

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH
WEEKLY NOTICES
6 May 2018

CATHOLIC SHOP: For the Marian month of May, see us for reflections & rosaries. We have great gift ideas for First Holy Communions, too. Open Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm. Visit us at 373 Manchester Street, Christchurch, next to St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, ph 03 366-2853, e-mail catholicshop@chch.catholic.org.nz, or 'like' us on Facebook.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Since Marriage Encounter was established in New Zealand, many thousands of couples, and many priests, have experienced, and benefited from, a Marriage Encounter weekend. You may have been involved with Marriage Encounter in some way during this time, and we'd like to offer you the opportunity to renew those friendships with couples and priests that have been an important part of your lives. A function to celebrate 40 years of Marriage Encounter in New Zealand is being held in Palmerston North on **11th August 2018**. This is an opportunity to join us to celebrate this milestone – if you'd like to know more please go to www.wmme40.nz - full details of the celebration including registration form or phone 0800 362 686. Email: nzme40@gmail.com

PAUL, APOSTLE OF CHRIST www.foodforfaith.org.nz has organised a private viewing of the acclaimed Biblical drama Paul, Apostle of Christ. This film is available in New Zealand only in private viewings. **Sunday 3 June 2018, 6.00pm** at Hoyts Riccarton. Tickets must be purchased beforehand and available at www.foodforfaith.org.nz, \$15.00 with all profits to the mission of the St. Vincent de Paul society in Christchurch. For further information email john@fff.org.nz.

"JESUS OF NAZARETH" MOVIE - The Cathedral Parish is screening the movie and everyone is invited **Saturday, 2 June 3.00 pm** at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral 373 Manchester Street. The movie is set in six parts, we will be viewing Part 1, which goes for an hour. We will view the remaining parts over the following few months.

REFLECTION DAY: Saturday 12 May, 10.30am – 2.30pm. Prayer in the midst of daily life. Brief sessions using scripture, music and images will support silent private prayer. At Te Manawa Atawhai Catherine McAuley Centre at Villa Maria College, Peer Street. Bring own lunch, tea/coffee provided. Facilitator Sr Mary Catherwood. (Rosary House Spiritual Life Centre). **Prayer Series** - Noticing God's Presence: Scripture and sacred music lead into an extended time of silent prayer. Tuesdays 15 and 22 May, 10.30-11.30am, at Te Manawa Atawhai Catherine McAuley Centre at Villa Maria College. (Rosary House Spiritual Life Centre).

MARYFEST ANNUAL MARIAN PROCESSION and Consecration of the City and Diocese in honour of Our Lady of Christchurch will take place at Christ the King Church **2pm Sunday, 13th May** (Mothers' Day!) and will be presided over by Bishop Meeking. Keep up to date with the event, make contact, or just enjoy the pictures and other posts at <https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyofChristchurch/>

As in other years the names of those who would like to be enrolled in Our Lady's heart will be placed in the golden votive heart worn by the statue during the Maryfest. If you would like to enrol the names of your loved ones you can do so by sending them to ourladyofchristchurch@gmail.com

MARIAN COLLEGE OPEN NIGHT AND OPEN DAY 2018 Haere mai! Talofa lava and welcome!

You are invited to experience the opportunities Marian College has on offer. **Open Night**

Tuesday 15 May from 4-7pm. Principal's welcome 4:15pm and 5:30pm. **Open Day**

Monday 28 May from 1-3pm starting with Principal's welcome at 1.00 p.m. There is Wilsons car parking on Barbadoes Street and next to Marian College on Moorhouse Ave.

MEN'S GATHERING 9 MAY 2018 Hosted by JOSHUA FELLOWSHIP 7.15 pm Wednesday, **9th May**, St Gregory's Centre, 30 Cotswold Road, Bishopdale. Come and join like-minded Catholic men to grow your faith and be encouraged in your walk with the Lord. Di Ingle will share a Pentecost message with us and also give an International update on the Renewal. More information? Phone Chris on 027-646-4138.

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOD DOING ABOUT UNITY? Come to a lively panel discussion to start this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Sunday **13 May** 7-8.30pm Knox Church, 28 Bealey Ave. Fr Frank Kelly and other will share stories of Justice, Peace and Hope.

SUBMISSIONS URGENTLY NEEDED for the Law Commission Opposing the Decriminalisation of Abortion

You are encouraged to speak up in defence of God's precious infants by making a brief submission to the Law Commission. Our PM, Jacinda Ardern, has directed that the Law Commission review our abortion laws to "make changes to ensure our abortion laws are consistent with treating abortion as a health issue that is a reproductive choice for women, and not a criminal issue".

This proposal will effectively mean that those unborn who are classified as unwanted will be deprived of the protection of the Crimes Act and allowed to be killed. However the unborn children who are classified as wanted, will retain the protection of the Crimes Act and of the state.

Submissions are required to be with the Law Commission **before 5pm on 18th May 2018**. Please make a submission in your own words.

Here are several suggested points you may like to use in your submission

I oppose the decriminalisation of abortion because....

- It would deprive the unborn child of current protection under the law. It would be a declaration by the state that *a woman can terminate the life of her child for any reason*, e.g. the baby being the wrong sex and for disability such as Down syndrome.
- It would no longer be a crime to kill the unborn child, an innocent human being. It would be a declaration by the state that it has no interest in protecting you or your child from the violence of abortion.
- It would provide a cover for crimes against women, rape, incest and sexual abuse. If we followed the Victorian model, it would allow abortion up to birth.

