



# Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi



Sunday 2 February 2025  
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings of peace and joy in Christ!

I am Fr. Sobin Sebastian, and I feel humbled and blessed to join the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth, as your assistant priest. I was born and brought up in Kerala, a beautiful and faith filled region in the southern part of India. Responding to God's call, I joined the Diocese of Gorakhpur in 1999. After twelve years of Seminary formation, I was ordained a priest on the 4th of May, 2011. Over the years, in India, I have served in various capacities, including as a Parish Priest, Assistant Director of Social work, Seminary formator, Vocation promoter and Principal of various Schools. These experiences have enriched my priestly ministry and strengthened my commitment to serve God and His people.



In last October, I arrived here in the Palmerston North Diocese, and for the past three months, I have been serving at the Holy Spirit Cathedral in Palmerston North. I feel blessed to be part of this vibrant faith community. I look forward to journeying with you in faith, praying together, celebrating the Holy Eucharist, and growing closer to Christ as one Parish family. I entrust my priestly ministry among you to the Maternal care of Blessed Virgin Mother Mary. Please keep me in your prayers, as I assure you of mine. I am eager to meet each one of you and journey together in prayer, faith and service.

Blessings,

Fr. Sobin Sebastian

## Important Dates

Our new priest, Fr Sobin Sebastian is now with us and settling in. He will be celebrating Mass during the weekend. Please welcome Fr Sobin to our community and pray for his time here with us.

**Saturday 1 February**  
Anointing Mass  
St Joseph's Church  
11.00am

**Sunday 2 February**  
We open the Jubilee Year 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" here at the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth.

**Thursday 13 February**  
7.00pm  
Marian Mothers  
Our Lady Help of Christians

**ADORATION**  
Our Lady Help of Christians  
After Tuesday 9.10am  
morning Mass .

No Adoration at Our Lady Help of Christians February First Sunday, This Adoration will begin March.

Bell Block Mass Centre  
First Friday 7 February  
4.00pm

St Joseph's Church  
Thursday evenings  
7.00pm to 8.00pm



The Ministry Team welcomed Fr Sobin, to their group at the first meeting of the year. We meet every Wednesday with prayer and then look at what is coming up in the week ahead, the months ahead, and review what has happened. Today we introduced ourselves and our work strategies to Fr Sobin, looking at the coming term and what we hope to achieve. May the Holy Spirit walk with us and guide us.

OUR NEW PARISH VISION  
A COMMUNITY CALLED BY GOD FOR MISSIONAL DISCIPLESHIP  
GATHERED AROUND JESUS CHRIST FED WITH THE EUCHARIST AND  
SENT TO TRANSFORM LIVES EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT



# GENERAL NOTICES

**ROSTERS:** We are beginning to make the rosters for the next period, March/April/May. If you have any special requests please contact the roster co-ordinator or the Parish Office for St Joseph's, or Helen Chitty helen4sun@hotmail.com for Our Lady Help of Christians.

**ANOINTING MASS:** The monthly Mass of Anointing will be held at 11.00am this Saturday 1 February at St Joseph's Church. Join us for something to eat afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

**CWL COMMITTEE MEETING:** Friday 7 February - Committee Meeting at 10.30am in St Joseph's Church foyer.

**CWL FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH:** Friday 7 February, after the 12.05pm Mass at St Joseph's. CWL offer a delicious lunch. Plated sandwiches and cakes with tea or coffee for just \$7, and this also includes a raffle ticket! This is a fundraising activity for the CWL, so the more lunch guests there are, the more CWL can help others. Go to the CWL website to see CWL nationwide work [www.cwl.org.nz](http://www.cwl.org.nz)



## ADORATION: ADORATION: ADORATION:

We have recommenced adoration at St Joseph's on Thursday evenings between 7.00pm and 8.00pm.

As a Eucharistic minister, parishioner Maria Bushell has been commissioned in our Parish with a special blessing to assist in the provision of adoration. With assistance from Maria, Adoration will still take place in the event a priest is not available. There would be no Benediction on these occasions. Please come and join us. Thursdays at 7.00pm. A cup of tea and fellowship will follow and everyone is welcome.



Adoration will resume at Bell Block Mass Centre, First Friday of February, 4.00pm 7 February.

