



# 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



14 June 2026 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## ALPHA RETREAT

On Sunday, 7 June, members of the Alpha group and the Alpha team gathered at St Pius X School Hall for the annual Alpha Retreat, an integral and much valued part of the Alpha programme. The retreat, that was on throughout the entire day, offered guests a meaningful opportunity to step away from the demands of daily life and enter a dedicated space for reflection, prayer, and community.

Throughout the day, the retreatants engaged in group discussions, attentive listening, quiet reflection, and guided prayer. The atmosphere was warm and supportive, encouraging open sharing and thoughtful engagement. Moments of stillness invited individuals to deepen their faith and become more aware of God's presence in their lives.



The retreat was further enriched by the generous hospitality of several groups. We thank St Pius X School for allowing us to use Philomena Hall, St. Pius X Home and School for providing the morning and afternoon tea and Faye & Tony for the delicious soups they made for lunch for the entire group. The hospitality team ensured everything ran smoothly and served everything with care, adding a warm sense of welcome and community to the day.

At its heart, the Alpha programme offers a gentle pathway into the mysteries of faith – a place where questions are honoured, conversations are sacred, and God meets each person exactly where they are. Through shared learning, fellowship, and open dialogue, Alpha continues to draw our parish community into deeper trust, deeper connection, and a more profound encounter with Christ's love.

The images from the retreat capture the spirit of fellowship, with participants gathered in small groups and larger circles, engaged in meaningful conversation and reflection. The hall was thoughtfully arranged to foster openness and connection, contributing to a prayerful and enriching experience for all.

The retreat strengthened the bonds within the group, deepening relationships and nurturing a shared journey of faith. It was a day marked by gratitude, unity, and a renewed awareness of the Holy Spirit's gentle work among us.



Some Glimpses from the Retreat

## Important Dates

### Adoration

Our Lady Help of  
Christians Church  
Tuesday after 9.10am  
Mass

St Joseph's Church  
Every Thursday  
Adoration and  
Reconciliation 7.00pm

### 14th June 2026

Prayer Ministry  
at 9.00am St Joseph  
and 10.30am OLHC  
Mass

### 17th June 2026

AV Gospel  
Encounter Group  
Our Lady Help of  
Christians Church  
foyer 7.00 to 8.15pm

### 21st June 2026

School Led Mass  
St. Pius X School

### 28th June 2026

Sunday 9.00 am  
**Confirmation Mass**  
St Joseph's Church  
(This will be a long  
Mass)  
With 68 Confirmation  
candidates, this Mass  
will be much longer  
than usual, perhaps 30  
to 40 minutes longer

### 8th August 2026

Sunday 1.30pm  
St. Joseph's church hall  
Catholic Women's  
League  
Bingo Fun afternoon

## 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



# GENERAL NOTICES

## Passionist-Family Group Movement



### You are Invited to join a Family Group:

Would you like to get to know more people in the parish. A Family Group is just where you can do that.

A new group is starting for young families. We had an informal gathering last Saturday with some of the interested members and their children. We have set a date for the first gathering, so if you are interested in finding out more about this group or any of the 5 existing groups please contact Linda 027 354 6171, email: [paulandlinda.d@gmail.com](mailto:paulandlinda.d@gmail.com) or the Parish Office 06 757 3682.

Page 5 of the online or emailed newsletter contains more information on Family Groups as well, for those interested.

**CWL** There is NO meeting in June, instead we are celebrating our 63rd birthday at Cobb & Co. Thursday 18th June 12 midday. If you wish to join us, please let Moira Webb (06) 757 2004 or Pat O'Connor -027 290 4443, know by Monday 15th June.



### Flower Arrangement Volunteers Needed.

The flower arranging team at St Joseph's church would warmly welcome some more volunteers. If you like arranging flowers please consider joining this team.

For more information please text or call Janice 021 948 587

### JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP:

The Justice and Peace group meet on the second Monday evening of every month.



This month we have been planning : the upcoming Prayers for Peace Service, the shared reading of Pope Leo's first apostolic exhortation, *Dilexite*, and supporting people to enroll to vote.

