



# Te Whetu o te Moana | Star of the Sea Marlborough Catholic Parish

From the Sounds to the Sea, the Mountains to the Plains  
We Are One Mission. One Parish. Seven Communities  
Blenheim | Havelock | Kaikoura | Picton | Renwick | Seddon | Ward  
Parish Office: 61 Maxwell Road, Blenheim | T. 03 578 0038  
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## Newsletter No 7: 17 February 2019 Sixth Sunday of the Year

**Our Liturgy Plan**  
When a priest is not available, Word & Communion will be led by parishioners.

### Blenheim

Tues: 9.30am Mass  
Wed: 12.05pm Mass  
Thurs: 9.30 am Mass  
Except 1st Thurs:  
Bethsaida 10.30am  
Fri: 11am Adoration  
11.30 Reconciliation  
12.05pm Mass  
Sat: 9.30am Mass  
Reconciliation to follow

Sat: 5pm Mass  
Sun: 10am Mass  
(2nd & 5th Sunday  
Word & Communion)

### Havelock

Sunday: 11am  
(4th Sunday  
Word & Communion)

### Kaikoura

Tues: 9.30am  
Wed: 9.30am  
Wed: 7pm Rosary  
Thurs: 5.15pm  
Fri: 9.30am  
Sun: 9.30am  
(1st & 3rd Sunday  
Word & Communion)

### Picton

Wed: 9am Mass  
Sun: 9am Mass  
(4th Sunday:  
Word & Communion)

### Renwick

3rd Sunday 5pm Mass

### Seddon

Sun: 8am Mass  
(2nd & 5th Sunday  
Word & Communion)

### Ward

4th Sunday 4pm Mass

### Baptisms

Celebrated during weekend Mass or other times.

### Marriages

Marriages celebrated in all our Churches. Please contact the Parish Office well in advance.

### A Warm Welcome to Our Parish Family of Marlborough

We the people of Te Whetu O Te Moana, Star of the Sea Parish, are committed by our baptism in Christ, to share our living faith, and make God visible, in joyful union with all people, by our actions in the community. (Parish Mission Statement)

Parish Priest: Fr John Pearce CP  
john.pearce@passionists.com 021 242 1504  
Assistant PP: Fr Pat McIndoe CP  
patmc21@gmail.com 03 578 0038  
Priest in Residence: Fr Denis Travers CP  
Past Assist: Sr Maureen Connor SMSM  
maureensmsm@yahoo.co.nz  
Past Assist: Sr Frances Anna SMSM  
francesmsm@gmail.com  
Manager/Secretary: Ginetta Petersen  
Office Assistant: Mandy Li  
Youth Ministers: Maurice & Mieke Davies  
stmariyouthgroup@xtra.co.nz 03 578 6772  
Parish Pastoral Council Chair: Greg Stretch



### The Future of Our Churches, Presbyteries & Properties

During the week, Cardinal John sent two documents to Parish Leadership Teams, Pastoral Councils, Finance & Property Committees, and local Stewardship Groups.

His Pastoral Letter is found in this week's Newsletter. The Memorandum to Leadership Groups will be printed next weekend.

These documents pertain to a review of our building needs for now and the future, the economic viability of parishes, and the provision of suitable personnel.

These will be the basis of discernment and decision making for what we can realistically provide across the parish for the coming years.

While we have significant financial investments, these are tied to bequests for specific uses, that will be honoured. Our operational account is stretched as we attend to the pastoral and physical needs of all places.

### Stewards of a Shrinking Church

For various reasons, faith communities are ageing rapidly, and also shrinking. Churches are closing and being sold off.

History shows that active Church membership goes in cycles, so communities need to be wise stewards of what they have received, and pass on to another generation, a future full of hope.

More so in the cities, many churches were built in a time where travel was by foot or horse and carts. Car travel has led to people migrating week to week to Churches of choice. Not so in country areas like ours.

