



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
EM. office@staroftheseamarlb.co.nz | FB. Star of the Sea Marlborough
WEB. www.staroftheseamarlb.co.nz

Newsletter No 10: 10 March 2019

1st Sunday of Lent

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 ad-
vance.

Open Church

Our Churches at St Mary's
Blenheim & Sacred Heart
Kaikoura are open every day
if you want to go in and
have some quiet time.



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
stmarysyoungroup@xtra.co.nz 03 578 6772
Parish Pastoral Council Chair: Greg Stretch

LIVING OUR LIVES WITH LOVE

Pope's Advice for Lent: Don't Let This Season of Grace Pass in Vain

26 March 2019

Pope Francis stressed this in his
message for Lent 2019 (March 6 to April
18) presented today in the Vatican, by
Cardinal Peter Turkson, prefect of the
Dicastery for the Promotion of
Integral Human Development,
which was titled: *For the crea-
tion waits with eager longing
for the revealing of the chil-
dren of God* (Rom 8:19)

With this as the basis,
the Holy Father divides his
message into four sections:
"the redemption of creation"
"the destructive power of sin"
"the healing power of repen-
tance and forgiveness".

The Pope reflected on the im-
portance of fasting, prayer and almsgiv-
ing, saying: "Lent is a sacramental sign
of this conversion. It invites Christians to
embody the paschal mystery more deep-
ly and concretely in their personal, fami-
ly and social lives, above all by fasting,
prayer and almsgiving."

"Fasting," he said, refers to
"learning to change our attitude towards
others and all of creation, turning away
from the temptation to "devour" every-



thing to satisfy our voracity and being
ready to suffer for love, which can fill the
emptiness of our hearts."

"Prayer," he added, "teaches us
to abandon idolatry and the self-
sufficiency of our ego, and to
acknowledge our need of the Lord and
his mercy."

"Almsgiving," he continued,
refers to when "we escape from the in-
sanity of hoarding everything for our-
selves in the illusory belief that
we can secure a future that
does not belong to us."

In this way, he
stressed, we can "rediscover
the joy of God's plan for crea-
tion and for each of us, which is
to love him, our brothers and
sisters, and the entire world,
and to find in this love our true
happiness."

In the message, the
Pope also expressed his hope
that God help us set out on a path of
true conversion.

**"Let us leave behind our self-
ishness and self-absorption, and
turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand
beside our brothers and sisters in
need, sharing our spiritual and ma-
terial goods with them."**

"In this way, by concretely wel-
coming Christ's victory over sin.

John Pearce CP

Please pick up your
Caritas envelopes today.

Readings for First Week of Lent (C)

Sun 10th: First Sunday of Lent
Deut. 26:4-10 Romans 10:8-13 Luke 4:1-13

Psalm Response: Be With me Lord When I am in trouble

Mon 11th: Lev. 19:1-2,11-18 Matthew 25:31-46
Tues 12th: Isaiah 55:10-11 Matthew 6:7-15
Wed 13th: Jonah 3:1-10 Luke 11:29-32
Thu 14th: Esther 4:17 Matthew 7:7-12
Fri 15th: Ezekiel 18:21-28 Matthew 5:20-26
Sat 16th: Deut. 26:16-19 Matthew 5:43-48

Sun 17th: Second Sunday of Lent
Genesis 15:5-12,17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 9:28-36

Some Readings On Lent

Giving Up Extremes: A Lenten Meditation

Nicole-Ann Lobo. *La Croix International*.
6 March 2019



Pieter Bruegel, *'The Fight between Carnival and Lent'*

In the run-up to Lent, I've been in a state of spiritual anxiety over the inevitable renunciation that the season demands.

Deciding what to "give up" is a major part of my anticipation, and as Ash Wednesday approached, I found myself indulging a little more than usual. Justifiably, of course—the weeks of small penance and almsgiving will forgive these indulgences.

But at the same time, I worry if what I'm giving up is enough. On the eve of my college graduation, I have so much to thank God for—how could forty days without chocolate or takeout possibly comprise a fitting sacrifice?

I've also been thinking of Pieter Bruegel's painting *The Fight Between Carnival and Lent*. A typical Northern Renaissance work, crowded and somewhat moralizing, it features a bustling Flemish street scene.

A tavern is found at the painting's left: people drink, musicians play, dancers revel.

The painting's right side could not be more different: well-behaved children are gathered outside an austere, gray church, while black-shrouded nuns toil reverently.

Their skin is sallow compared to the flushed red of the tavern-goers, though from their facial expressions no one in the painting seems happy.

One of the painting's main elements, from which the title is likely derived, is found at its bottom center: Prince Carnival, a jovial, colorfully attired man on a giant barrel, jousts with Lady Lent, a spindly, drearily clad nun on a wagon filled with traditional foods of the season, like pretzels and mussels.