We welcome input from anyone who would like to help in the preparation of our Prayers for Peace in the World Service which will be held in St Joseph's church on Friday, July 24th. If you would like to be part of this in any way, please email the Justice and Peace group [justiceandpeace@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:justiceandpeace@catholicparishnp.nz) or phone or text Joan 021 1100775

**Dilexi Te** – join with others to read Pope Francis' draft that has been completed by Pope Leo.

“Dilexi te means ‘I have loved you’.”

It serves as a theological and practical guide for Catholics, and for all people of good will. Meetings on **July** 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th for readings – Monday nights; 5:30 – 6:30 pm Ngāmotu Room, Please come to the back door of the Office.

**AV GOSPEL ENCOUNTER GROUP:** Come and See. Wherever one is on our faith journey - Curious? Thirsty for more? Just beginning? Seasoned traveler/ disciple or 'Seeking fellow travelers'? All welcomed! We provide the opportunity for an authentic encounter with Jesus through group prayerful reflection on the Sunday Gospel reading - an encounter with Jesus Himself in the bible and in each other. Not a Bible study but an encounter with Truth, Life, Peace, Joy and Love.  
When: Wednesday 17 June 2026  
Where: Our Lady Help of Christians Church foyer, 23 Clinton St, Fitzroy.  
Time: 7.00pm to 8.15pm  
(Doors open for welcome cuppa & cookie @6.45pm)  
Please bring your Bible. For more detail please contact: Christina Chow: [jp2padua2020@gmail.com](mailto:jp2padua2020@gmail.com) or Jaime Cerda: [jzle012@gmail.com](mailto:jzle012@gmail.com).



### Thinking About Funerals

Many people attended the *Thinking About Funerals* session held at the Parish Office on 8 June.

There was strong interest in the discussion led by Fr Tom, with a wide variety of questions asked and thoughtfully answered. Thanks to Fr Tom, there were also plenty of moments of laughter throughout the session.

Catholic funeral traditions were explored, and many people left with new perspectives on planning their own farewells. It was encouraging to hear how this reflection may lead to meaningful conversations with family members – an important first step.



**THANK YOU SHIRLEY:** On behalf of all at the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth, we thank you Shirley for all the years (75!) of service, commitment and love you have given to Church Music Ministry. Thank you for all the musical conversations and musical knowledge imparted! We hope you enjoy your 'retirement' from the Sunday music roster, but we know you will still enjoy music at Mass.



Fr. Tom Blessing Shirley during her farewell Mass

**BINGO**

**SATURDAY, 8 AUGUST 2026 - STARTS AT 01:30 PM**

St Joseph's Church Hall – 151 Devon St, New Plymouth

**ENTRY \$15**  
which includes 10 cards, afternoon tea and raffles.

Come along to  
The Catholic Women's League annual Bingo Fundraiser.  
Funds raised will support

**ALZHEIMER'S**

Through a wide spectrum of services, providing vital support and services to patients and their families as they navigate life's challenges.

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

**PRAYER MINISTRY**

will be available after Mass on  
**SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

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

**TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ON DEVON STREET WEST:**

We have been advised that Devon Street West between the Robe Street and Dawson Street will be closed from Tuesday 16 June to Friday 31 July. The closure includes the road and the carparks in front of, and surrounding the hall, so will affect all who like to use that area. Pedestrian access will still be available.

**PRAYER FOR PALLIATIVE CARE:** From 6:00am till 6:00pm on Tuesday 23rd June, the Catholic Women's League in Inglewood is organising the "Twelve Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" in Inglewood Catholic Church, on Standish St. We invite pray-ers to take an hour out of their busy day and join us in prayer. Exposition will follow the 9:00am Mass. Respect for all life until it's natural end is the goal.

**WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Rita Chamany, Ignatius Fernanes, Flory Fernandes, Domnic Fernandes, Geetha Kutty, Anthony Dias, Sam and Noeline Drought, Brian Collins, Peggy Mora and Ross Beagle.

June Edition 2026

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUTH GROUP**

**NEXT SUNDAY NO YOUTH GROUP**  
**SUN, 14 JUNE**

THIS WEEKEND IS CONFIRMATION CAMP, SO WE NEED TO HAVE A BREAK AGAIN.

WE WILL BE BACK WITH SOCIAL NIGHT ON SUNDAY, 21 JUNE.

NO YOUTH GROUP

**CONFIRMATION camp**

**VITAL**

YOUTH GROUP RETURNS JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL NIGHT ON SUNDAY, 21 JUNE!

