



# Parish Newsletter

## Pānui i te Pārihi

Sunday 18 May 2025  
5th SUNDAY OF EASTER



Pictured above Fr Tom at Homily time.  
Pictured left Mons Brian & Fathers Brian and Tom

**JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD:** In May 1975, in various churches (Stratford, Pungarehu, St Joseph's NP) 3 young Taranaki men, were ordained into priesthood. Last Sunday the three, Mons Brian Walsh, Fr Brian Vale, of St Columban Mission Society and Fr Tom Lawn, celebrated 50 years of priesthood at St Joseph's church. Nearly 400 people gathered for Mass on a glorious autumn afternoon, and after Mass retired to the hall for Fr Tom's famous donuts and Fr Tom's even more famous punch (47 litres of punch were consumed) plus other delicious goodies. It was such a wonderful afternoon. Congratulations our Three Taranaki Jubilarians.

We have reproduced with permission the homily of Fr Tom. He said

"Looking at the decades this is how it was for me:

The 70's -Learning how to live with the privilege and power of the priesthood. Inspirational priests and religious sisters and brothers helped me to keep at the forefront of my mind that Jesus came to serve and not be served, to save and not to condemn.

The 80's— the privilege and challenge of living in another culture and language and church. Discovering the destructive power of colonisation for indigenous people and our church's stated commitment to them, my ignorance of Te Ao Maori finally sunk in. Learning that Jesus is a liberator and has a preferential option for the poor.

The 90's— Learning how to be an instrument of God's love back home. Enjoying the unifying power of the Passionist Family Groups and discovering the healing power of Rite 3 of Reconciliation. Trying unsuccessfully to come to grips with Te Reo.

The 2000's—Consolidating the learnings of the 90's, encouraging people to attend Mass, to belong to a small faith group, and to have a ministry or apostolate. Discovering that our Bishops listened to Rome more than our people, Rite 3 celebrations were stopped. Focusing on Jesus as brother and friend.

The 2010's— Becoming aware of treading water and the energy sapping power of aging. Discovering my blindness about victims of sexual power and abuse. I had prayed for the abusers but hadn't for the victims. Finally knowing in my heart that I just wanted to serve pastorally, going to meetings was no longer energising

2000's— Happy to be here, happy to serve and bring hope, happy to be reminded and remind that Jesus is the liberator of the poor, relishing being Jesus's companion, ready to walk along side His Body here on earth, and on a good day ready to stand up for all those God has given life to.

Its been a great ride, a bit bumpy at times, but mostly gentle and occasionally exciting. Thank you" Tom.

### Important Dates

**Sunday 18 May**  
St Joseph's Church  
9.00am Mass  
St Pius X School led Mass

**Tuesday 20 May 9.35am and every Tuesday**  
Adoration at Our Lady Help of Christians Church after 9.10am Mass

**Tuesday 20 May**  
St Joseph's Church  
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help 5.30pm

**Thursday 22 May and every Thursday**  
St Joseph's Church  
Adoration  
(and Reconciliation) 7.00pm

**Thursday 22 May 2025**  
St Joseph's Church hall  
ALPHA Session 4 6.00pm

**Sunday 25 May**  
St Joseph's Church  
The celebration of Older Children's Baptism

**Saturday 31 May 4.00pm**  
St Joseph's Church Hall  
Screening of The Letter  
Hosted by the Justice and Peace group

**Sunday 8 June**  
St John Bosco School  
Led Mass  
Our Lady Help of Christians  
10.30am

**Sunday 15 June**  
St Joseph's 9.00am  
Confirmation Mass

**QUIET YOUR HEART**  
Music with Kadisha  
St Joseph's Monday  
11.00am to 11.30am  
Our Lady Help of Christians  
Friday 9.30am to 10.00am

# GENERAL NOTICES

## PARISH OFFICE VACANCY - Accounting Support Person

The Parish Office requires a person to fulfil a book keeping role in the Parish Office. They will have proficiency in Xero and will attend to payroll, accounts payable, monthly reporting to the Finance Committee and related tasks. This is a contracted part-time position with exact hours/days to be negotiated. Immediate start. Expressions of interest to Colin Comber, Finance Committee Chairman phone 027 2492864.

