

Parish Calendar, News & Notices

Weekend Mass Times

To assist in planning ahead

25th Sunday of the Year (4)

Sat Sep 22

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr Don
Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr Don
Picton (9am) **W&C**
Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr Pat
Blenheim (10am) Mass/Fr Don
Havelock (11am) **W&C**

26th Sunday of the Year (5)

Sat Sep 29

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr John
Seddon (8am) **W&C**
Picton (9am) Mass/Fr John
Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr Pat
Blenheim (10am) **W&C**
Havelock (11am) Mass/Fr John
Renwick (5pm) Mass/Fr John

27th Sunday of the Year (1)

Guest Speakers at Blenheim & Seddon,
Mary-Ellen & John Lean on Passionist
Family Groups

Sat Oct 6

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr John
Seddon (8am) Mass /Fr John
Picton (9am) Mass/Fr Pat
Kaikoura (9.30) **W&C**
Blenheim (10am) Mass/Fr John
Havelock (11am) Mass/Fr Pat
Sounds Like Lunch Community Dinner
at Alan Scott Winery (12.30)

23rd OL Star of the Sea (2)

Sat Oct 13

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr Pat
Seddon (8am) **W&C**
Picton (9am) Mass/Fr Pat
Kaikoura (9.30) Mass/Fr John
Blenheim (10) **W&C**
Havelock (11) Mass/Fr Pat

24th Sunday of the Year (3)

Sat Oct 20

Blenheim (5pm) Mass/Fr Pat
Seddon (8am) Mass/Fr Pat
Picton (9am) Mass/Fr John
Kaikoura (9.30) **W&C**
Blenheim (10) Mass/Fr Pat
Havelock (11am) Mass/Fr John
Renwick (5pm) Mass/Fr John

Clean your house for 2 hours.

Watch the little humans that
you created destroy it in
30 minutes.

Repeat for the next 18 years.

This is parenthood.

Community Matters

This Weekend: Fr Don Hornsby

This weekend Fr Don Hornsby is assisting us in Seddon & Blenheim, from the Columbans in Wellington. Please make him welcome.

John Away:

John is in Melbourne this weekend as part of a writing group in preparation for next July's Provincial Chapter. The focus of consultations and meetings this year has been "Where do we want to be in 5 years, granted our aging and diminishing?" This opens up considerations of how we maintain ministries with less priests, and how do we engage with others in developing ministries.

Next week, the Provincial Council meets, Monday to Wednesday. John will be back in the Parish on Thursday evening.

Blenheim Rosters:

Belinda Vavasour is preparing the next set of rosters during October. If you plan to be away from Nov to Feb, please let her know ASAP, so she can make adjustments. Phone 578 2628

BHM Community Centre

There will be plastering and painting of the main rooms during the October School Holidays to repair EQ damage and general wear & tear.

Parish Events

Sep 30: Renwick Mass

Renwick Mass (5pm) with BYO finger food to follow. Celebrating the completion of the external repairs and painting. And celebrating community life in Spring. All Welcome.

Oct 7 .. Sounds Like Lunch

Join us for our community lunch for the Sounds Communities and their friends. It's at Alan Scott's Winery, Jacksons Road, Renwick @ 12.30pm. Bookings are essential for catering. Contact Bill, Leanne, Carolyn, Ted, or phone the Parish Office.

Oct 7: Rosary Aotearoa is encouraging parishes and groups to gather at different locations around the country at 3pm to pray the Rosary to ask for a blessing on our land and our people. For more info and to register a group go to www.rosarynewzealand.nz. In Marlborough this will be at St Mary's Church, Blenheim. All are welcome.

19-21 October (Labour weekend)
Bishop Viard College 50th Jubilee
Present and past students and staff

are preparing to celebrate this important college milestone on A week-end of events starting with a Powhiri on the Friday and ending with mass celebrated by Cardinal John Dew on the Sunday will give many the opportunity to remember and give thanks for the gift of Catholic education in our community.

