



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

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

30th Mar 2025

4th Sunday of Lent

01025

Joshua 5: 9a, 10-12; Second Corinthians 5: 17-21; Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

MASS TIME

Sunday Mass

RICHMOND

Sunday 9.00am

MOTUEKA

Sunday 11.00am

WAKEFIELD

Vigil Mass 5pm, 2nd Sat each month

WAIMEA WEST

Vigil Mass 5pm, 4th Sat each month

TAKAKA

Saturday 5pm, 1st & 3rd each month

2nd Sunday of month at 9.30am

Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Weekdays Mass

MOTUEKA

Tuesday 9.30am

Friday, 9am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 9.15am Rosary

Friday, 9.30am Liturgy of the Word

RICHMOND

Wednesday and Friday, 9.30am

Reconciliation after weekday Mass or by Appointment

CONTACT

Fr Andrew Kim (Administrator)

Fr Cirilo Barlis, Fr Dyson Tharakan

(Assistant Priests)

Parish Office

Era Creevey, Admin 9.00-14.00

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

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Deadline Wednesday Noon

Rejoice in choice, with the Prodigal Son

This Laetare Sunday, we rejoice and reflect on the very familiar Gospel reading of the Prodigal Son. This leads to thoughts about choice. We make choices all day, every day, giving some a lot of thought and giving some close to no thought at all.

In his acclaimed book *Man's Search for Meaning*, Viktor Frankl emphasises the freedom in the gift of choice, writing that 'between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space lies our freedom and power to choose our response.' This idea was re-iterated in the meaningful, and beautifully simple, story of *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*, by Charlie McKesy, who wrote that 'one of our greatest freedoms is how we react to things.'

Applying this thinking to the Gospel, we can begin to consider and try to understand the choices made by each person:

- The Father: his love for his sons is completely unconditional and unquestioning, he gives, and keeps on giving, seeking no reward or acknowledgement. He is devoted to his children, trusting in them, their choices and free will, and allowing them to choose their own paths. He is love personified – accepting, trusting, forgiving, kind and unceasing.
- The Younger Son: he made some decisions, perhaps reflective of his age and stage, that could be considered experimental, selfish, even immature and irresponsible. But he was gifted repentance and made a brave choice, admittedly when times were tough, to be humble, to have hope and to seek forgiveness.
- The Older Son: he is dutiful, accepting his responsibility and commitments to his father, family and work. He is reliable, trustworthy and diligent. But, when his brother returns home, he feels resentment, self-pity, anger, hurt and frustration.

It is almost as if, between each stimulus and each response, the decision we make is a bit like selecting a multiple choice answer. So, like those in the Gospel, do we choose:

- a) selfishness, hedonism, greed, then humility and love
- b) anger, frustration, hurt, then acceptance and love
- or c) love, always and forever, without condition and without end?

Laetare Sunday is a special time in Lent for joy and celebration. The freedom to choose our response is also something to celebrate. Let's hope that we can remember to take ownership of our choices, noticing the gifts, blessings and opportunities that we experience, even when they are well disguised in difficult and challenging times.

Whatever route our choices take us in, let's pray that, in that space between stimulus and response, we decide to choose love, as that's where our ever-patient, ever-forgiving God is waiting for us.

OUR LADY OF THE BAYS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL – OLOB

Archbishop Paul's direction to Our Lady of the Bays and Holy Family parishes is for each to form a Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) The expectation is that the process will get underway as soon as possible. It is expected that there will be 6-9 people on each Council.

The PPC will need a range of experience of people willing to serve without personal or parochial agendas. They will need to be willing to work with the amalgamation of both parishes moving forward and have time to commit to serving the full mission of the Church expressed by the Wellington Archdiocese.

Fr Andrew will advise us further on this process.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD at St Mary's, Nelson: Make some time to be with our Lord Jesus in prayer and adoration, in communion with Catholics around the world in this Jubilee Year. Starting at 5pm on Friday 28th, with a Holy Hour, there will be ongoing prayer and adoration until the Vigil Mass at 6pm on Saturday 29th March. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

LAETERE SUNDAY: The Fourth Sunday of Lent, this year on Sunday 30 March.

The word Laetare means "rejoice" in Latin.

The priest will wear a rose coloured robe. The colour is a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Christ's coming — both in his birth (Gaudete) and in his re-birth (ie, Resurrection). Laetare Sunday gives us a temporary 'day-off' to things we have chosen to give up for Lent. Check your wardrobe and see if you can come in rose / pink coloured clothes

"The elder son needs mercy too. The righteous, those who believe they are righteous, are also in need of mercy. This son represents us when we wonder whether it is worth all the trouble if we get nothing in return. Jesus reminds us that one does not stay in the house of the Father for a reward but because one has the dignity of being children who share responsibility. There is no "bargaining" with God, but rather following in the footsteps of Jesus who gave himself on the Cross without measure."