**YOUTH GROUP DATES IN TERM 2**

**3 MAY**  
**17 MAY**  
**7 JUNE**  
**21 JUNE**  
**5 JULY**

**NEXT SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP**  
**SUN, 21 JUNE**

JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL NIGHT, AS THIS WILL BE THE FINAL YOUTH GROUP GATHERING FOR SUSILO.

**SOCIAL NIGHT**

SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2026  
6:30PM - 8:30PM  
ST JOE'S HALL

JOIN US FOR A COZY AND FUN EVENING. HANG OUT WITH SUSILO AS THIS IS HIS LAST YOUTH GROUP!

**SAVE THE DATE**

**CONFIRMATION MASS**  
**SUNDAY, 28 JUNE 2026**  
**9:00AM**  
**ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH**

**JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP FOR YEARS 4 TO 8**  
4:00PM - 5:00PM  
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL DURING THE SCHOOL TERM  
Contact KAREN  
youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz

**ILLUMINS**

**YOUTH GROUP FOR YEARS 9 TO 13**  
6:30PM - 8:30PM  
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL DURING THE SCHOOL TERM  
Contact SUSILO  
youth@catholicparishnp.nz

**9:00 AM**

*Confirmation Mass*

**SUNDAY, 28 JUNE 2026**  
**ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH**

Please note, this mass will be longer than usual.

JUNE

15

MON

# WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

TO 21st JUNE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8:00am St Joseph's Church

16

TUE

8:00am St Joseph's Church  
9:00am St Joseph's School (School Hall)  
9:10am Our Lady Help of Christians  
12:05pm St Joseph's Church

17

WED

8:00am St Joseph's Church  
9:10am Our Lady Help of Christians

18

THU

8:00am St Joseph's Church  
10:00am Sacred Hearts Girls College  
2:20pm Francis Douglas Memorial College

19

FRI

8:00am St Joseph's Church  
9:00am St. Pius X (Philomena Hall)  
12:05pm St Joseph's Church

20

SAT

8:30am St Joseph's Church  
5:30pm Our Lady Help of Christians (Vigil Mass)  
6:00pm St Patrick's Church Okato (Vigil Mass)

21

SUN

9:00am St Joseph's Church  
10:30am Our Lady Help of Christians  
10:30am Bell Block (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. And during Thursday 7.00pm Adoration at St Joseph's Church. Reconciliation is also available by appointment with the priests, by initially phoning the Parish Office 757 3682.

### MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Before morning Mass on Monday and Tuesday at 7.40am and Saturday 8.10am in the Parish Office McKillop Room. Please 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 St John Bosco School Library.

**St Joseph's Church: NO** Children's Liturgy 21st June as it is the school led Mass.



### LITTLE ANGELS MUSIC AND PLAY GROUP FOR PRESCHOOLERS

at Our Lady Help of Christians. Music, play and morning tea. 9.00am during the school term. For more details contact Amelia at musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz



### SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time 21 June 2026

**1ST READING:** Jermiah 20.10-13

**PSALM:** 69

**2ND READING:** Romans 5.12-15

**GOSPEL:** Mathew 10.26-33



### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH

Tuesday  
9:35am to 10:30am  
(after 9:10am Mass)  
First Sunday of the month  
3:00pm - 4:00pm

### BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE

First Friday of the month  
4.00pm - 5.00pm

### ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Every Thursday 7:00pm - 8:00pm

### HOLY HOUR

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

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

### 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 Richard

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**

### But I'm already very busy!

Jesus did not ask us to welcome strangers and love each other, but not to worry about this if we are busy. Family Group life is gospel life and we should never be too busy to live that way. Apart from that, if you are too busy you are going to miss out on a lot of fun.

### What if I've already got enough friends?

Well, maybe a group needs you! And if you do have many friends, you don't have to lose them to belong to a Family Group.

Have you ever thought what it is like for the people who are not like you and don't have many friends? What if we could create a network where everybody knew at least 10 families well? Wouldn't that be a great way for you to contribute to the parish community?

### What about the benefits to the Parish?

Family Groups promote community in the parish through the active involvement of parishioners. Experience shows many people become more actively involved in parish life as a result of belonging to a Passionist Family Group.