**WINTER IS NEARLY HERE.** It is starting to get cold and the heaters are turned on in all the churches. In St Joseph's church we know that on a chilly day it can be cold. The glass windows and the high ceiling mean when it's 8 degrees outside, it won't be cosy and warm in the church even though the heaters have turned on automatically at 5.30am. So on a cold day, do wear a warm jacket, and a scarf and hat if you wish, to help yourself be warm.



## HOPE AND RENEWAL summit

Your parish is made for more.

At the Hope and Renewal Summit, you're more than just an attendee; you're a catalyst for change.

Gather with your priests, lay leaders, and parishioners as we rise to the challenge of being a Church on mission.

From inspiring keynotes to empowering workshops, the Hope and Renewal Summit will be the gathering that will ignite a movement of parishes on fire for evangelisation.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

### Featuring:



Fr. James Mallon  
Founder,  
Divine Renovation Ministry



Bishop John Adams  
Bishop of Palmerston  
North Diocese



Matt Regitz  
Director of Coaching  
Divine Renovation Ministry

### RACE AWAPUNI, PALMERSTON NORTH NEW ZEALAND

2 OCTOBER 2025 | 3-4 OCTOBER 2025  
[Clergy Day] | [for everyone]

[HOPERENEWALSUMMIT.COM](http://HOPERENEWALSUMMIT.COM)

EARLYBIRD ENDS 15 JUNE



DIVINE  
RENOVATION

## NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP:

We are praying a nine week Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help each Tuesday 5.30pm at St Joseph's Church. Prayer, Praise, Petitions, Hymns and Benediction. Everyone is welcome to be part of this Novena.



**JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP:** On Monday 12 May 2025, at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, the Justice and Peace Group hosted a talk by Columban Missionary Priest (and also Jubilarian) Fr Brian Vele on *"Where I feel the Spirit is Leading us as peacemakers"* Fr Brian said Peace-making involves areas such as; Spirituality, Advocacy, Education, Dialogue, Communications, Finance and Investment, Leadership and Networking. He shared his own experience in the Justice and Peace Ministry in Japan with issues such as the nuclear issue, peace-making with Buddhist groups and work against discrimination. Fr Brian invited de La Salle Brother Peter Bray to share of his experiences of 15 years as Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University and of the plight of Palestinians in the current tragic situation. Br Peter highlighted the history and the current situation through the personal stories of Palestinian students at Bethlehem University. Sister Lidwina Van Beers RNDM shared her peace making experiences working against violence to women, and others in Papua New Guinea. Fr Brian shared his own experience about speaking and listening to the Spirit in Nature, especially with trees. He felt The Spirit is leading us to be courageous, be strong advocates for peace through marches and letter writing and by tapping into our Inner depths where The Spirit speaks to us in these difficult times.



The Justice and Peace Group with Fr Brian after the meeting.

## HIDDEN DISABILITIES SUNFLOWER SCHEME (HDSS)

As a follow-up to the successful launch of the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme (HDSS) at the 9.30am Mass in the Cathedral Sunday 27 April to celebrate the Jubilee of People who experience Disability, please look for more details about the HDSS at their website:

[www.hdsunflower.com/au](http://www.hdsunflower.com/au)

If anyone in the parish or faith community is interested in the HDSS, please contact me by email: David Loving-Molloy as Leader and Advisor for Inclusiveness: [catholic.deaf@pndiocese.org.nz](mailto:catholic.deaf@pndiocese.org.nz) Ph: 021 120 4265 (text only) David Loving-





## JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP: THE LETTER



A film hosted by the parish Justice and Peace Group. Join us to watch *The Letter*, a documentary film about how our spiritual values call us to take action on the planetary emergency. We are called to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. On Saturday 31 May 2025, 4.00pm to 5.30pm in St Joseph's Church Supper Room we will watch *The Letter* and consider responses. Refreshments will be served.



**Francis Douglas Memorial College connections.** Pictured left: At the 50 year Jubilee gathering after Mass on Sunday, our three Jubilarians, Frs Brian Vale and Tom Lawn and Mons Brian Walsh all former pupils, with Br Peter Bray, who was a former pupil and former principal and Martin Chamberlain a former principal and Tim Stuck the present principal.