Adoration at Our Lady Help of Christians will resume weekly after Tuesday morning 9.10am Mass 4 February. There will be No First Sunday Adoration at Our Lady Help of Christians 2 February. This will resume in March.

**MONDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP** meets in the Parish Office each Monday at 9.15am. The group shares the Sunday readings for the coming week. Everyone is welcome to join this group. The readings are provided. Contact the Parish Office for further details, or just come along on Monday.

**THURSDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP** meets 10.15am at Our Lady Help of Christians each Thursday and this group will begin again Thursday 13 February. Everyone is welcome at either or both groups.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY ST JOSEPH'S 9.00am -

### WE NEED YOUR HELP..

If you are regular attendees at 9.00am Mass at St Joseph's, you would have noticed over the last year we have reestablished Children's Liturgy. Children's Liturgy has been a regular for many years at St Joseph's Church by an amazing team of volunteers but after Covid years we struggled to find volunteers to get this up and running again.

Rachel Ammundsen noticed the need for this and kindly offered to get it up and running and established again. She has done such an amazing job! I know you will agree if your children attend regularly how much the children love Children's Liturgy and how much they look forward to it each week!

Now that Rachel has got it well established and a great routine sorted, we would love a few parents or grandparents of those regular attendees to go on a roster in running it. It would be great for Rachel to have this support, so she is able to attend Mass fully sometimes and to share the load of running this for our parish community. Rachel has a great system and is happy to 'train' anyone who would like to help.

As members of our parish community, we are all called to share our gifts and contribute in some way! Is this the way you can contribute? Do you enjoy working with children and sharing with them the joy of being part of God's family? Please get in touch if you have any further questions or have a chat to Rachel or me at Mass! Or contact me by email

[youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz)

Thanks Karen Maclean Young Families Minister

**GOODBYE FR TRUNG:** Fr Trung will celebrate his first Mass in Fielding, Sunday 9 February 9.00am at St Bridget's Monmouth St Fielding. We know that some parishioners are travelling to this Mass and that others too, would like to support Fr Trung. If you need a ride or you have room in your vehicle to take another, please contact [Parishleadershipteam@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:Parishleadershipteam@catholicparishnp.nz)



After Mass we will look to arrange a morning tea at a local cafe with Fr Trung.

**MARIAN MOTHERS:** Our first meeting for 2025 will be Thursday 13 February at Our Lady Help of Christians 24 Clinton Street, Fitzroy, 7.00pm to 8.30pm. Please come along and join in prayer and a cuppa. Please bring a small sharing plate. Any queries please phone Glenda 021 323 765.



## FROM POPE FRANCIS



Pope Francis' prayer intention for the month of February is for the terminally ill. "Let us pray that the terminally ill and their families always receive the necessary medical and human care and assistance."

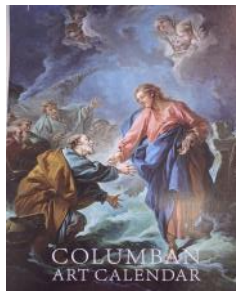
### FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD:

This Sunday 2nd February we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Forty days after Christmas, the Church celebrates this feast day, an event that the Evangelist Luke recounts in Chapter 2 of his Gospel. In the East, the celebration of this feast dates back to the 4th century. Around the middle of the 5th century, we know the feast was celebrated in Rome. At this time it was called *The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord* because Jesus enters the Temple and "meets" the priests, as well as Simeon and Anna, representatives of the people of God.



It is in that holy encounter with the prophet Simeon and Anna that Jesus' divinity was manifested by a human prophet for the first time. Anna, the prophetess came forward and "gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all those who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem". At a certain point, the blessing of candles was added to this feast to recall that Jesus is the "light to the Gentiles". Thus, this feast is also sometimes referred to as Candlemas Day.

**COLUMBAN CALENDARS:** Last year we ran out of Columban calendars for sale. We even had to sell the copy we had set aside for the office use. We now have a further 10 copies for sale. These are still only \$12.00, and will be available from the Parish Office or at OLHC Sunday Mass in the foyer from John Goodin. Please let us know in the office if you would like us to save you a copy.



**SUNDAY MISSALS YEAR C.** The Sunday Missals have arrived! We have 10 left. These can be purchased from the Parish Office \$15.00. Excellent for preparing for Sunday Mass, reflecting on the readings and considering the parts of the Mass on that day. The Parish Office is opening on regular hours again, 9.00am until 4.00pm.