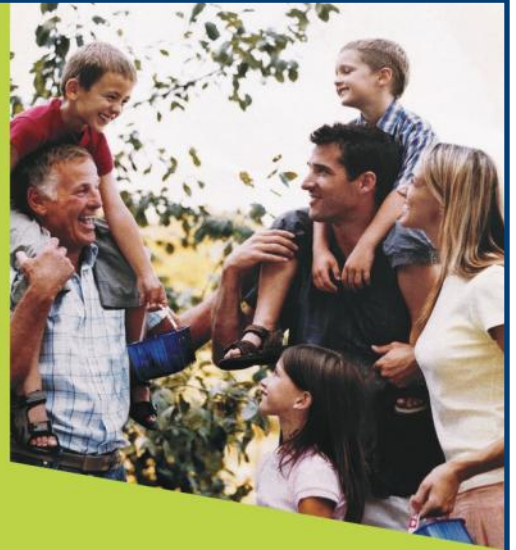
### History of the Passionist Family Group Movement

The Family Groups began in 1972 as an inspiration of Father Peter McGrath in the tiny parish of St Anthony in the Fields, Terrey Hills, an outer suburb of Sydney. Being a Passionist, Peter guided the Movement with a down-to-earth, practical and friendship based spirituality. Peter used to describe it as "a matter of the heart". As the parish grew in numbers, Peter and others set about preserving the original community spirit when people knew each other by name and shared each others joys and struggles. Other parishes wanted this same spirit and a Movement developed across Australia.

Passionist Family Groups began in Aotearoa in June 1988 through the work of Fr Brian Traynor CP and Lynn and Rob Hill from Paeroa parish and as happened in Australia, the Movement spread far and wide. Today, effective and committed leaders across each diocese still work with Fr Brian, the Advisor.

Together they provide active support, resources and spiritual formation to continue developing healthy leadership models within the Movement. Passionist Family Groups are continuing to encourage, support and guide small group community, a recognised need in the modern church. They bring a sense of fun and friendship to Christian life - a dimension too often missing in parish life.

Will you join in?



## Passionist Family Group Movement

For More Information Contact

"Matters of the Heart"



[www.passionistfamily.org.nz](http://www.passionistfamily.org.nz)



### The Family Group Movement

Have you ever asked yourself? "How could I be more involved in our parish?" Maybe you have wondered how you could get to know some of the people you see in the church?

### Changing faces into names and names into Family

Nearly everyone finds it difficult to meet new people. There is an increasing number of parishioners from overseas countries. How do they get a sense of welcome and belonging? Joining a Family Group enables parishioners to meet regularly with a small number of people in a social environment. A Family Group is a great way of helping break down barriers and really getting to know others, so that we can look out for each other and build community.

### What are the Aims of the Family Group Movement?

The Movement has a down-to-earth spirituality. We want people to feel welcomed in their parish and to have a true sense of belonging. We want members to accept and appreciate each other, to support each other in times of need and in this way assist people to live their faith in a truly practical way.

### Is it Social or Religious?

Jesus would have found this a strange distinction, but some people still ask the question. He called his followers to love one another and that's what people do in Passionist Family Groups. Many people believe that faith is 'caught' rather than 'taught' and there is a lot of 'faith catching' in Family Groups.

### Do I have to be holy?

Holiness is most obvious in the practical ways we respond to human need. Being a member of a Family Group enables you to experience true holiness, by creating an environment where people can be themselves and respond to each others' everyday needs.

### Who will be in my Family Group?

A Family Group is made up of about 10 – 12 families. Many of these will be couples or single adults. Everyone is welcome to join. Family Groups are for all.

### What happens in a Family Group?

Faces become names and names become family. Groups gather once a month (e.g. for a picnic, barbeque, pot luck shared meal, etc) to enjoy being with one another and gradually develop supportive relationships that are as strong as any true family. In the past, most groups had a cross section of ages including children. While there are still many such groups, there are also many Family Groups with senior adult members who have been together for decades and developed a true sense of family.

### What can I give to a Family Group?

Yourself! You can give your heart, your time, your friendship.

### How committed do I have to be?

A Family Group is just like a family; the members create a sense of responsibility for one another. As with all aspects of life, you reap what you sow. You will get from Family Groups what you put into Family Groups.

