



# 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 8: 24 February 2019 Seventh Sunday of the Year

### 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

**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

St Mary's & Sacred  
Heart Churches Open  
during the day for you to  
pop in for a visit and have  
a quiet and peaceful word  
with God.

### **Baptisms**

Celebrated during weekend  
Mass or other times.

### **Marriages**

Marriages celebrated in all  
our Churches. Please contact  
the Parish Office well in ad-  
vance.

### Lent is Coming Soon

It's been great having a late  
start to Lent this year. Time to settle  
into the school year, time to get back to  
the normal life cycles, time to get into  
the year.

With my recent OS meetings, it's  
great that they are behind me and I can  
get into Lent myself.

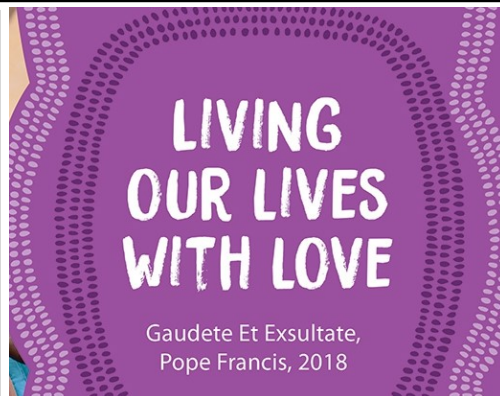
### Representing Marlborough

However, when I look back at  
some of those trips, I realise I have had  
opportunities to represent Marlborough  
Parish everywhere I've been, as various  
Passionists, friends, religious ask how we  
are going about parish life these days.

And when I step away from the  
scene, I can see much growth in our  
communities over the last few years,  
and the opportunities many people are  
taking to step up into leadership. Shar-  
ing leadership is our best way forward,  
as it lessens the chances of exhausting  
the few.

In the end of it all, despite fewer  
priests available, despite the tyranny of  
distance, we have a lot of good things  
going on as we grow as Marlborough  
Parish. Sundays continue to be vibrant  
as we share our gifts. All week various  
acts of service are being done by our  
parishioners, within our faith communi-  
ties, and in our civic communities.

Yes, we are Church, alive and  
active. Perhaps Lent and Easter will be



a time to renew our commitments.

### Lenten Programme: Living Our Lives With Love.

The Caritas Lenten Programme is  
an opportunity to explore the Gospels in  
the context of various living situations  
today. In a nutshell this year they pre-  
sent the following:

1. Bethlehem University: An Oasis in the Wilderness
2. PNG: Transformation in the Mountains
3. Cambodia: Working for Communal Lands
4. Tangata Whenua Relationships
5. Kiribati: Becoming Healthy Champions
6. Living Our Lives With Love.

Stewardship is our Mission

John Pearce CP

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

Sun 24th: Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Samuel 26:2.7-9.12-13.22-23 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 Luke 6:27-38

Psalms Response: The Lord is Kind and Merciful

Mon 25th: Ecclesiasticus 1:1-10 Mark 9:14-29

Tues 26th: Ecclesiasticus 2:1-11 Mark 9:30-37

Wed 27th: Ecclesiasticus 4:11-19 Mark 9:38-40

Thu 28th: Ecclesiasticus 5:1-8 Mark 9:41-50

Fri 1st Mar: Ecclesiasticus 6:5-17 Mark 10:1-12

Sat 2nd: Ecclesiasticus 17:1-15 Mark 10:13-16

Sun 3rd: Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58 Luke 6:39-45

# Memorandum to Parish Leadership Groups



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Pastoral Teams, Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Committees  
**From:** Cardinal John Dew  
**Date:** Wednesday 13 February  
**RE:** Churches and Presbyteries

In the years from 2013 to 2017 the Archdiocese carried out an extensive process of amalgamating parishes.