**FOODBANK:** Each week the baskets for Foodbank are in the church foyers. We welcome donations of non-perishable goods: Spreads/cereals/biscuits/beverages/toiletries. We deliver these to Foodbank each Monday.

# YOUTH GROUP

WE GATHER ON SUNDAYS DURING THE SCHOOL TERM AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL.

**SHINE**  
JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP  
YEAR 4-8  
4 pm - 5 pm

**LIFE TEEN**  
SENIOR YOUTH GROUP  
YEAR 9-13  
6.30 pm - 8.30 pm

**YOUTH GROUP IS BACK THIS SUNDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2025**

SUN, 02-02-2025  
**JUST DANCE**  
*Social Night*  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL

## YOUTH MASS

resumes on  
**Sunday, 23 February 2025**  
at 5:30 pm

Hey, awesome teens!!

Are you between the ages of 13 and 18? Then swing by Youth Group, which will start this Sunday, where faith meets fun and friendship in the most loving way possible!

We kick things off with Mass at 5:30 pm, and then it's off to the hall for an epic youth group hangout! Expect tasty kai, games galore, and a Life Night that'll leave you buzzing.

But wait, there's more! Occasionally, we spice things up with Social Nights, like bowling, game nights, trivia challenges, and all kinds of shenanigans! Join the fun!

The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!  
CHRISTUS VIVIT (CHRIST IS ALIVE) - PARAGRAPH 1 - POPE FRANCIS

**SHINE YOUTH GROUP** starts again Sunday 2nd February 4.00pm to 5.00pm in St Joseph's Church Hall. For Email Karen at [youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz) for more details or just come along. For Years 4 to 8.

**Fearless**

**PURPOSE**  
*whakawhanga*

"Be **STRONG** and **COURAGEOUS**; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."  
Joshua 1:9

SACRAMENT OF

# CONFIRMATION

year 11 - 13 2025

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

Here are some options to register and access further details about the important dates:

- Visit the parish website
- Scan the QR code found here or on the YOUTH notice board in the foyer

**SCAN HERE**



**We pray for our deceased family and friends:** Marie McLean, Terry McLean, John Smith, Mary Bernet, Tim Hales, Pat Reid and Brien Mace. We remember with prayer, the February intention of Pope Francis, for all those who are terminally ill.

# FEB

## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

|                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>3</b><br>MON  | 8.00am                                 | St Joseph's Church   |
| <b>4</b><br>TUES | 8.00am<br>9.10am<br>12.05pm            | St Joseph's Church<br>Our Lady Help of Christians Church<br>St Joseph's Church   |
| <b>5</b><br>WED  | 8.00am<br>9.10am                       | St Joseph's Church<br>Our Lady Help of Christians Church   |
| <b>6</b><br>THU  | 8.30am                                 | St Joseph's Church (Waitangi Day)  |
| <b>7</b><br>FRI  | 8.00am<br>12.05pm                      | St Joseph's Church<br>St Joseph's Church   |
| <b>8</b><br>SAT  | 8.30am<br>5.30pm<br>6.00pm             | St Joseph's Church<br>Our Lady Help of Christians<br>St Patrick's Church Okato   |
| <b>9</b><br>SUN  | 9.00am<br>10.30am<br>10.30am<br>5.30pm | St Joseph's Church<br>Our Lady Help of Christians Church<br>Nga Pekanga Maori Mission<br>Corner of Bayley Street and Princess street Waitara<br>St Joseph's Church |

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 11.30am to 12 noon at St Joseph's Church OR 4.45pm at OLHC prior to the 5.30pm Vigil Mass. Reconciliation is also available by appointment with the priests, by initially phoning the Parish Office 757 3682.

**MORNING PRAYER:** Monday and Tuesday 7.40am and Saturday at 8.10am. Please go to the back door of Parish Office building. We are in the Mary McKillop Room.

### KINGDOM KIDZ CHILDREN'S LITURGY

#### Our Lady Help of Christians Church:

Each Sunday at 10.30am Mass. A special Children's Liturgy in the St John Bosco School Breakout Space.

No KINGDOM KIDZ Sunday 9th February, as for many it's a long weekend.



