

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.

Parish Office: 61 Maxwell Road, Blenheim 7201

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FB. Star of the Sea Marlborough (838 followers)

WEB. www.staroftheseamarlb.co.nz

Mass-UTube: <https://youtube.com/@staroftheseaparish4103>



Newsletter 48, 22nd December 2024 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas

Maybe, 2024 will go down as one of the most difficult years for Star of the Sea parish. Reflecting on the year, there was much confusion regarding the arrival of the two priests that were appointed at the beginning of the year, and indeed they never arrived, and have now been appointed to Levin. In their place later in January 2025 (God willing!), we will be welcoming back Passionists, Frs Jacob Kuman and Peter Gardiner CP.

While we waited for our priests with hope, we have been lucky to have had with us some priests who were generous with the gift of their time. Principally, Fr Alliston who was with us for a short time and Fr Dyson, who has been with us for three months. In between these two priests we were fortunate to have Fr Seph who thought he was coming for a few weeks and whose stay extended out to about five or six months! Far more than he (and we) expected, and we are immensely grateful to him for putting his own plans on hold and staying to help Star of the Sea in so many ways. During this time various other priests came and went. Fr Michael of course who as well as coming for Mass 'duty' on weekends, has been consistently very helpful in the parish with regard to the various land sales that have been sorted and now completed. Other priests – Fr Phil Cody, Fr Thomas Majesh Thomas, Fr Alister Castillo, Fr Julian Wagg, Msg Gerry Burns, Fr Tony O'Connor, Fr Ron Bennett,, Fr Michael McCabe and Fr Raymond Soriano also helped with funerals, and weekend Masses.

And of course thanks to you all. The wonderful parishioners of Star of the Sea who settled for what we could provide, enthusiastically (in most cases) adopting Services of Word & Communion which were unavoidable, as we strived to provide a liturgy each weekend in most of our Mass centres. It has been a tough year and whilst people have undoubtedly worried about the lack of a priest, and while indeed this lack of the priest has been an issue at times we have survived! And survived without too many mishaps! We are pretty good at looking after ourselves and being self sufficient. We think we can manage but we can't really, and we need the stability and continuity of a permanent parish priest.

We have learnt through experience that we are in a vine and branches situation and each one plays a part and we are each dependent on each other to play their part to make the vine produce fruit. Thank you so much for playing your part in this harvest. Wishing you all, peace and joy for this blessed Christmas Season
Belinda V



Parish Calendar, News & Notices

Positions needing participants - Christmas Eve Mass 5:30 Tuesday 24th December.

Angels, Wise Men and Shepherds, Oxen and Lamb wanted for the Nativity Scene at the 5:30 Christmas Eve Mass. If you would like your children to be involved in this very short scene we would love to have them join us at the altar for the song "Away in a Manger". The students will be given costumes to wear and will need to wear these to Mass. We will have a practice on Sunday 22/12 after Mass. If you want to be in the scene then we will find a place for you in the manger. Please respond to rosie@stmb.school.nz or turn up on Sunday 22/12 after 10:00am Mass.



Sr. Elizabeth Mary RSM gives her greetings and kind wishes to the parishioners for every blessing of joy and peace as we celebrate Christmas once more. May those wishes extend into the New Year too.

The 2025 Year of Jubilee will give voice to Pope Francis' desire to foster a greater sense of global sisterhood and brotherhood, solidarity with the poor, and caring for the environment. Preparations are underway. All parishes are encouraged to become involved in this Jubilee Year. The 2024 focus for the People of God is on prayer and study. In 2025 the focus shifts to the People of God making a Pilgrimage of Hope. The NZCBC has created an informative webpage. Please visit the website <https://www.catholic.org.nz/about-us/jubilee-year-2025/> to find out more Information and watch this space for opportunities to become involved in Jubilee 2025.



Office Hours: the Parish Office will be closed from 12 Noon on Christmas Eve until 8am on 20th January. If you need a priest urgently, call the parish cell phone 027 296 7347 and leave a message. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Christmas Reconciliation in Marlborough Catholic Churches 2024

Sat Dec 21	Picton	5pm Mass, reconciliation afterwards
Sun Dec 22	Seddon	8am Mass, reconciliation afterwards

[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

4th Sunday of Advent

Sat 21st Dec

Blenheim 5pm - **W&C**
 Picton 5pm—**Mass, reconciliation**

Sun 22nd Dec

Seddon 8am - **Mass, reconciliation**

Kaikoura 9.30am— **W&C**

Blenheim 10am— **Mass**

Monday-23rd Dec

Blenheim 7pm Mass in Syro Malabar Tradition

No Weekday Masses

Nativity of the Lord

Tues 24th Dec

Blenheim 5pm -**Mass** (carols at 5pm)

