

St Columba's Parish Newsletter

19 March 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Year A

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Reflections on the Readings of the Day

1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

In today's Gospel we are warned about spiritual blindness. The blind man in cannot see, but is open to the light of Jesus. The Pharisees can see, but close their hearts to the light of faith.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Sunday 8 am & 10 am

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday morning at 9:30 am.

The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 March. Please email your enquiry or leave a message on the Parish answerphone.

SACRED HEART FUNDRAISER BAKE SALE A bake sale to raise money for a Year 12 business project to raise start-up capital with the goal of donating to SVDP to help the homeless and less fortunate will be held this **Sunday March 19** before and after the 10 am Mass. Please bring cash!

MEALS REQUIRED FOR ALPHA PROGRAMME

Volunteers are required to be rostered to assist with providing a cooked main meal for the Alpha course on Wednesday nights. Meals would need to be dropped off to the Parish Centre before 6.30 pm. The Parish will re-imburse ingredients used. Please contact Heidi on 021 686 959, if you can help.

WORLD YOUTH DAY FUNDRAISER There will be a Breakfast Fundraiser after both 8 am and 10 am Mass on **Sunday 2 April** for those attending World Youth Day in Lisbon.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are held in the Church every Friday during Lent at 7.00 pm.

CONFESSIONS FOR LENT

Thursday 30th March, 7.00 pm

HOLY WEEK MASS TIMES

Chrism Mass Tuesday 4th April, 6.00 pm Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Hamilton East

Holy Thursday 6th April, 7.00 pm

Good Friday 7th April, 3.00 pm

Easter Vigil Saturday 8th April, 7.00 pm

Easter Sunday 9th April, 10.00 am only (no 8.00 am Easter Sunday Mass)

EFTPOS / TAP N GO / INTERNET BANKING

We now have Eftpos in the Parish, also a Tap n Go donation system in the foyer of the church which allows donations of \$7.00. For those who may wish to make a contribution via Internet Banking:

Parish Bank Acct: 020342 0050016 03

Ref: PLGVNG

Thank you to all who support the Parish financially.

SUNDAY MASSES & INTENTIONS		
Sunday	8.00 am	
Sunday	10.00 am	Parishioners
WEEKDAY MASSES		
Monday	<i>St Joseph</i>	9.00 am Communion Service
Tuesday		9.00 am
Wednesday		9.00 am
Thursday		9.00 am
Friday		9.00 am
Saturday	<i>Annunciation</i>	9.00 am

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK: Fifth Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14 2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11 Gospel: John 11:1-45

CARITAS LENTEN APPEAL 2023 *'I am the Light of the World.'*

Jesus is the Word that continues to echo down the ages, helping us to meet the darkness of our times.

POPE FRANCIS' LENTEN MESSAGE 2023

"We need to listen to Jesus. And how does he speak to us? In addition to the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need."

Diocesan Snippets

Volunteers for Cathedral Community Meals

We are seeking volunteers to be rostered on once every 6 weeks to help prepare and serve hot lunches at the Church Centre each Tuesday. All training will be provided. Please phone 07 856 6486.

Food For Faith Lent 2023 Daily Emails

For those seeking greater maturity of faith. Sign up for daily emails at www.foodforfaith.org.nz/sign-up

Common Good Foundation is requesting your help to support those who have been affected by the flooding in the Tairāwhiti/Gisborne region. To donate please visit www.commongood.org.nz

Emergency Appeal – Flood Response Appeal <https://caringfoundation.org.nz/donate->

Bishop Steve Lowe has asked the Catholic Diocese of Auckland's Caring Foundation to help Cyclone Gabrielle victims in the Hamilton and Palmerston North dioceses.

Catholic Bishops Support The *Staying Safe on Social Media* campaign starting **Monday 20 March**, featuring special posts each day for seven days on Church Facebook and other social media.

<https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/socialmedia-safety/>

Notices from Titipounamu Study & Joy Monday 20 March, 7-8.30pm. ZOOM. Fee: \$25

***Genesis – In the Beginning... (Repeat on Special Request)**

The Creation Stories (incl. study material) with Kieran Fenn fms.

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/in-the-beginning/>

***YouTube Recording The Notion of 'Church'** with Prof Thomas O'Loughlin

<https://www.studyjoy.nz/2023/03/02/muffin-talk-with-prof-thomas-oloughlin/>

Royal Commission survivor registrations close on Tuesday 21 March

You can register at the Royal Commission website: [Contact Royal Commission](#)

***Clothed in Power* Divine Renovation - Online Event Wednesday 22nd March, 9 am**

Clothed in Power is an opportunity for parishes to be aware of the Holy Spirit as the driving force behind mission, evangelization, and parish renewal. We will also be joined by Dr. Mary Healy, Fr. Alex Colautti and Sarah Kaczmarek. [Event information](#) [Link to sign up](#)

Advocating for the Sacredness of Life: A Pro-Life Training Wed/Thurs 29th - 30th March – St Pius X School Hall, Pine Avenue, Melville 6:30-9:30 pm Fr Shenan Boquet <https://fb.me/e/LgGqJppM>

2023 Guided Retreats at Cluny Retreat Centre, Tauranga

Weekend Retreats: [April 14-16, Cluny](#) **Weekday Retreats:** [May 21-26, Cluny](#)

And at Tyburn, Ngakuru [March 24-26, Tyburn](#) [April 14-16, Tyburn](#) [September 22-24, Tyburn](#)

Visit cdh.org.nz/retreats for more information and to register.

Iftar Dinner Invitation: Saturday April 8th in the Claudelands Event Centre at 5.30 pm. Please register by [Monday March 20](#). Inquiries to Teresa teresafz@waikato.ac.nz or phone 022 366 0908.

Hui Aranga 2023 Commemoration of the Paschal Mystery. Tauranga [Timetable](#) [Brochure](#)