



Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth
Te Parihi Katorika Ki Ngamotu

14 December 2025 Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday



Important Dates

Monday 15th and 22nd December

Our Lady Help of Christians
Advent Reflections with
the Social Justice Group.
7.00pm

Wednesday December 17th

St Joseph's Church hall
Joy to the World
A Christmas Concert
10.00am to 12.00noon

Friday 19 December

Rite 1 Reconciliation
St Joseph's Church
5.00pm to 7.00pm
(Several priest will be
seated around the church
for individual confession)

RECONCILIATION ON SATURDAY DURING ADVENT

St Joseph's Church
Each Saturday 11.30am
to 12 noon

Our Lady Help of
Christians each
Saturday 4.45pm to
5.15pm prior to Mass.

St Patrick's Okato
Saturday 13 and 20
December 5.15pm -
5.45pm, prior to Mass.

Bell Block Catholic
Mass Centre Saturday
20 December 9.00am
to 10.00am

And
St Joseph's Church
Friday 19 December
5.00pm to 7.00pm

Simbang Gabi 2025

A FILIPINO CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth and
Couples for Christ Taranaki warmly invite
you to a 9-day Novena Mass in preparation
for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Schedule:

Monday 15 Dec — 7:00 PM
Tuesday 16 Dec — 7:00 PM
Wednesday 17 Dec — 7:00 PM
Thursday 18 Dec — 7:00 PM
Friday 19 Dec — 7:00 PM
Saturday 20 Dec — 7:00 PM
Sunday 21 Dec — 5:30 PM
Monday 22 Dec — 7:00 PM
Tuesday 23 Dec — 7:00 PM

Venue:

St Joseph's Church, New Plymouth

SIMBANG GABI is a Christmas tradition of a series or novena of nine Masses on the nine days leading up to Christmas. This will begin at St Joseph's Church Monday 15 December hosted by the C FC community. See the poster above for the Mass times. Come join in this celebration. You will be welcome.

GENERAL NOTICES

CATHOLIC PARISH OF NEW PLYMOUTH
INVITES YOU TO A

JOY TO THE WORLD

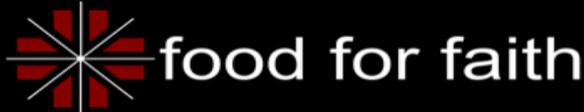
A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Join us for a morning filled with fun, carols, festive delights and Christmas crafting for children.

DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY **17** 10 AM - 12 PM

St. Joseph's Church Hall
151 Devon Street West, New Plymouth



FOOD FOR FAITH ADVENT: For daily readings, podcasts, prayer requests and Advent encouragements go to Food For Faith. Sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz to prepare for Christmas by receiving daily email encouragements with Fr John O'Connor.

You are welcome to join us at Stumble Inn, 200 Mangorei Road at 1.30pm Thursday 18th December for tea or coffee and sharing and reflecting on the Advent themes from the Food For Faith messages. All welcome. Just look for the orange F.F.F. sign on a table. Any questions to Joan 021 1100 775.

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:

The winners of the CWL Raffle were Wendy Mulligan and Mike Rush. Congratulations to the winners! CWL would like to thank all those who supported the raffle and all those who donated prizes. This makes a big difference in what CWL can do for those they support.

The League would also like to thank all those who have offered support over the last year. Coming to Bingo, being part of First Friday Lunch, buying at the CWL stalls, taking raffle tickets and just being there. Your part makes such a difference.



JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP:

In the coming four weeks, we prepare with mounting expectation for the coming of Christ in a spirit of waiting, conversion and hope.

Our weekly Advent reflections will journey through the four weeks of Advent. Each week, one of the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love will be explored, through quotes, scripture, reflections, music, and prayer.

This week our Caritas Advent Reflection service focuses on "JOY". We will begin with this quote from Pope Francis.

"Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of Hope."

Pope Francis, Laudato Si n244 May 2015

Come to Our Lady Help of Christians Church 24 Clinton Street Fitzroy 7.00pm to 7.30pm Monday 15th December. Join with the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth Peace and Justice group to see, hear, reflect on, and pray about this message and the scriptures for the week. Our St Anthony of Parduia choir are helping with the singing. All Welcome. Supper will follow the service.



