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

15th March 2026 Fourth Sunday Of Lent

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION IS CLOSING IN ONE WEEK

Are you ready to deepen your faith?

If you're 15+ or in year 11, 12 or 13 and have been Baptised and received your first Holy Communion, this Confirmation Programme is designed for YOU!

Discover the joy of exploring your faith in a fun and engaging way, surrounded by your friends.

Talk with your parents and register NOW!

PARISHIONERS!

If you know anyone aged 15+ or in year 11, 12 or 13 who attends a non-Catholic school and is homeschooled, let them in on this amazing programme! This is a fantastic opportunity, and we want them to be a part of it.

Help us spread the word and invite them to register - let's share this good news together!

PARENTS OF CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES 2026!

We are happy to invite all parents to an important event about supporting your child on their confirmation journey!

Join us for the Parents' Information Evening, "EMPOWERING PARENTS," on Wednesday, 25 March 2026, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at St Joseph's Church Hall.

We need you to attend, as this evening will provide you with useful insights and tools to support your child. If you can't make it, please let me know by email at youth@catholicparishnp.nz.

We look forward to seeing you there and empowering each other!

Susilo Kentjana **Youth Minister**

Important Dates

ADORATION
Thursday Evenings
St Joseph's Church
7.00pm
Tuesdays at OLHC
(after 9:10am Mass)

Anointing Mass at Bell Block Catholic Centre
21st March, 9.30am

AV Gospel Encounter Meetings
Every Wednesday,
7:00pm to 8:15pm,
Our Lady Help of Christians foyer

EMPOWERING PARENTS SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PARENT INFORMATION
Wednesday 25 March
6.30pm
St Joseph's Church Hall
See page 3

LENT RECONCILIATION TIMES
Tuesday 17th March
OLHC, Fitzroy
9:40am to 10:30am
(During Adoration)
Wednesday 18th March
OLHC Fitzroy
9:40am to 10:30 am
(After 9:10 am Mass)
20th March Friday
11:00am to 12pm
(Before 12:05pm Mass)
and 5:00pm to 7:00pm
at St. Joseph's Church.
Saturdays 11.30am to
12 noon at
St Joseph's Church
OR 4.30pm to 5.15pm at
OLHC prior to the 5.30pm
Vigil Mass. And during
Thursday
Adoration at St Joseph's
Church 7.00pm.

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

food for faith

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Each Friday during Lent beginning 20th February, at 5:30pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Fitzroy.
Also, the Syro-Malabar Community Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at St. Joseph's Church at 7:00pm in Malayalam language.

Anointing Mass at Bell Block Catholic Centre,
21st March, Saturday, 9.30am, followed by morning tea. Everyone welcome. Residents in resthomes will be anointed after the Mass.

DONATIONS AT THE END OF THE TAX YEAR: The tax year ends 31 March 2026 and tax receipts for parish donations will be issued during April. If we have a current email address for donors, receipts will be emailed. If you would rather have a paper copy tax receipt please advise the office. If we do not have a current email address, paper copy tax receipts will be left in the church foyers. If you wish to bring your giving for the year up to date, there is an opportunity over the next few weeks.

GENERAL NOTICES

AV GOSPEL ENCOUNTER All warmly invited!
Two weeks before the holiest week of Lent: Join us in reading, reflecting, responding to, resting in and living out the Word-encountering Jesus Himself in the coming Sunday's Gospel. This is *not* a bible study but an authentic encounter with Christ as we journey ***together*** seeking to grow closer to the Blessed Trinity. Next Lenten meeting:
18th March 2026; Our Lady Help of Christians 7:00pm to 8:15pm.
Doors open at 6:45pm for welcome coffee/tea & biscuits. Please bring your Bible. Questions? Contact: Christina Chow jp2padua2020@gmail.com or Jaime Cerda: jzle012@gmail.com

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP – REGISTER NOW
Thursday 16 April; Time – 7pm to 8:30pm
Venue – St. Joseph's Church Hall,
151 Devon Street West, New Plymouth
Please register early by emailing Jane Hahn,
National Safeguarding Lead Jane.hahn@nops.org.nz

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP: The Justice and Peace group, who usually meet on the second Monday of the month, will be meeting on Monday next, March 16th at 6:45pm in the Nga Motu room at the back of the office. Come to the back door of the office building. Everyone is welcome to join us to further investigate how we can bring the call of the gospel into our lives and that of our community.

USHER & WELCOMERS MINISTRY
Our Ushers and Welcomers are the friendly face of our parish, helping everyone who walks through our doors feel welcomed, respected, and included.
We're looking for parishioners who enjoy greeting others and offering simple, practical hospitality. With enough volunteers, you'll be rostered every 4–6 weeks with one other person and arrive at church by 8.30am on your Sunday at St. Joseph's Church.
If you're interested in joining this ministry, please contact Cushla Coleman at Coleman63@xtra.co.nz for more information, or leave your details at the parish office and she will be in touch.