## YOUCAT SPONSORSHIP FOR CONFIRMATION 2025

Each year, we present a YOUCAT on the night of the candidates' confirmation.

Donation forms and envelopes are available in the foyers of St. Joseph's Church and Our Lady Help of Christians Church for anyone interested in sponsoring a YOUCAT for a candidate for \$45.

Donations can be made at the Parish Office during weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm or by placing the envelope in the secure letterbox at the Office door. You can also include it in the collection plate during Sunday services. For online banking details, please email us.

**TAX RECEIPTS:** Where we have been able, all tax receipts have been emailed to donors, and where we didn't have an email address the tax receipts have been printed. These are in the church foyers. If you have any queries about your tax receipt, or the way it was delivered, please contact the Parish Office (06)757 3682. If you need assistance in claiming your rebate for your donations, again please contact the Parish Office.

We thank all those who give so generously to the parish.

We are at present making the order for Planned Giving envelopes for August onwards. If you would like to join planned giving, please contact the Parish Office.

### YOUTH GROUP

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

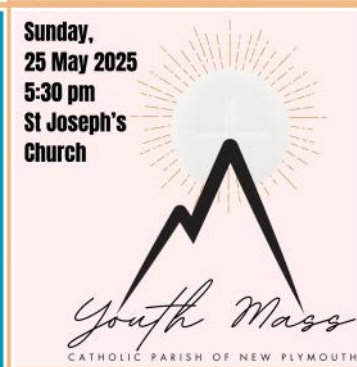
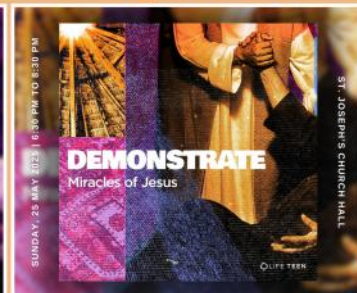
**SHINE**

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

**LIFE TEEN**

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

## YOUTH GROUP SUNDAY, 18 MAY 2025 YOUTH GROUP SUNDAY, 25 MAY 2025



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

### PRAYER ADOPTION FOR CONFIRMATION 2025

I would like to invite each of you to participate in the Confirmation Programme by offering your prayers for the candidates.

**Steps to Participate in Daily Prayer**

1. Select one or more names from the bowl located in the church foyer.
2. Visit the Notice Board to view their faces, helping you recognise whom you pray for.
3. Daily pray for the chosen candidate and include them in your intentions at Mass.

**For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. Colossians 1:9**

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2025

"Be STRONG and COURAGEOUS; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."  
Joshua 1:9

We recently wrapped up our session on CONFIRMATION SAINTS last Monday. I am truly grateful for the candidates' willingness to delve deeper into the significance of the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the coming two Mondays, we will embark on crucial sessions focused on the LOVE OF GOD and the REASON JESUS DIED FOR US.

I kindly ask everyone to keep the candidates, the leaders, and myself in your prayers.

Susilo **KENTJANA**

**PURPOSE**

*John 1:12-13*



**We pray for our deceased family and friends:** Roseanne McKernan, Mary Nallon, Barry Gadsby, Margaret Walshe, Margaret Edwards and Peter Hobbs.



# MAY

## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

<b>19</b> MON	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
<b>20</b> TUES	8.00am 9.10am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Joseph's Church
<b>21</b> WED	8.00am 9.10am	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church
<b>22</b> THU	8.00am 9.50am 2.20pm	St Joseph's Church Sacred Heart Girls College Francis Douglas memorial College
<b>23</b> FRI	8.00am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church St Joseph's Church
<b>24</b> SAT	8.30am 5.30pm 6.00pm	St Joseph's Our Lady Help of Christians St Patrick's Okato
<b>25</b> SUN	9.00am 10.30am 5.30pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Joseph's Church (Youth Mass)

### 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, by initially phoning the Office 757 3682.

**MORNING PRAYER:** Monday, Tuesday and Friday 7.40am and Saturday at 8.10am in the Parish Office, McKillop Room. Come to the back door.

### KINGDOM KIDZ CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

#### Our Lady Help of Christians Church:

Each Sunday at 10.30am Mass. A special 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.

### LITTLE ANGELS MUSIC AND PLAY GROUP

**FOR PRESCHOOLERS:** Music, play and morning tea. Our Lady Help of Christians Church foyer from 9.00am each Monday during school term time. For more information please contact Tess 027 583 7732.

### QUIET YOUR HEART: Music with Kadisha.

Each Monday at St Joseph's Church 11.00am to 11.30am. Each Friday at Our Lady Help of Christians Church - 9.30am to 10.00am.

### SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

25 May 2025 6th Sunday of Easter

**1ST READING:** Acts 15.1-2, 22-29

**PSALM:** 67

**2ND READING:** Revelations 21. 10-14, 22-23

**GOSPEL:** John 14.23-29

**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  
office@catholicparishnp.nz  
www.catholicparishnp.nz

**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

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**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



PURPOSE

whakaturanga



# SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

year 11 - 13

20  
25

"Be **STRONG** and **COURAGEOUS**; do not be frightened or dismayed,  
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

## YOUCAT SPONSORSHIP

YOUTH CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### HOW MUCH?

The cost of one YOUCAT is \$45

### HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE YOUCAT?

You have the option to choose from online banking, cash, or EFTPOS.

### INTERNET BANKING

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

02-0630-0288002-03

PARTICULARS: Your Name

CODE: YOUCAT

REFERENCE: Youth

If you want a tax receipt for this donation, please email [office@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:office@catholicparishnp.nz) to advise that you are making a donation and to give your full name and contact details.

### CASH

Pick up an envelope from the Church Foyer or Office, fill in the details and place it with your cash donation inside the envelope. This can be dropped at the parish office between 9 am and 4 pm on weekdays or placed in the collection basket at Mass.

### EFTPOS

Come to the parish office between 9 am and 4 pm on weekdays. Fill in your details for the tax receipt.

Thank  
You!

Each year, on the night of their confirmation, we present a YOUCAT.

### WHAT IS THE YOUCAT?

The YouCat is the short title for the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church. This is a summary of the Christian faith for anyone who wants to learn more about what Catholics believe. It is not just for young people but for anyone who wants to explore the Christian faith.



## Sacred Heart Girls' College Open Afternoon

Prospective students and families considering Catholic education are welcome to attend our Open Afternoon. Please refer to our enrolment tab on our website, which has our priority in enrolment procedure which we strictly adhere to.

The **Open Afternoon** is being held on **Tuesday 27 May**, and here for your guidance is an outline of the afternoon:

1.00pm prospective boarding students are welcome to meet at Elizabeth House Hostel for information about the hostel and a tour (prior to joining for assembly and tours of the school).

Families interested in the hostel will be greeted by current boarders at the gates and led down to the hostel. If you cannot make it on this day, please email our Hostel Manager, Marina Walsh ([mwa@shgcnps.school.nz](mailto:mwa@shgcnps.school.nz)) to organise an alternative time.

1.45pm all prospective students to join the school for assembly.

Families with prospective day students will be greeted at the gate by current students, and directed to our Events Centre where the Open Afternoon will begin with an assembly.

2.10pm school tours for all prospective students.

Please note parking is offsite on surrounding streets please – the school grounds do not have sufficient parking for a larger volume of visitors.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Open Afternoon.

Nga mihi nui

*Barb Costelloe*

Tumuaki / Principal



**Okato Cooperating Parish with the  
Taranaki Spiritual Companions Group**

**A Sacred Quiet Morning -  
Listening to God at Pentecost**



**At St. James, Ōākura** (on the corner of South Road and Donnelly Street. There is plenty of parking behind and in front of the church)

**On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**9.30am - 1pm**

A quiet time for reflective silent prayer, music, scripture reading, meditative stitching with a focus on listening to God whilst exploring the gifts of the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost

*For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. Romans 8:14*

Bring your Bible, writing materials, rug and or cushion for comfort if desired. Refreshments are provided. Koha is welcomed in assisting to meet costs. A variety of resources are provided.

**Register your attendance by June 1, 2025 with Heather Lofthouse by text at 021617894 or by email [heather1349@gmail.com](mailto:heather1349@gmail.com)**