The Jubilee for Prisoners. This Sunday after Mass, you are invited to collect a bookmark with a cell number from one of the 3 prisons in our diocese and pray for the person in that cell.

Hopefully the bookmarks will arrive in time, but if they aren't available they will be here next Sunday.

We also invite you to pray for our prison chaplains who minister to those in prison. Let us recall anew this Sunday of Advent, the joy the free gifts or mercy and love that God extends to us all. We pause to ponder again how much we both require and desire the grace of God to abound in us, so we are free from those things that hold us back from the realisation of our full dignity and freedom. Read reflections from our prison chaplains here - [Seeing Christ in Prison: Voices from Our Chaplains - Tūmanako](#)

There is a prisoner in Rimutaka prison who would like a penpal. He was almost baptised but didn't quite get there. If you are an adult who would be interested, please contact Fr Simon at simon@catholicparishnp.nz

There are safeguarding issues to be aware of.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

ANOINTING MASS 10.00am Thursday 18 December

9.00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS .

We really need someone to look after the data projector. Who can help us? If you will be at this Mass 9.00am Christmas Day, you are invited to offer help with any of the ministries especially the data projector. Please contact Helen 027 787 0776 if you can assist.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Please pick up your Parish Christmas card from the foyer today. Take one as well please, for your relations, friends, neighbours, and anyone who you think may welcome a card. The Christmas and January Mass times are in the card.

SUNDAY MISSALS FOR YEAR C: Our supplier Pleroma, reports that delivery of these missals is delayed in USA. The missals should be in the office mid January.

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO DRESS UP FOR CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES:

Will you be at 9.00am Mass at St Joseph's or Our Lady Help of Christians on Christmas Day, or Mass at Bell Block with carols at 10.15am and then Mass? If so we invite children to dress as an angel, or a shepherd or a king. The Priests need to have shepherds and angels and kings to help them with the homily. Can you help? If you have any queries, please just call us in the Parish Office 06 757 3682 or email office@catholicparishnp.nz.



If you would like to volunteer to be Mary or Joseph during the homily at any of these Christmas morning Masses, please contact the Parish Office.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK:

Ministers, we have our traditional Christmas treat packs in the foyers to be taken to those you visit, today or Sunday 21 December. We thank the students of St John Bosco School and Sacred Heart Girls College for the heart warming cards they have created to be taken as well. We thank too, the very, very generous donors of the fruit mince pies, Yarrows, the Bakers.



Rethinking Foil, Creating Hope

The Chip Packet Project collects and recycles chip packets, transforming them into survival blankets to help those who need it most. These Thermal Survival Blankets are proven to make a difference to the homeless, to those in need and to those who have suffered a natural disaster.



Help the Environment – rethinking foil as a reusable resource and saving years in landfill. Every foil lined packet that goes into the bin can take up to 80yrs to decompose. By rethinking foil as a reusable resource, it can be transformed, with a little aroha, by a team of volunteers to make amazing thermal products (like blankets) that may help protect a life.

Thank you to those who have been opening their chippie packets flat and washing and drying them ready to be processed and dropping them into the box in the church foyer.

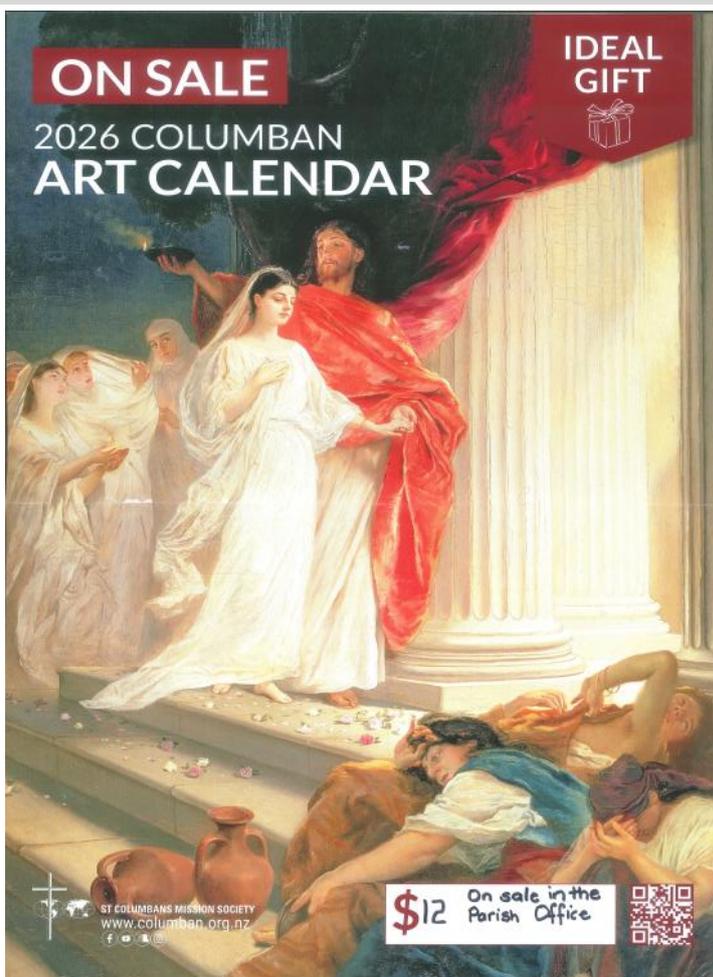
Unfortunately, many packets are just being dropped in whole and dirty. It only takes a minute to cut the packet open flat, and wash and dry it before you drop it into the box. It is taking our volunteers hours to open and wash hundreds at a time. Thank you for your help with this.

