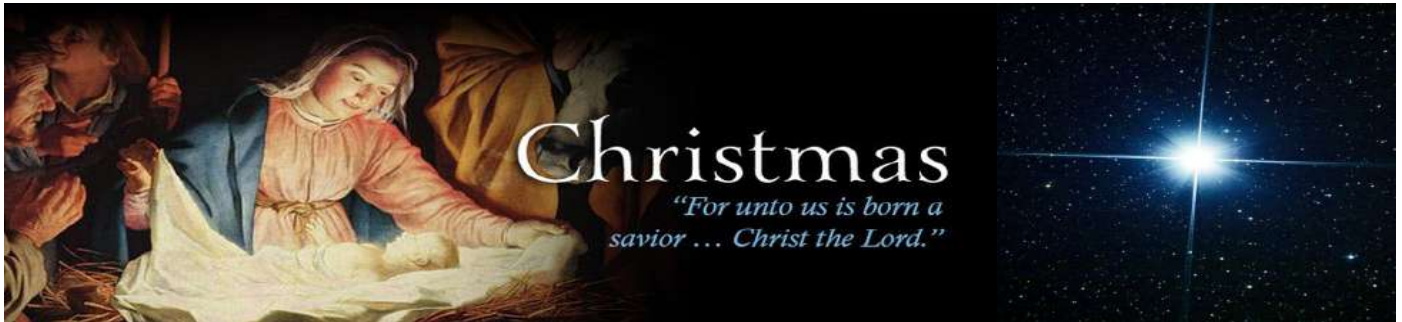




ST PETER CHANEL PARISH

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WAIMAKARIRI

ABLAZE WITH FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE



'The Angel said to them;

"Do not be afraid, I bring you great news that will cause great joy among the people." Luke 2:10

There are plenty of reasons in our jaded world to be a little cynical about 'Christmas joy'. Perhaps you too have a sense of the remarkable paradox that sees loneliness as our number one social disease, yet we hear that we have never been so 'connected'. War and terrorism continue unabated in the world, and political systems in the West struggle with even the basic demands of honesty and civility. For these reasons I think its reasonable to ask - can the star over Bethlehem bring us any relief, any hope ?

Some also claim that the Christmas story is a fairytale, made up to suit the powerful. But would a made up story have the hero born in the squalor of a stable? And surely a made up story would have the local people clamoring to be of assistance to the young parents Mary and Joseph after their long journey to Bethlehem.

No, Jesus' parents faced a world which, in many ways, is like our own. They were greeted that cold first Christmas Eve by indifference. Jesus, the great savior of the world, was born in a desperate place with the animals, who themselves were sheltering from the cold. Hardly the stuff of a made up story...

I put it to you that the Christmas story is true. It not only true, but it is good and beautiful. The infant Jesus is the hope of the human race. Yes, the one who was sent to bring freedom into the world started his life in the most humble of circumstances, and yet 2000 years later his triumph over death and despair continues to bring peace and joy into the world.

From Fr Tien and I and the team at St Peter Chanel Parish, a blessed Christmas and New Year to you and those you love.

Fr John

Please accept my deepest gratitude

'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant (Lk 1,46-48).

I have borrowed the words of Mary to express my gratitude to God for sending me to St. Peter Chanel for the past three years. It has been a privilege for me to serve the three unique communities of faith in Rangiora, Oxford, and Kaiapoi. My heart exalts in the joy and the love of God that I have experienced through my encounters with people of all ages in all three communities and schools. I thank God for Fr. John Adams's exemplary guidance, and for your deep faith and hospitality. By God's communion, you have welcomed and fed me, and so please allow me to be indebted to your love and support so that one day the Lord may reward you in heaven. Please keep me in your prayers for my new priestly mission in south canterbury.

Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year 2023!

May the Lord bless you and keep you

May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you

May the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace (Num 6:24-26).

Fr. Tien Cao

PARISH PRAYER : PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit, Set us ablaze with FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE so that we might become a thriving Christian community where everyone is welcome. Lead us to be joy-filled missionary disciples; fed by the EUCHARIST, growing in HOLINESS, and taking the GOSPEL to the people of Waimakariri.

