



Mercy Parish-Whānau Aroha

Sunday 22th March 2026
Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A

Parish Office:

Lynlea Forbes

email: mercy.parish@xtra.co.nz

Address:

24 Forbury Road, Dunedin 9012;

Phone 4558933

Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri 9am-2pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Michael Hishon,

email: mgtp62@gmail.com

Ph 0274170127

Assistant Priest:

Fr Joseph Nguyen,

email: jos.nguyenlong@gmail.com

Ph 0211099230

Trinity Catholic College Chaplain

Fr Vaughan Hook,

email: fatherhook@trinity.school.nz

Alpha Co-Ordinator:

Liz Rose

Email: roseliz8555@yahoo.com

Sick & Housebound Co-Ordinator:

Adrienne Ryan

Ph 4761520 or phone the Parish Office

Mass Times:

Mercy Parish

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm

Sunday 9.30 am & 11.00 am

Weekday Masses

Mercy Chapel - Mon to Sat - 9am

Tuesday - 12.10 pm

Thursday - 6.00 pm

School Masses

St Bernadettes-18th March @ 9.10 am

St Brigid's-27th March @ 10.30 am

Reconciliation

11.30-12 noon Saturday

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

11.00am -12 noon First Saturday of the month in the Basilica.

Samoan Mass

1st Sunday of the Month -11.00am

Broad Bay Queen Mary of Peace

3rd Sunday of the Month -11.00am

Filipino Mass

4th Sunday of the month - 6.00pm

Online Mass can be viewed either on the Mercy Parish Webpage (mercyparishwhanauaroha),

or the Mercy Parish facebook.

What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ?

See How He Loved

(John 11: 1 - 45)

When Jesus saw her sobbing and the Jews with her sobbing, a deep anger welled up within him. He said, "Where did you put him?" "Master, come and see," they said. Now Jesus wept. The Jews said, "Look how deeply he loved him." (John 11: 33 - 36)

This week we encounter one of the most moving moments in the life of Jesus Christ. Standing among people grieving the death of Lazarus, Jesus doesn't rush to explain things or solve the situation straight away. Instead, the Gospel gives us one of the shortest and most powerful lines in Scripture: "Jesus wept."

Jesus notices the grief around him. He allows himself to feel the pain of the people he loves. He stands with them in their sadness. And the people watching respond with a simple observation: "See how he loved him."

Those words capture something essential about the heart of the Gospel. Love is not distant or abstract. It is present. It pays attention. It notices when someone is hurting and refuses to walk past.

For families and parish communities, this moment feels very real. Behind every household door there are stories – moments of joy, but also quiet struggles that others may never fully see. Families carry the pressures of work, health, finances, relationships, raising children, caring for elderly parents, and simply trying to hold life together in a busy world.

In parish communities the same is true. People arrive at Mass carrying things in their hearts – worry for a loved one, grief after a loss, anxiety about the future, or the weight of everyday life. Often we sit beside one another without knowing what someone else is going through.

Yet this Gospel moment reminds us that faith begins with noticing.

Jesus does not look away from people's pain. He steps closer. He allows compassion to guide his response. And that compassion becomes a powerful witness to everyone watching.

As we move through the fifth week of Lent, the Gospel gently invites us to do the same. Lent is not only about prayer, fasting, or giving things up. It is about becoming people who love more intentionally – in our homes, our friendships, and our communities.

Sometimes that love looks very simple. A phone call to someone who might be lonely. A moment of patience in the middle of family stress. A kind word to a neighbour. A quiet act of support when someone is having a hard time.

These moments might seem small, but they are exactly the kind of moments where the Gospel comes alive.

And when people see compassion lived out in ordinary life, they begin to notice something powerful – the same thing people noticed when they watched Jesus that day. "See how he loved."

Easter Timetable

Holy Thursday 7.30pm

Good Friday 3.00pm

Easter Vigil 8.00pm

Easter Sunday 9.30am & 11am



HOLY WEEK

Fr Aidan Cunningham IC

Please keep in Fr Aidan in our prayers for a full recovery after he needed surgery to remove a growth.