PAYWAVE MACHINE: At last we have a replacement paywave machine in the church foyer. It is in the wooden stand near the inside doors at St Joseph's church. This machine can be used to make an easy and swift donation to the church. Simply swipe, or tap or slot in your credit or debit card or your eftpos card, select the amount you wish to donate (\$5, \$10, \$20 or select another amount), and press enter. So easy. If you have any queries please contact



Cynthia in the Parish Office
accounts@catholicparishnp.nz

Beautiful soaps from Soap for HOPE are available from the Parish Office for \$5. These soaps are lovingly made as a fundraiser for Gabby's Starlit HOPE. Proceeds from the sale of these soaps enable Gabby's Starlit HOPE to make acts of kindness to support children in hospital and their families. These soaps make a lovely gift.



For sale in the Parish Office, and possibly in the church foyers at some weekend Masses, Columban calendars. It has been a long time tradition in Catholic homes, to have a Columban calendar. Wonderful art calendars, featuring religious masterpieces. See at a glance, Lent, Easter, the dates of the major feast days. At \$12.00, this could be a simple gift for a loved one.

BE STILL & KNOW THAT I AM GOD
LENTEN SEMINAR ON CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER
&

Ignatian Spirituality. Conducted by Fr Alan Roberts.

During the season of Lent, a four week seminar on contemplative prayer will be held each **Wednesday at 10.30 a.m. and Thursday at 7.15 p.m.**, conducted by Fr Alan Roberts. The seminar covers topics such as managing silence in prayer & praying with scripture. It will also include an introduction to Ignatian Spirituality. You choose just one of the sessions. At the conclusion of the seminar the offer will be made of working through the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius in daily life.

Fr Roberts is now resident in New Plymouth. He has been involved in Ignatian Spirituality and encouraging deeper forms of prayer since 1977. He spent 5 years as spiritual director (2012-17) at our national seminary. Some of his writings on contemplative prayer can be found on www.pukekaraka.com

The programme will be as follows: **Wednesday:** February 25 and March 4, 11, 18 at 10.30 a.m.

Thursday: February 26 and March 5, 12, 18 at 7.15 p.m.

Please register if attending: office@catholicparishnp.nz or ph: (06) 757 3682 and indicate preferred session.

Venue: St Joseph's Church: Powderham St.

LITURGICAL POSTURE:

The Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North is embarking on a discussion about liturgical posture, with a focus on the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass. We know that as Catholics we pray with our bodies. If we are standing or kneeling, sitting or bowing, seeing, hearing or touching, all of these actions have significance in our prayer, particularly at Mass.

Bishop John is inviting every parish to take part in a diocesan-wide process of reflection on the significance of our bodily posture during the liturgy – particularly during the Eucharistic Prayer. The Council of Priests of the diocese has asked Bishop John to decide how we, as a diocese, might adopt a common posture, and our participation in these discussions is an important part of that discernment.

Bishop John's presentation on this topic can be watched on You Tube using this link (press control also if necessary)

<https://cathnewsnz.com/2025/12/09/palmerston-north-diocese-to-discuss-liturgical-posture/>

The transcript of the You Tube video is on the following page of this newsletter.