Pope Francis, General Audience, 11 May 2016

Holy Family Parish - ALPHA for all women

Sessions starting: Friday 2nd May, 7:00 - 8:30p.m.

We chill out with a drink and snack at 7 and start the session at 7:15.



Chrism Mass

Tuesday, April 15th
Midday
St Mary's Star of the Sea
Blenheim



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP, RICHMOND

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT AT 7pm ON THE FRIDAYS of Lent. Most will be led by a parishioner and booklets will be available.

Waimea Vines Family Group - Coffee get together after 9.00am Mass Sunday 30th March at Appleby Garden Bar and Kitchen Appleby Highway. Newcomers most welcome

LENTEN REFLECTIONS: No meeting this Wednesday. Lorraine and Karen will provide two more opportunities, on Wednesday mornings, **2 April 10.15 -11.15am** and **9 April 10.15 -11.15am**. The hour will include prayer, scripture, reflection, contemplative questions, music and art. Come for one or come for all of them.

ADORATION. Thursday, 3rd April from 1pm, followed by Benediction at 5.45pm and Mass at 6pm. All welcome to come and spend time with Jesus this Lent.

NO ANOINTING at 9.30am MASS on Friday 4.

THURSDAY 10th APRIL DECORATE AN EASTER CANDLE: Gertrud Weiss will again offer her popular workshop to decorate your own Paschal Candle. 7-8.30pm at meeting room at St Francis, Stoke. \$14 for candle and decorating wax. \$4 for decorating wax, if you bring your own candle. Registration essential, as numbers are limited. - Karen Moynagh 027 245 7800 karen@moyrnagh.co.nz

Mass at Holy Week

Palm Sunday 13 April, 9am
 Holy Thursday 17 April 7pm
 Good Friday 18. April 3pm
 Easter Vigil 19 April 7pm
 Easter Sun 20 April 9am

ST JOSEPH, WAKEFIELD

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: There will be Stations of the Cross in the Church, starting at 7pm, on Friday nights during Lent. All welcome

ST PETER CHANEL, MOTUEKA

FUNERAL PLANNING

Following on from the introduction that we saw when the Archbishop was at St Paul's School last year, Shelly Hills will give a presentation on Funeral Planning at St Peter Chanel. This will be at 10am on Sunday week, April 6th, and finish before Mass at 11 o'clock. Important decisions concerning your Funeral can be made in advance, before you may be too ill to contribute.

ST VINCENT de PAUL

The next meeting of the Motueka chapter will be held in the Church Foyer at 3pm on Tuesday April 1st. All are welcome, and if you are interested in finding out more about this vital ministry, then please come along. You can also help by donating food and personal hygiene supplies into the bin in the foyer, or money into the slot next to the kitchen. Pak'n'save in Richmond have a donation box next to the checkouts .

LEADERSHIP GROUP

The Leadership group and Fr Andrew met last week. Headlines were:

- The One - Way sign for the Driveway is ready to be put up
- Fr Dyson will live in the Presbytery during Holy Week, and conduct all of the traditional Services
- The Garden project will be shifted to the School. Contact the School Office if you want a garden bed.
- A Pilgrimage is to held to Father Garin's Memorial Chapel as part of the Jubilee year.
- St Peter Chanel's Feast Day will be celebrated with a picnic after Mass on April 27th
- The Summerfield Family was wished well for their shift to Australia.

PRAYER GROUP

We look forward to welcoming you for a prompt start at 6pm on April 2. This week in Lent we meditate on the Sorrowful Mysteries from the life of Jesus and Mary, fostering a deeper connection with the Father. About last month, Eleanor Campion said: "Two of us were welcomed to lead a decade in the Glorious Mysteries for the first time with support and no pressure. I'm so grateful for this group which blesses me every week no matter what."

MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

A handful of the men of the Parish met on Sunday and had a very interesting discussion with a visitor, who grew up a non-white in South Africa. Changing the name of the group was seen as tricky, as some of the original members are still around. How about 'Hymn Practice', Happy Young Men Nattering? Looking forward to the feedback!

MOTUEKA EASTER SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY 11am
 HOLY THURSDAY 7pm
 GOOD FRIDAY 2.30pm
 SATURDAY VIGIL 5.30pm
 SUNDAY 11.00am

SACRED HEART, TAKAKA

EASTER SERVICE
 SUNDAY 5pm

MINISTRIES Greeter Morning Tea Music Prayers Readers Eucharistic Lawns Flowers

Sunday, 30 March 2025	A Lane J Leydon	M Kilmartin & L Assaf	Josie Moriarty	V Dugdale	A Lane &M Carr	A Lane M Lucas J Maguire		William Frondarina		No Flowers
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