At the time of the amalgamation Masses, the new parishes had been created canonically and legally, had taken steps to set up one Pastoral Council and Finance Committee, and had managed, or were in the process of creating, one set of financial accounts for the new parish. The integration of the communities and ministries within the new parishes and the rationalisation of parish assets to better fit the new circumstances were mostly still tasks for the future. Difficult as the amalgamation is for some parishes, all parishes are making progress in deepening the integration process.

At the same time as the amalgamation was occurring, the Archdiocese was experiencing pressures from factors which have significant implications for the future. These pressures remain:

### **Earthquake resilience issues:**

The Christchurch and Kaikoura earthquakes left the Archdiocese and its parishes with unsustainable insurance costs and a number of buildings with unacceptable NBS ratings, including parish churches and the Cathedral. Insurance costs have continued to rise and we are constantly having to review our coverage to determine what we can afford.

**Reduced number of priests:** The aging of priests and the decrease in their numbers which will accelerate in the near future have meant that in most parishes there is a single priest (often elderly) who must now travel regularly between several church communities. The availability of priests and their ability to sustain the number of church communities in parishes has become a very significant factor in making decisions about the future. Having fewer priests has also lim-

ited their involvement with our schools and young people. At the same time a number of parishes were created (in the 1950s and 60s) there were many more priests available. The number we have now, probably less, will be the "new normal" for the foreseeable future. Lay pastoral leaders now share in the pastoral ministry in parishes, but cannot provide sacramental ministry. We receive valuable assistance from international priests, but we need to remember that their home countries in general have much higher people to priest ratios, and there is a justice issue involved in asking international priests to sustain our structure which has many fewer people per priest.

### **Parish amalgamation:**

The amalgamation of parishes has resulted in a number of new large parishes with three or more churches. There has been some progress in integrating the communities within parishes, but generally church communities remain the same as they were prior to integration. In the context of producing vibrant, active, unified and mission oriented parishes, amalgamation will not be complete until we have faced looking at trends in Mass counts, the location of churches and presbyteries, and their present and future use. At the Clergy Assembly last year and in Stewardship workshops in parishes people were very enthused by the concept of becoming a "missionary disciple". We need to make changes in order to make that happen.

### **2017 Archdiocesan Syn-**

**od:** The Synod has given us new priorities which must be addressed. These are not just about carrying on as we are with some "add-ons". If we take this approach nothing will happen in some parishes because they do not have the human and financial resources to add much to what they already do. Pope Francis is calling us to radically re-think how we are church, and this is reflected in many of the Synod outcomes. He has created an environment in which we need to look at many aspects of our mission through new eyes. We need to re-organise and direct our resources to mission.

The interaction of these four factors means we cannot see our ministry and the life of the Catholic community in the Archdiocese as "business as usual".

The four factors above, of critical importance in the future of the Archdiocese, can be viewed as a threat to the status quo, or as an

opportunity to let the Holy Spirit work in our midst to create a sustainable and mission-oriented future.

In some ways the issue is simple: 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. At the same time, Pope Francis and the Synod have challenged us to be more outward-looking and to serve those who are marginalised or disadvantaged.

## **SYNOD OUTCOMES SECTION 4**

The Synod called for parishes to carry out "a review of their property, beginning with an assessment of needs based on the Synod outcomes" (Synod Outcomes Section 4). Assessing what parish plant is needed to cater for a parish's current and predicted Mass count, and the demographic predictions for their area is part of that process, as is taking into account the decrease in the number of priests.

Some parishes have begun to look at their building needs, but are facing entrenched interests which are not making the process easy for them to do on their own. Some parishes have not started, and almost all face issues. If we are to respond well to the challenges of the present and the future, we need to act together in favour of the common good of all parishes and support one another in a process of change, as this will not be easy.

## **DIRECTIVE**

### **In order to**

- **respond to the critical situation with the availability of priests**
- **make wise and prudent use of our buildings,**
- **ensure that parishes are supported in making and implementing decisions for the future,**

**I am directing all parishes to begin (or to actively progress) a review of their churches and presbyteries, with this review to be completed and proposals developed by 30 October 2019. This is not optional, I am requiring that it be done.**

The rights of parishes are to be respected, but stewardship, the preferential option for the poor, and the common good (which includes the pool of priests and lay pastoral leaders shared by all parishes), and collaboration with

# Memorandum to Parish Leadership Groups

neighbouring parishes, should guide the review, together with the Synod outcomes.