CWL GENERAL MEETING
Catholic Women's League monthly meeting.
Thursday 19th March, 12 midday in the Supper Room. Bring your lunch. Guest speaker not yet confirmed.

TŪMANAKO
United in Hope · I te Tūmanako o te Rōtahitanga

TŪMANAKO The newsletter for the diocese of Palmerston North: Issue 12 is available.
For those who wish to have a printed copy they are available in the Church foyers today , but to read online: View the material in the newsletter online at either tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz or cathnewsnz.com.
Or you can join up to receive monthly an emailed copy of Tūmanako at www.pndiocese.org.nz.

SAVE THE DATE: - Wednesday 25 March 6.30-8:00pm

Sacramental Preparation Parent Information Evening
If you wish this year for your child over 7 years to be baptised or your child to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion or your child (Years 11 to 13) to be Confirmed, **then you will need to be at our parent information evening.** As our programmes of Older Children's Baptism and Reconciliation and First Communion are family based, we need all involved to see firsthand the process for preparation for these sacraments, and how it works in our parish!

For children and families to be part of the sacramental programmes, it will be very important for a parent or care giver to be at this meeting.

Contact Us
For Older Children's Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Reconciliation inquiries, contact **KAREN** at **youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz**
For Confirmation inquiries, contact **SUSILO** at **youth@catholicparishnp.nz**

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Phyliss Scott, Ned Conaglen, Dorothy Jones, Gwen Thomas and Judy Scott.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

MAR		
16 MON	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
17 TUE	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9.10am	Our Lady Help of Christians
	12.05pm	St Joseph's Church
18 WED	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9.10am	Our Lady Help of Christians
19 THU	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	10:00am	Sacred Heart's College (Mary's Chapel)
	2.20pm	Francis Douglas Memorial College
20 FRI	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	12.05pm	St Joseph's Church
	9.00am	St Pius X School (Philomena Hall)
21 SAT	8.30am	St Joseph's Church
	9.30am	Bell Block Catholic Centre (Anointing Mass)
	5.30pm	Our Lady Help of Christians (Vigil Mass)
	No Vigil Mass at St. Patrick's Okato (See Sunday Mass Times)	
22 SUN	9.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9:30am	St Patrick's Okato
	10.30am	Our Lady Help of Christians
	5.30pm	St Joseph's Church

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 11.30am to 12 noon at St Joseph's Church OR 4.30pm 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 available by appointment with the priests, by phoning the Parish Office 757 3682.

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: Each Sunday at 9.00am Mass in the church foyer.

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Before morning Mass on Monday, Tuesday at 7:40am and Saturday 8:10am in the Parish Office. Come to the back door of the office building.

LITTLE ANGELS MUSIC AND PLAY GROUP FOR PRESCHOOLERS at Our Lady Help of Christians at 9.00am in the church foyer on Mondays. For more details please contact Amelia at musiccoordinaor@catholicparishnp.nz

QUIET YOUR HEART: Music with Kadisha. Each Monday at St Joseph's Church - 11.00am to 11.30am.

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY
Fifth Sunday of Lent 22nd March

1ST READING: Ezekiel 37.12-14

PSALM: 130

2ND READING: Romans 8.8-11

GOSPEL: John 11.25, 26

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

FOLLOW US For updates on parish, diocese, and national events.
Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF NEW PLYMOUTH
TE PARIHI KATORIKA KI NGAMOTU

Older Children's Baptism

First Holy Communion

Reconciliation

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING

EMPOWERING PARENTS

ALL PARENTS WISHING FOR THEIR CHILD TO RECEIVE BAPTISM, RECONCILIATION, FIRST COMMUNION, AND CONFIRMATION IN 2026 ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THIS PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING.

COME AND HEAR HOW YOU CAN BE EMPOWERED TO BECOME YOUR CHILDREN'S FIRST TEACHERS OF FAITH AND, AS A FAMILY, GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.

Wed, 25 Mar 2026	STARTING FROM 6:30 PM – 8 PM AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL

CONTACT US

For Older Children's Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Reconciliation inquiries, contact KAREN at youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz

For Confirmation inquiries, contact SUSILO at youth@catholicparishnp.nz.

WEEKLY DIOCESAN UPDATES

for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

15 – 22 March 2026

Pilgrimage to Hiruhārama | Saturday 11 April 2026

A new date has been confirmed, and we are continuing to take expressions of interest for our second pilgrimage to Hiruhārama. We look forward to sharing this beautiful journey of faith together. If interested, email bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz with your name, parish and phone number.

World Youth Day 2027 | Seoul, South Korea

Young adults aged 18 – 35 are invited to attend WYD27, where millions of young Catholics will gather. The NZ bishops aim to bring 500 young people.