However, the Cardinal's Review asks us to join in this process as much as the city parishes.

Our Church attendance numbers have been rising across much of Marlborough Parish in the past 6 months. Yes, the tourist numbers seem to have increased, but also the local participation.

### Invite a Friend

We are all on a faith journey together. We don't walk alone. I see one of our challenges to be this: Who did I invite the Church lately? Who did I invite to join us in a sacramental life? There's always a spare seat at the Table of the Lord.

**Stewardship is our Mission.**

*John Pearce CP*

### Readings for Sixth Week in Ordinary Time (C)

Sun 17th: Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Jeremiah 17:5-8; 1 Corinthians 15:12.16-20 Luke 6:17.20-26

**Psalm Response: Happy are they Who Hope in the Lord**

Mon 18th: Genesis 4:1-15,25 Mark 8:11-13

Tues 19th: Genesis 6:5-8,7:1-5,10 Mark 8:14-21

Wed 20th: Genesis 8:6-13,20-22 Mark 8:22-26

Thu 21st: Genesis 9:1-13 Mark 8:27-3p

Fri 22nd: 1Peter 5:1-4 Matthew 16:13-19

Sat 23rd: Hebrews 11:1-7 Mark 9:2-13

Sun 24th: Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

Samuel 26:2.7-9,12-13,22-23 1 Cori. 15:45-49 Luke 6:27-38

**Chair of Peter, Apostle  
St Polycarp, B.M**

## Pastoral Letter from Cardinal John



### **PASTORAL LETTER** **15 February 2019**

#### **Dear Parishioners**

In the last few days I have sent your Pastoral Team and leadership group a document which contains a directive. It is very rare that I direct parishes to take a certain action, so this indicates the seriousness of what I am asking of you.

Between 2013 to 2017 the Archdiocese carried out a parish amalgamation process, resulting in the reduction of the number of parishes from 47 to 22. This means, of course, there are now parishes with two or more churches, more than is necessary for worship and pastoral care. In some places the integration of church communities has been slow.

In addition, the Archdiocese continues to experience pressures that compound the present situation and carry major implications for the future:

**Earthquake resilience issues** mean we have unsustainable insurance costs and buildings with unacceptable NBS ratings.

**The reduced number of priests**, which is accelerating each year, means that in most parishes there is a single priest (often elderly) expected to minister in more than one church. **Availability** and **ability** of priests are highly significant factors governing decisions for our future that cannot be delayed.

**The 2017 Archdiocesan Synod** voted for new priorities which must be addressed. They cannot be

simply "add-ons" to what we already do. They require us to look with new eyes and, with Pope Francis, to radically rethink how we are to be "the People of God" in today's environment.

We are called to be "missionary disciples", which in the words of Pope Francis, makes an attitude of "we've always done it this way" not only damaging to the Church, but invalid.

#### **Here is our situation:**

- We have too many churches and presbyteries for our Mass count, and for the number and age of our priests.
- Some of the churches require large sums of money to address their earthquake resilience and general maintenance.
- Pope Francis and the Synod have challenged us to be more outward-looking and to serve those who are marginalised or disadvantaged.

If we are to respond well to present and future challenges, we need to act together in favour of the common good of all parishes, and support one another in a process of change. This is not an easy task for any of us.

Some of you may see this as a threat to the status quo, but I would like you to see our situation as an opportunity to let the Holy Spirit work in our midst to create a sustainable and mission-oriented future.

So, I am directing every parish to carry out a review of its churches and presbyteries, including parishes with only a single church. The review is to be with me, complete with developed proposals, no later than 30 October 2019.

The review will identify how many churches the parish needs to cater for its Mass count (taking into account the availability of priests and lay pastoral leaders), and the ideal location of the church or churches. **For most, if not all parishes with more than one**

**church, this will mean reducing the number of churches in the parish.** Provision for accommodation of priests is part of the review.

