

## Anniversary's in January/February

William Martin, Fay Orgar, Terrance Loughan, Trevor Hulena. Brett Gray  
Clarice Barclay, Constance Margaret Frasier, Timothy Carpenter  
Alan Cameron, Daniel Taylor, Margaret Parsons  
Fred Allen, Mary Butler (Molly), Peter Robinson (Skip)  
Vera Lawrence, Jack Moran, Bernard Skidmore  
Malcolm Wenzlick,

The Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College is offering a course starting 08 February to 05 April (every Wednesday, 3:30-5:30) via Zoom with Br Kevin Dobbyn. For more information, contact Br Kevin at k.dobbyn@ctc.ac.nz or call (04) 819 8380. For schedule of fees, go to [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/fees](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/fees) and for other courses, go to [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/palmerston-north](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/palmerston-north).

**NZ Catholic Church leaders** publish statement of commitments to abuse survivors. The bishops and congregational leaders of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand have published a statement of commitments adopted in response to the continuing work of the Royal Commission on Abuse in Care. The set of 10 commitments – along with others previously made – will become part of what the Church calls the “Tautoko Roadmap” for the path the Church is taking in response to the Royal Commission and the wishes of abuse survivors. The statement is online here: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/jan10-letter/> and the Tautoko Roadmap is here: <https://tautoko.catholic.org.nz/roadmap/>

## Josephite Retreat Centre Open

**Day**—Sunday 5 February from 2–4pm  
An informative stroll through the house and grounds of Mount Saint Joseph, incorporating the Josephite Retreat Centre, Archives and Wetlands. A well kept hidden gem.

Location: 14 Hillside Tce, Whanganui | Entry: Koha

Enquires: Pam on 06 345 5047 ext 3 | [pam.hopper@sosj.org.au](mailto:pam.hopper@sosj.org.au)

## Current of Grace Conference 2023

7pm, Friday 24 March to 2pm, Sunday 26 of March at EL Rancho, Waikanae.

For more details and registration assistance contact Rhea on 0210437167. Registration fee (including meals) applies. Accommoda-

tion available on site for additional fee. Register at: [https://receive-holy-spirit-power.lilregie.com/booking/attendees/new?fbclid=IwAR1kHZ3PdG6liqn9DcG1ooHS90kqXBW5mlMHa\\_dyBzeppKxKml17KeCF8](https://receive-holy-spirit-power.lilregie.com/booking/attendees/new?fbclid=IwAR1kHZ3PdG6liqn9DcG1ooHS90kqXBW5mlMHa_dyBzeppKxKml17KeCF8)

## This Sunday night (29th January),

John Cowan's guest will be broadcaster Tony Stamp. Tony's radio career started at Auckland's 95bFM, hosting a variety of shows which highlighted new music. He produced and hosted three seasons of Inside Track, and True Fan, both focussing on local music and its surrounding ecosystem, playing nationwide on the Student Radio Network. Tony has also written and co-



presented a science fiction film show for Sky TV, and for a while was an agony uncle on TVNZ's U-Live. In May 2022, he won the inaugural NZ On Air Outstanding Music Journalism Award for his work creating long-form music documentaries and features, interviewing artists, and discussing new music on Song Crush and on his music review show The Sampler. He started contributing to Music 101 in 2007, RNZ's flagship weekly contemporary music programme. He writes for Webworm and Flicks among others.

## Mass Times

### Week Day Masses

Saturday—9am @ St Joseph's

Tuesday—9am @ St Joseph's

Thursday—9am @ St Patrick's

### Sunday Masses

Vigil Mass—5.30 @ St Patrick's

Sunday Mass—9.30am @ St Joseph's



Parish Priest • Fr Paul Kerridge  
Phone • Office 8586416 Presbytery • 8589383  
E-mail • [cat.chb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cat.chb@xtra.co.nz)  
Website • [www.holytrinitychb.com](http://www.holytrinitychb.com)  
Facebook • The Holy Trinity Parish CHB