#### St Joseph's Church:

Each Sunday at 9.00am Mass in the church foyer. If you would like to help with Children's Liturgy at St Joseph's please contact Karen.

**SCHOOL MASSES:** School has started to return, but the weekday Masses at Francis Douglas College and Sacred Heart will not resume until later in February/March. The first "every other Friday Mass" at St Pius X school (in Philomena Hall) will be 14 February 9.00am.

### SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

5th Sunday in Ordinary time 9 February 2025

**1ST READING:** Isaiah 6.1-2a, 3-8

**PSALM:** 138

**2ND READING:** Corinthians 15.1-11

**GOSPEL:** Luke 5.1-11



Our Lady Help of Christians

Tuesday after 9.10am Mass

Bell Block Mass Centre

First Friday of the month  
4.00pm to 5.00pm

St Joseph's Church

Every Thursday 7.00pm to  
8.00pm

### HOLY HOUR

God dwells in our midst  
in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar


### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

### CONTACT US

Parish Office, 106 Powderham St,  
PO Box 32, New Plymouth  
(06) 757 3682  
office@catholicparishnp.nz  
www.catholicparishnp.nz

#### Emergency Phone

027 224 2100

 Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

#### **PRIESTS:**

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Sobin Sebastian sobin@catholicparishnp.nz

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**YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTER** Karen  
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**YOUTH MINISTER** Susilo  
youth@catholicparishnp.nz

**MUSIC COORDINATOR** Amelia  
musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz

**PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM**  
ParishLeadershipTeam@catholicparishnp.nz

### ST JOSEPH'S

106 Powderham St  
New Plymouth



### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

24 Clinton St, Fitzroy

### BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE

138 Parklands Ave  
Bell Block

### ST PATRICK'S OKATO

36 Cumming St  
Okato



# Calendar of Events in the Diocese of Palmerston North

## FEBRUARY 2025

**2 Feb**

Opening of the Year of Jubilee

**8 - 9 Feb**

Jubilee of Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel

**15 - 16 Feb**

Jubilee of Artists

**22 - 23 Feb**

Jubilee of Deacons

## MARCH 2025

**5 March**

Ash Wednesday

**8 - 9 March**

Jubilee of the World of Volunteering

**8 March**

Pilgrimage to Hiruhārama Jerusalem, Whanganui

**9 March**

Rite of Election

**28 March**

24 Hours for the Lord

## APRIL 2025

**5 - 6 April**

Jubilee of the Sick and Healthcare Workers

**18 April**

Good Friday

**19 April**

Easter Vigil

**20 April**

Easter Sunday

**26 - 27 April**

Jubilee of People with Disabilities

## MAY 2025

**3 - 4 May**

Jubilee of Workers

**10 - 11 May**

Jubilee of the Eastern Churches

**17 - 18 May**

Jubilee of Seminarians

**24 - 25 May**

Jubilee of the World of Education

**31 May - 1 June**

Jubilee of Families and Children

## JUNE 2025

**7 - 8 June**

Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations and New Communities

**8 June**

Pentecost Sunday

**14 - 15 June**

Jubilee of the World of Communications

**28 - 29 June**

Jubilee of Bishops and Priests

## JULY 2025

**26 - 27 July**

Jubilee of Grandparents and Older Persons

**28 July - 3 Aug**

Jubilee of Youth

## AUGUST 2025

**16 - 17 Aug**

Jubilee of Musicians

## SEPTEMBER 2025

**13 Sept**

Pilgrimage to Hiruhārama Jerusalem, Whanganui

**20 - 21 Sept**

Jubilee of Justice

**27 - 28 Sept**

Jubilee of Catechists

## OCTOBER 2025

**4 - 5 Oct**

Jubilee of Migrants

**11 - 12 Oct**

Jubilee of Marian Spirituality

**25 - 26 Oct**

Jubilee of Consecrated Life

## NOVEMBER 2025

**15 - 16 Nov**

Jubilee of the Poor

**30 Nov**

First Sunday of Advent

## DECEMBER 2025

**13 - 14 Dec**

Jubilee of Prisoners

**25 Dec**

Christmas Day

**26 Dec**

Boxing Day

**27 Dec**

Feast of the Holy Family

## FEBRUARY 2026

**1 Feb**

Closing of the Year of Jubilee