The review involves collecting and analysing information, and consultation among parishioners. It should result in proposals that are both realistic and practical. Your Pastoral Team and leadership group have received more detailed information, and will be meeting in the near future to look at how the parish might carry out this process.

You need to be prepared to be radical in your thinking and discernment.

The theme of parish amalgamation was "A Future Full of Hope". This hope-filled future will only start to take shape when we honestly and courageously engage with and answer the many questions about our buildings.

***Yours sincerely in the Lord**  
**John A Cardinal Dew**  
**Archbishop of Wellington***

### **OUR PARISH RESPONSE**

#### **Next Week.**

As the Memorandum to Parish Leadership Groups is too long to publish this week, it will be the centrefold in next weekend's Newsletter.

#### **Marlborough Moving Forward**

These two documents are now the basis for our review and discernment for all our parish properties from now until 30 Oct 2019.

These discussions will be part of our life and on the agenda for meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance & Property Committee, and the four Stewardship Groups.

Our ancestors had big dreams when they planted the first Churches across Marlborough. Now we are called to have bigger dreams.

***John Pearce CP***

## You Are Invited to Breakfast

### **You/We** **Are invited to** **Breakfast with** **Cardinal John**

Following a successful initiative in the northern parishes of Wellington City last year, Star of the Sea is delighted to be facilitating Breakfast with Cardinal John in March.

We are all invited,

but in particular, we hope to see all who exercise some form of pastoral or spiritual leadership across the parish or the communities we live in.

As we are all Stewards of the Gifts God has given us, lets gather, eat, listen and give thanks.

**A great start to our**  
**Growing in Faith and**  
**Service for 2019**

### **Cardinal John will** **speak on Growing in** **Stewardship.**

**When?** Saturday March 2.  
**When?** 7.30-9am  
arrive 7.15am

**Where:** Clubs od Marlborough, Taylor Room

**Cost:** \$20 ea, Please Book and pay at Parish Office in advance if possible.

**RSVP Monday Feb 25.**



## Renewing Love and Marriage



### Introduction

These Sundays before and after St Valentine's Day, couples have the opportunity to renew their marriage vows, even if one member can't be here.

And in response, we as Church pray God's blessing on them.

A Renewal and Blessing Card is available to take home, so couples can pray for and bless each other, perhaps over dinner and or a drink.

You choose.

### Renewal of Marriage Vows

I ....., renew the Vows and Commitment I made to you .... on our Wedding Day. I promise to continue to love you with all my heart, to respect you and be true to you always, to share your sorrows and disappointments, and to give you comfort support and encouragement.

I will continue to grow with you, sharing our hopes and dreams, and the happiness of our lives together. I will continue to be loyal and honest with you, and care for you in sickness and health. I love you now, and I will love you always.



### Marriage Blessing

Holy Father, creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your own likeness, source of blessing for married life, we humbly pray to you for these couples who stand before us, renewing their vows on this St Valentine's Day.

**May your fullest blessings continue to come upon them, so that they may rejoice in your gift of married love.**

May they both praise you when they are happy, and turn to you in their sorrows. May they be glad that you have helped them in their work, and know that you now remain with them in their need. May they reach a very old age in the company of good friends, and come at last to the kingdom of heaven. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.



## Pope Francis in UEA

### Papal Trip Wrote a New Page in History

07 February 2019



*Pope Francis at the general audience at the Vatican yesterday (Vatican Media)*

Although brief, the apostolic journey to the United Arab Emirates "wrote a new page in the history of dialogue between Christianity and Islam", Pope Francis said. Source: *Vatican News*.

Speaking at the weekly general audience yesterday, Pope Francis said that he was mindful that his trip – the first ever papal visit to the Arabian Peninsula – came during the 800th anniversary of St Francis of Assisi's encounter

with the Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil. "I thought about St Francis during this journey", the Pope said. "It helped me to keep the Gospel, the love of Jesus Christ, in my heart as I experienced the various moments of the visit".

