It’s interesting that, when Jesus heard about the illness of Lazarus, he didn’t set off immediately on a journey of healing. Jesus, being in constant touch with his Father, probably knew delay was necessary. While he no doubt realised only immediate response would satisfy Mary and Martha, he delayed until the time was right for God’s purposes!

How prepared are we to receive messages from God? Perhaps we think that sort of thing doesn’t happen these days, not to people like us. It must be difficult for God to get through to us if our listening antennae are turned off! Or if we fill all the time we spend in prayer with our personal intentions and spend no time listening. And if we do think we’ve received a message from God, what do we do with it?

People seem to be so busy these days. Watch a group of people on a train or in a café; many of them will be busy texting or using their latest appliances for various pursuits. But, whatever the situation, when the cellphone rings, attention is diverted immediately, the call is answered. Why are we not more like that with God?

Are we, individually and as a parish, listening to the Lord? Are there people among us who do hear the Lord speaking that we haven’t recognised and given encouragement? Could God be calling, but our heaven-ward phones are turned off?

R.J
Kia ora ...

Recently I was able to spend almost an entire week in Hawke’s Bay, focusing on our Napier Parish and also celebrating Sunday Morning Mass at Havelock North.

It was marvellous to be able to spend an extended period in the Bay. I met with the Napier Parish Leadership Groups and staff, I made some home visits in the afternoons, prayed with Pa Felix Ngapere who has advanced Alzheimer’s, enjoyed the hospitality of the Marists at Maryknoll and visited the Windsor Terrace community, and was even able to catch up with three former pupils whom I had taught in a former life!

Also during my stay I spent a morning at each of our three Colleges in the region: St Joseph’s Māori Girls’ College, Sacred Heart College, and St John’s College.

These College visits were a great source of encouragement and uplift for me. I was very impressed with the quality of teaching in the Religious Education classes I visited and was equally impressed with the focus, respect, and depth of participation of the students. Among the topics being explored were parables and miracles, genetic engineering, euthanasia, the Blessed Trinity, ecology and discipleship. At St John’s College I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me to make a diversion to the “culinary arts” department where I was able to sample an excellent quiche!

I encourage particularly parents of Year 6 and Year 8 students to explore the outstanding high school education (and intermediate at St Patrick’s Napier) our Colleges offer families and whānau of the Bay. The academic results of these three Colleges are equal to or better than the State Schools in the area. Their sporting and cultural opportunities similarly are plentiful and most importantly the faith and values formation that our Colleges offer mean that your children or mokopuna are shaped for life. Nothing can substitute the value of that. While all else fades, faith endures to the day of our death. I was reminded of that vividly when Fr Vince and I were with Fr Felix. To us it seemed like he had understood nothing of our words but when I gave him a blessing in te reo Māori ..kia whakapaingia koutou … he understood and summonsed the strength to make the sign of the cross. It was a very moving moment for Vince and I.

Thanks to everyone for your witness to each other and your civic communities, and also for continuing prayers for both myself and the Priests that serve you.
YOUTH CORNER

Confirmation 2017

We are now taking names for Confirmation. Registration forms are available from the parish office. Check out our posters in all church foyers. Parents, Grandparents please encourage and support your youth to make this important step in a lifelong adventure of FAITH.

YOUTH GROUP:
Every Friday evening 7-9pm at St Peter Chanel.
Food donations are most welcome.
Blessings to all—Faaki Tuanaki

PROLIFE FACTS

The Director of the Every Life Research Unit Dr Jane Silloway-Smith reveals that 78% of submissions to Health Select Committee Enquiry oppose euthanasia. A sample of the most moving and expert of these submissions is available on a new website entitled: “16,000 voices – Kiwis say no to euthanasia”. (www.16000voices.org.nz). For more pro-life information, visit www.voiceforlife.org.nz.

Death & Dying Seminar – Please Diary - Friday 19th May 7-9pm

Please Support the Good Friday and Easter Sunday Collections

Rightly, we are moved by the stories and images we see on TV and YouTube of teachers, and nurses and doctors who, notwithstanding great danger, set out daily to work in Aleppo and Mosul and other war zones. Similarly when the Ebola Virus was rampant in Liberia and Sierra Leone, I often thought the local medics, wrapped from head to foot in protective gowns, were surely the unsung heroes going about their daily duty away from the safe media zones. For some people in our world, going to Mass is also dangerous. For a complexity of reasons, Churches and our schools and clinics can become targets of violence in parts of Iraq, Iran, Syrian, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Yemen as well as the Holy land itself. The ancient but fragile Christian communities in the Middle East and the Holy Land (where Brother Kevin Shore OFM Cap, from our Diocese, is currently serving as part of his formation with the Capuchin Friars) face oppression and harassment yet they remain courageous in their charity and their appreciation of Mass. It is to them that our annual Good Friday collection is destined. You can support this appeal by placing a donation in an envelope marked Good Friday Collection on the Friday itself or in the usual Sunday collection basket.

