CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL PARISH
KO TE KARAITI KEI TE PŪ
Christ in the Centre
ŌTAUTAHI - CHRISTCHURCH

24th May 2026
Pentecost Sunday
Year A

Believing the Unbelievable

One day when my children were young, I took them to the swimming pool after school and on our way out of the swimming complex, as we made our way over the road to our car, my eldest reached to check her newly pierced ears, only to find the earrings gone. When we realised the situation, I gathered the four of them together and led them in a prayer, that we might get those earrings back. My thinking was that God might enable someone to find them and hand them into the reception desk. I intended to go home and ring the desk, giving them my phone number in case the earrings were handed in.

We huddled together and made use of Jesus' promise from Matthew 18:19 "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." I spoke the words of the prayer one phrase at a time, and they repeated it after me, agreeing with me. As we finished the prayer, my eldest daughter opened her eyes and there were the earrings on the grass by her feet!

My children's faith was greater than my own. They totally believed that God's power was greater than the laws of nature and hadn't even entertained a more realistic scenario which God could use to answer our request. Such is child-like faith: "God can do anything!" And for whatever reason, God chose to show the power of the Holy Spirit in that way that day.

That experience has continued to speak to me over the years and reminded me to believe the unbelievable. God's Holy Spirit is not confined to the natural law or to our human norms. The Holy Spirit has the ability to work way beyond the limitations of our human understanding and capacity to perceive. "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine." Ephesians 3:20.

John 12:32 reminds us that Jesus wants to draw all people to Himself, and He wants to use us to assist in that. Not that He needs us to achieve that, but He allows us the privilege of helping. May our lack of faith not be a hindrance to what God wants to achieve in this time and in this place.

Lord, give us child-like faith. May we be attentive to your leadings and have the courage to respond.

Kirsten Challies
Cathedral Parish Pastoral Worker

Pentecost Sunday Cuppa Please stay behind this weekend after the 5:30pm (narthex), 8am, 9:30am, 11am and 4:30pm Mass for some refreshments (Assisi Lounge). This is a great chance to connect with others from the Parish and celebrate the birthday of the Church and the parish anniversary.

PARISH INFORMATION

373 Manchester Street
Christchurch Central

PARISH WEBSITE
www.catholiccathedralchch.org.nz

SUNDAY MASS TIMES
Saturday Vigil 5:30pm
Sunday 8am, 9:30am,11am
12:30pm (te reo Māori, in chapel, 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 5th Sunday)
4:30pm and 6pm (te reo Māori 4th Sunday).

WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday to Saturday
and Public Holidays: 9:15am
Tuesday to Friday
7:30am 12:05pm

RECONCILIATION
Tuesday to Friday 11:30am
Saturday 9:45am

PRESBYTERY
03 377 5610

BISHOP OF CHRISTCHURCH
Bishop Michael Gielen

CATHEDRAL ADMINISTRATOR
Fr Simon Eccleton
adm@cathedralparish.nz

ASSISTANT PRIESTS
Fr Monty Bamford
frmonty@cathedralparish.nz
(Te Rangimārie Chaplain)

Fr Viet Thai
frviet@cathedralparish.nz

PARISH OFFICE
Anna Tamplin
03 379 1068
office@cathedralparish.nz

Office Hours
Tues - Fri: 8:30am – 12:30pm
Closed: Monday & Public Holidays

EA TO THE ADMINISTRATOR & SAFEGUARDING
Kirsten Tester
03 595 1053
ea@cathedralparish.nz

PASTORAL WORKERS
Kirsten Challies
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Clare Bell
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Cathie Hurdle
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YOUTH MINISTER LEADER
Georgia Dallas
cathedralyouthchch@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Michael Collins
musicdirector@cathedralparish.nz

Readings for Today

Acts 2: 1-11 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13
Gospel: John 20: 19-23

Psalm Response

Lord, send out your Spirit and
renew the face of the earth

Masses offered for Frances Sullivan, Tony Music, Mrs Mariamma (recent); Graham Toneycliffe**,** Therese Foster, Margaret O'Shea Foster, Mary Barry, Rebecca Pelenato, Fransisca Dessy Lim, Lie Siok Nio, Gilfred Jardenil, Remo Jardenil, Marcelinus Moruk, Wendelina Bita, Albina, Les Brennan, Dino Veronese (anniversaries); Deceased members of the Brennan family, Special Intention (2)

Please note there will be no 12:05pm Mass or Reconciliation on Thursday 28th May due to both Fr Simon and Fr Monty being away from the parish.

