



Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

106 Powderham St, PO Box 32, New Plymouth
Phone (06) 757 3682 | 9am to 4pm
office@catholicparishnp.nz www.catholicparishnp.nz
Emergency Phone 027 224 2100



12 April 2026 2nd Sunday of Easter

Joyful Easter Celebrations Across the Parish

Our parish celebrated the great feast of Easter with deep joy and thanksgiving, gathering in large numbers for the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening and the Easter Sunday Masses. It was heartening to see our churches filled with parishioners, families, and visitors as we came together to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord.

The Easter Vigil was a particularly moving celebration, rich in symbol and prayer, as we journeyed from darkness into light and renewed our baptismal promises. The sense of reverence and joy was shared by all who attended.

Easter Sunday continued this spirit of celebration, with full congregations at Masses throughout the day. We were especially delighted to welcome a number of new parishioners and visitors who chose to join us for the Easter celebrations. Their presence added to the sense of community and renewal that marks this sacred season. There were also 4 children baptised on Easter Sunday too.

We give thanks to all who helped prepare and celebrate these liturgies – including our clergy, volunteers, musicians, readers, and those who worked behind the scenes – and to everyone who joined us in proclaiming the hope of Easter. May the joy of the risen Christ continue to bless our parish in the weeks ahead. – **Parish Office**



Baptisms, First Holy Communion and Confirmations on Easter Sunday: As part of the RCIA process, our parish welcomed 8 adults and 2 children who were baptised at the Easter Vigil, and 6 adults were received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Around seven hundred people joined our new family members to celebrate the Easter Vigil, and afterwards enjoyed light hospitality together following Mass. We all experienced the joy of the Risen Lord.



The RCIA candidates (on the left) whom were Baptised, celebrated with First Holy Communion and Confirmation, and joyfully welcomed into the Church and the faith on Easter Sunday. God bless.



A big thank you to all the liturgy organizers who planned and worked behind the scenes to make our Easter liturgies happen! And to those who willingly led ministries during those liturgies. We had 2150 people at Masses over the Easter Vigil and Sunday. A big welcome to the 17 adults and 6 children who were baptised and received into the parish at the Easter. Great to have you formally among us. Fr Simon

Important Dates

April

School Holidays week 2
There will be no Masses in the schools and colleges this week.
Refer to page 4

Registration for Sacramental Programmes

Older Children's Baptism and First Communion close early next term
See page 3

CWL Home Appeal and Monthly Meeting

The Catholic Women's League is having a stall after the 9.00am Mass at St Joseph's on Sunday 12th April.

CWL Monthly Meeting - Thursday 16th April, 12 midday in the Supper Room.

2026 Alpha Programme

Starts Thursday 23rd April 6.00pm in St Joseph's Church Hall, Devon Street

Sunday 12 April

Prayer Ministry After Mass at St Joseph's 9.00am and 5.30pm
Our Lady Help of Christians 10.30am

Older Children's Baptism Sunday
May 24th 1.30pm at St Joseph's Church

Temporary Office New Timings

Office to remain closed after 12 pm on Thursdays from 09th April 2026

GENERAL NOTICES

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET is a devotion that was revealed by God to St Faustina in Cracow, Poland in the 1930s. During the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, St Faustina's countryman, the devotion was given a special place in the life of the church when he designated the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY DEVOTION: The Divine Mercy devotion will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians church Sunday 12 April at 2.30pm. There will be Rosary and Exposition followed by the Chaplet at 3.00pm. The Veneration of the Image will follow, finishing at approx. 3.15pm. If a priest is available, Reconciliation will be celebrated during this time. Please come and learn about this devotion. Everyone is most welcome.

Would you like prayer? for yourself, family, or someone else?

PRAYER MINISTRY

will be available after Mass on
SUNDAY 12TH APRIL

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH
after 9:00am Sunday Mass
after 5:30pm Sunday Mass



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH
after 10:30am Sunday Mass

Prayer for Peace from Pope Leo

During his Easter message, Pope Leo invites all people to join him in praying for peace in the world. In response, we will offer a short prayer for peace after Mass today, asking for Our Lady's intercession.



We pray with Pope Leo for peace in the world and for peace within our own lives.

