

CATHOLIC BUSINESS NETWORK

Register today for the first Catholic Business Lunch for 2026, featuring guest speaker Rt Hon Sir Bill English. The lunch will be held on **Thurs, May 7** from 12.00pm to 2.00pm. This is a opportunity to hear from one of New Zealand's most respected leaders as he offers his plain English perspective on leadership, service, and life beyond politics.

Register at cbn.nz

THREE HAIL MARY'S FOR VOCATIONS

During the upcoming Vocations Awareness week (April 26-May 2), Bishop Michael invites every parish, family, school, class, prayer group, and community to pray three Hail Mary's a day for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, along with a prayer to Our Lady.

We ask Our Lady's intercession because she was a young person whom God called to be the mother of Jesus through the visit of the Angel Gabriel. Mary, known as the Queen of Vocations, responded with all her heart, saying that she was God's servant and would do what was being asked of her. We ask for her intercession for all young people of the Diocese of Christchurch; that they may respond generously and courageously to God's call on their lives.

Prayer

O Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church, We turn to you as Queen of Vocations, Intercede for all young people as they discern their path in life.

You believed and responded generously to God's call.

Help the Young People of this Diocese to hear the voice of your Son, to follow Him with courage, and to say Yes to his call.

Our Lady Assumed into Heaven, Patroness of New Zealand, *Pray for us.*

DAY FOR REFLECTIVE MUSIC AND PRAYER

Songs from the Heart to Inspire and Renew: Fr Chris Skinner sm will lead a reflection day with music on **Sat, May 9**, 10am – 4pm at Te Manawa Atawhai Catherine McAuley Centre (in Villa Maria College grounds). He will encourage all to take time to listen, learn, sing and move to times of quiet reflection. Bring own lunch, tea and coffee provided. Koha/Donation appreciated. Registrations helpful to roho@xtra.co.nz

03 379 1298. A Rosary House Spiritual Life Centre Programme.

PARISH FEAST DAY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Catholic Parish of the Good Shepherd warmly invites you and your family to join us in celebrating our Parish Feast Day on **Apr 26**.

The celebration will begin with Mass at 10:30am, to be presided over by Bishop Michael Gielen.

The celebration of the Parish Feast has deep theological meaning because it reminds us that the parish belongs to Christ, lives in the communion of saints, and is united as one family in worship through the Eucharist. It also renews the parish's identity and mission to proclaim the Gospel, serve others, and grow in holiness under the example and intercession of its patron.

After the Mass, everyone is invited to stay and enjoy a Parish Picnic. Lunch will be provided. Enquiries to catholichurunui@gmail.com

NEXT SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOPS - MAY 2026

- [Online](#) on **Wed, May 13** at 7.00pm - 8.00pm.
- Face to Face - Special Workshop for Ministry of Holy Communion to the Sick on **Thurs, May 28** at [2.00pm](#) and [6.00pm](#).

All Parishes Welcome



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MADE FOR LOVE: MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

Getting married soon? What are you really saying I do to? This one-day course is for engaged couples preparing to get married in the Catholic Church. It's a chance to pause, reconnect, and invest in your future together. You'll explore what helps marriages thrive, how to navigate differences well, and what those vows actually mean. Plus, enjoy morning tea and lunch together, and take home plenty of practical resources.

Next course: **Sat, May 9**. \$140 per couple.

Hosted by the John Paul II Centre for Life.

Sign up at: <https://jp2.org.nz/marriage-prep/>

MADE FOR MORE

What does it mean to be human, to love, and to be loved? Join the John Paul II Centre for Life for an introduction to St John Paul II's Theology of the Body: how God's design for humanity is revealed in each human person. Adults of all ages and faith backgrounds are welcome.

Fri, Apr 17, 6.00pm - **Sat, Apr 18**, 6.00pm

Early-bird price: \$37 - includes Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and all course materials.

Visit jp2.org.nz/theology-of-the-body to learn more and sign up.

SISTER EVELEEN RETREAT HOUSE

You are warmly invited to join us for a Sabbath Day Retreat.

Stop-Pause-Delight-Worship

Thur, Apr 30, 9:30 – 2:30pm

Sister Eveleen Retreat House, Sumner, 6 Whitewash Head. For retreat info and to register follow this [link](#).

ST MICHAEL'S TROOPS

Do you long for authentic brotherhood and a space to grow deeper in faith alongside other men?

St Michael's Troops is an event for men aged 16-35 seeking strength, discipline, and purpose rooted in Christ. This morning event in Riccarton includes Mass and formation, physical activity, and shared BBQ. **Date: Sat, May 9**. Join us, and bring a mate. Register at fitforthekingdom.com.au

GUIDED THREE DAY SILENT RETREAT

All welcome to an Ignatian Retreat drawing on scripture and music leading into an atmosphere for silent reflection and personal prayer; opportunity for some individual spiritual direction. Lead by Fr Chris Skinner sm. Daily Eucharist is part of the retreat. **Date: Mon, May 11 to Wed, May 13**; 10am – 4pm. (Non-Residential)

Venue: Te Manawa Atawhai Catherine McAuley Centre (in Villa Maria College grounds).

Bring own lunch, snacks provided. Come for all 3 days or a single day - \$70 per day suggested or confidential koha/donation according to means. Registration helpful to Rosary House roho@xtra.co.nz; or phone 03 379 1298.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - LITTLE RIVER

The Little River Church of St John the Evangelist, built during 1925, has been closed since the Earthquakes. Due to an Agreement with the Christchurch City Council, associated with the temporary strengthening of the church, the church was not able to be sold or demolished until August last year. The Akaroa Parish has now received approval from Bishop Michael to sell the property. There will be a Closing Service on **Sat, May 9** at 11.00am, on the site of the church, followed by a finger-food lunch at the Little River Tavern (drinks at peoples' cost). The Closing Liturgy will be in a marquee adjacent to the church. The church is not open for public use. All welcome. Enquires to Fr Brian: bfennessy@inet.net.nz



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