Parish Small Groups

In a parish our size, it is not realistic for us to know everybody well, nor have the priests or parish team care for the needs of every parishioner. We are all called not simply to love Christ, but also His people, and small groups within the parish is a way of caring for one another and journeying together with like-minded people of faith. We invite every parishioner to consider being part of a small group. It may be that you already have a ministry group or service group you belong to that meets regularly and speaks about things of faith and prays together. If not, then we invite you to think about organising a few people in the parish to make up a group. Someone in the group may have a home where you can gather. In the coming weeks we will be offering a workshop on leading a small group, including providing access to resources. If you would like assistance in connecting with a group, we are happy to help.
Simply complete the Small Group form using this link: https://forms.gle/Kju8hQMwztfb1JTk9. Let's build strong relationships with one another.

Amazing Grace Evening is **THIS** Friday May 29th. We will begin at 6:15pm with worship followed by Reconciliations at 7pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come in humility before our God and to be cleansed. Our whole parish reaps the benefits of God's grace.

Diocesan Weekly Notices see the noticeboard in the narthex or click the link: https://cdoc.nz/news-events/weekly-notices-24-may-2026

Winter Community Lunch on Thursday June 4th at 12:30pm in the Assisi Lounge we have a Community Lunch for anyone wishing to connect with others. Please register your interest with Kirsten Challies. A great opportunity for those somewhat isolated to come together.

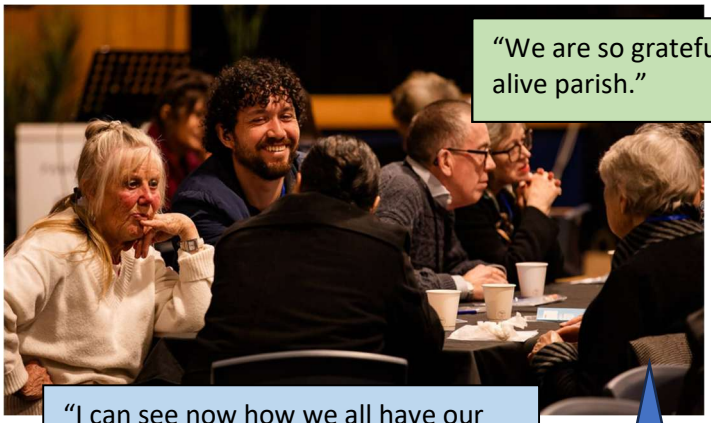
New Parishioner Evening We welcome those new to our parish to a Wine and Cheese evening in the narthex (church foyer) at 5:30pm on Friday June 5th. This is an opportunity to meet the parish team, hear what goes on in and around the parish and how you can connect in. We look forward to meeting with you.

A relic of **Saint Carlo Acutis** is coming to Christchurch in June. Cathedral Parish will play host to a few events in the Pro-Cathedral across 17th/18th & 19th June that will be advertised closer to the time. In preparation for this visit, search Carlo Acutis on our parish Formed subscription. You can find out how to get **Formed** on the back of this newsletter.

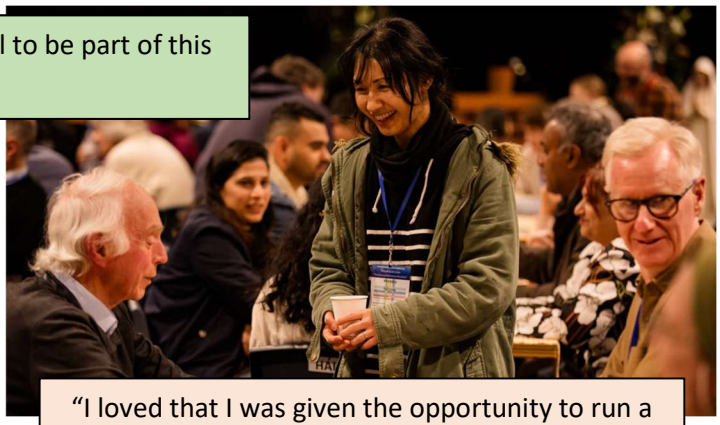
Theological Symposium "Why Blessed Sacrament?" A panel discussion with some local thinkers. 4pm – 5pm Saturday 6th June, CBS Music Centre, 373 Manchester Street. All welcome. For catering purposes, please rsvp to don.whelan@xtra.co.nz

Diocesan Eucharistic Procession and Holy Hour Bishop Michael invites all to the annual Diocesan Eucharistic Procession and Holy Hour on the Feast of Corpus Christi – Sunday June 7th at 2:30pm at Holy Family Parish in Our Lady of Victories Church, Sockburn.