COME HOLY SPIRIT. COME HOLY SPIRIT. COME HOLY SPIRIT. St. Peter Chanel, PRAY for us.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

24 DEC CHRISTMAS VIGIL

5:00pm Latin Mass Rangiora
5:00pm Carols/Nativity Play Kaiapoi
5:30pm Family Mass Kaiapoi
7:30pm Carols Rangiora
8:00pm Mass Rangiora

25 DEC CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30am Oxford
9:00am Kaiapoi
10:30am Rangiora

31 DEC NEW YEAR'S EVE

6:00pm Rangiora

1 JAN NEW YEAR'S DAY

8:30am Oxford
9:00am Kaiapoi
10:30am Rangiora

FEASTS CELEBRATED DURING THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

Monday 26 December

St Stephen, First Martyr
Mass in Rangiora @ 9am

Tuesday 27 December

St John, Apostle and Evangelist
Mass in Rangiora @ 9am

Wednesday 28 December

HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS
Mass in Rangiora @ 9am
Kaiapoi @12 midday

Friday 30 December

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
Mass in Kaiapoi @9:30am
Rangiora @12 midday

Sunday 1 January

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
6pm Vigil Mass in Rangiora
8:30am Sunday Mass in Oxford; @ 9am in Kaiapoi and 10:30am in Rangiora

Sunday 8 January

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
6pm Vigil Mass in Rangiora
8:30am Sunday Mass in Oxford; @ 9am in Kaiapoi and 10:30am in Rangiora

Monday 9 January

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Got questions about life?
#TryAlpha
alphaspc.nz
Eat, listen, discuss, a new journey awaits

You're invited...

To explore life, faith & meaning in 2023

Kaiapoi Begins Wed 1 March & Wed 19 July from 6:30pm-8:30pm
Rangiora Begins Thurs 2 March & Thurs 20 July from 6:30pm-8:30pm

Course runs for 10 weeks

To register or to find out more, contact Carly at alpha@waimakariricatholic.org.nz or visit alphaspc.nz

Over 200,000 people in New Zealand and millions worldwide have attended Alpha and enjoyed exploring life, faith and meaning! Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting over ten weeks with a day away.

Course covers topics like:
Is there more to life than this?
Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die?
How can I have faith? Why & how do I pray?
Why & how should I read the Bible?



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ABLAZE WITH FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE



RANGIORA ROSTER FOR THE NEW YEAR VIGIL MASS

We need volunteers for GREETERS, WELCOME & PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL, READERS AND GIFTS, AND HOSPITALITY. Please sign up if you are able to help. Thank you!

THERE WILL BE NO WEEKDAY MASSES IN THE PARISH IN JANUARY

Office closes Friday 23rd December and reopens Tuesday 17th January 2023.



THANK YOU SO MUCH

YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

We invite everyone to a SHARED MORNING TEA at the Chervier Centre in Rangiora after the 10:30am Mass on the 8th January before Fr Tien heads off to Mackenzie Parish

St Vincent de Paul Society wishes everyone a very blessed Christmas – Come Lord Jesus!
With great gratitude to our whole Parish, we thank you for the prayer support, gifts of food and grocery, and resource you have provided for our various missions in the parish over the last year.
We wish you every blessing this Christmas and look forward in Hope to 2023.
If you are need confidential assistance with food, please call 02108325454. We are closed between 23rd December until the 9th January.
Jenny Carter, President, Rangiora SVdP.



WHAT'S UP WITH THE BIBLE?



A special one-night-only Q+A event with Kiwi theologian Dean Mischewski

**ARE THE GOSPELS RELIABLE HISTORY?
WHAT ABOUT THE CONTRADICTIONS IN THE BIBLE?
IS EVERYTHING IN THE BIBLE LITERAL?
WHY DO CATHOLICS HAVE EXTRA BOOKS IN THEIR BIBLES?
AND LOTS OF OTHER IMPORTANT QUESTIONS!!!**

7pm Thursday 16 February

St. Mary & St. Frances de Sales Church,
41 Victoria Street, Rangiora

SVDP Rangiora: requesting a certified safe car seat and pram suitable for a new born due at end of January. Please contact 02108325452.