## **Stewardship**

As a faith community we need to take a stewardship approach to the gifts of God, including the resources of the parish, and our individual contributions to those resources. Stewardship requires us to make efficient and effective use of our resources.

As a fundamental principle, each generation should aim to pay its way in the parish and put aside adequate reserves through its giving, without relying on investments (eg in rental property) by previous generations or selling assets to meet operating costs.

Sharing our resources, individually and collectively, as an expression of gratitude to God is an essential part of good stewardship.

## **Preferential option for the poor - "A poor church for the poor"**

If a parish is to have income available for charitable and mission purposes, it must make efficient use of its buildings. Maintenance and insurance costs are high, and it is hard to justify ownership of churches which are used for a few hours a week when there is another church close by. If we are to develop our support for the poor and the marginalised, we may have to make sacrifices.

## **The common good**

All parishes share the pool of available priests and lay pastoral leaders. The most likely scenarios in the near future, even for large parishes, are either one active priest, one active priest and a lay pastoral leader, or a lay pastoral leader with one or two retired priests in 4 sacramental ministry. This means that most parishes will have lesser ministry hours by priests. Parishes being served by religious order priests should not assume this will continue, as religious orders make their own decisions about their priorities for mission.

Parishes need to be prepared to be radical in their thinking and discernment, and prepared for the reactions that change inevitably brings. Letting go of the established order is necessary if we are to be well-prepared for the future and willing to free resources for mission, rather than simply maintaining what we have and what we do. This is not about a reduction in pastoral care in our parishes, but about doing things differently,

providing pastoral care in new ways as well as becoming "missionary disciples".

## **THE REVIEW PROCESS**

In city parishes adjoining parishes should collaborate on their reviews. Parishes with only one church and presbytery are to carry out the review in order to assess their own situation and to enable them to work with adjoining parishes.

I ask you to use the following review process as the basis for your discernment:

### **1. The review is to include:**

- demographic trends and projected changes in the area covered by the parish eg densification, subdivision, loss of people. (For North Island parishes – go to this website with population forecasts then select NZ (1). The interactive map can be used to find predicted population growth from 2019-2043 in parishes in the lower North Island. Local body websites and other sources will need to be used by South Island parishes.)

- current and predicted Mass counts.
- capacity of existing churches in the parish (including possibilities for extending capacity in each church);
- parish school roll numbers and trends.
- a realistic assessment of what ministry can be provided by a reduced number of priests, and by available lay pastoral leaders. Parishes should not assume they will have their present complement of clergy.
- earthquake strengthening issues for parish property.
- consultation with neighbouring parishes.

### **2. Parishes are to identify**

- the amount needed annually to sustain a prudent 10-year maintenance plan and insurance costs for parish property;
- operating costs for the parish for one year, including realistic annual maintenance and insurance costs;
- what is needed from parishioners to ensure the parish does not run at an annual loss.

(1) <https://home.id.com.au/demographic-resources/population-forecastsresources/?submissionGuid=376f1adc-4437-429e-a9ae-27dad931f2f4>

### **The review is to identify:**

- how many churches the parish needs to cater for its Mass count (taking into account the availability of priests), and the ideal location of the church or churches. For virtually all parishes with more than

one church this will mean reducing the number of churches in the parish.

- what provision needs to be made for accommodation of priests, what form it should take and where it is best located.

- what steps the parish needs to take in relation to its churches and priest accommodation.

**4. Once the review is complete parishes should revisit their pastoral plan to determine whether there are changes needed as a result of the review.** As part of this the parish should identify the skills and resources which can be called upon for mission, and the financial giving needed to sustain the life of the parish.