Hard copies of the transcript are available in the church foyer.

See also [CathNews 9th December 2025](#)

As outlined in the message, Bishop John is inviting every parish and every parishioner, to take part in a diocesan-wide process of reflection on the significance of our bodily posture during the liturgy.

Following these discussions, Bishop John is asking for feedback from individuals or parish groups to assist him in reaching a well-informed and pastorally sensitive final decision for the diocese.

Feedback can be sent to bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz, or in writing to Bishop's Office, P O Box 5279, Terrace End, Palmerston North 4441, by Wednesday, 18 February 2026.

CHRISTMAS DAY SPECIAL COLLECTION:

We are deeply grateful to all parishioners who have supported the Christmas Dues/Offerings Special Collection in the past. Your kindness helps sustain the Clergy Trust Fund, which cares for and supports the priests who serve our Diocese throughout the year. How You Can Share the Joy:

- Use the planned giving envelope marked for Christmas Day.
- Pick up a specially marked Christmas envelope in the church foyer.
- Or make a direct credit to the parish bank account 02 0630 0288002 03 The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth (include your name as payee and "Dues" as reference).

Next week we will have Christmas Special Collection envelopes attached to the newsletter.

Your generosity ensures our clergy can continue their ministry in our community. May the light of Christ fill your home with peace, joy, and love this Christmas! Monsignor Brian Walsh (Chairman, Clergy Trust Fund)

Bishop John Adam's Transcript on Posture - Dec 2025.

Hello everyone, and thank you for your time today and your willingness to engage with this rather complex issue before us as a diocese: liturgical posture. I'm addressing this not out of personal urgency, but because many have expressed concern that we lack a sense of unity during Mass. This particularly relates to kneeling—what the Church asks of us? What has been our diocesan practice? And what a more universal approach might look like.

Here's the situation: in our diocese, some people kneel during the Eucharistic Prayer, while others stand. And of course, if space is limited or you're unable to kneel, sitting is an option—though the least desirable one. So, why this variation? Historically, our diocese has favoured standing for the Eucharistic Prayer, and that is indeed correct: the proper posture for the Eucharistic Prayer is standing. However, the Church is equally clear—this is stated in paragraph 43 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*— that during the consecration, we ought to kneel. That's crystal clear. I encourage you to read and investigate this for yourselves.

So, what should we do? One thing is certain: we should strive for a common posture that expresses unity. Our bodies matter in worship. We don't just come, sit, and leave; our faith is lived physically. Praying with our bodies has always been part of the Catholic way, and posture is important.

Historically, if we look back to the Council of Nicaea, it suggests standing for the entire Eucharistic Prayer. But the Catholic way has never been to simply adopt past practices as the norm for today. The Church develops doctrine. While kneeling once symbolized subservience, it now signifies worship and adoration—essential attitudes when we come to Mass.

What am I asking of you? Please read about this issue, and if you're in parish groups, even better—discuss it together. That synodal process will be helpful. Share your thoughts with me. Ultimately, I will make a determination, but only after hearing from you. Should we maintain our tradition of standing for the entire Eucharistic Prayer? Or should we adopt the practice common in other dioceses in New Zealand, Australia, and much of the Western world: kneeling for the consecration?

There's another question: if we kneel, when do we stand? Personally, I believe we should stand for the Great Amen, which makes the timing of standing after kneeling significant.

Two further points to consider:

First, the word *indult*—a permission granted for certain liturgical actions not in the original instruction. One such indult allows kneeling from the "Holy, Holy" through to the Great Amen, rather than just during the consecration. We could choose to follow this or kneel for a shorter time.

Second, kneeling is deeply biblical. Jesus knelt to pray to the Father, and many fell to their knees before Him. So don't assume standing is the only biblical posture when encountering the risen Christ—which is precisely what happens at Mass. At the consecration, Christ is present on the altar—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. What should be our bodily response to that reality?

I invite you to reflect, read, pray, and discuss this issue individually or in groups. Please share your thoughts with me through the bishop's office here in Palmerston North, by emailing bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz or in writing to Bishop's Office, P O Box 5279, Terrace End, Palmerston North 4441, by Wednesday, 18 February 2026.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2025

BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE:

CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENING Christmas Carols Evening Bell Block Catholic Centre Sunday 14 December 5.00pm to 6.00pm followed by a finger food tea. Children and adults will be acting the Christmas story which will be interspersed with multicultural Christmas carols. Everyone is most welcome at this celebration.