Defibrillator Installed: We are pleased to inform parishioners that a **new defibrillator** has been installed in the kitchenette at **St Joseph's Church** foyer. This was made possible from generous donors. If your heart stops; we can help!!!



NEW EFTPOS MACHINE

A new EFTPOS machine has been installed in the foyer of Our Lady Help of Christians Church, making it easy to donate by tap, swipe, or insert. With a humorous nod to modern giving, it's there for those moments when generosity is ready but cash isn't – offering a convenient helper to the collection plate while keeping the spirit of giving very much from the heart.



CWL HOME APPEAL FOR ALZHEIMERS:

The Catholic Women's League is having a stall after the 9.00am Mass at St Joseph's on Sunday 12th April.

Selling - knitted garments, baking, produce and preserves.

Please bring cash. Money raised to go to the National CWL At Home Appeal for Alzheimers.

Monthly meeting - Thursday 16th April, 12 midday in the Supper Room. Bring your lunch.

Guest speaker Rae O'Grady.



THIS IS YOUR INVITATION...

SCAN ME



Alpha starts
on Thursday
23 April 2026
6 pm to 8 pm
St Joseph's
Church Hall

SIGN UP NOW

EVERYONE
IS WELCOME TO
COME!

www.catholicparishnp.nz/alpha/

Community Meals needs a Hand

We are looking for people who can help during the school holidays and in months that have a 5th week (June and September). This involves a variety of tasks from setting the tables to washing dishes, or pouring tea. Most importantly it involves being able to laugh and not take situations and people too seriously. If you would like to help out please contact: Liz 0226430252 (eogooch@gmail.com)



Chris Skinner Concert - Inglewood

Due to forecasted cyclone on Sunday, Fr Chris has deemed it preferable to postpone until next week Sunday 19th April at 2.00pm. If you have purchased tickets and are unable to attend on the 19th April and would like a refund, or if you would still like to purchase tickets, can you please contact the Inglewood parish office (shparish@xtra.co.nz).

Celebrating 150 years of Polish History

11th April 1876 the ship Fritz Reuter sailed from the port of Hamburg with the first Polish Settlers for Taranaki.

YOU'RE INVITED: SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP

You are warmly invited to attend an upcoming Safeguarding Workshop, an important opportunity to learn more about creating safe and supportive environments for all.

When: Thursday 16 April, 7:00–8:30pm
St Joseph's Church Hall
151 Devon Street West,
New Plymouth

This workshop is suitable for clergy, parish staff, volunteers, and anyone involved in ministry or parish life. Early registration is encouraged.

To register, please email Jane Hahn, National Safeguarding Lead, at Jane.hahn@nops.org.nz

We strongly encourage your participation and look forward to welcoming you.

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

QUIZ NIGHT



Illumin8 youth group
Teams of 6-8 people

Monday 20 April @ 7pm | Doors open at 6pm | GoodHome bar Ariki Street

\$\$ RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE- BRING CASH \$\$
\$10/PERSON

REGISTER YOUR TEAM
che@fdmc.school.nz

LAST CALL FOR OLDER CHILDREN BAPTISM, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

Parents and caregivers are warmly invited to register their children for the upcoming Sacramental Programmes for Older Children's Baptism, First Reconciliation, and First Holy Communion. These celebrations mark important and joyful steps in a child's faith journey, and our parish community is delighted to walk alongside families during this special time. If your child is of 7 years of age and above and has not yet received these sacraments, we encourage you to consider this next step as a meaningful opportunity for them to grow in faith and belonging within our parish family. Please use the below QR codes and enrol at the earliest.




SCAN THE QR CODE TO ENROL YOUR CHILD.





First Holy Communion

DATES

OLDER CHILDREN BAPTISM
Sunday 24th May - 1.30pm

FIRST RECONCILIATION
Friday 31st July - 5.30pm

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
Our Lady Help of Christians
Sunday 23rd August - 10.30am Mass
St Joseph's Church
Sunday 30th August - 9.00am Mass

youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz
www.catholicparishnp.nz



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES 2026

"Christ is in the Father by reason of his divine nature, we are in him by reason of his human birth, and he is in us through the mystery of the sacraments."

St. Hilary, bishop

We pray for our deceased family and friends: Athalie Roebuck, Ignatius Fernandes, Dominic Fernandes, Flory Fernandes, Anthony Dias, Geetha Kutty, Sue Jolly, Antonio Capito Sr and deceased members of the Julian Family.