Fill out the expression of interest form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfUWcTPgzkxtwlH86NPEnHqvdt2scpc1nkj_4WjzGrbx4WKQ/viewform

Diamond Jubilee - The Catholic Parish of Wellington South

All former and current parishioners are invited to a celebration of several historical milestones on Sunday, 19 April 2026. The first Catholic church, St Francis de Sales Church, Island Bay, was built in 1906, 120 years ago, and the current church was blessed and opened on 17 April 1966, 60 years ago. The weekend of celebration will also acknowledge 100 years since the opening of the St Madeleine Sophie primary school, the forerunner of the current primary school of St Francis de Sales. A special Mass of remembrance and thanks featuring past and present priests will be followed by a lunch at the Pines Cabaret, Houghton Bay. Registrations of interest are welcomed by providing contact details at: office@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org

Submissions on Liturgical Posture in the Diocese still open

If you haven't had a chance to email Bishop John around the issue of Liturgical Posture in the Diocese, the deadline for submissions has been extended to Easter Sunday (5 April). Please send all submissions to bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz if you would like to share your thoughts. More information can be found at https://tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz/2025/12/liturgical-posture-in-the-diocese-of-palmerston-north

Chrism Mass | Save the Date

This year's Chrism Mass will be held on Tuesday 31 March, 12:05pm at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is welcome.

NZ Catholic Medical Association Retreat & Seminar

The New Zealand Catholic Medical Association provides community, support and chaplaincy for those involved in health care in Aotearoa. The association welcomes doctors, nurses, midwives, carers, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologists, dentists, health administrators, counsellors, social workers, chaplains, lawyers, and anyone in allied roles. The next nationwide event is a retreat and seminar at the St Francis Friary & Retreat Centre, Auckland on March 20 and 21. For more information or to register, visit https://bit.ly/NZCMA2026 or email newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com

Lourdes to Lisieux Pilgrimage, 8 – 27 May 2026

Discover the sacred beauty of France on an inspiring 18-day pilgrimage. Visit Lourdes, Lisieux, Paray le Monial, Chartres, Normandy and Paris, and walk in the footsteps of beloved saints including St Thérèse of Lisieux, St Bernadette, St John Vianney, and St Vincent de Paul.

This journey offers daily Mass, expert guides, and the chance to deepen your faith in some of the most grace filled places in the Catholic world.

For details and bookings: NZ Free Call: 0800 819 156 or visit www.harvestjourneys.com/pv2659

LENTEN RESOURCES

Behold Lenten Companion | Fourth Week of Lent

Behold – Seeing with Eyes Made New

"I was blind and now I see."

This week, we ask Christ to open our eyes to His light and grace. The Behold Lenten Companion helps us notice God's quiet work within us and grow in gratitude.

Joy is born from encounter with Christ. Behold the Light. Download this week's resource at https://tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Behold-2026-Fourth-Week-of-Lent.pdf

Ashes to Hope | Caritas Lent Webinar Series

Journey through lent with New Zealand's Catholic Bishops and others of the faith as they guide us in prayer and reflection on each Sunday's Gospel. Wednesdays in lent, 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

The next webinar, 'The Man Born Blind' with Bishop Paul Martin, will be on Wednesday 18 March. Registrations are now open: visit www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars

FORTY DAYS & FORTY NIGHTS

Growing in maturity of Faith accompanied by Food For Faith through Lent with daily reflections at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

A Family in Taranaki Fighting to Stay Together - Help Keep A Family Together

Vincel and his wife, originally from Fiji, are both parishioners in the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth. They are fighting to stay together as immigration rules threaten to separate them from their 6 year old daughter, Diana, who has Global Developmental Delay. Both Diana and her sister Bernadette attend St. Pius X School, and the family is actively involved in our parish community. Immigration New Zealand has

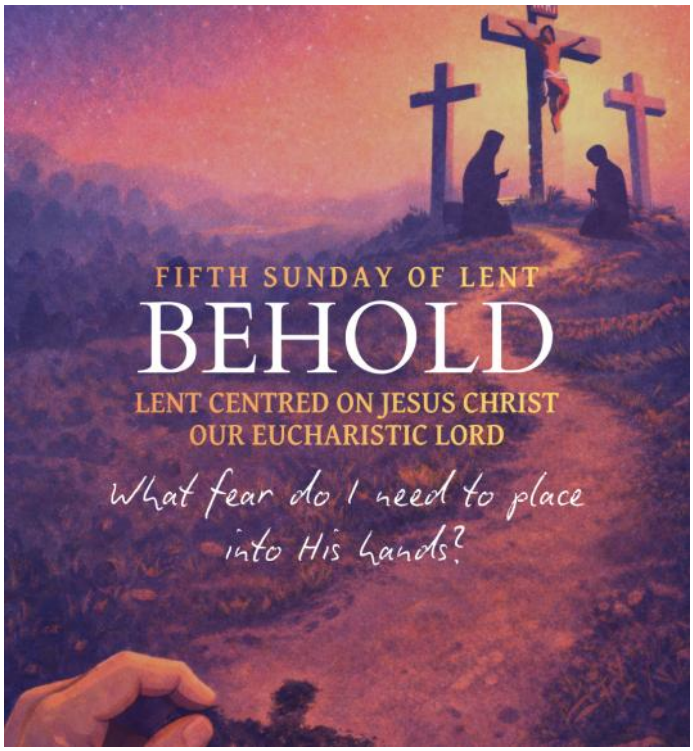
assessed Diana as not meeting health requirements, putting the family at risk of being forced to leave the country or be separated from her.