RITE 1 RECONCILIATION Saturday 20 December 9.00am to 10.00am Bell Block Catholic Centre.

ADVENT: JUSTICE AND PEACE: In the coming four weeks, we prepare with mounting expectation for the coming of Christ in a spirit of waiting, conversion and hope.

Join us at Our Lady Help of Christians church every Monday in December before Christmas, from 7.00pm to 7.30pm to prepare for Christmas, using the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love.



ANOINTING MASSES:

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH : Thursday 18 December 10.00am



RITE 1 RECONCILIATION

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH	ST JOSEPHS CHURCH EVENING	OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
<p>Saturday 6, 13 and 20 December 11.30am to 12.00 noon</p> <p>Tuesday 16 and 23 December- 11.00am to 11.45am before 12.05pm Mass</p> <p>Friday 12th and 19th December 11.00am to 11.45am before 12.05pm Mass</p> <p>Every Thursday during 7.00pm Adoration</p>	<p>Friday 19 December 5.00pm to 7.00pm</p> <p>RITE 1 RECONCILIATION: Several priests will be available sitting throughout the church for Rite 1 Reconciliation .</p> <p>ST PATRICK'S CHURCH OKATO</p> <p>Saturday 13 & 20 December– 5.15pm to 5.45pm prior to the Vigil Mass at 6.00pm</p> <p>BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE</p> <p>Saturday 20 December 9.00am to 10.00am</p>	<p>Each Saturday 4.45pm to 5.15pm before Vigil Mass at 5.30pm</p> <p>Tuesday 16 and 23 December after Mass 9.40am to 10.30am</p> <p>Wednesday 17 and 24 December after Mass 9.40am to 10.00am</p>



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH	OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS	ST PATRICK'S OKATO	BELL BLOCK MASS CENTRE
<p>106 Powderham St New Plymouth</p>	<p>Clinton Street Fitzroy New Plymouth</p>	<p>36 Cumming Street Okato</p>	<p>138 Parklands Ave Bell Block</p>
<p>Wednesday 24 December - VIGIL MASS</p> <p>Carols - 7.30pm Mass - 8.00pm</p> <p>MIDNIGHT MASS</p> <p>Carols 11.30pm Mass 12.00am</p>	<p>Wednesday 24 December VIGIL MASS</p> <p>Carols - 6.30pm Mass - 7.00pm</p>	<p>Wednesday 24 December VIGIL MASS</p> <p>Carols - 6.45pm Mass- 7.00pm</p>	
<p>Thursday 25 December Mass 9.00am</p>	<p>Thursday 25 December Mass 9.00am</p>		<p>Thursday 25 December - Mass Carols - 10.15am Mass - 10.30am</p>

Each year more than 2,000 New Zealanders will suffer a cardiac arrest outside of hospital. Use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) within 3-5 minutes of someone collapsing can increase their chance of survival by up to 44%.

An AED works by delivering a short, powerful electric shock to the heart, helping the heart to regain its natural rhythm. Modern AEDs, such as the Heartstart model (pictured right purchased at about \$3,000.00) are easy to use and come with step-by-step voice prompts so anyone can follow the correct procedure – you don't need to be a medical professional but you could save someone's life.



The parish is seeking a parishioner (or parishioners) to sponsor the purchase of such a device for St Joseph's church. We also welcome parishioners who would be willing to sponsor the purchase of defibrillators for Bell Block Catholic Centre and St Patrick's Church Okato. A defibrillator in St John Bosco school is already available for Our Lady Help of Christians Church.

YOUTH GROUP

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

SHINE

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP FOR YEARS 4 TO 8
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

ILLUMINO

YOUTH GROUP FOR YEARS 9 -13
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

ATTENTION

SAVE THE DATE

Guess what? Youth Group is making a comeback on Sunday, 7 February 2026, at the usual time and hangout spot!

ANNOUNCEMENT

Illumin8 is taking a summer break from 8 December 2025, to 6 February 2026. But don't worry! The Youth Group will be back in action on Sunday, 7 February 2026, at the same time and same place!

