



Catholic Parish of Wairarapa

A community living and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Patron: 'Our Lady of Compassion'

The Ascension of the Lord — 12th May 2024



Parish Priest: 06 378 2028 opt 2

Fr Dennis Nacorda:

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Email: pp@wairarapacatholics.nz

Deacon Matt White:

027 396 9963

Email: mw@wairarapacatholics.nz

Contact for PP & Deacon: Tues-Sun 8.30am

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?08049297130>

Parish Office: 06 378 2028

9am-5pm Mon-Fri

Denise Holden

164 Dixon Street, Masterton

Contact No: 027 350 3493

Email: office@wairarapacatholics.nz

Website:

wairarapacatholicparish.com

Tena koutou katoa,

Happy Ascension Sunday! This feast reminds us of Jesus, the true God and true human, who went up to heaven on his own power. Just as Jesus descends from heaven in the incarnation, he returns to heaven in the Ascension. We should distinguish this from Mary's going to heaven. She has no ability to rise into heaven on her own as she is fully human. She is assumed into heaven by God.

The Ascension marks the definitive entrance of Jesus' humanity into the glory of God's heavenly domain. As Pope Benedict XVI eloquently expressed, "Heaven" does not indicate a place above the stars, but rather the divine Person of Christ, in whom God and man are inseparably united forever. In Christ's Ascension, the human person has entered into the very intimacy of God. We are given the hope of one day reaching the place He has prepared for us.

The Ascension also inaugurates a new and insuppressible form of Christ's presence in the world. Though no longer visible to our eyes, the Crucified-Risen One is alive and reigns in glory, constantly interceding for us before the Father. This should fill us with serenity and enthusiasm, just as it did the Apostles, who returned to Jerusalem "with great joy."

The Ascension is also not a separation but rather a commissioning. As the disciples were invited to gaze not up at the sky but to go forth and proclaim the saving message of Christ's death and Resurrection, so too are we called to be witnesses of the Risen Lord, empowered by the Holy Spirit to make His presence visible through our lives.

In this way, the Solemnity of the Ascension invites us to lift our hearts, to fix our gaze on Christ enthroned in glory, and to live as pilgrims and strangers on earth, seeking the eternal kingdom that He has prepared for us.

On another matter, I have learned that many people were offended by my words in the newsletter. Aroha mai. I had no intention of offending anyone.

I am grateful to you for responding positively to the Parish Gifting Sunday. Many forms were returned already filled in, and some with suggestions. The parish needs you to fulfil its mission.

I would like to emphasize the need for formation as it is essential for us to understand our ministry and grasp its spirituality. Ministry in the church is quite different from volunteerism. There are many things that need unpacking for us as we look into ourselves as ministers in relation to our baptismal vocation in the world.

That is why we need to arrange some time for the Formation Days. On the 15th and 22nd of June, we will have the parish-wide Ministry Formation Days. We have invited speakers from the Mission Office, Catholic Social Services, and the Safeguarding Office. Then, practical formation follows for each ministry from the last week of June to the whole month of July.

Simultaneously, the Sacramental Programs, a pivotal part of our parish life, will also commence. These programs are not just events but opportunities for spiritual growth and connection. Parents will also have their catechism, as do their children. The schools will be venues for the sacramental programs for children, and churches will be venues for the parents. The second term will be for reconciliation, the third term will be for Confirmation, and the fourth term will be for First Communion.

Please note that Denise will be away from 20 May to 10 July for a well-deserved holiday in the northern hemisphere. Deacon Matt will be away from the 2nd week of June to the 3rd week of July for the 30-day silent retreat.

Nā, Pā Dennis



PARISH NOTICES

On Prayer

EXPOSITION Friday's 8.30am
Alternates between Chanel Chapel & St. Patrick's Church.

Note: Sunday Adoration is available in St. Patrick's Church after hospitality.