APR	WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE	
	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH	
13 MON	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
14 TUE	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9.10am	Our Lady Help of Christians
	12.05pm	St Joseph's Church
15 WED	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9.10am	Our Lady Help of Christians
16 THU	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9.10am	Our Lady Help of Christians
17 FRI	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	12.05pm	St Joseph's Church
18 SAT	8.30am	St Joseph's Church
	5.30pm	Our Lady Help of Christians (Vigil Mass)
	6.00pm	St Patrick's Okato
19 SUN	9.00am	St Joseph's Church
	10.30am	Our Lady Help of Christians Church
	10.30am	Bell Block Mass 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 AT 7:40am & 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: Every Sunday during 9.00am Mass in the church foyer.



Little Angels MUSIC and play GROUP

for preschoolers at Our Lady Help of Christians will resume in the school term. For more details please contact Amelia at musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz



DONATIONS AT THE END OF THE TAX

YEAR: The tax year ended 31 March 2026 and tax receipts for parish donations will be issued during April with emailed and paper copy receipts available.

If we have a current email address for donors, receipts will be emailed. If we do not have a current email address, paper copy tax receipts will be left in the appropriate church foyer. If you would rather have a paper copy tax receipt than an emailed receipt, please advise the Parish Office.

Alpha Is For Everyone

Please Pray Asking The Holy Spirit Who You Could Invite To Alpha

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Easter 19 April 2026

1ST READING: Acts 2.14, 22b-28

PSALM: 16

2ND READING: 1 Peter 1.17-21

GOSPEL: Luke 24.13-35



CONTACT US

Parish Office, 106 Powderham St,
PO Box 32, New Plymouth (06) 757 3682
www.catholicparishnp.nz
Email - office@catholicparishnp.nz
Office Hours – 9.00am to 4.00pm weekdays
Emergency Phone – 027 224 2100

PRIESTS:

Fr. Simon Story simon@catholicparishnp.nz
Tom Lawn tom@catholicparishnp.nz
Fr. Sobin sobin@catholicparishnp.nz
Fr. Sobin Sebastian Phone 027 255 8097

STRATEGIC LEADER Giniya

sl@catholicparishnp.nz

FINANCE OFFICER Cynthia

accounts@catholicparishnp.nz

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION Ireen

office@catholicparishnp.nz

COMMUNICATIONS LEAD Russell

communicationslead@catholicparishnp.nz

YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTER Karen

youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz

YOUTH MINISTER Susilo

youth@catholicparishnp.nz

MUSIC COORDINATOR Amelia

musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

parishleadershipteam@catholicparishnp.nz

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

justiceandpeace@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



For updates on parish, diocese, and national events.



Catholic Parish of New Plymouth



Explore Life Faith Meaning

**THIS IS YOUR
INVITATION.**

Alpha starts on
Thursday, 23 April 2026
6 pm to 8 pm
St Joseph's Church Hall

WHAT IS ALPHA?

Alpha is a 10-week programme that creates a space where people of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures. Come together to discuss life, faith, and Jesus.

- Connect with new people in our parish**
- Enjoy a meal and a meaningful conversation**
- Watch an episode on topic of faith**
- Ask questions and share your thoughts**

SCAN HERE



SIGN UP →

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz

www.catholicparishnp.nz/alpha/

The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth is excited to announce the launch of the 2026 Alpha Programme. Starting Thursday 23rd April 6.00pm in St Joseph's Church Hall Devon Street, the Alpha Programme will run for 10 weeks, offering an opportunity for individuals to explore the big questions of life, faith, & meaning in a welcoming and non-judgmental setting.

Alpha is an worldwide Christian series where participants explore topics like "Who is Jesus?" and "How can we have faith?" in a relaxed and friendly environment. Whether you're new to the Christian faith or have had a lifelong belief, Alpha provides an opportunity to ask questions, share thoughts, and engage in open discussion. Each session is designed to encourage community, and everyone is welcome, regardless of where they are on their faith journey. There is a simple format to the Alpha night. We start with a meal which the parish provides, followed by the Alpha video, then discussion about the video, and anything else that arises, in small groups - the same group each week. The evening finishes at 8.00pm.