IN BETWEEN, SAVE THESE DATES!

- **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**
Wednesday, 17 December 2025; 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at St Joseph's Hall!
- **CHRISTMAS CAROL & MIDNIGHT MASS (YOUTH)**
Wednesday, 24 December 2025. Carol starts at 11:30 PM and Mass at 12:00 AM (We're on duty!)
- **DAY ON THE FARM - JOYCE'S FARM**
Tuesday, 6 January 2026, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE

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

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

PRAYER MINISTRY

will be available after Mass this **SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER**

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

CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENING

Christmas Carols Evening Bell Block Catholic Centre Sunday 14 December 5.00pm to 6.00pm followed by a finger food tea. Children and adults will be acting the Christmas story, which will be interspersed with multi-cultural Christmas carols.

Everyone is welcome to come to the Bell Block Catholic Centre 138 Parklands Ave, next to the Fred Tucker Hall.



Pictured above the Prayer Ministry Team. Let a few of the team pray for you and with you after Mass on Sunday 14th December. Let the power of prayer surround you and embrace you.

ADORATION:

As the end of the year approaches, we have changes to our Adoration times.

At Our Lady Help of Christians 24 hour Adoration, on Friday 12 December is the final Adoration until the usual programme resumes Sunday 1 February 2026.

At St Joseph's Church Thursday 11 December is the final time of 7.00pm Thursday Adoration for the year. Adoration resumes the first week in February 2026.

At Bell Block Catholic Centre Adoration resumes Friday 6 February.

We pray for our deceased family and friends: Harry Goodin, Rosie Marie (Mary) Steiner, Marie Steiner-Cole, Eddie Steiner (Snr), Katie Steiner, Eddie Steiner (Jnr), Joe Fohn, Freda Fohn, Joey Fohn, Kath and Mick Dudley, Wally Dudley, Mike Dudley, Terry Dudley, Graham Dudley, Margaret Muir, Doreen Bright, Michael Barrett, Mark Richards and Monica Beagle.

DEC

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

**15
MON**

8.00am St Joseph's Church

**16
TUES**

8.00am St Joseph's Church
9.10am Our Lady Help of Christians Church
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 Our Lady Help of Christians Anointing Mass
Mass at Sacred Heart Girls College has finished for the year
Mass at Francis Douglas Memorial College has finished for the year

**19
FRI**

8.00am St Joseph's Church
12.05pm St Joseph's Church

**20
SAT**

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

**21
SUN**

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. And during Thursday Adoration at St Joseph's Church 7.00pm. Reconciliation is also available by appointment with the priests, phone the Parish Office (06) 757 3682.

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Before morning Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Friday 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. No Children's liturgy 28 December 2025.



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 for 2026 please contact Amelia at musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz



QUITE YOUR HEART - Music with Kadisha will resume in 2026



SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Fourth Sunday of Advent 21 December

1ST READING: Isaiah 7.10-14

PSALM: 24

2ND READING: Romans 1.1-7

GOSPEL: Matthew 1.18-24

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:

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

FOLLOW US For updates on parish, diocese, and national events.

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth



**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

**EUCCHARISTIC
ADORATION**

STRATEGIC LEADER Giniya
sl@catholicparishnp.nz

FINANCE OFFICER Cynthia
accounts@catholicparishnp.nz

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION Ireen
office@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

WEEKLY DIOCESAN UPDATES

for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

8 – 14 December 2025

Dwell Advent Series | Third Week of Advent

The Dwell Advent Journey continues. Week 3, Gaudete Sunday, invites us to notice the quiet joy that rises from recognising God's goodness in our lives, following Mary, whose Magnificat overflowed with gratitude.

How might you open your heart to the quiet joy God wants to give you?

May this season draw each of us closer to Christ. Download the pdf at <https://tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Dwell-Third-Week-of-Advent.pdf>

Rite of Election and Enrolment of Names | Save the Date

Bishop John invites all members of the Diocese of Palmerston North to this important event. Sunday, 22 Feb 2026, 12:30pm at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

Please RSVP to Donna Brown, Sacraments & Evangelisation Coordinator, by Friday 13 Feb 2026.