The college extends a warm welcome to all past students, staff, board of trustees, parents and friends of Bishop Viard to join us for all or part of the weekend. Details of our programme are on the college website along with the registration form <https://www.viard.school.nz> or email viard50th@gmail.com

Parish Calendar

September

Sep 23 .. 26th Sunday

Sep 25 .. Finance & Property C'tee
Sep 27 .. Preschool Board
RCIA Inquiry Night
Sep 28 .. Last Day of School Term
Sep 29 .. Picton Church & Grounds
Spring Clean Working Bee

Sep 30 .. 27th Sunday

Renwick Mass (5pm)

October

Oct 1 .. Wairau Stewardship
Oct .. 4 BCMA (Christian Ministers)
RCIA Inquiry Night

Oct 7 .. 28th Sunday

Family Groups Promotion
in Blenheim.

Oct 7 .. Sounds Like Lunch.
BHM Rosary in the Church
(3pm)
RCIA Inquiry Night

Oct 14 .. 29th Sunday

Oct 11 .. RCIA Inquiry Night
Oct 15 .. School Term 4 starts
Oct 18 .. Preschool Board

Oct 21 .. 30th Sunday

Oct 22 .. Labour Day Holiday
Oct 24 .. RCIA Inquiry night

Oct 28 .. 31st Sunday

Oct 29 .. Marlborough Day Holiday

November

Nov 15 .. Blenheim Annual
Bereavement Mass
Nov 25 .. Feast of Christ the King

December

Dec 11 .. Kaikoura, School Mass &
Graduation
Dec 14 .. Blenheim, School End of
Year Mass & Farewell (10.30)
Dec 16 .. Renwick Pre- Christmas
Mass & Community Refreshments (5pm)

COLLECTIONS:

We are most grateful for your support of our Parish of Star Of The Sea.

Last week:

AP's: \$2228.00
Envelopes: \$1937.50
Loose: \$ 939.70
Maori Pastoral Care \$ 35.00

thank
you!



Our Liturgy Plan
When a priest is not available, Word & Communion will be led by parishioners.

Blenheim

Tues: 9.30am Mass
Wed: 12.05pm Mass
Thurs: 9.30 am Mass
Except 1st Thurs:
Bethsaida 10.30am
Fri: 11am Adoration
11.30 Reconciliation
12.05pm Mass
Sat: 9.30am Mass
Reconciliation to follow

Sat: 5pm Mass
Sun: 10am Mass
(2nd & 5th Sunday
Word & Communion)

Havelock

Sunday: 11am
(4th Sunday
Word & Communion)

Kaikoura

Tues: 9.30am
Wed: 9.30am
Wed: 7pm Rosary
Thurs: 5.15pm
Fri: 9.30am
Sun: 9.30am
(1st & 3rd Sunday
Word & Communion)

Picton

Wed: 9am Mass
Sun: 9am Mass
(4th Sunday:
Word & Communion)

Renwick

3rd Sunday 5pm Mass

Seddon

Sun: 8am Mass
(2nd & 5th Sunday
Word & Communion)

Ward

4th Sunday 4pm Mass

Baptisms

Celebrated during weekend
Mass or other times.

Marriages

Marriages celebrated in all
our Churches. Please contact
the Parish Office well in advance.

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. Seven Communities

Blenheim | Havelock | Kaikoura | Picton | Renwick | Seddon | Ward

Parish Office: 61 Maxwell Road, Blenheim | T. 03 578 0038

EM. office@staroftheseamarlb.co.nz | FB. Star of the Sea Marlborough (232 likes)

WEB. www.staroftheseamarlb.co.nz

Newsletter No 36: 23 September 2018 25th Sunday of the Year (B)

A Warm Welcome to Our Parish Family of Marlborough

We the people of
Te Whetu O Te Moana,
Star of the Sea Parish,
are committed by our baptism
in Christ, to share our living
faith, and make God visible, in
joyful union with all people, by
our actions in the community.
(Parish Mission Statement)

National Assembly of Priests Christchurch 2018

Last week Pat and I participated in the National Assembly of Diocesan Priests on invitation from Cardinal John, one that has happened every 5 years since starting in Blenheim 20 years ago.