## Rātini Kupu

29 Kohitātea, 2023

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

29 January

## A condensed Gospel

The beatitudes offer a summary of Jesus' teaching. They are the condensed gospel and need some teasing out to apply them to life. We are aware of political manifestos, statements of what a party stands for, what they intend to achieve if you elect them. This gospel is Jesus' manifesto. It is a manifesto that he promises will bring us near to God. People who are detached and show gentleness to others, are blessed. Even if they are rich, their money does not make them boastful or proud. Grief is the price we must eventually pay for having loved. If you are determined never to cry at a funeral, don't ever love anyone. The meek and the gentle are the most resilient of people. Good people deeply respect justice and fair play, and try to win them for others. As you treat others, so you will be treated. If we want to receive mercy and compassion, we must show mercy to others. A pure heart is not devious, deceitful, selfish or cunning. Jesus did not say we should be passive. Rather he urges us to build bridges of peace with others. Jesus warns those who follow him will be treated as he was. There is a cost in Pentecost, and following him means sharing his cross. Right from the beginning when Simeon saw him in the temple, he said that Jesus would be a sign of contradiction. Everything he said and did was a challenge to this world's values. Those with power, prestige, and control felt undermined by his message. The religious leaders who were the arbiters of right and wrong, were so threatened by him that they planned his death. There is a cleansing power in the beatitudes. They are about letting go of things that are not life-giving, and about becoming truly free. They offer guidelines for living, for inner peace and happiness. Formal religion can be too tied to rules and regulations and be authoritarian. Spirituality is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is about letting go, so as to be free in God's sight. [associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://associationofcatholicpriests.ie)



## Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy—Online Sessions (Evening):

Genesis – In the Beginning...

Part 1: The Creation Story (incl. study material) with Kieran Fenn fms.

Monday, 27 February, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Part 2: The Creation of Adam (Michelangelo) with Dr Christopher Longhurst.

Monday, 06 March, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM.

Fee: \$25 (NZD)/session or \$40 (NZD)/2 sessions

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/01/16/genesis-in-the-beginning/>

Focus on Target – Draw Fresh Momentum with Laetitia Puthenpadath.

Wednesdays, 15/22 February and 01/08 March, 12.30-1.30pm.

Fee: \$20/session or \$70/4 sessions. ZOOM.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/01/11/focus-on-target-draw-fresh-momentum/>

For more information: [www.studyjoy.nz](http://www.studyjoy.nz)

## Sister Veronica (Von)

She died peacefully at Living Waters Rest Home Whanganui, on Monday 23rd January 2023, in her 70th year of religious profession. Loved Sister of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Loved daughter of the late William and Matilda Witton and sister of William, Leonard, Irene, Godfrey, Phyllis, Ethel, Wilfred (Laurie), and Kath (All Deceased). Loved Aunt and Great Aunt of all her Nieces and Nephews. Sister Veronica's Funeral Mass will be celebrated at The Holy Family Catholic Church, Tawhero Street, Whanganui on Saturday 28th January 2023 at 10.30am. May she rest in peace.

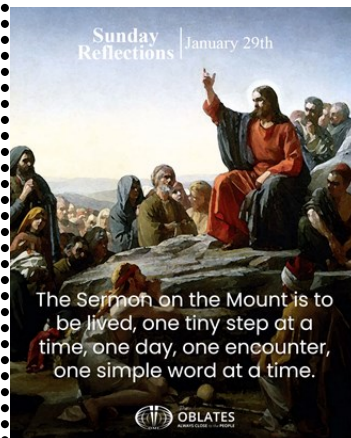
**Like so many** over these last few weeks, our family was finally hit by COVID. I was the only one who was mainly asymptomatic. One afternoon, when the little one and my folks were in bed, I took a deep breath and reflected on a day in the future when my folks will need this level of caretaking 24 hours a day. In the past, I only saw the heavy lifting that lay ahead. It seemed God wanted to teach me a very dear lesson in moments of prayer and serenity. It has been in these days that I've felt the heart of my grief coaching clients and all they go through during difficult life transitions. In the days since our first

