



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

5<sup>th</sup> May 2024

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Issue 319

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35; First John 4; 7-10; John 15:9-17

### MASS TIME Sunday Mass

#### MOTUEKA

Sunday 9.30am

#### RICHMOND

Sunday 9.30am

#### WAKEFIELD

Vigil Mass 5pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat each month

#### WAIMEA WEST

Vigil Mass 5pm, 4<sup>th</sup> Sat each month

#### TAKAKA

Sunday 5pm, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> each month  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of month at 9.30am  
Service 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 Mass or  
by Appointment

### CONTACT

#### Priests

Fr Michael Bellizzi - Parish Priest  
[parishpriestolob@gmail.com](mailto:parishpriestolob@gmail.com)

Fr Jaya Yenubari - Assistant Priest  
[littlejpraveen@gmail.com](mailto:littlejpraveen@gmail.com)

#### Parish Office

Era Creevey, Admin 9.00-14.00  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

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#### Newsletter

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**Deadline Wednesday Noon**

### Not our love, but God's love for us

In the way we handle our faith, it seems many things depend on our good will, our commitment, our choices, our struggles and efforts to be good and to show God that we love Him. While this can be partially true, it misses a very important point, which St John today highlights in his Gospel and First Letter, when he distinguishes between 'servants' and 'friends': "A servant does not know his master's business" ... "I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father".

Throughout the long history of faith, we have always depicted God as an unknowable and unreachable mystery, and religion has many a time been depicted as an uphill struggle almost in total darkness. Today's liturgy is a celebration of God's unconditional love for us. It is such good news that God loves us first, and that His love does not depend on whether we deserve it or not. The good news for us is that God's love comes our way, reaches out to us whoever we are and wherever we are. It fills our empty spaces and makes our joy complete.

God's love is free and does not take anything for granted. In the Gospel Jesus today says: "Remain in my love" because it is so easy for us to go astray. Hence St Augustine's warning: "Love, but be careful what you love".

Since our hearts are made to find their end in God, we will experience anxiety and restlessness when we try to love substitutes. Augustine was clear on this and perhaps this is what, after long struggles with himself, led him to give the advice: "Love and do what you will".

Love, which brightens the dark patches we experience in believing, is not just a matter of feeling. The one who loves is not a servant, but a friend. Love unblocks the mind even in the face of the most complex riddles of existence. Augustine again saves the day: "If love is the measure, then the only measure of love is love without measure". That is how God loves us.

We, who love to think of ourselves as religious persons, might do well to consider that the opposite of being religious is being loveless. As we read from John's letter, "whoever does not love does not know God".

A commandment of love can seem odd and something of a contradiction in terms. Love is a free choice. That is what gives the thrill to the experience of being loved. But here, we are being commanded to become what we most desire to be in our deepest selves. Obedience is the invitation to become our truest selves, true to our identity before God and true to our mission as loving human beings.

"Remain in my love" is a command to align our loves and longings with those of Christ

Blessing  
Fr Michael

## Festival Of New Life

6th Sunday of Easter

*in baptism through water and the word, a person is immersed in Jesus Christ and journeys with Christ through his death and resurrection to a new life*

This is an initiative of the NZ Lutheran/Roman Catholic Dialogue, affirming the shared belief "in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins" as confessed in the Nicene Creed. It is an invitation supported by the NZ Lutheran Church and the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, for parishes, on the 6th Sunday of Easter, (the Sunday preceding the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity), to focus on baptism as the seedbed from which Christians can develop a deeper appreciation of one another on their journey to wholeness.



### Festival of Life Sunday – May 5th 2024

In baptism, through water and the word, a person is immersed in Jesus Christ, and journeys with Christ, through his death and resurrection to a new life. This week we celebrate an initiative of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue. We highlight Baptism, and its significance for Christian unity. This initiative affirms the shared belief "in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins" as confessed in the Nicene Creed. Today we spend some time focussing on Baptism which is the seedbed from which Christians can develop a deeper appreciation of one another on our journey to wholeness.

### OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

'To love as, Jesus means to offer yourself in service, at the service of your brothers and sisters, as he did in washing the feet of the disciples. It also means going outside of ourselves, detaching ourselves from our own human certainties, from earthly comforts, in order to open ourselves up to others, especially those in greater need. It means making ourselves available, as we are and with what we have. This means to love not in word but in deeds.' Pope Francis, [Regina Caeli](#), 9 May 2021

Here is latest Archbishop Paul's newsletter : [https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw\\_community/archbishop-pauls-newsletter-may-2024/](https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_community/archbishop-pauls-newsletter-may-2024/)

### Mass to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Saint Paul's School

Our next Family mass will be celebrated on Saturday 18 May at 5.00pm.

This will be a joint mass with the school to celebrate the establishment of the Saint Paul's School by the Richmond Parish twenty five years ago. This mass will replace the usual Sunday family mass.

We warmly welcome all past and present Saint Paul's school families to join us.

If you would like your child to play a role in this mass please contact:

Karla Biggs: [karla77.biggs@gmail.com](mailto:karla77.biggs@gmail.com), Kathryn Powick: [kathryn.powick@stpauls-richmond.school.nz](mailto:kathryn.powick@stpauls-richmond.school.nz)

Please bring something to share for supper after the mass.

## **DOVE FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL WOMEN**

WOW - an exciting new evening session for all Women to come and see.

Dinner is provided at 6:30 p.m. on THURSDAY 9TH MAY. We start at 7p.m. with singing praise and worship songs, watch a vibrant video about the Holy Spirit and break into small quick chat groups to share anything that inspired us from the video. The evening concludes with optional prayer available for those who would like gentle prayer. You will be made very welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Contact: Stacey Ashley 0212597681 for carpooling offers and requests

## **ST PETER CHANEL, MOTUEKA**

### **ST PETER CHANEL FEAST DAY**

Last Sunday we celebrated the feast day of St Peter Chanel, the Patron Saint of our Parish.

### **ANZAC DAY**

A Mass was held on Anzac Day with a small attendance. There were also 6 Wreath laying ceremonies in the various towns and villages of the St Peter Chanel Parish, so Anzac Day is an important date on many people's calendar. At St Peter and Paul last Saturday, the names of the men of the Parish who did not return from war were read out. And we then remembered in prayer the mothers, wives and sisters of those who lost their lives in war. Thank you to Mary Ellen OConnor for including those left at home.

### **PARISH LEADERSHIP GROUP**

#### **Health and Safety**

Someone with an interest and skills in this area is still required to take over the Parish Health and Safety portfolio.

#### **Finance**

The leaking Portico roof is going to be temporarily patched awaiting a quote to resurface the whole area. There is a quote for \$700 to redo the signwriting on the foundation stones and another of \$750 to remove the tree stumps from the front garden and behind the Church. The Finance committee is to be approached first, and a suggestion that koha for the piano exceeded expectations and surplus could be shared for priorities other than the music group, otherwise fund raising or approaching parishioners (will be the options). The Alarm system is still to be finalised.

### **R & M**

There is a small list of jobs including lighting over the two Tabernacles.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

So far, there have been no new members appointed to the Leadership Group. Margaret Jones will take over as Minute Secretary when she returns from travelling.

### **ST VINCENT De PAUL**

The monthly meeting will be this Tuesday, May 7th at 3pm in the Church Foyer. If you think you may be interested in the work that SVP do, then come along to the meeting and find out more. New members are always welcome. Don't forget that you can be part of their mission each week by donating non-perishable food to the basket in the foyer. And there is a slot next to the Library door if you would find it easier to donate money for the use of the St Vincent DePaul Society. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

### **THE SICK, HOUSEBOUND AND LONELY**

Please remember in your prayers those in our Parish, families, and neighbourhoods, who are having to cope with illness or other worries at this time. Especially those in Hospital, and Joan Curtain and Peter Goodman.