**5. The review is to result in proposals regarding the parish's churches and presbyteries, to be sent to the Archbishop's Office by 30 October 2019.** If a parish wishes to act on a property matter prior to 30 October 2019, the completed review must accompany the documentation provided to the Board of Administration.

If we don't take some action to work together in addressing the issues arising from the reduced availability of priests, earthquake resilience, too many churches for our Mass count, amalgamation, and the Synod outcomes, then as an Archdiocese we face a future which will be impossible for our priests and lay pastoral leaders to sustain, and which for lay people will be dominated by fundraising for years to come. Our future should be about worship, formation, and ministry, with a new emphasis on mission. To this end we need to give serious, even radical, consideration to how we can best use our assets.

Throughout this process please ask parishioners to pray that we will all be open to the Holy Spirit in our discernment, and that we will respect and care for one another as we work to create a future full of hope.

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



# Parish Matters

## Weekend Mass Times

### 7th Sunday of the Year (4)

Pat returns from annual leave on Tuesday.

#### 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**

### 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 Julian

### 2nd Sunday of Lent (3)

#### Sat Mar 16

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr John

#### Sun Mar 17

Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr Senele

Picton (9am) Mass/Fr John

Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr Pat

Blenheim (10) Mass/Fr Senele

Havelock (11) Mass/Fr John

Tongan Community Mass/Fr Senele

Renwick (5) Mass/Fr John



## Parish News & Events

**Wanted - one guitar:** the Tongan music group is expanding and would like another guitar. Does anyone have one that they are willing to donate to our music ministry? Please contact the Parish office.

### 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 Tussock Tussle

This weekend our combined churches of Awatere/Flaxbourne are hosting the North V South Tussock Tussle at The Domain in Ward. BBQ provided at the end. Open to kids, parents, grand parents and friends. Pick a team, Seddon or Ward, and join in.

### 2.30pm .. T20 Cricket and other games. Arvo Tea .. and Prayer. Later ... 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. Come and share a cuppa.

### 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 is at 5.30pm.

## Next Weekend

### Mar 2: Breakfast with Card John

March 2, 7.30-9am. He will speak on Growing in Stewardship. Cost will be \$20 ea. A great start to our Growing in Faith and Service for 2019. Bookings are essential. Contact the Parish Office. Numbers are limited. Please pay before the day at the Parish Office (No EFTPOS facilities).

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

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

### March 9: St Mary's School Gala

10am -2pm, a great day out with a lot of bargains and a chance to support one of our schools. You can contribute to the day by donating books, toys, clothing, preserves, baking, plants, fruits

& vegs. **Reminder:** there is no white elephant stall as there was a garage sale late last year.

### Blenheim Ministry Rosters

Rosters for next 4 months are now ready. If you have not received yours by email, please collect from the box in the church foyer. Contact Belinda 578 2628 if you have issues, and Hospitality is now on a monthly basis. Thank you so much for your service.

### Lenten Reflection Group

Would those interested in leading a group this Lent, please contact the Parish office ASAP, so we can determine how many books to purchase.



### Community Foodbanks:

Our Community Food Banks help people in need.

This is a collaborative work of Churches, other organisations and individual people in our towns.

### Star of the Sea

### Collects as follows

1st Sunday @ Blenheim.

1st Sunday @ Kaikoura.

All Sundays @ Picton & Havelock.

Please bring non-perishable foods

## Parish Calendar

### February

- 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 Preparation begins
- 3 .. Sounds Stewardship Group (5.30pm)
- 6 .. Ash Wednesday
- 9 .. St Mary's School Gala
- 12 .. Diocesan Formation Day (WGT)

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

**Recently Deceased:** Br Larry Finn's brother

**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.

**25 Feb** Kathleen Lacey **26** George Martin **1 March** Ana North

**Other Intentions:** Mathew Tutuila

## COLLECTIONS:

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

### Last week:

AP's:	\$2597.00
Envelopes:	\$1426.50
Loose:	\$1431.80

thank you!