

**May the spirit of joy and peace that Christmas brings,
be with you and your family throughout the coming year.**

The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

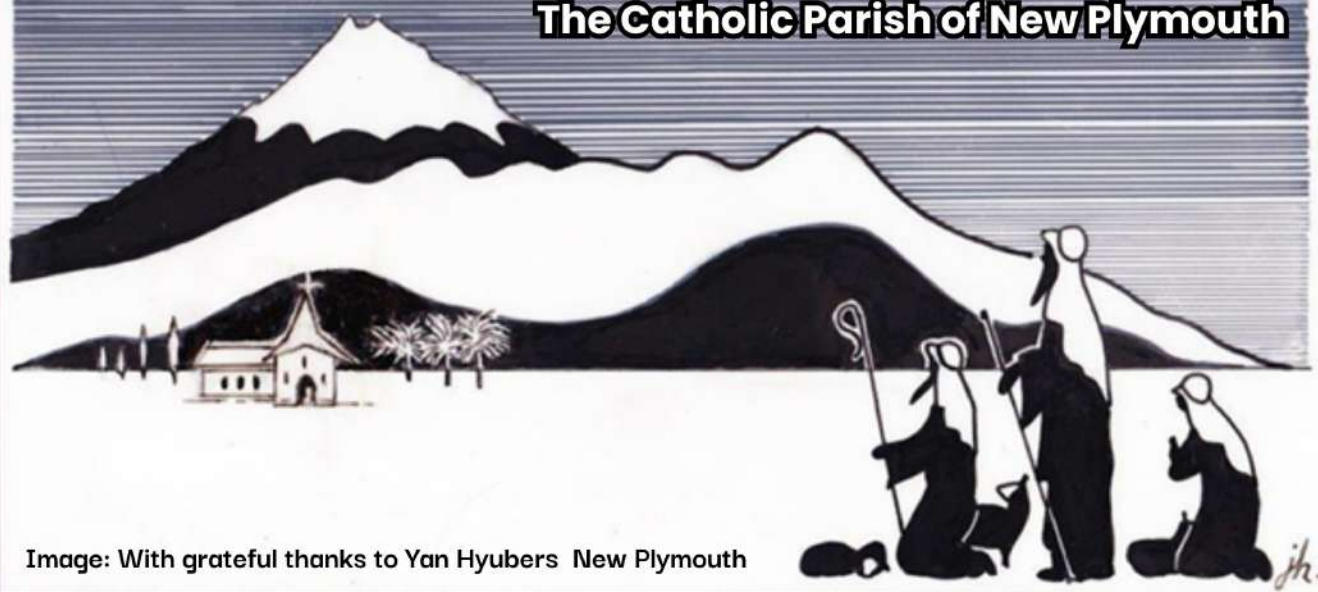


Image: With grateful thanks to Yan Hyubers New Plymouth

Dear Parishioners,

My appreciation goes out to the missional disciples of Jesus who intentionally give of themselves to transform peoples lives with the Holy Spirit. To those who act to build the Kingdom of God through the work of worship and prayer. To those who strive to respond to the call of Jesus the lord, to serve the poor and to incarnate the Gospel into our contemporary culture-thank you. We work hard to do this; the tremendous irresistible summons of the Lord compels us to do so. It is so much worth our while. The lamp is on the lampstand, the sign is on the bus.

There is a poster in the church foyer that displays the many ministries that make our parish tick over. No doubt some ministries are missing. There are hundreds of people who contribute to the mission. Jesus is accomplishing his purpose through us-heartening and uplifting to recognise and celebrate the joy this brings. Merry Christmas to you all! Have a holy Christmas and a refreshing break.

God Bless.

Fr. Simon

Dear Wonderful People

2025 has been, like all years, filled with blessings and with trials, with joys and sadness. Celebrations of loving faithfulness, celebrations of mourning, celebrations of new life, celebrations of healing, celebrations of accompanying. It's been a privilege to serve you and be served by you.

I thank all of you who joined me in one way or another as I celebrated 50 years of ordination. As I look forward to 2026, I have a little smile on my face, it comes from the ever deepening awareness that the Son of God and the Son of Mary, the loving Father Creator, the sanctifying Holy Spirit will be with me, with us.

Have a Happy and Holy Christmas, Rejoice in the wonder of love and life in 2026.

Tom

Dear Parishioners,

As we gather once again around the crib of Bethlehem, I offer you my heartfelt Christmas greetings to all of you. Christmas gently invites us to pause, reflect, and remember the great truth at the centre of our faith: God loved us so much that He chose to come close—so close that He became one of us.

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2). This light is Jesus Christ—born in a humble stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. In His smallness, heaven touched earth; in His poverty, we discovered the richness of God's love.

In today's busy and often stressful world—where many feel isolated, anxious, or burdened—the birth of Jesus reminds us that we are never alone. God enters our human story not from afar, but from within. He knows our struggles, our hopes, and our deepest desires. He comes to dwell not only in Bethlehem, but in our human heart.

Christmas calls us to open that heart once more—to make room for Christ, to allow His peace to calm our fears, His joy to lift our spirits, His love to renew our relationships, and His light to guide our steps. This holy season also invites us to share that love generously with our families, our neighbours, the lonely, the elderly, and all who carry heavy burdens. Every small act of kindness becomes a beam of Christ's light in our parish and community.

Dear parishioners of the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth, may the Child Jesus bless your homes with peace, your families with unity, and your hearts with a faith that carries you confidently into the New Year.

Wishing you all a blessed and joy filled Christmas 2025 and grace filled New year. May the light of Jesus shine upon you and your loved ones. I thank you personally for all for your great support and prayers in my priestly ministry in the Parish.

God bless

Fr. Sobin

Mass times for Christmas and New Year The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth 2025/2026

Christmas Mass times:

St Joseph's Church

24 December

24 December

25 December

106 Powderham Street, New Plymouth

Carols at 7.30pm followed by Vigil Mass 8.00pm

Carols at 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass

9.00am Christmas Day Mass

St Patrick's Okato

24 December

Cumming Street, Okato

Carols at 6.45pm followed by Vigil Mass 7.00pm

Our Lady Help of Christians

24 December

25 December

Bell Block Mass Centre

25 December

Clinton Street, Fitzroy

Carols at 6.30pm followed by Vigil Mass 7.00pm

9.00am Mass

Parklands Ave (Next to Fred Tucker Hall)

Carols 10.15am followed by Mass 10.30am

HOLIDAY MASS TIMES: Friday 26 December to Saturday 24 January, there will be Mass or Communion Service at St Joseph's 8.30am Monday to Friday and 8.30am Saturday. There is no Saturday Anointing Mass in January.