Instead of lances, Prince Carnival wields a spit laden with meat and Lady Lent brandishes a

paddle-shaped bread peel with herrings. She seems to have the upper hand: the prince's head is slightly rolled back and one of his hands stretches resignedly toward heaven, implying Lent's triumph.

Behind this busy foreground, people prepare food and draw water from a well; beggars labor. And right in the middle, a married couple walks away from the main action: heads covered, they approach the common people at the back of the frame, unsatisfied with both extremes.

The painting is one of my favorites for its rich, humorous detail, virtually every time I look, I find something new that makes me smile.

European historian Peter Burke famously claimed in his essay "The Triumph of Lent: The Reform of Popular Culture" (1978) that Bruegel's painting is indicative of a cultural moment in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The "triumph of Lent" was the outcome of a battle between traditional popular culture (carnival, specifically) and the clergy; ultimately, the victory of the church marked a new cultural distinction between the realms of sacred and profane.

"The godly were out to destroy the traditional familiarity with the sacred," wrote Burke, "because they believed that familiarity breeds irreverence."

The separation between these two realms is attributed to a host of cultural changes that transpired in premodern Europe.

The introduction of Victorian morals, and objections to supposedly "debased" elements of popular culture on the basis of their connections to paganism, initiated a new austerity supposedly associated with the church.

In our current era, though, familiarity seems to have become a new mode of evangelism, a tool for spreading the faith in our increasingly interconnected, tech-centric culture.

The Vatican's 2018 launch of a Pokemon Go-style app—"Follow JC Go!"—lets

people virtually "catch" saints, while @Pontifex's Twitter deems the Virgin Mary the original "Influencer," a messenger of God.

Burke also cites the Puritan preacher William Perkins, who declared that "it is not meet, convenient or laudable for men to move occasion of laughter in sermons."

But as Francis recently wrote in *Gaudete et exultate*, "Christian joy is usually accompanied by a sense of humor." Reactionary traditionalists are displeased; almost five hundred years later, it's as though the culture war has come full circle.

To me, the painting can help us understand a renewed cultural intransigence, each side a virtual caricature of the other's perceived extremity. Those drinking and celebrating are heathens, while those who labor and fast are joyless prigs. Bruegel's painting helps me see how little human nature has changed.

But oversimplifying this division, and lauding this separation of Christianity from everyday life, neglects part of the beauty of the season: God coming into the profane, making it sacred.

Christ imbues every small moment, our familiarity with Him giving us the strength to adhere to our Lenten sacrifices. And even in Lent, Sundays, the holiest day of the week, are meant for feasting: relaxation and temperate indulgence are the law on the day of the Lord.

Lent is not merely an ascetic battle of abstinence over gratification—it's a reminder that pleasure, like sacrifice, can bring us closer to God. From *Gaudete et exultate* again: "We need 'to

What to Give Up

Give up complaining ...	focus on Gratitude
Give up pessimism ...	become an Optimist
Give up worry ...	trust Divine Providence
Give up bitterness ...	turn to Forgiveness
Give up hatred ...	return Good for evil
Give up negativism ...	be Positive
Give up anger ...	be More Patient
Give up pettiness ...	become Mature
Give up gloom ...	enjoy the Beauty all around
Give up jealousy ...	pray for Trust
Give up gossiping ...	control your Tongue
Give up sin ...	turn to Virtue
Give up giving up ...	Hang in there!

Some Readings on Lent

acknowledge jubilantly that our life is essentially a gift, and recognize that our freedom is a grace."

Our Mardi Gras indulgences are married to our inevitable Ash Wednesday fasting, their confluence found at the dusk of Shrove Tuesday.

Benedict XVI described Lent as a period of "spiritual combat," in which we use the arms of faith—by way of prayer, Gospel reflection, and penance—to fully celebrate the joy of Easter.

As I considered what my Lenten sacrifice would be this year, Bruegel's scene reminded me that while I need not revert to full asceticism (or worse, to self-righteous displays of piety) it's also counterintuitive to overindulge before the season.

The Fight Between Carnival and Lent may be named after the jousting scene at the central foreground, and indeed, its contemporary resonance leaves much to contemplate.

But I am most drawn to the retreating married couple who approach the temperate background, in which everyday people work alongside those who play.

More than the cultural triumph of temporal renunciation Burke surmised, the painting depicts our own internal battle, our temptations to succumb to extremities where simplicity suffices.

Having seen excess on both sides, the couple chooses a harmonious balance, the happy median made possible by the grace of God.

Nicole-Ann Lobo is the John Garvey Writing Fellow at Commonweal. She studies art history and political science at Columbia University.