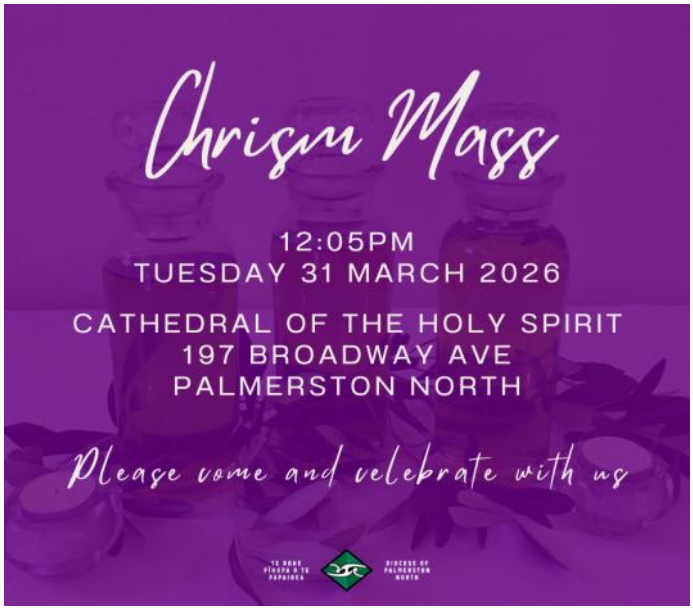
The family are seeking to raise **$15,000 NZD** to cover legal representation, visa and medical costs, and other support needed to challenge the decision. A Give A Little Page has been formed and every donation helps give their daughters stability and the chance to remain in the community they call home. The link is

https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-keep-our-family-together

Use of funds

Vincel says “Funds will be used for legal advice, visa and health costs for Diana, helping to keep our family together. Any support will help our family stay stable, even if we don’t reach the full goal. Your help would be appreciated”.





THIS LENT, JOIN US FOR A

GOSPEL ENCOUNTER

WHAT IT IS

A Gospel Encounter provides an opportunity for authentic encounter with Jesus through the Gospels and each other.

It fosters and encourages the habit of the ancient form of Christian prayer (lectio divina or daily mental prayer).

Please bring your Bible and check us out!

WHERE:

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH FOYER, CLINTON ST, FITZROY

WHEN:

WED 11 MARCH , 2026

WED 18 MARCH

WED 25 MARCH

*6.45PM: DOORS OPEN FOR A WELCOME CUPPA

*7PM-8.15PM: GOSPEL ENCOUNTER

ANY QUESTIONS?

NAME: Christina Chow
jp2padua2020@gmail.com

Jaime Cerda
jzle012@gmail.com

ST PIUS X

GALA DAY

15TH MARCH 11AM-2PM
120 BROOKLANDS RD

WHITE ELEPHANT, RAFFLE,
BOUNCY CASTLE, FACE PAINTING, FOOD STALLS,
CAKE STALL, DUNK THE SENIORS, ARTS & CRAFTS,
FUN GAMES, MYSTERY BOTTLE, ACTIVITIES, BOOKS,
BEAUTY CORNER, CANDY FLOSS & MUCH MORE!

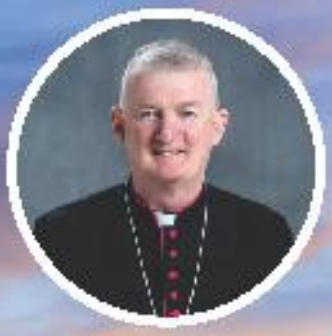
EFTPOS AVAILABLE

MAY 2026 • A NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

18 DAYS

Lourdes to Lisieux

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



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)

Accompanied by
Bishop John Adams

"Dear Pilgrim, 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 to 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 Colombière

St John Vianney

St Peter Chanel

Sts Louis & Zélie Martin

St Thérèse of Lisieux

St Joan of Arc

St Catherine Labouré

St Vincent De Paul

the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest journeys