For me, I was amongst mostly strangers, as I had only encountered the Wellington Priests up till this time. There was a high mix of overseas born priests amidst a seemingly much older NZ born clergy, but as they days went on I found some of the old boys were younger than me.

We were entertained and inspired by Fr James Mallon from Halifax, Canada, author of the programme Divine Renovation: From Maintenance to a Missional Parish. Some very practical stuff we should explore as we continue to grow as a not so new parish now.

It was good to meet again a friend my Melbourne parish days, Vincent Long, now Bishop of Parramatta. He is a former Vietnamese boat person, now a courageous voice for refugees and asylum seekers, that he once was.

On one of the afternoons, I was most moved by the sight of open spaces that once were occupied by 10,000 homes, they and shops and schools and churches removed after the previous earthquakes. People once lived there.

John Pearce CP



Three Aussies, John, Bishop Vincent Long,
James Van Schie, Secretary of the Bishops Conference

National Priests Assembly Pass on Their Thanks

Nearly 190 Catholic priests from throughout New Zealand met in Christchurch last week for their five-yearly national assembly. The assembly provided priests with an opportunity for them to renew their commitment to priesthood in an informal gathering. In a real spirit of collegiality, the week's programme gave the priests a chance to spend time together and to openly reflect on and discuss their own experiences in ministry and pastoral life.

Thank you to you, our parishioners, for your prayers and support for what was an invigorating and inspirational week.

NZ Catholic Bishops Conference

Readings for Twenty Fifth Week Ordinary Time

Sun 23rd: Twenty Fifth Week Ordinary Time

Wisdom 2:12,17-20

James 3:16-4:3

Gospel Mark 9:30-37

Psalm response: The Lord upholds my life (3)

Mon 24th:

Proverbs 3:27-34

Gospel Luke 8:16-18

Tues 25th:

Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13

Gospel Luke 8:19-21

Wed 26th:

Proverbs 30:5-9

Gospel Luke 9:1-6

Thu 27th: St Vincent de Paul, priest Eccles. 1:2-11

Gospel Luke 9:7-9

Fri 28th:

Ephesians 3:1-11

Gospel Luke 9:18-22

Sat 29th: Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14

Gospel John 1:47-51

Sun 30th: Twenty Sixth Week Ordinary Time

Numbers 11:25-29

James 5:1-6

Gospel Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

China & The Vatican

China and the Vatican to Sign Historic Agreement by End of September

Gerard O'Connell, America Magazine, 18 September 2018



The Holy See and China are scheduled to sign an agreement in Beijing on the nomination of bishops sometime before the end of September. "It will be a historic breakthrough," a Vatican source told **America**. He confirmed that a high-level Holy See delegation will travel to the Chinese capital for the signing and that a date has already been fixed for this ground-breaking event.

The agreement only deals with the question of the nomination of bishops. It gives each side a say in the selection of candidates, but it recognizes that the pope will have the final word in the appointment of bishops for the Catholic Church throughout mainland China.

Since the Communists came to power in 1949—they later expelled the papal representative and broke relations with the Holy See in 1951—Chinese authorities have insisted that Rome should "not interfere in the internal affairs of China." This agreement offers a more pragmatic understanding of that declaration by acknowledging the pope's key role in the nomination of bishops in the most populous country in the world.

Both sides consider it "a provisional agreement," to be revisited in some years. Sources told **America** that the Holy See recognizes that it is "not a good agreement," but it believes that it is the only one possible at present and that, in a small but highly significant way, it opens the door to developing a constructive and improving dialogue with the world's emerging superpower.

America has learned that the text of the agreement will not be made public, even after the signing.

