

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 47, 14th December 2025
Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday

This 3rd Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday which means Rejoice Sunday. The pink candle on the Advent wreath is lit and is the liturgical colour for joy. Our readings proclaim the joy of what God will do – there will be miracles of new life, of new vision and of regained mobility to those who were dead, blind and paralysed both in the poetic vision of Isaiah and the fulfilment of these prophecies by Jesus.

Last week John the Baptist was calling all to repentance in preparation for the coming of the kingdom. This week he is in prison and he asks for confirmation if Jesus is THE ONE. Jesus' miracles of those on the peripheries are indeed acts of God. Jesus has transformed what was hopeless into being hope-full. This is indeed to be joyfully proclaimed.

I would like to share with you also some joyful news that I recently graduated from the Archdiocese's Launch Out formation programme. Launch Out seeks to develop candidates theologically, pastorally and most importantly spiritually. Thank you to the many who supported me in this journey in so many ways. God is so good.



Vicky Raw, chair of Discipleship Group

Parish Calendar, News & Notices

Christmas Masses: Christmas Eve- Blenheim: Family Mass 5.30pm (Carols at 5pm), 8pm (Carols at 7.30pm), Kaikoura: Family Mass 7.30pm (Carols At 7pm), Picton: Family Mass 6.30pm (Carols at 6pm). Christmas Day-Seddon: 8am Mass, Kaikoura: 9.30am, Blenheim: 10am Mass. The full schedule for the Christmas Season will be on our website and church doors.

Community Foodbanks:

Our Community Food Banks help people in need.

The bins in our churches are cleared every week so donations can be made outside of the times listed.

1st Sunday @ Kaikoura
All Sundays @ Picton & Blenheim

Please consider donating nonperishable goods: Canned tomatoes, fruit, vegetables, Canned spaghetti, canned Baked beans, Canned Fish, Sugar, rice, Soup mix, Flour, Pasta sauce, spreads, Longlife milk, Breakfast

Delia Chandler just celebrated her 90th birthday recently in Picton and apologies from the office staff for overlooking this momentous occasion. The parish wishes her many blessings for the year ahead.



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.

The Philipino Community invite parishioners to join them in celebrating Simbaug Gabi, with Mass every day 15-19, 22, 23 Dec at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to join them.

Christmas Choir: Are you keen to join a choir to sing at the 8pm mass (carols start at 7.30pm) at Blenheim on Christmas Eve? Anyone interested can come along after 5pm Mass on 14th and 21st December. Come to any or all of the practices. We would love to see you.



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.



Those wanting to say the Our Father in another language at 5pm and 10am BHM weekend masses, please contact Belinda Vavasour 021 774 858.

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 13th Dec

Blenheim 9.30am Mass followed by reconciliation

3rd Sun of Advent

Sat 13th Dec

Blenheim 5pm –Mass
Picton 5pm—Mass

Sun 14th Dec

Seddon 8am - Mass,
Kaikoura 9.30am- Mass
Blenheim 10am- Mass
Blenheim 5pm –Mass

Tuesday-16th Dec

Blenheim 9.30am Mass
Kaikoura 9.30am W&C

Wednesday-17th Dec

Picton 9.30am Mass
Kaikoura 9:30am W&C
Blenheim 12.05pm Mass
Blenheim 6.30pm Mass

Thursday-18th Dec

Blenheim 9.30am - Mass
Kaikoura 9.30am -W&C
Kaikoura 10am Scripture
Picton- 5.15pm Adoration

Friday-19th Dec

Kaikoura 9.30am -W&C
Blenheim 11am - Exposition,
11.30am Reconciliation
Blenheim 12.05pm –Mass

Saturday 20th Dec

Blenheim 9.30am Mass followed by reconciliation

4th Sun of Advent

Sat 20th Dec

Blenheim 5pm –Mass
Picton 5pm—Mass

Sun 21st Dec

Seddon 8am - Mass,
Kaikoura 9.30am- Mass
Blenheim 10am- Mass
Blenheim 5pm – Mass

Readings for:

14th –21st Dec 2025

Sun 14 Dec-3rd Sun of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-6,10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Mon 15Dec

Numbers 24:2-7,15-17
Matt 21:23-27

Tues 16 Dec

Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13
Matt 21:28-32

Wed 17 Dec

Genesis 49:2,8-10
Matt 1:1-17



Thurs 18 Dec

Jeremiah 23:5-8
Matt 1:18-24

Fri 19 Dec

Judges 13:2-7,24-25
Luke 1:5-25

Sat 20 Dec

Isaiah 7:10-14
Luke 1:26-38

Sun 21 Dec-4th Sun of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:8-25

Find peace in God's Word

Collections: We are most grateful for your support.

Last Week:

Total: \$2,929.43
Peter's Pence; \$20.00

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

Sr Francie smsm; Graham Check; Richard Booker; Nola Mead; Retnabai Mathias; Dympne Swain; Sandra Dunkinson;	Family; Reta & William O'Leary, Michael & Lorraine O'Leary, Gwenda & Eric Bishell, Louis O'Leary, Hugh Byrne; Lynette Kilmartin, Vince Smith, Doreen Smith;
Fr Tom O'Connor sm; Kathleen, Alec & Francis Logan; Deceased relatives & Squire & Logan	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.
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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

'We want to walk together by appreciating what unites us, breaking down the walls of prejudice and mistrust, promoting mutual knowledge and esteem in order to give to all a strong message of hope and an invitation to become "peacemakers"'

Pope Leo XIV, [Homily](#), 29 November 2025



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

Assistant Priest: Fr Jacob Kuman CP—jacob.kuman@passionists.com

Community leader: Fr Peter Gardiner CP peter.gardiner@passionists.com

Pastoral Assist: Sr Maureen Connor SMSM — maurencsmsm1@gmail.com — 03 319 5385 (new updated email)

Seminarian: Br TJ Nguyen

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

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