* This is an adapted version of an article originally published on March 3 by Commonweal.

Fasting Makes the Heart Available to Meet God

We give up things but we do so in order to gain things that are even better
Alice Le Dréau. *La Croix International* 6 March 2019

'Fasting should be interpreted as an effort at depollution,' says psychoanalyst Jean-Guilhem Xerri.

In this interview with La Croix, psychoanalyst and biologist, Jean-Guilhem Xerri, who wrote the book "Prenez soin de votre âme, Petit traité d'écologie intérieure" (Take care of your soul. A short treatise on internal ecology; 2018), explains how cutting down on food and the number of distractions from the outside world, including video screens and over-consumption, enables us to regain our interior liberty.

La Croix: What meaning can we give to fasting?

Jean-Guilhem Xerri: It needs to be understood as an attempt at cleansing or lightening up. The desire to get rid of anything superfluous is an idea that resonates in our society of abundance like a rebounding echo.

Given the excess of food, objects, video screens and other distractions, our contemporaries have come to feel that excess is harmful to their physical as well as their interior health.

Hence, the return to practices of frugality and sobriety.

In your book, you explain how the Desert Fathers already warned against possessing "too much."

They do in fact warn in many of their writings of two spiritual evils among humanity concerning their relationship with material things.

"Phylargy" is the excessive attachment to what one possesses. And "pleonaxy" is an avidity with accumulating things, ranging from money to grain in a barn or even on one's plate.

In today's world, these two evils are comparable to our frenzy of over-consumption, our desire for "ever more."

When we talk about fasting, we initially think of fasting from food. Now, however, people fast during Lent from social networks, or by reducing the number of cigarettes they smoke, their use of mobile phones, etc. Is this also a kind of fasting?

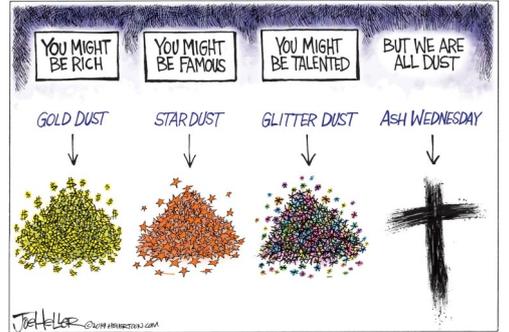
In my view, yes. Before beginning a fast, the question that arises is the following. How can I gain in internal openness? What are the things that I am most captive to? What do I have to do to make myself more sober?

So, we can fast from food. But if it's not food that has a hold of us, then we can fast from TV. For example, when Saint John Paul II asked people to watch less TV during Lent in 1996, it was seen as revolutionary!

Buying can be compulsive. Activities of all kinds can become compulsive since we are in a society that always needs to be "on the move."

As a result it becomes necessary to multiply our activities and projects.

We can also wean ourselves off SMS messages or from work.



Many activities need to be challenged.

Why do we need to open our work emails and answer messages at 10.30 in the evening?

What are the spiritual benefits of fasting?

It is good for the body as well as for the soul. Eating less can still be enough to feed us because fasting frees up time to potentially do other things, including meeting friends, prayer, reading the Gospel.

This is a matter of time in the chronological sense of the term.

However, in the Christian tradition, the purpose of fasting is primarily to gain interior time.

It means freeing one's spirit in order to gain in responsibility so that our principal desire will turn to what is more valuable, namely the Lord.

So, fasting is neither deprivation nor a punishment?

No, it is actually moderation. And it is a gift one gives to oneself. Christian tradition has long undervalued and moralized about fasting, making it a painful act in people's minds.

That will no longer work today. We don't fast to master our bodies nor out of any Jansenist sentiment. On the contrary, we fast in order to do good.

I am not saying it is easy. Personally I am talking to you about fasting in a positive way as a kind of cleansing. But fasting can also be experienced as a lack.

This is particularly true since society today is inclined to make us greedy and fosters frustration in order to better provide us with the means to fill the gap later.

We think we are creating pleasure but actually we are developing quasi-dependency. Getting over this frustration means regaining one's freedom!

Certainly, we give up things but we do so in order to gain things that are even better!