### **PARISH PRAYER GROUP**

The Prayer Group meets at the new time of 6.15pm each Wednesday, in the Church Foyer. You can get more information from Elizabeth Stolten [mestolten@gmail.com](mailto:mestolten@gmail.com)

### **RSE WORKERS**

Many thanks to you wonderful folk who donated linen etc to our local RSE WORKERS.

You may have noticed the group from Solomon islands at our church who arrived a month ago and are working on a local orchard. There are thirteen men and they will be here for another six months. If anyone can donate WARM MENS CLOTHING... (especially jackets and jerseys) that would be so appreciated. Winter is approaching fast. Also, if anyone has suitcases, large bags, they are not using, they would be used to fill with necessities and take back home. On the off chance... anyone have a spare bike, Contact Angie 021 0220 3196 and I can arrange pick up?? Just leave goods in our church foyer and I'll drop them to the men.

ALSO, they love baking, biscuits, cakes (Anything sweet according to Patrick, the coordinator)

Just if you want to.



## ST PETER CHANEL SCHOOL

### COMMUNITY PRAYER

Loving St Peter Chanel, we pray that we show your courage and determination to have Jesus' teachings at the heart of all our decision making and actions. May we be the face, hands and voice of Jesus in our world, standing for those who are in need. Amen

### TERM 2 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACTION STATEMENT

We grow in holiness through our relationship with God.

We begin in Week 1 celebrating St Peter Chanel's Feast Day (celebrated world-wide on Sunday 28th April) by finding out about the life of St Peter Chanel and how his connection to God and devotion to Jesus led him to be martyred and to be made a saint.

In Religious Education, we will be learning about the Trinity, the wonder of God, how he is present in our world and our lives, and how the fruits of the Te Wairua Tapu-Holy Spirit enable and empower us to live our best lives.

### KAPA HAKA AT SPC

We are excited to announce that Matua Sean Deleany and Whaea Danielle Saiako will be working with teachers and students from next week on. They will be leading us with Kapahaka.

Minister	5/05/24	12/5/24
Greeter	J Leydon & A. Lucas	R & K O'Gorman
Morning Tea	A & M Lucas	R & K O'Gorman
Music	Mary Wilson	Hemon & Katie
Prayers Faithful	Judy Kenter	V Dugdale
Readers	C Ellis & S Collins	M Kilmartin & D Ogilvie
Eucharistic	M Macquet /J Moriarty	S & V Cameron
Cleaning		T.Donaldson & E Hay
Lawns	William Frondarina	John Farrely

**Save the Date**  
**Nelson Dove Women's Group**  
Come and see a Holy Spirit Video with other women and enjoy some peaceful time out for your own faith Praise & Worship Music and Prayer  
**St Mary's Meeting Room, Manuka St Nelson**  
**Thursday May 9th**  
**6:30 soup & buns**  
**7:00 - 8:15 p.m. session**

### Sacramental Programme Term 2 & 3, 2024: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Richmond

Dates have now been confirmed for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Confirmation as part of the *Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church* Sacramental Programme for 2024. This begins a two-year cycle, for which First Holy Communion will follow in early 2025. Dates and times are as follows:

#### **First Reconciliation:**

Preparation Sessions:

**Dates:** Sunday 5th May, 12th May, 26th May, 9th June.

**Time:** 9.30 - 11 am each Sunday with morning tea to follow.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will take place on **Sunday 9th June at 2pm** followed by afternoon tea.

#### **Confirmation:**

Preparation Sessions:

**Dates:** 4th August, 11th August, 18th August, 25th August. *A practice may be required at 5 pm on Thursday 5th Sept.*

**Time:** 9.30 - 11 am each Sunday with morning tea to follow.

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** will take place on **Saturday 7th September at 5 pm**, with Archbishop Paul presiding. A light supper will follow.



Please note that Baptism is a prerequisite for the above sacraments and children must be 7-8 years or older. Parent sessions are held in conjunction with the childrens' programme and parents are required to attend. They do not need to be regular church attendees.

If you would like to register your child, or would like more information about the above programme, please contact Markelle Ward [markelleward@garincollege.ac.nz](mailto:markelleward@garincollege.ac.nz)