

Mercy Parish-Whānau Aroha

5th April 2026

Easter Sunday—Resurrection of the Lord Year A

In what ways do I encounter God in this community?

Parish Office:

Lynlea Forbes

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Address:

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

Parish Priest:

Fr Michael Hishon,

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Ph 0274170127

Assistant Priest:

Fr Joseph Nguyen,

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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 Thurs - 9am

Tuesday - 12.10 pm

Thursday - 6.00 pm (No Mass)

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.

Hope Begins in the Empty Tomb (*John 20: 1 - 10*)

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, breathlessly panting, "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him." (John 20: 1 - 2)

In the stillness of early morning, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb carrying grief and confusion. What she found instead was something she never expected. The stone had been rolled away. The tomb was empty. In that moment, everything changed.

John captures the beginning of the greatest hope we know. At first, it does not look like hope. It looks like absence. It feels like uncertainty. Yet this is exactly where God begins something new. The resurrection is already unfolding, even before it is fully understood.

For our families and parish communities, this speaks into the heart of everyday life. We all experience moments that feel unclear or heavy. We carry worries for those we love. We face situations that do not resolve as quickly as we would like. Like Mary, we can find ourselves searching, wondering, and waiting.

Easter reminds us that God is always at work, even in the moments that seem empty. The risen Christ meets us not only in celebration, but also in our questions and uncertainties. The empty tomb is a promise that love is stronger than fear, and life is stronger than death.

In our homes and parishes, we are called to live this hope. It is found in simple acts of kindness, in forgiveness freely given, in time spent together, and in faith shared across generations. These everyday moments become places where resurrection life is made visible.

This Easter season, let us be people who carry and share this hope. Let us trust that God is bringing new life in ways we may not yet see. The stone has been rolled away. Christ is risen. And hope has already begun.

Questions for Reflection

- Where in your family or parish life do you need to trust that God is bringing new life, even if you cannot yet see it?
- How can the message of the empty tomb shape the way you respond to worry, uncertainty, or challenge?
- What is one simple way your household can share the hope of the resurrection with others this week?

Action Response

This week, choose one intentional act that brings hope into your home or parish. Reach out, forgive, include, or encourage. Let that small, faithful action become a sign of the resurrection at work.

Then take it one step further. Make this a daily practice, not just a single moment. Pay attention to the needs around you and respond with generosity and faith. In doing so, you become a living witness to the risen Christ, helping others see that hope is real, present, and growing.

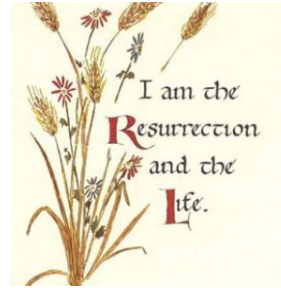
Alleluia Christ Has Risen



There will be a supper following the Easter vigil mass. Please bring a plate of finger food to share but nothing that needs heating

Second Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 2.42-47
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1.3-9
Gospel: John 20.19-31



We Prayerfully remember those who have died recently:

and for those who have anniversaries at this time:

Chris Crothers,

Patrick & Tina Hishon

Synodality Next gathering of those interested in this discussion is Tuesday 14th April 1:00 pm Catholic Social Services building.

We will use the latest Diocesan Newsletter (March 2026) article on Synodality as a starter. Check it out on - www.cdd.nz

All are welcome.

Contacts:

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John Hogue- johnhogue38@gmail.com

Easter Timetable Basilica

Easter Vigil 8.00pm
Easter Sunday 9.30am
& 11am

HOLY WEEK



Divine Mercy Sunday on 12 April- our parish Feast Day

We invite you to stay for a cuppa and piece of cake, after the weekend Masses (11-12 April) to celebrate our parish Feast Day - Divine Mercy Sunday. This year we also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the creation of our parish, formed by the merger of the four parishes of St Alphonus, St Bernadette's, St Brigid's and St Patrick's.

DUNEDIN DIOCESE CLERGY JUBILEES MASS

During this year of 2026 we joyfully honour the priests in our Diocese who have reached significant milestones in regard years of priestly service:

Bishop Colin Campbell - 60th Diamond Jubilee

Msgr Vincent Walker - 70th Platinum Jubilee

Everyone from across the Diocese is welcome to join the clergy of the Diocese for our annual Mass honouring our Jubilarians at St Joseph's Cathedral, Monday 4th May, 11:00am.

ALL MEN are invited to the Joshua 40-Year Celebration Weekend!

When : Fri pm 14 August to Sun midday 16 August

Venue: Keswick Christian Camp, 5 Cooper Ave, Holden's Bay, Rotorua

Keynote Speaker: Robert Falzon, Leader of Australia's menALIVE and Author of "Importance of a Present Dad"

Cost: \$247pp including accommodation and meals

To Register: Follow the link below **OR** Scan the QR Code **OR** contact Mike Lobo (021) 2809285 or Greg Sullivan (021) 437747

Link: <https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua>