that is holiness. Seeing and acting with mercy: that is holiness. Keeping a heart free of all that tarnishes love: that is holiness. Sowing peace all around us: that is holiness.* Thousands of people around Aotearoa New Zealand have mourned with others, have been showing us that they are hungering and thirsting for right behaviour and justice, have been showing mercy, keeping their hearts free of anything that might tarnish words and acts of love, and above all have been sowing peace all around. Most of those people would not dream of calling themselves "holy". I believe they are."

**LENT REFLECTION—4th SUNDAY** While the given gospel this weekend is the parable of the Prodigal Son, parishes in which catechumens are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter will use the account of Jesus giving sight to the man born blind. In both gospel accounts Jesus is giving new vision. This is clearly evident when a man who is blind receives physical sight, but the greater miracle is when a lost son realises that he is lost and chooses to return home to his loving father.

Both sons lacked maturity and were bound by their fears and compulsions. The prodigal saw his home life and his father as obstacles to his freedom. He runs from this soon falling victim to every superficial attraction waking up to realise that such an existence is not freedom but imprisonment. The home-bound son might initially appear to be virtuous, but on the return of his wayward brother his repressed anger and childish fragility erupts and he is unable to delight in the return of his brother. Both sons are immature, one a fearful child, the other a reactionary teenager. Both are sinners, but we see only the prodigal reaching the great turning point of faith and accepting the loving embrace of the father. Such a life-giving conversion comes to us only when we are brought to our knees as the prodigal son was when he realised that life in the pig-pen was no life at all. Fr. John O'Connor [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz)

**LAUDATO SI' Things you can do to look after our common home** Use a reusable bag every time you get anything. God gave us a brain to remember to take the bag with us. Let's use that brain.

**FOR GIVING** - Our bank account number is: **02-0747-0066112-00**.

Please use surname & initials as Particulars and /or planned giving number as Reference.

**EASTER CANDLE WORKSHOP** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 7-9pm in Parish Hall. Gertrudd Weis from Nelson will show you how to decorate an Easter Candle for your home. Cost \$12 for candle and decorations. Limit 12 adults. Please register 544 0551 [karen@moynagh.co.nz](mailto:karen@moynagh.co.nz)

**CHRISM MASS** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm, St Mary's, Blenheim. The sacramental oils are blessed/consecrated to bring back to each Church. Cardinal John will celebrate this Mass with all the priests from the Top of The South. They will renew their vows of priesthood. We pray for them. Would you like to go? Contact [karen@moynagh.co.nz](mailto:karen@moynagh.co.nz) or 544 0551

## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP 35 William St, Richmond

**FR SEPH** is away from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April. During this time Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion will be held at the regular weekly Mass times.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be prayed in the Church at 7pm every Friday evening in Lent.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Easter Choir rehearsals start after Mass today. All welcome. For more information see Doug after Mass or ring him on 544 6288.

**COFFEE CLUB** at the Richmond parish centre at 2pm on Friday 5 April for some house and fun. For information or pickup required please call Ray and Mary [027 283 1039](tel:0272831039) or [927 6827](tel:0276827).

**MOTHERS' PRAYERS** Our group pray for families, especially our own on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month, 10.45 - 11.30am. We meet this Thursday, 4th April at 10.45am. For more info please phone Anne 544 7883 / 027 544 7883 or Kath 970 6754 / 027 452 3948.

**NELSON DOVE Catholic Fellowship for Women** is meeting on **Saturday 13 April at 2pm** in the Church at 2pm for Praise and Worship and the Stations of the Cross followed by fellowship in the Hall. We look forward to seeing you in the church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, William Street, Richmond. Contact Mary 03 5410770. For more information. [www.dove.org.nz](http://www.dove.org.nz)

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** Week 4. This week we reflect on the gift of forgiveness. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of an event that has already taken place. The process of 'confessing' does not forgive the sin, God has already forgiven and is always waiting to 'welcome us home.' *Lord teach me to forgive, to look deep into the hearts of those who wound me, so that I may glimpse, in that dark, still water, not just the reflection of my own face but yours as well.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER** our faithful departed for this week. Mary Joan Scadden, Peter John Kersten, Barbara Violet Gaul. May they rest in peace.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** this Thursday 4th April. 10 - 5pm. Make it a special Devotion for Lent.

**THANKS** to everyone who contributed to the fundraising for the Garin Senior A Volleyball team last Sunday. A total of \$210 was raised. As we go to print the girls are still playing and fighting hard for their wins.