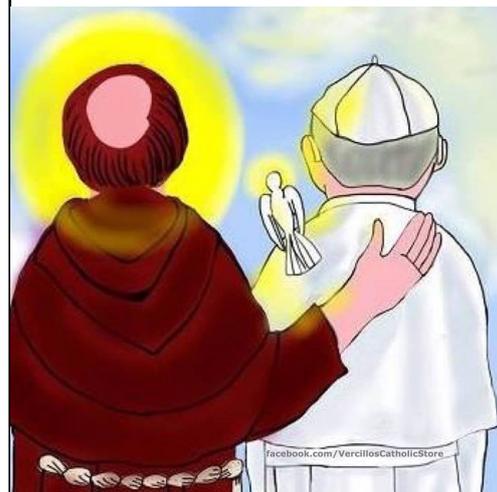
Pope Francis went on to reflect on some of the high points of the journey. He pointed to the signing of the Document on Human Fraternity, with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, which the Pope said represents another step forward. In this document, he said, "we affirmed the common vocation of all men and women to be brothers and sisters, insofar as all are children of God".

The two leaders also condemned "every form of violence, especially those clothed in religious motivations", and committed themselves "to spreading authentic values and peace throughout the world". The Pope encouraged people to read the document "because it gives so much impetus to move forward in the dialogue on human fraternity".

Francis noted that there is "a strong temptation" in our day "to see a clash between Christian and Islamic civilisation, and to consider religions as a source of con-

licts". He explained that the signing of the document was meant to be a "clear and decisive" sign that, "despite a diversity of cultures and traditions, the Christian world and the Islamic world appreciate and defend common values".

Finally, the Holy Father reflected on his encounter with the Christian people who live in the UAE. During the Mass at Zayed Sports City Stadium, he said, "we prayed in a particular way for peace and justice, with special intentions for the Middle East, and for Yemen" in particular.



# Parish Matters

## Weekend Mass Times

**6th Sunday of the Year (3)**  
**Renewing Love and Marriage**  
*Pat on Annual Leave.*

**Sat Feb 16**

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr John

**Sun Feb 17**

Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr Denis

Picton (9am) Mass/Fr John

Kaikoura (9.30) **W&C**

Blenheim (10) Mass/Fr Denis

Havelock (11) Mass/Fr John

Renwick (5) Mass/Fr Denis

**7th Sunday of the Year (4)**  
*Pat on Annual Leave*

**Sat Feb 23**

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr John

**Sun Feb 24**

Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr John

Picton (9am) **W&C**

Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr Denis

Blenheim (10am) Mass/ Fr John

Havelock (11am) **W&C**

Ward (4pm) Service at The Domain

**4th Sunday of the Year (1)**

**Sat Mar 2**

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr Pat

**Sun Mar 3**

Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr John

Picton (9am) Mass/Fr Pat

Kaikoura (9.30) **W&C**

Blenheim (10) Mass/Fr John

Havelock (11) Mass/Fr Pat

**1st Sunday of Lent (2)**

**Sat Mar 9**

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr Pat

**Sun Mar 10**

Seddon (8am) **W&C**

Picton (9am) Mass/Fr Pat

Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr John

Blenheim (10am) **W&C**

Havelock (11am) Mass/Fr Pat



## Parish News & Events

### Order of St. Luke Meeting :

This Healing Ministry, are holding a meeting **this Wednesday** 20th February, at the Wairau Hospital Chapel at 1.15pm. The Guest speaker is The Rev. Chris Low, the former Warden for the U.K. Everyone is most welcome. Enquiries : Rev. Kevin Gwynne Ph. 0212697954

### The Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology, Justice and Peace

is seeking expressions of interest for membership of our four Committees. The time commitment is to attend six evening meetings a year (including use of teleconferencing), a formation day, and to carry out the agreed work of the Committee. The four Committees are:

- Integral Ecology
- Bicultural relationships
- Poverty
- Parish communication and engagement.