The Alpha Programme offers an accessible way to invite people into a deeper relationship with God and with one another. We invite everyone to join us for this exciting journey of discovery, transformation, and renewal. Scan the QR code above or visit <https://www.catholicparishnp.nz/alpha/>

ALPHA IS FOR EVERYONE

PLEASE PRAY ASKING THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO YOU COULD INVITE TO
ALPHA





What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding means creating a safe environment where everyone feels valued and respected. Pope Francis has highlighted that the Catholic Church must take steps to protect children, youth, and vulnerable adults, addressing their needs with care and fairness.

Why Everyone Should Participate in the Safeguarding Course?

Attending safeguarding workshops is **mandatory** for all those who work with children, young people, and vulnerable adults, whether as a volunteer or a worker in any parish or ethnic community, as mandated by the

National Office for Professional Standards. We encourage everyone involved with children, youth, and vulnerable adults to participate in these safeguarding workshops. Here are some roles that should attend:

- Altar Server Trainers
- Children's Liturgy of the Word Leaders
- Choir Leaders (including both; children's and general choirs)
- Ministers of Holy Communion to the sick and housebound
- Pastoral Visitors
- Parent Helpers/Chaperones for youth groups and camps
- Parish visitors
- RCIA Catechists
- Sacramental Preparation Catechists/Leaders/Coordinators
- Sacristans
- Sunday School Teachers
- Youth Ministry Leaders

Others involved in pastoral work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults



When is the Course?

The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth will hold a Safeguarding Course on Thursday, 16 April 2026, from 7:00 pm to 8:30pm at St Joseph's Church Hall followed by tea and biscuits.

How to Confirm Your Attendance?

Please confirm your attendance by emailing us at office@catholicparishnp.nz or communicationslead@catholicparishnp.nz.

You can also call us during office hours at 06 757 3682. We look forward to seeing you there and working together to keep our parish family safe. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to safeguarding!

SHGC Grotto Relocation Project Be Part of Something Special

Sacred Heart Girls' College has been gifted a beautiful piece of our heritage – the original **grotto** on Powderham Street, currently located behind the Salvation Army. Although no longer in use, this sacred space holds deep significance for our community.

We are now working to **relocate the grotto** to our college grounds, bringing it home through a meaningful **hikoī (pilgrimage)**.

The total cost to complete this project is **\$11,800**. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have already raised **\$7,000**, which is a wonderful start. We are now seeking support to raise the remaining **\$4,800**.

We warmly invite you to consider contributing to this meaningful project or supporting our ongoing fundraising efforts. Every donation, large or small, helps us move closer to our goal and is sincerely appreciated.

We thank you in advance for considering helping this unique venture.

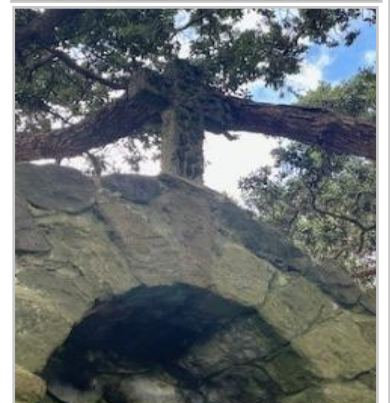
For more information or to offer your support, please contact:

Wendy Mulligan

Director of Religious Studies

Sacred Heart Girls' College

wmu@shgcnp.school.nz



REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Chevalier Cyril John

CHARIS INTERNATIONAL INTERCESSION COMMISSION




Cyril will be in NZ for two days.

Teaching and Training on **Prophetic Intercession**

Date 11th and 12th May 2026

Times Monday 11th: 6 pm to 9 pm
Tuesday 12th: 10 am to 9:30 pm

Venue Christ the King Church
Mt Roskill
Auckland

Amazing opportunity for all.



For enquiries contact Vanessa Nathan
021 143 3703 or email
maranatha.jvz@gmail.com

Registration \$20.00

SHGC GROTTO MOVIE FUNDRAISER

Sacred Heart College is raising funds to help return the historic Mission Sisters' Grotto back to the college. Built in 1907 on the grounds of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions Convent, the Grotto still stands in its original location but has recently been gifted back to the College. Our school community is now working to raise the funds needed to return this treasured piece of our heritage back home.

To support the project, the College is hosting a Movie Night and warmly invites parishioners to attend.