### What if I'm not Catholic or I am single or divorced?

The Passionist Family Group motto is "A Family for All". Family Groups provide an extended family for anyone who wishes to belong, whatever their faith tradition or whether they are married, single or divorced. Everyone is welcome to join.



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# COULD GOD BE CALLING YOU?

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A relaxed weekend of prayer, honest conversation and space to listen. You'll have time to ask real questions, meet other men discerning their vocation and encounter God without pressure.



## **THIS RETREAT IS FOR YOU IF..**

- You've wondered - even briefly - whether God is calling you
- You want space to pray and think without distraction
- You're curious about what the life of a priest actually looks like
- You have the courage to ask the question

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**FRIDAY 26 JUNE 5PM - SUNDAY 28 JUNE 3PM**  
**MAGNIFICAT RETREAT CENTRE | FEATHERSTON**

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DIOCESE OF  
PALMERSTON  
NORTH

DISCOVER MORE AND EMAIL FR TRUNG TODAY  
[pettrung89@gmail.com](mailto:pettrung89@gmail.com)

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



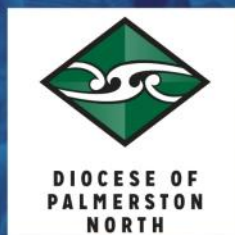
# WORLD YOUTH DAY

3 - 8 AUGUST 2027  
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

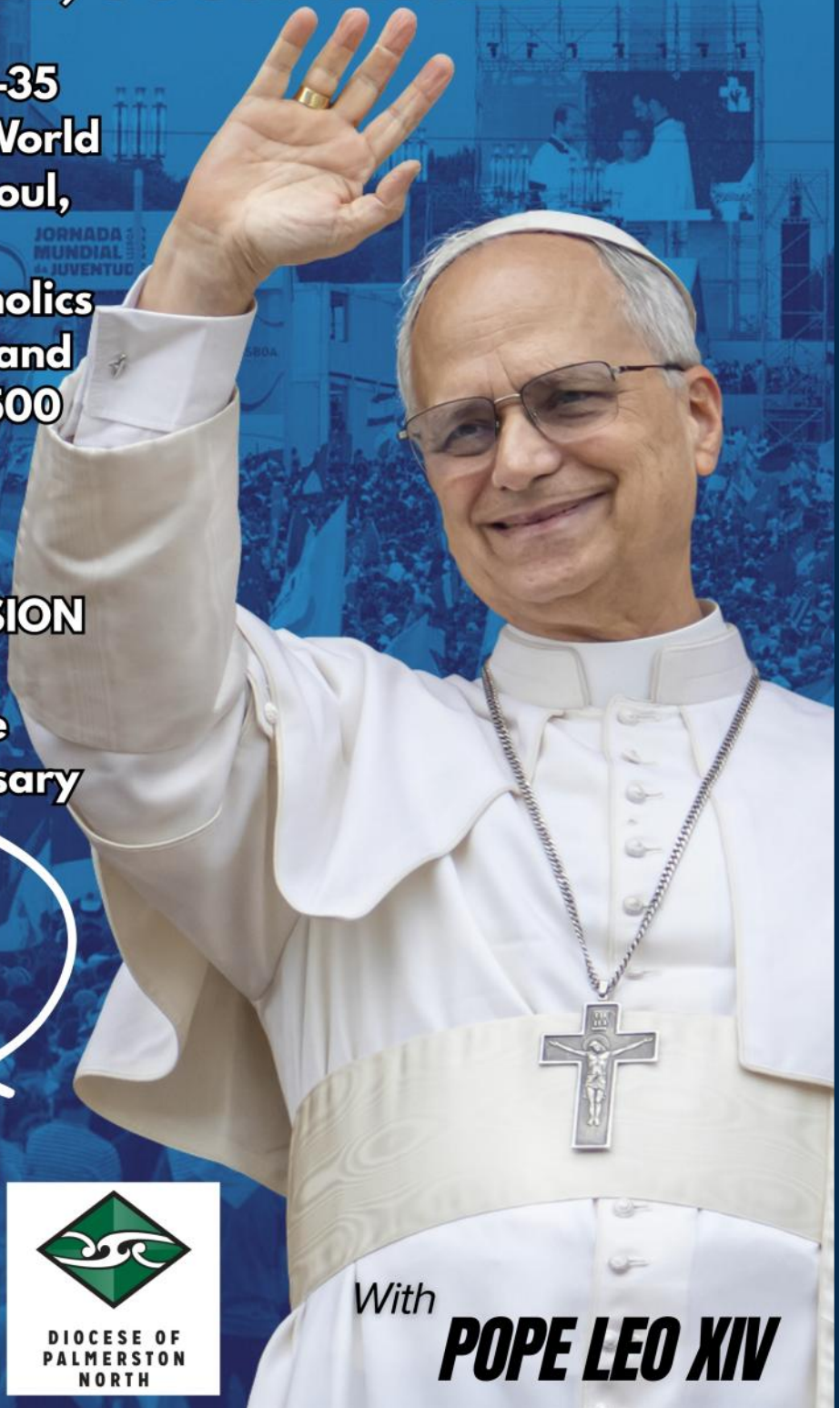
Young adults aged 18–35 are invited to attend World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, where millions of young Catholics will gather. New Zealand bishops aim to bring 500 young people.

