

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.
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Newsletter 48, 21st December 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent, & Christmas

The Gospel this week highlights the role of St Joseph, his deep faith and obedience to the will of God. In the Gospel Joseph is described as being a *just man*, that is a man who made the Law of God the ruling principle of his life. Joseph kept his family at Nazareth, living an ordinary family life of prayer, work, and silent virtues. Quietly in the shadows, Jesus was able to grow in wisdom, in favour with God and with people, as Mary and Joseph, taught and nourished him, formed him and kept him safe.

St Joseph is a wonderful role-model for us, especially when faced with the challenges of standing up for our faith in a world which largely rejects Jesus. Let us find the courage to always bear witness to the name of Jesus, within our own families and communities.

In the busyness of Christmas, Stop, Look, and Listen.

Be in awe of what is taking place as Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem.

From St Joseph's, Picton.



Parish Calendar, News & Notices

Pre-Christmas Reconciliation Services: As we prepare for Christmas there are additional opportunities to go to Reconciliation: Blenheim 19th Dec, 6.30pm; Picton 20th December, after 5pm Mass. The usual times are still available in Blenheim: 11.30am Friday and 10am on Saturday.



The Parish Office is closed 3pm 23 Dec -8am 19th January. First newsletter of the year -1st February 2026.

Sr Elizabeth Mary RSM sends her best wishes to parishioners, and wishes you all a safe and holy Christmas.

Finally, thanks to all of those who have volunteered their time this year, to keep everything ticking over. Your efforts are much appreciated.



Afternoon tea for Ladies of Sacred Heart held on Saturday, 6th Dec. in the hall at Sacred Heart, Kaikoura, The Van Rooyen family recently suffered great loss in the recent fires and this gathering was in love and solidarity. Each brought a plant to help begin a new garden for Angela and Joe.



Joseph Alipia of Marlborough Boys College was awarded a Catholic Foundation Scholarship for the 2026 Tertiary year. It is a two year scholarship:

\$2,000 IN 1st YEAR TERTIARY STUDY OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING and subject to receiving a satisfactory report and an intent to continue study or training, a further \$2,000 for the 2nd year.

Congratulations Joseph, we wish you well in your studies.



CATHOLIC KIWI PODCAST: The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference has launched a new podcast series, sharing stories of faith, ministry and mission of Kiwis and visitors to our shores. The first episodes have been released, with new episodes scheduled as part of Season 1 leading up to Christmas. Search "Catholic Kiwi Podcast" on YouTube or Spotify now.



St Vincent de Paul in Picton and Blenheim would like to wish you all a safe and holy Christmas. We thank you all for your generous support throughout the year. We Serve in Hope. Volunteers are always welcome. Pop when the shops reopen in the new Year.

SAVE THE DATE Cardinal John Dew – Talk: On 21st February, Cardinal John will be giving a his insights about his time in Rome around the 2025 Conclave. This will be at 7pm in St Mary's Church. More details to come in the new Year. The following weekend Mons. Gerry Burns will be talking about the Treaty of Waitangi and its connection to us as a church.

Are you looking for a daily reflection. Click on the link below which takes you to the Passionist Website and their daily reflections. [Daily Reflection](#) | [The Passionists](#)

A Warm Welcome to Our Parish Family of Marlborough

We are joy-filled missionary disciples: walking in Christ's light, growing in faith together, and taking the Gospel and the love of Jesus to the people of Marlborough and beyond.

Parish Calendar, News & Notices

Mass & Liturgy Schedules

Saturday 20th Dec

Blenheim 9.30am **Mass** followed by reconciliation

4th Sun of Advent

Sat 20th Dec

Blenheim 5pm –**Mass**

Picton 5pm—**Mass** followed by reconciliation

Sun 21st Dec

Seddon 8am - **Mass,**

Kaikoura 9.30am- **Mass**

Blenheim 10am- **Mass**

Blenheim 5pm - **Mass**

Tuesday-23rd Dec

Blenheim 9.30am **Mass**

Kaikoura 9.30am W&C

Wednesday-24th Dec

Blenheim 5.30pm Family Mass (carols 5pm)

Picton 6.30pm Mass (carols 6pm)

Kaikoura 7.30pm (carols 7pm)

Blenheim 8pm Mass (carols 7.30pm)