Date: 23 April
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Events Cinema

Tickets are available and are priced \$15/- for Students and \$20/- for Adults from the school office (06 758 5023) or by emailing:

- Wendy Mulligan - wmu@shgncp.school.nz
- Amelia Luke - alu@shgncp.school.nz

★ About the film:
'Holy Days' is a warm, gently humorous Kiwi road trip story about a grieving boy who travels with three unconventional nuns, exploring themes of faith, loss.

TAKE COURAGE! I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD
JOHN 16:33




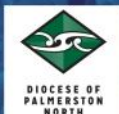
WORLD YOUTH DAY

3 - 8 AUGUST 2027
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Young adults aged 18–35 are invited to attend World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, where millions of young Catholics will gather. New Zealand bishops aim to bring 500 young people.

Scan the QR code to complete the **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** form, allowing us to provide you with all the necessary information.

SCAN ME


With **POPE LEO XIV**

MAY 2026 • A NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

18 DAYS

Lourdes to Lisieux


A Journey of Faith & Grace through the Shrines and Saints of France



Accompanied by **Bishop John Adams**

COMMENCES FRIDAY 8 MAY 2026 • 18 DAYS / 16 NIGHTS
Lourdes (3 nights) • Rocamadour (1) • Paray-le-Monial (3) • Nouan-le-Fuzelier (1) • Chartres (1) • Lisieux (2) • Caen (3) • Normandy • Paris (2)

"Dear Pilgrims, to travel is a beautiful activity, but to travel with the purpose of deepening our faith in Jesus Christ can be a profound experience indeed. This is what it is to be a pilgrim rather than a tourist, a participant rather than a spectator. Harvest Journeys is at the helm once again of another pilgrimage, this time with a wonderfully powerful French itinerary. Our journey will place us in the company of some of the great saints of the Church who continue to inspire and teach us about how accessible a life of holiness is. We will also encounter saints that influenced the beginning of the Church in New Zealand and perhaps learn from them more about the Church in this country. Right faith is a wonderful adventure - this pilgrimage promises to be a great opportunity for those able to join us." - Bishop John Adams



St Bernadette Soubirous • St Margaret Mary Alacoque • St Claude de la Colombiere • St John Vianney • St Peter Chanel • Sts Louis & Zélie Martin • St Therese of Lisieux • St Jean of Arc • St Catherine Labouré • St Vincent de Paul

the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest journeys



Prayer Retreat for Women

3 days, 2 nights

"At the root of prayer is a relationship of love."
St Teresa of Avila

Fri 15 May 6pm - Sun 17 May 3pm
Magnificat Retreat Centre | Featherston

Limited Spaces | Bookings essential
Earlybird \$275pp | Standard \$320pp
includes accommodation & meals

For more information and to register
<https://www.trybooking.com/nz/BBMC>





CELEBRATION WEEKEND

14 - 16 AUGUST 2026
KESWICK CHRISTIAN CAMP
5 COOPER AVE, HOLDENS BAY, ROTORUA



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ROBERT FALZON
LEADER OF AUSTRALIA'S menALIVE
AUTHOR 'Importance of a present dad'


ALL MEN WELCOME
FRIDAY PM TO SUNDAY MIDDAY
MEALS & ACCOMMODATION INCLUDED

Contact: Mike Lobo 021 280 9285
Greg Sullivan 021 437 747


SPACES ARE LIMITED
BOOK IN EARLY TO AVOID
DISAPPOINTMENT
SCAN THE QR CODE:




<https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua>


PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS




Sy Nguyen
Sy came to New Zealand from Vietnam in 2025 and is now in his second year at the seminary




Zecharia Mathew
Zecharia is from Auckland and joined our diocese this year



Hung Nguyen
Hung is from Vietnam and is in his first year at the seminary.



Dung (Zung) Phan
Dung is from Vietnam. He has been in New Zealand for about six years and is currently on his pastoral placement in Feilding, Taihape, and Ohakune



Rodney Rebecca
Rodney was a Trappist monk for 20 years and has spent several years at Kopua Monastery. He is now training to become a priest for our diocese

For enquiries or to support our seminarians, please contact:
Fr Trung Nguyen
Phone: 022 062 6726
Email: vocations@pnzdiocese.org.nz

DIocese OF PALMERSTON NORTH
2026