Subs required over Christmas / New Year for the Adoration Chapel

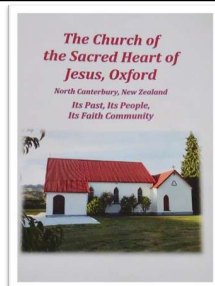
Over the past nine years the Diocesan Perpetual Adoration Chapel has remained open throughout the Christmas period. We have a large number of people going away and require extra people to help out. If you are going to be at home this Christmas and would be happy to cover an hour or two please contact Matt on 366-9869 or chchadoration@gmail.com



**St Gregory's Church
Cotswold Ave, Bishopdale**

Oxford Church History Book

Follow the fascinating stories of the Early Settlers who turned the first sods under the guidance of Fr Nicholas Binsfield in 1878, through the trials and tribulations of the centuries, inspired by faith and friendships. You'll be taken right through the centuries to Father John Adams and October 2022. **All this for just \$10. (Soft cover, 36-A4 pages) at the parish office). Proceeds to Oxford Church maintenance.**



Everyone is invited to avail **FORMED**[®] of the parish

subscription to FORMED.ORG

Registering is easy:

- 1, Go to formed.org/signup
2. Find/Select our parish: St. Peter Chanel Parish, 41 Victoria St. Rangiora, Canterbury
3. Register your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED

Shoebox Treasures: A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our Shoebox Appeal from Oxford, Kaiapoi and Rangiora Parishes for the children at St James and Haeata School, Aranui. The schools were thrilled and the children overjoyed with the treasures inside their boxes! The Principal from Haeata said that this was life changing for their children!

Next Sunday's Readings: 1st January SOLEMNITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

First reading : Numbers 6:22-27
Second reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Psalm: 66:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH Office: 41 Victoria Street Rangiora 7400
 admin@waimakariricatholic.org.nz 03 313 6285
 www.waimakariricatholic.org.nz Facebook: @PeterChanelParish

Fr John Adams—Parish Priest
 J.adams@xtra.co.nz

Fr Tien Cao—Asst Priest
 petercaochitien@yahoo.com

WORLD YOUTH DAY



SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM NOW OPEN!

Please make your kind donations to this parish bank acc number:

Account name: Catholic Parish of Waimakariri

Account number: 03 1592 0522551 25

Reference: WYD

Next Week's Roster: 31 December 2022/1 January 2023

NEW YEAR

	Rangiora 31 Dec Saturday 6:00pm	Rangiora 1 January Sunday 10:30am	Kaiapoi 1 January Sunday 9:00am	Oxford 1 January Sunday 8:30am
Mass C				
Greeters	Please sign up	Donna Newman	Sr Gael Henry Jackie McDonald	Basil Mathew
Welcome	Please sign up	Carly Mulqueen	Kathryn Gibson	Lin Fagan
POF	Please sign up	Carly Mulqueen	Kathryn Gibson	Wendy Wiseman
Readers	Please sign up	Marina Krijgsman Kevin Cheong	Margaret O'Brien Mary Carshalton	Keith Harris
Gifts	Volunteers	Volunteers	Barbara Matthews Beverley Dubar	Frahm family
Altar Servers	Alex Milnes Connor Milnes Ollie Kearns Jorge Kearns	Aidan Cheong Sam Fahey Nathaniel Malone Tristan Jordan	Emily Marsh Patrick Woodnutt	Matilda Burns Enzo & Poppy Scott- Richards
EMHC	Annie Barwell Paul Williams Tony Mullally	Wayne Mulqueen Emileen Ng Tom George	Jeanette Dobbs Freda Bateman Maryanne Brown	Trish Allen
Counters		Peter & Nan Wright		Projector: Dawn Thompson
Linen	Sandra Mabazza		Jeanette Dobbs	Marie Thom
Cleaners	Volunteers please		Gloria Manera Kathryn Gibson	Josie Trolove Marlene Griffiths
Music	Aaron Milnes	Ben Gorman	Brigid Marsh	Fiona McAlpine
Holy Stall	Volunteers	Volunteers		Mowing: Lou Redwood
Flowers	Leone O'Sullivan			Novella Frahm
Sacristan	Sandra M	Alphie Marcelino	Freda Bateman	