Kaikoura 7.30pm— **Mass**

(carols at 7pm)

Picton 7.30pm —**Mass** (carols at 7pm)

Wed 25th Dec

Seddon 8am - **Mass**

Kaikoura 9.30am— **W&C**

Blenheim 10am— **Mass**

Feast of the Holy Family

Sat 28th Dec

Blenheim 5pm -**Mass**

Sun 29th Dec

Seddon 8am - **W&C**

Picton 9am —**W&C**

Kaikoura 9.30am— **Mass**

Blenheim 10am— **W&C**

No Weekday Masses

New Years Day

Blenheim 9.30am W&C

Kaikoura 9.30am W&C

Epiphany

Sat 4th Jan 2025

Blenheim 5pm -**W&C**

Picton 5pm—**Mass,**

Sun 5th Jan

Seddon 8am - **Mass,**

Kaikoura 9.30am— **W&C**

Blenheim 10am— **Mass**

Weekday Masses start

7th—31st January

Blenheim 9.30am Tues-Friday

Kaikoura -normal schedule

Picton -No mass

Readings for:

22-29 Dec 2024

Sun 22 Dec- 4th Sunday of

Advent year C

Micah 5:1-4
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-44



Mon 23 Dec

Malachi 3:1-4,23-24
 Luke 1:57-66

Tues 24 Dec

2Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16
 Luke 1:67-79

Wed 25 Dec

Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-16

Thurs 26 Dec-St Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10,7:54-60
 Matthew 10:17-22

Fri 27 Dec-St John, Apostle & Evangelist

1John 1:1-4
 John 20:2-8

Sat 28 Dec-Holy Innocents

1John 1:5-2:2
 Matthew 2:13-18

Sun 29 Dec- Feast of the Holy Family

Eccles 3:2-6,12-14
 Colossians 3:12-21
 Luke 2:41-52



Remembering the Holy souls —May they Rest In Peace

Vince Smith;	Christopher &
Turia (Tui) Taylor;	Gerard Riordan;
Marie Irving;	Jim Mason;
Patricia Granger;	Eric Hanley,
Kathleen Watson;	deceased members
People of Ireland;	of Hanley, Logan &
Fr Tom O'Connor,	Squire family;
sm;	Julie Forbes;
Lynette Kilmartin;	Also all our
Doreen Smith;	deceased
Mary Griffiths;	parishioners and
Kathleen & Michael	benefactors.
Smith;	

Intentions: please keep these parishioners in your prayers.

Richard Booker;	Maria Martin;
Donna Lippiatt;	Charlotte Cagney;
Luke Clayton;	Nancy Woolford-
Tilly van Dyk;	Stayner;
Graeme Daines;	Denise Eddowes;
Kath Maher;	Terry Price;
Jessica Jackson;	Steven Crundwell-
Matt & family in	Nlsn;
CHCH;	Lex & Mary Agnew
Lyn Turner;	Peter Smith;
Aimee Bardell;	Margaret Searle;
Nancy Spatz;	Anne Rundle;
Jim West;	Sophie Greening;
Phil Best;	Melva Smith;
Esme Murphy;	Francesca Perkins
Eileen Moreland;	Marita Morrison;
Nola Tanner;	Hazel Harbord;
Anne Thompson (UK)	Bernice Brown;
Pauline Smart;	Glenn Ormsby;
Mary Norton;	

Collections: We are most grateful for your support.

Last Week:

Total: \$2,403.39

Christmas Dues: \$70.00

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 contact Ginetta at the Parish Office for a giving number so you can claim on your donations each year.

The Candy Cane Story

Letter "J"
 Jesus Christ is the promised Savior

Red Stripes
 Christ's blood was shed for us on the cross

Shepherd's Staff
 Jesus us the Good Shepherd and His sheep hear and follow His voice

White Candy
 Our sins were washed away by the sacrifice of a sinless Savior

Quote from Pope Francis

'After receiving the annunciation of the angel, Mary does not stay at home, thinking over what has happened and considering the problems and pitfalls, which were certainly not lacking, with the culture of that age... She did not understand.... On the contrary, she first thinks of someone in need; instead of being absorbed in her own problems, she thinks about someone in need, she thinks about Elizabeth, her relative, who was advanced in years and with child, something strange and miraculous. Mary sets out with generosity, without letting herself be daunted by the discomforts of the journey, responding to an inner impulse that called her to be close and to help.' Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 19 December 2021.

Acting Parish Priest: Fr Dyson Tharakan

Pastoral Assist: Sr Maureen Connor SMSM — maureensmsm@yahoo.co.nz — 03 319 5385

Pastoral Assist: Sr Frances Anna SMSM - francesmsm@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Ginetta Petersen

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

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