Lent Notices



Rite II Reconciliation Times for Lent

Holy Name-Monday 23rd March	7.00 pm
Cathedral-Tuesday 24th March	6.00 pm
Mercy Parish-Tuesday 24th March	7.00 pm



Stations of the Cross lead by the Tongan Community.

Each Friday during Lent in the Basilica from

7pm.

Everyone is welcome.



STATIONS of the CROSS

Adoration in the basilica 11am every day.



Retreat in Daily Life: Lent 2026

Mercy Parish & The Seedling (Presbyterian Community)

The retreat begins with an introductory meeting at St. Patrick's Basilica, this Sunday 22nd March, 4:00pm, and concludes with a time of thanksgiving in the Bart Winters Room, Friday 27th March, 6:00pm.

Participants are invited to commit to:

- thirty minutes of silent prayer each day of the retreat, and to reflect back over the day each evening
 - meeting with others to share our experience of God, either in an 8:00am group, a 12:00pm group, or a 5:00pm group (Mon–Thurs)
- Pray for each other and for each church community during these days of retreat.

For further information, please contact Fr Michael or Amy Armstrong amy@cdd.org.nz

Laudato Si' Lent -5th Sunday of Lent -The resurrection of Lazarus: taking care of life

Where do I sense signs of death in creation — and where am I being invited to care for life? Weekly gesture (fasting): Practice fasting as an act of self-limitation, making space for other forms of life as a sign of our commitment to protecting biodiversity—by offering water to birds, avoiding harmful chemicals, or planting flowers that support pollinators.

[Lent- Laudato Si' Movement](#), retrieved 16 March 2026

Chrism Mass

1st April

11am at St Josephs Cathedral

All welcome

Palm Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: *Isaiah 50.4-7-11*

2nd Reading: *Philippians 2.6-11*

Gospel: *Matthew 26.14-27-66*

Planned giving envelopes will be in the porch for collection next weekend. If you would like to receive a set please ring the parish office.

Invitation to join the Caritas Lent webinar series – 'Ashes to Hope' Join our NZ Catholic Bishops and other people to explore the Gospels of Lent online. There is a webinar each Wednesday evening (7:30-8:30pm) during Lent. For registration and more information please go to: [https:// www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars](https://www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars).

Current of Grace Charismatic Mass

We welcome you to join us in worship and prayer, celebrating our monthly Charismatic Mass with

Fr Michael Hishon

Thursday Evening – 26th March 2026 at 7.30 pm

St Peter Chanel Church, 242 Main South Road, Green Island

A food basket will be offered for the St Vincent de Paul

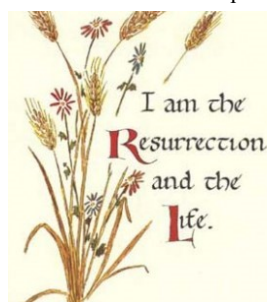
If you would like to find out more, please call either.

Kathy Mayo 473 7115 – Greg Wansink 027 432 8838

Bishops Lent Appeal

Caritas is there in times of disaster and emergency

The Envelopes for Lent are in the foyer. These are for one off donations. The bank account number for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is 03-0518-0211216-000. Please use "Lent" and the Code and your first and last name as particulars or details can be found on the website at <https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give>



We Prayerfully remember those who have died recently: Jiss Thomas

and for those who have anniversaries at this time: Dane Morris, Patricia Mary Bressell

If you have any palms or ferns for Palm Sunday could you please drop them off at the basilica next Thursday or Friday. There will be a box in the foyer for these. Many thanks.



FORTY DAYS & FORTY NIGHTS. Growing in maturity of Faith accompanied by Food For Faith through Lent with daily reflections at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

LENT 2026 with FOOD FOR FAITH.

Visit www.foodforfaith.org.nz and sign up to receive daily email encouragements from Fr. John O'Connor. Prepared especially for those seeking greater maturity of faith.