Catholic Enquiry Centre – Three Part-Time Roles

The Catholic Enquiry Centre (an agency of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference) is expanding its digital outreach in 2026 and is seeking passionate, faith-filled people to join the team:

- Digital Ministry Specialist (Content & Platform) – oversee CEC's website and social media, creating content that helps people explore faith.
- Digital Ministry Specialist (Media Production) – create short videos, testimonies, and reels introducing Catholic faith and traditions.
- Resource & Enquiry Support Officer – respond to enquirers and coordinate the dispatch of printed resources across Aotearoa.

All roles are part-time (0.4 FTE) and may be remote or Wellington-based. Expressions of interest to carly@catholicenquiry.nz by Friday 9 January 2026. Roles may be filled sooner for the right candidates.

Catholic Diocese of Christchurch: Chief Finance Officer

The Christchurch Diocese is looking to recruit a Chief Finance Officer (CFO) to lead a passionate and committed team and be a key strategic partner in shaping the future of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch. For a full Candidate Brief please email applications@cdoc.nz To apply, click on the following link <https://www.seek.co.nz/CFO-jobs/in-Christchurch-Central-Canterbury?jobId=89003868&type=promoted> or attach your cover letter and CV to applications@cdoc.nz with 'Chief Financial Officer Job Application' in the subject line.

Applications close 11.59pm Thursday 15 January 2026. For more information please phone Annette Pugh on 03 378 3647.

ACAY Missions Philippines | Guest Speakers Event

An event hosted by ACAY Missions Philippines will feature guest speakers Sr. Rachel Luxford, Program Manager of the School of Life, and Angelane, a participant in the program. The presentation will provide insights into the mission's work supporting young women in the Philippines and the impact of its rehabilitation and empowerment initiatives.

Sunday, 11 January 2026, 12:30 PM in the Diocesan Manawatū Conference Rooms, 33 Amesbury Street, Palmerston North.

A stall will also be available showcasing handicrafts made by girls in the program, with opportunities to support through purchases or sponsorship.

Catholic Mass Times App

As we approach the Christmas season, many individuals who do not regularly attend Mass, or those visiting family around the country, will be searching online for Christmas Mass times and locations.

One of the most common platforms people use is the Catholic Mass Times app. Travellers, seekers, and returning Catholics find this a quick and convenient way to find the nearest parish.

The app is free to download and update via Apple and Android app stores, or at <https://catholicmasstimes.com/>

GOSPEL REFLECTION BOOKS: The Gospel Reflection books from 30 November to 26 April 2026 are available in the foyers today. The cover is bright pink, Please take a copy. These will be useful for preparing for Mass, and for the Special Ministers to the Sick.



Christmas Dues Special Collection

We are deeply grateful to all parishioners who have supported the Christmas Dues/ Offerings Special Collection in the past. Your kindness helps sustain the Clergy Trust Fund, which cares for and supports the priests who serve our Diocese throughout the year.

How You Can Share the Joy:

- Use the planned giving envelope marked for Christmas Day.
- Pick up a specially marked Christmas envelope in the church foyer.
- Or make a direct credit to the parish bank account 02 0630 0288002 03 The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth (include your name as payee and “Dues” as reference).

Your generosity ensures our clergy can continue their ministry in our community. May the light of Christ fill your home with peace, joy, and love this Christmas!

Monsignor Brian Walsh (Chairman, Clergy Trust Fund)

Scripture Focus this Advent | Living the Word

You are invited to prepare for Sunday Mass by reading and reflecting on the Scripture we will hear that weekend. Marist priest Fr Frank Bird has for several years been helping people make those preparations through his Living the Word project. As the name suggests, Living the Word is an invitation for Catholics and others to allow the Word of God to shape their lives. You can download the resources, and access other rich content, at

www.livingtheword.org.nz/pray

Food For Faith for Advent 2025

Daily reflections for those seeking greater maturity of Christian Faith in preparation for Christmas. Sign up to receive daily emails during Advent at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

Catholic Kiwi Podcast

Six episodes of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference’s new podcast series have now been released, sharing stories of faith, ministry and mission of Kiwis and visitors to our shores. Guests in the opening episodes include Carmelite Sister Lauren of the Cross, broadcaster and policy expert Tim Wilson and Wellington Archbishop Paul Martin SM. More episodes will be released before Christmas to complete season 1, with season 2 set for 2026. Search “Catholic Kiwi Podcast” on YouTube or Spotify now.