Thursday-25th Dec

Seddon 8am - **Mass,**

Kaikoura 9.30am- **Mass**

Blenheim 10am- **Mass**

Friday-26th Dec

Kaikoura 9.30am -W&C

Blenheim 9.30am –**Mass**

Saturday 27th Dec

Blenheim 9.30am **Mass** followed by reconciliation

Feast of the Holy Family

Sat 27th Dec

Blenheim 5pm –**Mass**

Picton 5pm—**Mass**

Sun 28th Dec- Final Mass of the Year of Jubilee

Seddon 8am - **Mass,**

Kaikoura 9.30am- **Mass**

Blenheim 10am- **Mass**

Blenheim 5pm - **Mass**

New Year's Day

Blenheim 9.30am **Mass**

Kaikoura 9.30am **Mass**

Weekday Mass during January

Picton 9.30am Mass –Wed

Blenheim 9.30am-Tues - Fri

Kaikoura W&C 9.30am Tues-Fri

Readings for:

21st-28th Dec 2025

Sun 21 Dec-4th Sun of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:8-25



Mon 22 Dec

1Samuel 1:24-28

Luke 1:46-56

Tues 23 Dec

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24

Luke 1:57-66

Wed 24 Dec

Isaiah 9:1-7

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

Thurs 25 Dec –The Nativity

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John1:1-18

Fri 26 Dec-St Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8;10,7:54-60

Matt 10:17-22

Sat 27 Dec-St John, Apostle

1John 1:1-4

John 20:2-8

Sun 28 Dec- Holy Family

Eccl. 3:2-6,12-14

Colossians 3:12-21

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

Collections: We are most grateful for your support.

Last Week:

Total: \$2,368.90

If you would like to contribute to the running costs of the Parish, here is our account number:

Star of the Sea Parish

02-0600-0154396-00

Please put "Planned Giving" in the reference so we know its purpose and contact Ginetta at the Parish Office for a giving number before starting online banking so you can claim on your donations each year.



Remembering the Holy souls – May they Rest In Peace

Retnabai Mathias;
Dympne Swain;
Gary Simth;
Colin Campbell;
Geoff Marfell;

Gerard & Christopher Riordan;
Lynette Kilmartin,
Vince Smith, Doreen Smith;

Graeme Daines,
Daines & Gill Families;
Tricia & Brian Stretch,
Libby Laurent,
Stretch & Fitzpatrick families;
Barnes & McHugh Families;

Also all our deceased parishioners and benefactors.

Intentions: please keep these parishioners in your prayers.

Donna Lippiatt;
Luke Clayton;
Nancy Spatz;
Phil Best;
Esme Murphy;
Eileen Moreland;
Glenn Ormsby;
Craig & Viv Grant;
Charlotte Cagney;
Johan Van der Geest;
Terry Price;
Maria Prutten;
Russell Millar;
Lex & Mary Agnew;
Robin O'Kane;
Michael Carmody;
Jane Caldwell;

Nancy Woolford-Stayner;
Peter Smith;
Margaret Searle;
Anne Rundle;
Francesca Perkins;
Aveera & Araylee Marsh;
Rilee Wright;
Elizabeth & Don Boyd;
Craig Jackson;
Catherine;
Jill Carpenter;
and those unnamed that need our prayers at this time.

If you, or a loved one, are in hospital or at home unable to get out, in Blenheim contact Mary Tolan 021 184 0617 to arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to bring out Communion to you. For Kaikoura, ring Patsy Buttle, 021 584 968



Quotes from the Popes

'Let no one be lost! Let all be saved! This is what our God wants, this is his Kingdom, and this is the goal of his actions in the world. As Christmas approaches, we too want to embrace more strongly his dream, while being steadfast and faithful in our commitment. We know that even in the face of the greatest challenges, we are not alone: the Lord is near, he walks with us, and with him at our side, something beautiful and joyful will always happen.' Pope Leo XIV, [Homily](#), 14 December 2025



Parish Priest: Fr Sony Kannanaikal CP– ParishPriest@staroftheseamarlb.co.nz

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Youth Ministers: Maurice & Mieke Davies — stmarysyoungroup@xtra.co.nz — 022 391 8584

Parish Pastoral Council Chair: Blair McLean **Finance Committee Chair: Tom Harrison**