Our prayers for peace in the region are also much appreciated.

Easter Sunday Collection This collection is a “thank you” for our priests. It is divided equally among them and used for holiday costs, books and periodicals, and the priests’ own charitable donations. We are blessed with the service of our priests whose workload is far from light. This is one way to show your appreciation. Thanks everyone. Kia ora tātou.
**Sacred Heart College news**
Year 9 Home and School Meetings take place on Tuesday 4th April at Sacred Heart College.

Rehearsals are in full swing for our joint school production of Hairspray with St John's College. Tickets available from the school office.

**St. Mary's Catholic Primary School News**
We completed 4 weeks of the “Move It” programme where students made a greater effort in taking the healthy option of walking, scooting or biking to school. (Shame on that teacher who lives around the corner and still drives to school.) Students are also involved in cricket, t-ball, netball, canoe polo, futsal and the dance festival, AND SENIOR CLASSES ARE STILL SWIMMING so its all go here at St Mary's.

We are highlighting the Principle of Catholic social Teaching this term of Rights and Responsibilities. This fits in well with our Caritas Lenten Unit and “Bread Day” on the 6 April which raises money for Caritas. Our Young Vinnies are also raising money for Caritas by selling Easter Egg Raffles – 50 cents and available at the school office.

**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School News**
It's a busy week ahead for St. Joseph's – Bike-a-thon on Tuesday 4 April, Marae visit (whole school) Thursday 6 April.

As part of our Maori Studies this term and Marae visit, we are going to celebrate by having a Twilight Hangi at St. Joseph’s School. This hangi would also be open to the wider community. The hangi will be served at 4 pm Thursday 6 April and we invite families to come along (bring your picnic blanket) and share in this special event.

**St John’s College News**
Students are involved in Summer Tournament week with Waka Ama in Rotorua, NZSS Triathlon Champs in Wanganui and Senior Basketball in Wellington over this weekend.

**Save the Environment and Money – Tips and Ideas Fair TODAY 2pm – 4.30pm**

St Mary’s Centre, 58 Osier Rd, Greenmeadows
An expo organized by the Catholic Parish of Napier care of Creation group, with participation of Catholic Primary Schools. Showcasing how they care for the environment.

**VOICE FOR LIFE A.G.M.**
The A.G.M. will be held at at St. Peter Chanel Church Hall on the 9th of April at 11.30 am followed by lunch and speaker at 1 pm. The topic of the presentation is Foetal Alcohol Syndrome which affects 3% of N.Z.'s babies. All Members and any interested persons are very welcome to attend.

**For the latest updates of what's happening in our parish, download our New APP from the App Store.**

**Follow us on Facebook**
The Catholic Parish of Hastings

Bishop Charles, after a lot of prodding, now has his own Facebook page! To like his page and see what he is up to in India go to [www.facebook.com/BishopCharlesDrennan](http://www.facebook.com/BishopCharlesDrennan)

**A reminder that there will be NO Baptisms during Lent.** However Baptism Preparation will take place on the 1st Sunday, 3pm of each month as normal.

**Newsletters**
If you wish to receive your Newsletter via email. Contact the parish office on 8787774 or email admin@hastings.parish.nz and in subject column write ‘Subscribe to Newsletter’

**WE PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**
Recently Deceased: Michael Luxford (Brian Kelly’s Brother-in-law), Cushla Russell, Eileen McCarthy, Jim Hartigan Roland Fly (Deb Lucy’s Father) Fr Des Levins

Please pray for the Souls of:
Richard Winkfield 2/17, Sevetina Bequillo, Warner Stratton 2/03, Tan Tiong Beng 30/12, Tan Tiong Beng 30/12, Fay Young, Grace Cullinane 7/03, Charles Keenan 12/03, Aureen Watson 12/03, Win Johnson 10/03, John Johnson 13/03, Michael Sloane 16/03, Mary Lou Hayes 27/03, Gwen Jones 26/03 & deceased members of the Jones/O’Kane families, Joe, Jo-Anne & Glyn Dawes, Brian & Laurie Butler, Reuben and Nancy Lange and their departed siblings and William, Pattie, David and Peter O’Keefe, Jeff O’Keefe, Sindhya family, All souls in Purgatory

Please keep in your prayers those in our parish and communities who are sick especially:
Pat Hutchinson, Anne Thomson, Casey Gair (Ivy Roberts grandson), Vi Bond, Ron Bell, Colleen Setter, Rosa Ogden, Philip Hay (USA), Greg and Paul Sloane, David, Joan Corlet, Leo Baltussen, Colleen Taylor,

**PRAYERLINE:** When in need of prayers for special intentions please phone any one of the following people: Fay Evans 878 8643, Eleanor McFlynn 878 9928, Trish Webley 8778172 or Margaret Frater 877 7571.

*Names for the sick will be rotated monthly. Please let the parish office know if you wish for the name to stay.*