Law Commission- Post, PO Box 2590, Wellington, 6140. Email alr@lawcom.govt.nz. For further information go to www.chooselife.org.nz or www.righttolife.org.nz. Thank you for defending life.

WILDER: A time of adoration with praise and worship, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and prayer teams on offer! This is an event for all ages. Fri, **May 11** @ Christ the King Parish Centre (90 Greers Rd, Burnside), 7:30pm-9:00pm. Got questions? Contact Sam at CYT ssivertsen@chch.catholic.org.nz or 03 353 0705.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS: You are invited to join with those in the Renewal on the first Friday of each month as we come together to celebrate Mass at 7.30pm, Christ the King Church, 90 Greers Rd, Burnside, followed by supper in the Parish Centre. Next Mass: Friday 4th May.

For more information about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal go to: www.ccrnz.org

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE: All parishioners are warmly invited to an Ecumenical Prayer Service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to be held in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral on **16th May** at 5.30pm.

CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL COLLEGE is holding an **open evening** on Thursday **24th May** from 6.30pm – 8.00pm at 62 Ferry Road. Everyone most welcome.

DOVE CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP FOR WOMEN Welcomes you to join us **Saturday 12th May 1pm - 3pm** to hear Maria Schmetzer speak - '**A reflection on the practice of confident love, joyful acceptance of our weakness and abandonment to the Divine Will**' This is something that all Christian women can relate to as we journey through our daily lives, with all the ups and downs, joys and sorrows. All women warmly welcome – Christ the King Parish Centre, Greers Rd. Phone/txt Diane 0274312026 for more info.

SVDP RETAIL MANAGER NEEDED: Our new store in Hornby required a retail manager. Job includes managing day to day operations, coordinating drivers and managing stock. Ideally applicants will have retail experience and be compassionate and caring. CVs to penny@svdpchch.co.nz or PO Box 26007, Christchurch. Application close **12 May** 2018. See the Diocesan website for more details www.chchcatholic.nz

SLAVERY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AND MODERN HUMAN SLAVERY. Thursday **10 May** 7.30pm at Te Manawa Atawhai Catherine McAuley Centre at Villa Maria College. Presented by Dr Kathleen Rushton rsm. Slavery is often unseen and not named for what it is. Sr Kath offers scriptural background and insights from the “Tip of the Iceberg” Conference of 2017. Rosary House Spiritual Life Centre event. Indication of attendance helpful to roho@xtra.co.nz or (03) 379 1298.

THE BILLINGS OVULATION METHOD™ FAMILY PLANNING NATURALLY : The Billings Ovulation Method™ is used by millions of women around the world. It was developed by Doctors John and Evelyn Billings, validated by eminent international scientists and successfully trialled by the World Health Organisation. By learning to identify natural signs of fertility, you can use the Billings Ovulation Method™ to achieve or avoid pregnancy and to safeguard your reproductive health. The method is easy to learn and can be used at any and all stages of a woman's fertile lifetime, including during breast feeding and in the perimenopause. Accredited Billings Teachers are available throughout New Zealand. A distance learning service is available for those that do not have a service in their area. **Website:** www.billingslife.org.nz **Call Free:** 0800 NZ Fertility (693 378) **Email:** info@billingslife.org.nz

P.A.T.H.S. (Post Abortion Trauma Healing Service) is charitable group based in Christchurch, which provides support nationally for those negatively impacted by a recent or past abortion. It also offers education and training around post abortion issues and healing needs. We have been operating for 20 years and have reached another crisis point. For this vital ministry to continue we are seeking people to come on board as trustees. We also require help with administration, funding and the financial accounts; and we need a counsellor with a passion for this area to become the new Co-ordinator of Services. At present these are voluntary roles until such time as funding becomes available. If you have a heart for this area of healing and have skills that you can offer, please consider coming forward to help. For more information about our service visit www.postabortionpaths.org.nz and for expressions of interest in any of the roles mentioned, please email Karen or Carolina at admin@postabortionpaths.org.nz

VILLA MARIA COLLEGE : Open Day: Tuesday **8 May** 2018 9.00am-2.00pm. Villa Maria College invites friends, parents and their daughters to see the College at work on our Open Day. The Principal, Ms Deborah Brosnahan, will address parents and girls in the College Auditorium at 9am, 11am and 1pm. For further information, please contact the College Office, telephone 348 4165 or go to www.villa.school.nz

PRO-LIFE FACTS: A non-invasive screening programme is offered in NZ to identify babies with Down syndrome or other conditions. Mothers are then offered and are often encouraged to choose to abort their preborn child who may have Down syndrome or another condition. This is a form of genocide, targeting members of a specific group for elimination. For more pro-life information, visit www.righttolife.org.nz.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE TRAINING WEEKEND: Those involved in marriage education (or those wishing to be involved) are invited to the *National Catholic Marriage Training Weekend* on the weekend of **18th – 20th May 2018**, at Chateau on the Park, Christchurch. The theme is “Christian Marriage: Radical Demands – Extravagant Mercy”. The Weekend is held every two years to form and encourage those involved in Marriage Education in the Catholic Church. For more information, speak to your parish priest and view the website www.chchcatholic.nz/mtw

THINKING DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD? Speak to any priest or contact Vocations Director Fr. John O'Connor vocations.chch@gmail.com