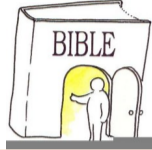
ROSARY GROUPS

St. Anthony's Hall, Tue's 11.00am
St. Teresa de Avila, Fri's 10:30am
St. Patrick, Sat's 4.30pm



WORD AT HOME Bible Study Group

Friday's 11.00am call:
Claire: 027 715 6130
Helen: 027 225 6722



On Sacramental Program

YOUR CHILD

If your baptised child is turning 8 before September and is wanting to be confirmed and receive communion, please fill in the form in our parish website:

www.wairarapacatholicparish.com/sacramental-program

PARENTS

All parents for the sacramental program are invited for the orientation on the following dates

- Thursday 16th May 2024 at St. Pat's School at 7pm
- Sunday 19th May 2024 at St. Teresa of Avila Church at 11:30am.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC RCIA PROGRAMME

Contact: Claire: 027 715 6130



On Socials

COFFEE MORNINGS

Thursdays From 10.30am in Kainga Eatery, Carterton



SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

All welcome following the Masses:

St. Patrick: Sun 8.30am
St. Teresa de Avila: Sun 10.30am

SHARED LUNCH 11.30am

Last Sun of the month at St Teresa's Church Hall, Fstn. Please bring a plate.



Other Notices

For Sale: Limited edition "Fruits of Toil" by Fr V McGlone. **History of the Catholic church in Wairarapa** \$50.00.
Call Anne: 027 936 835

REMINDER: PARK YOUR CARS away from the front area of the St Patrick's Church for safety reasons.



NEW PARISH WEBSITE: Please click <https://www.wairarapacatholicparish.com/>

PARISH LADIES

We meet at St Patrick's School at 10.30 on Wednesday 15 May. The Principal, Steve Wheeler will meet us and tell us about Education today, we will then have morning tea in the staff room and then a tour of the school. If your name begins A - L please bring a plate. It's OK to park on the grass on the left of the drive. Do hope you're able to join us.

PARISHIONER HELP

If you happen to know of anyone seeking employment with home help experience or who could be trained to put needs, (eg a ucol nursing student) we have advertised for a carer for our parents who live here in Masterton. There is a variety of options with the job. Advert is on Seek.

<https://www.seek.co.nz/job/75540867?ref=searchstandalone&type=standard#sol=b597fa894f8087c6b7bd5c84a8ec54ad71689a2e>

Many thanks Kathleen Field

THE SVDP society is now called the Wairarapa Conference as we have incorporated Masterton into our Conference. We reach out to those in need, seeking food as well as lonely souls in need of visits. The shop is no longer run by our Conference but volunteers are still needed to keep operating. All donations of clothing, furniture etc are much appreciated.



Wairarapa conference:

Patrick Hallot (Chair) 027 424 9365
Shop: 161 High Street North, Carterton 5713
06 379 7915

Regards Paddy Hallot

ONLINE ROCKY ROAD FUNDRAISER

St Mary's School families are selling delicious rocky road to help support our school and our students. **How do I sign up to fundraise online?** Each fund-raiser can sign up for their very own web page to send out to friends and family to collect sales. **Go to this website page:** <https://stmaryscartertoncookies.raiseit.co.nz/>

PRAYER CHAIN CORNER (Please keep in your prayers)

Fr Frank Whitaker	Terrence Nelson (Terry)	
Fr Peter O'Connell	Philippa Fagg	
Fr David Orange	Bob Knowles	
Fr Kevin Purcell		
Fr Tikoua Kautu		
Fr Frank Maguire		

COMMUNION TO THE SICK: If you have a family member housebound or in hospital. Or if you are aware of someone who cannot attend the masses and would like a priest to visit or someone to take Communion. Please ask permission from the person to contact the office on their behalf.

PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF THE SOULS

Helen McGann Hanorah Lett Ikoke Fagasoia
Our sincere prayerful condolences to the families of the recently departed.

Gospel Reflection

This passage makes up the concluding verses of the Gospel of Mark. Actually, literary criticism of the Mark gospel suggests that the original gospel ended at 16:8 with the women fleeing from the empty tomb in fear. Verses 9-20 appear to be a later addition to the gospel. The community in which this gospel was written expected Jesus to return within their lifetime and so the dramatic and suspenseful conclusion of the gospel at the discovery of the empty tomb makes perfect sense. However, it soon became apparent that Jesus' return was not going to come as soon as the believers had hoped and so the post-resurrection appearances and the commissioning to continue on with Jesus' work became much more important.