positive test, we first braced for how hard we would be hit. With my parents both into their 80s, there was no way for us to know. We have friends who are hospitalized currently and other friends who aren't showing any symptoms. We soon realized we would get out of this far better than most. What followed was the abundant care and generosity of friends and neighbors. At first, I found myself resisting the generosity. In the past, I had experienced the type of care where it felt like my reciprocity was being watched closely. It was as if there was a time limit of when I had to give back from when I received help, and if I didn't do so before the alarm went off, I was looked down upon. The friendship felt like more of a transaction than unconditional love and care. Eventually, it became enough to shy away from saying, "I need help." It almost felt easier to stand alone in battle. But this time around, I didn't have a choice. What we received was more than just grocery deliveries, delicious home-baked treats, and meals—we received a broader and deeper community. As a longtime lover of building communities (for work and pleasure), I knowingly relied quite heavily on my own efforts. Even in the weeks before our quarantine, I was setting up small gatherings in our apartment building with the hope of connecting others. In my new reality, I saw that receiving (not just giving) strengthens the web of community faster and more efficiently than my own giving. Each item or service we received meant a new bond of love was created. I now feel connected to our "angels" in ways I didn't feel before. They saw our weakness, stepped in, and shared their love in a way I'm having a hard time comprehending. Where are you doing the heavy lifting of community building? What bond might be created if you reach out for a helping hand?

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It was the Canadian singer/songwriter, Leonard Cohen, who spoke in one of his songs about, "the staggering account of the Sermon on the Mount", which he said "I don't pretend to understand at all." I hesitate to ever say that the great Leonard Cohen made a mistake, but if there is a mistake, it is in trying to 'understand' it. Today's Gospel, the opening of the "Sermon on the Mount" is not something to be analysed and understood, but



something to be lived, one small step at a time. In it, Jesus allows us to glimpse what the Kingdom of God will look like. It will be a Kingdom that welcomes "the poor, the gentle, mourners, fighters for justice, the merciful, the genuine, peacemakers, persecuted and betrayed". In other words, it is a Kingdom for ALL of us, if we are open enough to accept that we are, at some times, all of these things. This Kingdom of God is our Kingdom; to have and to share with others. One tiny step at a time, one small word at a time, one single encounter at a time we can make the Kingdom of God ever more present in our world. Brian Maher OMI <communications@oblates.ie>

**If you visit Galilee** in the Springtime, you'll see how beautiful it is; including the places where Jesus taught the crowds. One sunny morning on the hill of the beatitudes overlooking the lake, with the hill ablaze with flowers, it dawned on me what an eye Jesus had for the beauty of nature. The depth of his words on that occasion was matched by the beauty of his surroundings. What he said there was radical and paradoxical. How his listeners

reacted to his words then is hard to say. What is our reaction to them today? Imagine a father or mother giving the beatitudes as advice to their teenage son or daughter as they set out to make their way in the world. Would we advise them to be detached from

property, to be gentle, not competitive, to risk all on behalf of human rights and saving the environment? How often we imply if we do not say to our children: "It's not what you know but who you know that counts." Whatever gentleness may achieve, it won't help you climb the ladder of success. To succeed in business you must be pushy and aggressive and possibly ruthless as well. The attitudes Jesus calls blessed are the opposite of fierce competition. As St Paul says: "It was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones God has chosen." Those who lament the futility of "practising Catholics" may have reduced this notion to attendance at Sunday Mass. There is no mention of that in the beatitudes. Jesus simply listed some qualities needed to enter the kingdom of heaven. These "happy attitudes" are the charter of the kingdom. They are ideals that are well-nigh unattainable. They are values to aim at, meant to help us moderate our lifestyles. History produces some people who incarnate these beatitudes, like a Francis of Assisi or a Mother Teresa, or some specially dedicated individuals that we may be privileged to know. As St Paul says, God has made us members of Christ, "who is our wisdom, our virtue, our holiness and our freedom." *association-of-catholicpriests.ie*