According to informed sources, the Holy See and Beijing have agreed on a process for the

nomination of bishops. Candidates will be chosen at the diocesan level through the "democratic election" system that the Chinese authorities introduced in 1957, whereby the priests of the diocese, together with representatives of women religious and lay-people, vote from among the candidates presented by the authorities that supervise church affairs. The results of these elections will be sent to the Beijing authorities that oversee the church in China, including the bishops' conference, which will examine them and then submit a name to the Holy See through diplomatic channels. The Holy See will have some months to carry out its own investigation of the candidate and, based on this work, the pope will either approve or exercise his veto. The Holy See will then communicate his decision to Beijing.

If the pope approves of the candidate, the process will continue. But if he exercises his veto, both sides will engage in a dialogue, and Beijing would eventually be expected to submit the name of another candidate.

The possibility of an agreement has been in the air for some time, but expectations were raised after a high-level Chinese delegation met a similar-ranking Holy See delegation in the Vatican last June. The Holy See, in response to the demands of Beijing, confirmed that Pope Francis would recognize the seven "illegitimate" Chinese bishops—that is, those who were ordained without the pope's approval over the past decade or more, three of whom had been excommunicated. All seven had previously asked for reconciliation with the pope. This means that for the first time since 1957 (when Beijing began ordaining bishops without papal approval), all the Catholic bishops in mainland China will be in communion with the pope.

The pope's decision to recognize the seven was well received by Chinese authorities; it opened the path to Beijing's willingness to sign the agreement with the Holy See. That decision, taken at the highest levels, was communicated to the Vatican just over two weeks ago.

Not long after, the Foreign Ministry in Taiwan announced on Sept. 13 that it had obtained information "from various sources" that an agreement between the Vatican and China on "religious affairs" would most likely be signed in September or October.

This news was quickly picked up by media outlets, but neither Beijing nor the Vatican has officially confirmed it.

At the end of December 2017, there were 101 bishops in China (though some have died since); of these, 65 belong to the "open" church community that is recognized by the Chinese authorities; 36 belong to the "underground" church community and do not have such official recognition because they refuse to be part of the Patriotic Association, a government entity established in 1957 to control the church in China. The association is not recognized by the Holy See.

The upcoming agreement is the result of negotiations that were revived after Francis became pope in March 2013. They have been patiently conducted for several years under the leadership of Cardinal Pietro Parolin, appointed as secretary of state in August 2013, and with the assistance of Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, the emeritus president of the now-defunct Pontifical Council for Social Communications. The archbishop has been working toward this goal since the early 1980s. In recent times he headed the Holy See's delegation to the Joint Working Group established in 2014.

America has learned that the Trump administration is not happy with the agreement, nor are many forces in political and economic fields in the United States, as well as some in the church there and elsewhere. They see it as weakening the struggle for religious freedom in China and point to the crackdown on religion in that country in recent months under President Xi Jinping.

The Holy See has historically been concerned about this fundamental freedom, but for religious reasons, not political ones. Pope Francis firmly believes in the culture of encounter, not that of confrontation. Sources in Rome say he is convinced that even in the present difficult situation of a crackdown on religion in China, more is to be gained through dialogue, encounter and friendship. The Jesuit pope, following in the footsteps of Matteo Ricci, the famous Italian Jesuit missionary who is buried in Beijing, has given strong leadership in this direction.

China, on the other hand, has always viewed religion through a political lens and has clearly reached the conclusion that there is much to be gained

Sacraments of Christian Initiation

Last Weekend, We Celebrated Sacraments of Christian Initiation With Our Children

It was great having Cardinal John with us last weekend across three Communities of the Parish.

He had come from a week of the Assembly of Diocesan Priests of New Zealand in Christchurch, and went from us to a week of meetings in Wellington, before flying out on Saturday for meetings in Rome next week.

In Kaikoura we competed with 1,000 old cars coming to town, but the Mass and supper to follow were a great celebration of initiation with our 8 children.

In Blenheim we had 18 children involved, with two being baptized as well. The parents set up a great party room in the Community Centre for the kids to follow.