If we were to read this passage literally, we would believe that to be a Christian one had to be able to perform exorcisms, speak in tongues, handle snakes, drink poison and heal by touch. If this were literally true, I guess there wouldn't be too many Christians around today! Rather, the purpose of the passage is that Jesus sends his followers out 'to the whole world' to continue his ministry. It is the 'whole world' to which they are sent; not just their cosy little corner of the world but the whole world. It's what Christian people for the last 2,000 years have been called to do: continue Jesus' ministry to the whole world. It's what each and every one of us is called to do today: 'proclaim the Good News to all creation'. That doesn't mean standing on street corners with a Bible in our hands but it means proclaiming the Good News through our everyday actions and by being open and honest about our faith. It means treating all people as Jesus would.

© Liturgyhelp

Today's Lectionary Readings

The Ascension of the Lord

1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Psalm Response: Psalm 46:2-3, 6-9

"God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord."

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel Reading: Mark 16:15-20

Next Sunday's Lectionary Readings

The Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Psalm: Psalm 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34

2nd Readings: Galatians 5:16-25

Gospel: John 15:26-27, 16:12-15



Reflection from Claire Hills

In Acts 1: 1-11 in the readings this Sunday, the disciples were told by Jesus to wait in Jerusalem because very soon they would experience the transformative power of the

Holy Spirit at Pentecost which would equip them to be witnesses of the Gospel in Jerusalem, Judea and throughout the world even to the uttermost part of the earth. New Zealand qualifies as at the utter most part of the world. It is as far away from the Holy Land as you can get.

Catholics in the Wairarapa have benefited from many people who have dedicated their lives to living and spreading the Gospel.

The New Zealand Catholic Church is a young church. Although informal congregations of Catholics existed before the Treaty of Waitangi, our history is generally reckoned as beginning when Bishop Jean Baptiste Pompallier SM and the Marist missionaries to Māori from France arrived in the Hokianga in 1838. Bishop Pompallier is recognised as the moving force behind the fourth section of the Treaty of Waitangi 1840 which guaranteed freedom of religion in New Zealand.

The first Mass celebrated in the Wairarapa in May 1845 was offered by French Marist missionary priest, Father Jean Comte SM at the Māori village of Moikau, inland from the eastern side of Lake Wairarapa.^[i] Father Anthony Halbwachs, the first parish priest in the Wairarapa, appointed in 1876 was a Marist as was Bishop Francis Redwood who appointed him.

The dominant interwoven cultural strands in

the early Catholic Church in New Zealand were French Marist, Māori and Irish. All three strands were present in the early history of the Catholic Church in the Wairarapa.

Many early French Marist missionary priests were heroic in the challenges they were willing to face to proclaim the Gospel and to establish the Catholic Church in New Zealand. Inland journeys were dangerous. Missionary journeys to the Wairarapa meant either travelling around the coast and then up the Wairarapa valley or crossing the dangerous Remutaka Ranges. From 1845-1914 the Marist priests from Lyons made a significant contribution to the development of the Catholic church in the Wairarapa. 137 years before Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Evangelisation in the Modern World* 1975, the Marists already understood:

Evangelisation loses much of its force and effectiveness if it does not take into consideration the actual people to whom it is addressed, if it does not use their language, their signs, and symbols, if it does not answer the questions they ask, and if it does not have an impact on their concrete life. (n.63).

There are also great stories to be told about parish priests, religious sisters and brothers and lay people who made an outstanding contribution the history of the Catholic Church in the Wairarapa, such as Father Anthony Halbwachs SM, Monsignor John McKenna and Monsignor Nicholas Moore, the Brigidine Sisters and the Marist Brothers. Their stories are our stories and deserve to be remembered. As we approach Pentecost 2024 and reflect on our response to evangelisation in 21st century we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.

[i] Ibid. p 2

Weekly Mass Timetable

Mstn: St Patrick's Church, 375 Queen Street

Fstn: St Teresa de Avila Church, 50 Bell Street

* Liturgy of the Word & Communion (W & C)

14th May	Tues	10.00am	Mass - St Teresa de Avila Church
		5.00pm	W & C - St Patrick Church
15th May	Wed	11.00am	St Luke's Church
16th May	Thurs	9.30am	St Mary's School
17th May	Fri	9.30am	Mass—St Patrick's Church
18th May	Sat	5.00pm	Mass—St. Patrick Church
19th May	Sun	8.30am	Mass - St Patrick Church
		10.30am	Mass - St Teresa de Avila Church

RECONCILIATION:

Sat's: 4.00pm St Patrick's Church, Mstn.
Sun's: 11:30am St Teresa de Avila Church, Fstn.