Parish Matters

LIVING
OUR LIVES
WITH LOVE

Weekend Mass Times

1st Sunday of Lent (2)

Sat Mar 9

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr John

Sun Mar 10

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

Picton (9am) Mass/Fr John

Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr Pat

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

Havelock (11am) Mass/Fr John

John is in Melbourne for Provincial Council meetings Monday to Wednesday

2nd Sunday of Lent (3)

Guest Speakers from Caritas NZ at Blenheim and Seddon

Sat Mar 16

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr Pat

Sun Mar 17

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

Renwick (5) Mass/Fr John

3rd Sunday of Lent (4)

Sat Mar 23

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr Pat

Sun Mar 24

Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr Senele

Picton (9am) Mass/Fr Pat

Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr John

Blenheim (10am) Mass/ Fr Senele

Havelock (11am) Mass/Fr Pat

Tongan C'y Mass/Fr Senele

Ward (4pm) Mass/Fr John

Mercy Ships by Kevin Smith in Kaikoura

I have watched on TV some of the work done on these Mercy ships amazing and been privileged to see a Mercy Ship doing it's work in Myanmar. Every year a bunch of Kiwis head to West Africa to volunteer onboard an enormous hospital ship run by a Christian charity called *Mercy Ships*. Surgeons, nurses, physiotherapists and radiographers providing surgeries to thousands of patients from the world's poorest countries. Tumour removal, facial reconstruction, cataract removal/ lens implants, cleft lip and palate reconstruction and orthopaedics surgeries (club feet and bowed legs). The SUNDAY current affairs programme travelled to Guinea, West Africa, to profile them and their incredible work. The story is on **SUN-**

Parish Lenten Retreats

This year we have two weekends where retreat days will be offered to anyone who wants to come, Catholic or other Christians. They are on the two weekends before Holy Week. **Registration would be appreciated for planning.**

March 29-31st: Fr Chris Skinner SM and Bev McDonald

The Marist Laity Team is offering these reflection days
Saturday: Kaikoura 9.30-1pm
Mass and following.

Sunday: Picton 9-1pm
Mass and following.

April 5-6: Reflection on The Passion with Fr Denis Travers CP

Denis is coming to us for the weekend, after leading a Companions Retreat in Auckland with Passionist Companions the previous weekend.

Saturday: Blenheim, 9.30-1pm
Mass and following

Sunday: Kaikoura, 9.30-1pm
Mass and following

Bookings at Parish Office.

Lenten Activity:

Lenten Reflection Groups:

Blenheim

Mon Eve, ph Alan 578 7463

Tues 1.30pm ph Heather
578 9440

Kaikoura

1.30pm Thurs, Church foyer

Stations of the Cross:

Kaikoura

7pm Wednesday (Rosary)

Picton

5.30pm Friday

Blenheim

6pm Friday, Tongan, English, Indian followed by Lenten discussion group

DAY - TVONE - 7.30pm on March

10. Further information <https://www.facebook.com/SundayTVNZ/>

<https://mercyships.org.nz/>

<https://mercyships.org.nz/>

Parish News & Events

March 10: Children's Sacrament Preparation for Reconciliation

Family Preparation Sessions continue next two Sundays for Reconciliation at St Mary's Blenheim and Sacred Heart Kaikoura. In registering, please provide a copy of Baptism Certificate.

March 10: Vinnies BBQ

There will be a free BBQ put on after the 10am Youth Liturgy Today. This will be supported by the St Vincent de Paul Society BBQ Crew. It is simply to say thank you for your support and to share the love!

March 17: Blenheim Children's Liturgy of the Word

Thanks for your patience. Next Sunday we restart Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10am Mass at St Mary's. Our growing team is keen to serve our little ones. New members welcome. Contact the Office.

A Marriage Encounter

About to get Married? Could you successfully run a marathon without preparing for it? Of course not! So too marriage. Engaged Encounter Weekends this year are heavily booked. Weekends are 30 - 31 March 2019 (one vacancy and then waiting list); 3-4 Aug; 9-10 Nov, all at St Teresa's Presbytery, 301 Karori Road, Karori, Wellington. For more info, phone Kate & Simon 8016192 or www.cee-wellington.co.nz.

Parish Calendar

March

11-12 .. John at Provincial Council meeting in Sydney.

11 .. Kaikoura Stewardship Grp

12 .. Wellington Formation Day for Parish Teams

19 .. Finance & Property Committee

20 .. Blenheim Sacrament of Reconciliation (7pm)

25 .. St Mary's Youth Committee

26 .. Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

30-31 .. Retreat Days with Marist Laity

April

2 .. Wairau Stewardship Group

4 .. BLN Christian Ministers Assoc

Called to Serve: Church Vocations Today

Ever thought of Serving God as

A Diocesan Priest?

Holy Cross Seminary Auckland

www.holycross.org.nz

A Passionist Missionary?

www.passionists.com

A Sister of Mercy?

www.sistersofmercy.org.nz

A Marist Missionary Sister?

www.smsmsisters.org

Let Us Remember in our Prayers and at Mass:

Recently Deceased: Shane Falvey, Therese Thomas

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.

Other Intentions: Joevil Basulgan Dela Cruz

COLLECTIONS:

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

Last week:

AP's: \$6853.99
Envelopes: \$3970.00
Loose: \$1191.70

thank
you!