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**



# WEEKLY DIOCESAN UPDATES

The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8 – 14 June 2026

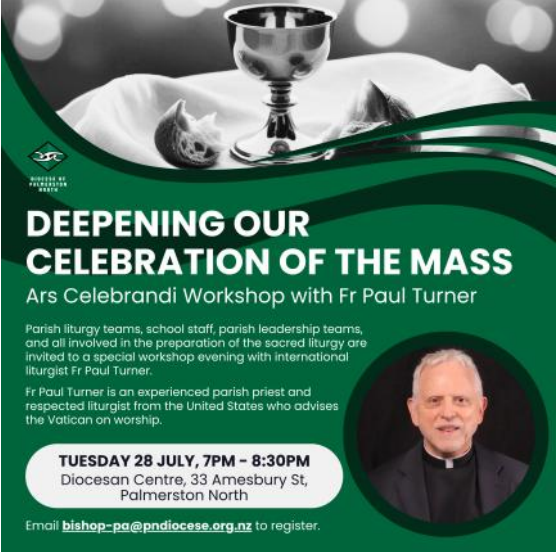
## Ars Celebrandi Workshop with Fr Paul Turner

Parish liturgy teams, school staff, parish leadership teams, and all involved in the preparation of the sacred liturgy are invited to a special workshop evening with international liturgist Fr Paul Turner. Fr Paul Turner is an experienced parish priest and respected liturgist from the United States who advises the Vatican on worship.

We're invited to deepen our love for the liturgy at the Ars Celebrandi Workshop with Fr Paul Turner. Drawing on Desiderio Desideravi, this workshop will enrich how we understand and celebrate Mass. All involved in liturgy are encouraged to attend.

Tuesday 28 July, 7 – 8:30pm | Diocesan Centre, 33 Amesbury St, Palmerston North.

Please email [bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz](mailto:bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz) to register.



**DEEPENING OUR CELEBRATION OF THE MASS**  
Ars Celebrandi Workshop with Fr Paul Turner

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**TUESDAY 28 JULY, 7PM - 8:30PM**  
Diocesan Centre, 33 Amesbury St,  
Palmerston North

Email [bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz](mailto:bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz) to register.

## New Audiobook of Pope Leo XIV's Encyclical Available

An audiobook edition of Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, is now available from Vatican News. The encyclical reflects on the dignity of the human person in the age of artificial intelligence, highlighting the need for technology to serve humanity and promote the common good.

The audiobook is presented in seven parts, including an introduction and five chapters, and is narrated by Sr Bernadette Reis with the Vatican News English team.

Listen online at

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2026-06/audiobook-of-pope-leo-xiv-s-encyclical-now-available.html>

## Enrolment for micro-credential Management of Church Organisations

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College is now accepting enrolment for the micro-credential on Management of Church Organisations. This is an online course over 6 weeks. Class starts on July 20, 2026. For more information, go to [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/churchmanagement](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/churchmanagement)

## Job Vacancy: Youth Minister – Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth is seeking a vibrant and faith-filled Youth Minister to lead and grow youth engagement in the parish.

This role involves running youth groups and events, leading the Confirmation programme, building strong relationships with local Catholic colleges, and encouraging young people to take an active part in parish life.

For the full position description contact [sl@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:sl@catholicparishnp.nz). Applications have been extended to Tuesday 16 June.