In Seddon we were mostly Ward children, all from the Hickman Families. The Maher's of Seddon made up the balance. Again the party to follow engaged all of us in a relaxed atmosphere. We were blessed with the Kitibati Seasonal Workers who sang several songs in their language.

Thank you to all who prepared for these days, and for the communities who gathered in support.

Continuing to Celebrate Sacraments

Like many sacraments of the Church, their meaning and significance is only realized in the regular celebrating of them. Marriage and Ordination are two that come to mind. They are lived out in our day to day engagements.

All of us, children and adults, grow into being a Eucharistic People as we celebrate Mass

each week. We Come, We Listen, We Give Thanks, We Share in the Communion of God's Love for Us. We Are Sent. Some regularity is needed or we become easily disconnected.

More Baptisms of School Aged Children

Since last weekend we have had requests for Baptism and Sacraments for Children in Kaikoura and Blenheim. "Let the Children Come!" We look forward to starting preparation for them in the coming term.

Adult Sacraments of Christian Initiation

It's spring time, and the new Season of Adult Christian Initiation has begun. Fr Pat's Team has started sessions in Blenheim. We meet every Thursday, 7pm at St Mary's. Sister Maureen is starting in Kaikoura.

How do people self identify they want to join the Church? Usually though someone asking "Have you ever thought of being Catholic and sharing the faith tradition with your spouse and children?" It's painless! Have a chat with one of our Parish Team members, or call the Parish Office.

Farm Masses

The Seddon/Ward Communities are facing the fact of only being able to have Mass at 8am by considering Farm Masses every few months late on a Sunday afternoon. The first one in August at Watson's Farm drew together 28 people, compared to our normal 12, including some of the Seasonal Workers. We prayed together, then we shared food together. A great way for Catholic Community building.

This month's afternoon Mass was last Sunday for Confirmation and Communion. Next month we are looking at a Farm in Ward. When we spoke of it last weekend, Cardinal John was delighted to hear of our adaptability. Yes, it's like going back to the early days of Marlborough.

Building Parish Building Communities

Pat and I learned a lot from the presentations of Fr James Fallon at the Clergy Conference. His series "Divine Renovation", speaks of how he grew parishes in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

James spoke of building one church up that had 1400 worshippers, with 800 sharing in ministries. He spoke of doing this in a small community of 120. He was stunned when I spoke of two of our communities with 12 people at Mass. I think he thought I was pulling his leg!

Big or small, we are building our Parish and Communities. It takes time. It takes our time. But it is worth it.

Looking Forward to Christmas.

It's three months to Christmas, so time to shape our timetable, time to prepare to welcome back our families from other places and to make our visitors welcome. Last year's schedule across the parish seemed to have worked well. Any alternative suggestions need to come in soon for consideration.

John Pearce CP

China & The Vatican (cont)

through signing an agreement with the Holy See, even though there are only some 12 million Catholics in the mainland. It understands that both sides share much in common on global issues and can work together toward peace and stability in the world.

After the signing of the provisional agreement, many questions remain to be resolved in bilateral negotiations. The first, and most important of these, ... (cont) ...relates to the situation of the more than 30 "underground" bishops and their communities.

To gain official recognition

today, these bishops would have to join the Patriotic Association, but many will be reluctant to do so. In follow-up negotiations, the Holy See hopes to convince Beijing to bypass this requirement and to open up other ways for them to gain such recognition. It knows that the positive resolution of their situation is fundamental to bringing about reconciliation between the open and underground communities of the church in China.

The Holy See will also have to resolve other issues with Beijing, including the status of the Chinese bishops' conference

(not recognized by Rome because only Beijing-approved bishops belong to it); the number of dioceses in China (the Vatican claims there are 144 dioceses, including 32 vicariates or prefectures, while Beijing insists there are 96); and the possibility for Chinese bishops to freely visit the Holy See and for Vatican officials to visit them.

As for the question of establishing diplomatic relations, informed sources told **America** that this was not raised in the present negotiations with Beijing, nor was the question of the Holy See's relations with Taiwan.