All other Sacraments: Baptism and Marriages, please call Parish Office for arrangements or enrol via parish website: <https://www.wairarapacatholicparish.com/>

ADMIN SECTION

PARISH ROLL UPDATE: If you would like to update your details or add your name to our parish roll as a new parishioner. Please use link on our parish website: <https://cpw.infoodle.com/f/ContactDetails>.

PLAN GIFTING DONATIONS

APRIL FIGURES

INCOME

AP:	\$10,809.30
Cash:	\$ 4,168.90
Other Income	\$ 1,850.00
Easter Dues:	\$ 2,026.00
Holy Places	\$ 166.00
Total:	\$16,828.20
ADW Levies	\$ 2,236.01
Clergy Support	\$ 7,121.42
General Expenses	\$11,910.20
Easter Dues	\$ 2,026.00
Holy Places	\$ 166.00
Total	\$19,075.63
NET PROFIT/LOSS	\$ 2, 247.43



Acc Name: **ADW CPW**

BNZ 02-0688-0049100-00

This continues to help support the day to day running of expenses for our Parish. Your support is greatly appreciated.

DONATIONS FOR WAIRARAPA

Church Building Projects Only
Account No: **02-0688-0049100-25**

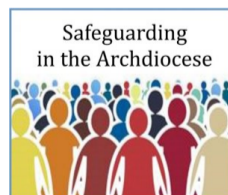


ADW SAFEGUARDING ADVISER

Contact: 04 496 1768

Parish Safeguarding Reps:

Sth Wai: Joanne - 022 088 6044
Nth Wai: Lisa - 021 076 1604



PRAYER CHAIN

If you wish to add the name of a loved one, friend or someone you know of, who would like their name added to the prayer chain please seek their permission first in line with the privacy act. Please advise if the prayers are no long required. Please contact the office.

SUGGESTION BOX

A suggestion box is available in the foyers, of St Teresa of Avila and St Patrick Churches. Please send us your feedback.



Other Venues

Mboro:

St Anthony of Padua Hall, 36 Kitchener St.

Gtn:

St Luke's Anglican Church, 135 Main St.

Ctn:

- * Richmond Funeral Home Chapel, 10 Richmond Rd.
- * St Mary's School, 4 King St.

Fstn:

- * St Teresa's School, 63 Bell St.
- * St Teresa's School, Kiwi Hall, 62 Bell St.

Mstn:

- * Chanel College 26 Herbert St.
- * St Pat's School, 132 Chapel St.

ADW & THE WORLD SECTION

POPE FRANCIS HAS DECLARED 2025

AS A YEAR OF JUBILEE WITH THE THEME "PILGRIMS OF HOPE" "Pope Francis."



The 2025 Year of Jubilee People of God making a Pilgrimage of Hope. The NZCBC has created an informative webpage. Please visit the website <https://www.catholic.org.nz/about-us/jubilee-year-2025/> to find out more information and watch this space for opportunities to become involved in Jubilee 2025.

LITURGY WORKSHOPS FOR 2024:

Fr Patrick Bridgman will present four workshops on

The Sunday Eucharist-

2. **Liturgy of the Word.** (26 June 7 - 9 pm, Sacred Heart Church, Petone)
3. **Liturgy of the Eucharist** (17 August 10am - 12pm, St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria)
4. **It's impact in our lives.** (16 October 7 - 9 pm, St Theresa's, Plimmerton)



These workshops are for anyone interested in gaining a deeper understanding of The Sunday Eucharist. Tea & Coffee will be available half an hour before the start time. Register to c.walker@dine@wn.catholic.org.nz See you there.

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

All engaged couples are strongly encouraged to attend the marriage preparation course "Love is a Decision" on 9 & 16 June 2024 at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie. For further details or to register visit www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/church-mission/marriage-ministries/ or email marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz. Explore the realities of a lifetime of married love through a variety of relevant topics...