**VACANCY - YOUTH MINISTER**  
for the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

**INSPIRED TO SHAPE THE NOW AND FUTURE OF FAITH?**  
We are seeking a vibrant, faith-filled, and energetic Youth Minister to lead, inspire, and grow our young community.

Request the full advertisement and job description by emailing.  
**[sl@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:sl@catholicparishnp.nz)**

CATHOLIC PARISH OF NEW PLYMOUTH  
TE PARIKI KATORIKA KI NGAMOTU

## Billings Life Seminar

Billings Life NZ will host a two-day Natural Fertility Awareness seminar in Whanganui on June 19 and 20. The event is designed for couples using or considering the Billings Ovulation Method, health professionals or others wanting to learn more about the method, and people interested in becoming accredited Billings teachers. Find out more and register at [www.billingslife.org.nz/training-seminar](http://www.billingslife.org.nz/training-seminar)



Billings LIFE  
Leaders in Fertility Education  
A Shared Core Love is Billings  
A SERVICE OF WOODS NZ

NOOMB  
World Organisation of Ovulation Method & Billings

Billings Ovulation Method™ Natural Fertility Awareness Seminar  
Whanganui Friday 19<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Billings Ovulation Method™ is a Fertility Awareness Method used by couples to prevent or achieve pregnancy and monitor general & reproductive well-being. It does not depend on regular cycles, thermometers, kits or devices. It is highly effective if used correctly.

Attendance will benefit health professionals, natural health practitioners, interested in women's health & fertility, those wishing to become accredited Billings Teachers, those using or considering the Method, & women keen to understand and track the menstrual cycle phases.

The "Billings Ovulation Method™ Natural Fertility Awareness Seminar" activity has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZGP) and has been approved for up to 27 CME credits for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) purposes. Credit will be given for the duration of the College year.

To register or for further details, Phone 0800 693 378  
Email: [info@billingslife.org.nz](mailto:info@billingslife.org.nz)  
[www.billingslife.org.nz](http://www.billingslife.org.nz)

## Men's Vocation Retreat | 26 – 28 June

A relaxed weekend of prayer, honest conversation and space to listen. You'll have time to ask real questions, meet other men discerning their vocation and encounter God without pressure.

5pm Friday 26 – 3pm Sunday 28 June, Magnificat Retreat Centre, Featherston.

Contact Fr Trung to register: [pettrung89@gmail.com](mailto:pettrung89@gmail.com)



COULD GOD BE CALLING YOU?

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THIS RETREAT IS FOR YOU IF...

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FRIDAY 26 JUNE 5PM - SUNDAY 28 JUNE 3PM  
MAGNIFICAT RETREAT CENTRE | FEATHERSTON

DISCOVER MORE AND EMAIL FR TRUNG TODAY  
[pettrung89@gmail.com](mailto:pettrung89@gmail.com)

## St Joseph's School New Plymouth Centenary | 23 -25 October 2026

St Joseph's Catholic School invites former students, staff, and families to attend this significant milestone. The event will take place Friday 23 – Sunday 25 October.

Those interested are asked to register at St Joseph's School New Plymouth Centenary Registration: Labour Weekend 2026


Follow the official Centenary Facebook page for more information and updates: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576850039718>



## Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship – 40th Anniversary

The Joshua Catholic Men's Fellowship will hold its 40th anniversary celebration on 14–16 August.

Further information and registration details are available at <https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua>





JOSHUA 40  
CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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 Lobb 021 280 9285  
Greg Sullivan 021 437 747

SPACES ARE LIMITED  
BOOK IN EARLY TO PREVENT  
DISAPPOINTMENT!  
SCAN THE QR CODE





## ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

*LAUDATO SI'*

**"Praise be to you, my Lord."**

"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord." These are the words that open Pope Francis' encyclical on ecology and care for God's creation. These words, quoting St. Francis of Assisi's beautiful canticle, remind us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* was released in June 2015. Five years later, in 2020, Pope Francis invited all Catholics and people of good will to celebrate its fifth anniversary by protecting families and future generations through action to care for our common home. Here are themes that Pope Francis highlighted in *Laudato Si'* which require our urgent response today.