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Choir & Orchestra You are all welcome to attend 'Rutter Behold, the Tabernacle Mozart Symphony 39' Litany of the Blessed Sacrament. 2:00pm Sunday 14th June in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. View more details on our https://cdoc.nz/news-events/cbs



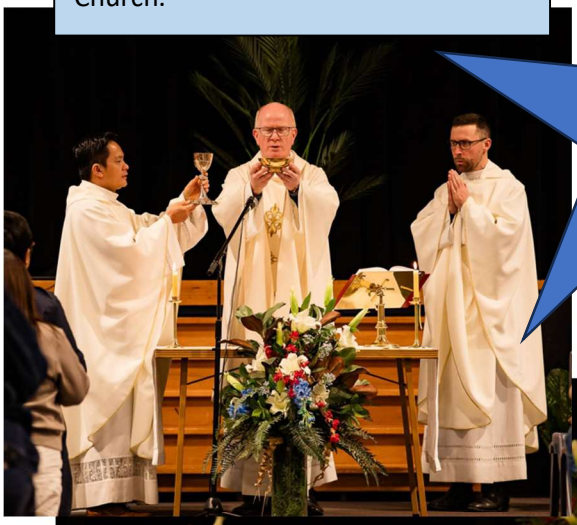
"We are so grateful to be part of this alive parish."

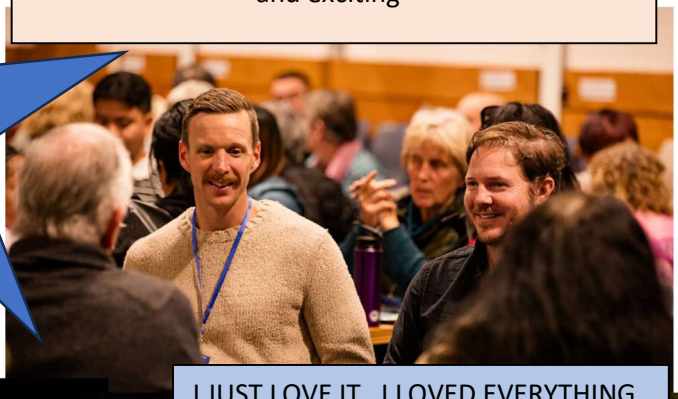


"I can see now how we all have our part to play in the Mission of the Church."

"I loved that I was given the opportunity to run a workshop. The conversations were so life giving and exciting"

PARISH ALIVE 2026





I JUST LOVE IT. I LOVED EVERYTHING ABOUT IT

Best Gluten Free food we have ever had at a conference."

Parish Alive 2026: 220 Adults and 32 children registered to attend our 2nd Parish Allive Conference. It was a wonderful occasion to come together and celebrate being Parish. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all who made our Parish Alive conference such a success. Thank you to *Hannah* for the amazing photography. Thank you to *Tiji*, *Tess* and their team for their hospitality with managing the food and drink throughout the conference. Thank you to all who provided baking. Thank you to *Georgia*, *Violet* and *Lance* for keeping the children and the teens busy and happy. Thank you to all the musicians who took part. Thank you to all the people who helped with parking and logistics, moving tables, setting up sound gear and returning equipment. Thank you all who helped us set up, pack up and welcome attendees. Thank you to the staff and Senior Leadership Team who took on the responsibility of presenting workshops. Thank you to all who came, you brought so much joy to the Parish Team, and we are so happy to have you on board as we build a community that cares for one another and also reaches out to the world. Thank you especially to *Lee-Ann* and *Fran* of Catholic Cathedral College for letting us use your spaces and being so supportive and accommodating across the two days. We are so very blessed to have you as part of our parish.

Finally, over the coming months we plan to present the Conference Workshops to the whole parish. Stay tuned for more information on this. *The Conference Planning Team*.

Our parish maintains a subscription to FORMED, and all our parishioners have access to this amazing resource. Think of it as the Catholic version of Netflix.

To sign up follow these simple steps:

- Go to https://signup.formed.org/
- In the box 'find your parish or organisation' type Cathedral Parish' at 373 Manchester Street. Click Next.
- Type in your Name and Email. Click Sign Up