



Parish Newsletter

Pānui i te Pārihi

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth
Te Parihi Katorika Ki Ngamotu

Sunday 11 January 2026 The Baptism of the Lord



Nativity scene at St. Joseph's—Celebrating the humble Birth of Christ

The parish joyfully celebrated Christmas in our churches at St. Patrick's Okato, Bell Block Catholic Center, Our Lady Help of Christians and St. Joseph's with St. Joseph's hosting a reverent and uplifting Midnight Mass. The youth ministry, together with the "Mustard Seeds", the Youth band, set a warm and festive tone through heartfelt carols before the Mass, drawing the congregation into the spirit of the Nativity. With grace and devotion, the youth guided the procession and tenderly placed the Infant Jesus in the crib—a moment both profound and moving.

As midnight approached, the church embraced a serene stillness. Dimmed lights and gentle hymns that created a reflective hush, while the Mass unfolded in a beautiful harmony of solemnity and celebration. Readings traced the story of Christ's birth, hymns were sung with full hearts, and the homily centered on hope, renewal, and the quiet miracle of the night. When the bells rang out at midnight, the moment felt deeply communal—filled with peace, unity, and joy.

The parish gathered again on New Year's Eve for another prayerful Midnight Mass, welcoming the year ahead in faith. Amid the night's celebrations, the Mass offered a sacred pause for gratitude and guidance. St. Anthony of Padua Choir enriched the celebration with soothing music and hymns that echoed softly through the candlelit sanctuary. The Mass closed the year with thanksgiving and opened the new year with renewed hope and faith.

Both celebrations were marked by devotion, unity, and joy—affirming the enduring faith and vibrant spirit of the St. Joseph's community. These moments remind us that together, in prayer and fellowship, we continue to grow as a family rooted in hope and love, called by God to be missional disciples.

Important Dates

JANUARY HOLIDAY WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

St. Joseph's Church
From Thursday 26th December to Saturday 24th Jan 2026. weekday Mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Church only, at **8.30am**. There will be no 12.05pm Mass.

Our Lady Help of Christians
No weekday Mass will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians during the holiday period 26th December 2025 to 24th January 2026.

The usual timetable for both churches will resume the week beginning Monday 26th January 2026.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Office will be closed from 400pm Wednesday 24 December until 9.00am Monday 19 January. Please continue to call the office phone number 06 757 3682 during this time for all queries and follow the voice prompts

Preference interviews will begin Thursday 22nd January. Appointments are necessary and can be made by phoning the Parish Office (06) 757 3682 from Monday 19th January onwards.

OUR 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**



JAN**12**
MON**13**
TUES**14**
WED**15**
THU**16**
FRI**17**
SAT**18**
SUN

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8.30am St Joseph's Church

8.30am St Joseph's Church
 5.30pm Our Lady Help of Christians Church (Vigil Mass)
 6.00pm St Patrick's Church Okato (Vigil Mass)

9.00am St Joseph's Church
 10.30am Our Lady Help of Christians Church
 10.30am Bell Block Catholic Centre (Liturgy of the Word with Communion)
 5.30pm St Joseph's Church

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 11.30am to 12 noon at St Joseph's Church OR 4.45pm to 5.15pm at OLHC prior to the 5.30pm Vigil Mass. Reconciliation is also available by appointment with the priests, by initially phoning the Parish Office (06) 757 3682.

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Before morning Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Friday & Saturday 8.10am in the Parish Office. Come to the back door of the office building.

KINGDOM KIDZ CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Our Lady Help of Christians Church:

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



St Joseph's Church Children's Liturgy will resume in the new school term 2026.

LITTLE ANGELS MUSIC AND PLAY

GROUP FOR PRESCHOOLERS at Our Lady Help of Christians will resume in the 2026 school term. For more details please contact Amelia at musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz



QUIET YOUR HEART ~ Music with Kadisha will resume in 2026.

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

18 January 2026 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1ST READING: Isaiah 49.3. 5-6**PSALM:** 40**2ND READING:** 1 Corinthians 1. 1-3**GOSPEL:** John 1. 29-34

ADORATION IN ALL
 OUR MASS CENTRES
 WILL RESUME IN
 FEBRUARY.

Watch the newsletters for
 exact dates.

HOLY HOUR

God dwells in our midst
 in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar
 St. Maximilian Kolbe



CONTACT US

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 The office is closed until Monday 19 January.
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PRIESTS:

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For updates on parish, diocese,
 and national events.



Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

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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

ON SALE

2026 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR

IDEAL
GIFT



\$12

On sale in the
Parish Office



ST COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY
www.columban.org.nz