- **A Moral and Spiritual Challenge.** The ecological crisis, Pope Francis writes, is a summons to profound interior conversion – to renew our relationships with God, one another, and the created world.
- **Care for God's Creation.** God created the world and entrusted it to us as a gift. Now we have the responsibility to care for and protect it and all people, who are part of creation. Protecting human dignity is strongly linked to care for creation.
- **We are All Connected.** We are connected to the rest of the human family, to the created world, and to those who will come after us in future generations.
- **Impact on the Poor.** People in poverty have contributed least to climate change, yet they are disproportionately impacted by it. As a result of excessive use of natural resource by wealthy nations, those who are poor experience pollution, lack of access to clean water, hunger, and more.
- **Called to Solidarity.** We are one human family and have a shared responsibility for others and for creation. Wealthy countries have a responsibility to reduce consumption of non-renewal resources and should help poorer nations develop in sustainable ways.
- **Technological and economic development must serve human beings and enhance human dignity, instead of creating an economy of exclusion, so that all people have access to what is needed for authentic human development.**
- **Supporting Life, Protecting Creation.** Concern for nature is incompatible with failure to protect vulnerable human beings, such as unborn children, people with disabilities, or victims of human trafficking.
- **A Time to Act.** Pope Francis calls for a change in lifestyle and consumption. We can make important changes as individuals, families, and communities, and as civil and political leaders.
- **Hope and Joy.** "Injustice is not invincible" (no. 74) and we act knowing that we seek to live out God's vision of renewed relationships with God, ourselves, one another, and creation.

## How You Can Respond

Each of us are called to take concrete steps – from reducing consumption to working for political change – to better care for creation. Here are some ideas.

1. **Become more aware of our connectedness.** Care for one another and creation includes understanding that “everything is connected” (no. 91) and that the economy, politics, community involvement, and technology all affect the future of the planet and humankind. How can we become more aware of our connectedness?

**Changes to lifestyle and consumption habits can make a big difference.** For example, get a re-usable water bottle, take shorter showers, walk, bike or take public transportation instead of driving, recycle, compost food waste, and buy energy efficient appliances.

1. **Make changes institutionally at your parish, school, or workplace.** For example, start recycling and composting, use washable dinnerware in cafeterias, share electronically instead of printing, do an energy audit, and install solar panels.
2. **Support local efforts to solve environmental problems.** Community groups around the country are working to make city, county, and state-wide changes that can make a big difference. Find out what is going on locally and get involved.
3. Contact your members of Congress to share Pope Francis’ message and urge action to address climate change.

## Prayer

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,  
teach us to contemplate you  
in the beauty of the universe,  
for all things speak of you.  
Awaken our praise and thankfulness  
for every being that you have made.  
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined  
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good,  
advance the weak, and care for this world in  
which we live.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you!  
Amen.

Excerpted from “A Christian prayer in union with creation,” in  
Laudato Si’, no. 246

## For More Information

- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops webpage on Environment and Environmental Justice ([www.usccb.org/environment](http://www.usccb.org/environment))

Catholic Climate Covenant ([www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org))

# Pilgrimage with Mary, Queen of Peace



"Thank you  
for having responded to my call "

## Pilgrimage to Rome, Loreto, Medjugorje, Assisi and Orvieto

(accompanied by Fr. James Walsh  
as spiritual guide)

**September 6th - 16th, 2026**

Our pilgrimage begins and ends in **Rome** where you can explore the Eternal City. In **Loreto**, we will visit the Holy House of the Annunciation, reflecting on the mystery of the Incarnation.

From there, we journey to **Medjugorje** celebrating Our Lady's birthday and the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

In **Assisi**, we will be walking in the footsteps of Saint Francis in this **Jubilee Year**, commemorating the 800th anniversary of his death.

Our last stop is in **Orvieto**, celebrating Holy Mass in the church of the Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena.

**Estimated Cost of Pilgrimage: \$1460**

(excluding airfares which are the responsibility of pilgrims, according to individual needs and preferences)

Includes:

- transportation (charter bus + overnight ferry with a cabin)
- accommodation with meals throughout the **11-day pilgrimage**.
- basic health insurance

**NB:** The earliest possible return departure from Rome is 17 September, with optional extensions to other pilgrimage sites in Italy or Europe, e.g. San Giovanni Rotondo (Saint Padre Pio)



For more information & registration contact

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