For more information, please email the Ecology, Justice and Peace advisor Lisa Beech

[l.beech@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:l.beech@wn.catholic.org.nz)

0212884388 by Friday 1 March

### Feb 24: Registration for Children's Sacraments

After Sunday Masses in Blenheim & Kaikoura, there will be an information Session and opportunity for Registration for Children's Sacraments for 2019. This is for children and teenagers from Year 4 and above.

Please pass this information on to families that you know who attend state schools, or who may not get this notice from Church.

If you can't make it, and want to register, please contact Fr John by Email.

Reconciliation Preparation Sessions start on Sunday March 3.

### Feb 24: Awatere/Flaxbourne Community Twilight Gathering

Our Awatere/Flaxbourne Stewardship Group is organising a Twilight Gathering of the Churches and Friends at The Domain in Ward. This is between the Catholic Communities and our friends in the Awatere Joint Venture Community. The plan so far is

**4pm .. Sunday Prayer Service**

To follow ... **Inter Community Cricket Match (modified rules) , and BBQ.**

This initiative is part of our ongoing Post EQ Community Building ministry with Seddon & Ward.

### Mar 1: World Day of Prayer

St Ninian's, cnr Alabama Rd & Riley Cres, is hosting the Inter-church World Day of Prayer at 10am. Morning tea outside. Come and share a cuppa. Prepared by WDP Committee of Slovenia.

### April 15: Chrism Mass Comes to Blenheim

St Mary's will be this year's host church for the Top of the South Parishes Chrism Mass with Cardinal John. We will need help catering for the travellers before Mass, and with the music and liturgy, so that we present our

### Mar 1: Catholic Schools Commissioning Mass.

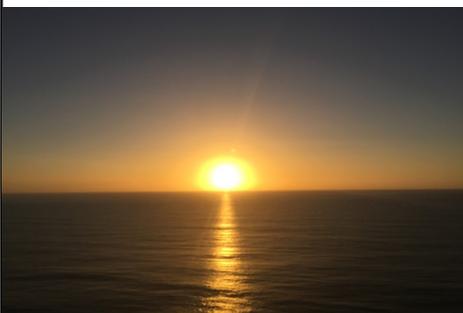
On Fri Mar 1, Cardinal John will lead a Commissioning Mass for Schools in the Top of the South. St Mary's is this year's host church.

**Mass at 5.30pm**

### March 3: Children's Sacrament Preparation for Reconciliation

Family Preparation Sessions begin after Mass in Kaikoura and Blenheim today.

## Parish Calendar



### February

- 16-17 .. After Valentine's Day: Renewal of Marriage Vows
- 19 .. Finance & Property C'tee
- 19-20 .. John in Wellington for NZ Bishops & Religious Leaders Conference
- 21-22 .. John & Denis in Melbourne for CP Chapter Working Party
- 24 .. Kaikoura: St Vincent de Paul Presentation (**postponed**)
- 24 .. Sacrament Registration
- 24 .. Awatere/Flaxbourne Churches Service & Social at The Domain (4pm)
- 25 .. St Mary's Youth Committee
- 26 .. Pastoral Council

### March

- 1 .. **Top of the South Schools Commissioning Mass @ St Mary's (5.30pm)** Led by Cardinal John. All welcome. *No midday Mass on this day.*
- 2 .. Breakfast with Cardinal John
- 3 .. Reconciliation Prep begins

### Let Us Remember in our Prayers and at Mass:

**Recently Deceased:** Paddy Corry, Fr Michael Fitzgerald sm (Fiji)

**Anniversaries:** Please remember those parishioners who have passed away over the years and are noted in our memorial books at Blenheim, Kaikoura and Picton. People will be mentioned specifically each week if family notify the office of their loved ones anniversary.

### COLLECTIONS:

We are most grateful for your support of our Parish of Star Of The Sea.

#### Last week:

AP's:	\$4620.65
Envelopes:	\$1082.00
Loose:	\$ 872.30

thank you!