



# 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



## 19 April 2026 Third Sunday of Easter



**PARISH  
PRIEST**



Fr Simon Story

Dear Parishioners,

A beautiful Holy Week and Easter Triduum celebration recently. Thank you for participating and a big thank you to those who organised liturgies and those who led ministries. A joyful and uplifting experience at every gathering. Thank you to Craig who allowed the baptisms to be seen on the screen. Thank you to our musicians and cantors who led us in song. Thank you to the Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults, (RCIA) leaders and the catechumens (To be baptised) and candidates (Baptised in another faith tradition and to be received into the Catholic Church) who prepared together with their godparents/sponsors for initiation into our parish family. A big welcome to these new missional disciples of Jesus Christ. This is a big journey and commitment by everyone involved.

Alpha (A beginning) will start on Thursday 23 April 6pm, in the St Joseph's church hall. Have you been able to invite a guest to Alpha? This is how we evangelise. It is not awkward or pressured, but a beautiful experience that places people on the threshold of a special introduction. A life-changing meeting with Jesus. Ask any one of our newly initiated persons at Easter what they thought of the introduction experience. It is worth your while to hear what they say. This is part of our vision, to transform lives empowered by the Holy Spirit.

I am away for a holiday and the Alpha Leadership Conference in London this week. Also, a parish renewal conference at St Elizabeth of Portugal Parish in London. Other priests from our diocese are going including, Fr's Marcus Francis, Nathaniel Brazil, Bishop John Adams and parishioners from Christchurch. I look forward to sharing the learnings. Thank you to Fr Bruce England who will be helping out till I am back, on 10 May.

God bless, Fr Simon.

### **Appointment of Communications Lead for the Parish**

*You all have been receiving the newsletter from Russell Chamany and we are pleased to formally announce the not so recent appointment of Russell as our Communications Lead on the Parish Ministry Team.*

*Russell is well known to many as an active member of the parish. A member of St Vincent de Paul, (in the Store, Furniture Distribution and community meals) and is also a member of the New Parish Centre Project Group.*

*Russell has also contributed his time as a volunteer at the Parish Office and in the Alpha Programme in recent years. He is active in the Music and Eucharistic ministry, too. He is also a Proprietor's Appointee for St. John Bosco School Board, New Plymouth. He hails from the province of Kerala, India, and also active in the Kerala community in the parish.*

*The Communications Lead role is aimed at managing parish communications across print, digital, and social media channels and is the contact point for having content published in the parish newsletter, online media and on the parish website. It includes weekly production of our parish newsletter in print and digital format and ensuring our Facebook and website content is up to date. Russell brings to the role with his significant experience in digital communications in the private sector together with his excellent creative writing and digital publishing skills.*

*If your parish organisation has a need for communication to the wider parish please contact Russell in the first instance at [communicationslead@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:communicationslead@catholicparishnp.nz) or call the parish office 06 757 3682.*

**Welcome aboard Russell!**



## Important Dates

### **April 3rd Week**

School Masses resume after the school break  
Refer to page 8

### **Registration for Sacramental Programmes**

Registrations Close  
**MONDAY, 20 APRIL 2026**

### **Adoration**

St Joseph's Church  
Thursday 23 April  
and every Thursday  
(and Reconciliation)  
7.00pm

### **2026 Alpha Programme**

Starts Thursday 23 April  
6.00pm in St  
Joseph's Church Hall,  
Devon Street  
For registration see  
Inside

### **The Grotto Movie Fund Raiser**

Thursday 23 April  
Time: 6:30pm  
Venue: Events Cinema  
Refer to page 6

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

### **Youth Mass**

Sunday 26th April  
St Joseph's Church  
5.30pm

### **Temporary Office Hours**

Office will be closed after  
12pm on Thursdays from  
09th April 2026

# GENERAL NOTICES

## NEW EFTPOS MACHINE

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



A prayer service for Peace in the World will be held at St Joseph's church at 7pm on Friday April 24th.

Come and spend half an hour praying for our brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering through war and injustice. Then share a cuppa and a biscuit.



## Thank You Rebecca for the Paschal Candle Artwork

We extend our sincere thanks to Rebecca Chamany, a Year 10 student at Sacred Heart's College, for the beautiful painting of the Paschal Candles for St Joseph's Church and Our Lady of Help of Christians Church.



## Community Meals needs a Hand

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



## Apostoli Viae (AV) Easter Gospel Encounter

You are all warmly invited! Experience the joy of the Risen Christ coming Wednesday 22/4 in an authentic encounter with Jesus through praying, reading and reflecting with the following Sunday's Gospel John 10:1-10 in a friendly, relaxed setting. He longs to open our eyes, to lead, guide, heal and love us!

**WHEN:** Wed 22nd April 2026 @ 7:00pm to 8:15pm. Doors open @ 6.45pm for welcome cuppa and chat

**WHERE:** Our Lady Help of Christians Church foyer, Clinton St, Fitzroy.

**Subsequent meetings:** Every 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month Questions? Contact Christina [jp2padua2020@gmail.com](mailto:jp2padua2020@gmail.com) or Jaime [jzle012@gmail.com](mailto:jzle012@gmail.com)



## Volunteer Chaplain Assistants Wanted

Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa is seeking compassionate individuals interested in becoming Volunteer Chaplain Assistants (VCAs). VCAs serve at New Plymouth Base Hospital and Hāwera Hospital, offering a listening ear, encouragement, and pastoral and spiritual support to patients, their families, and hospital staff. This service is available to all people in the community, regardless of faith or background, and is carried out with care, cultural sensitivity, and kindness.

Training is provided for suitable applicants, with a new programme beginning in April.

If you feel called to this meaningful volunteer role, we would love to hear from you.

**Contact:** 06 753 6139 ext. 7968 and ask to speak with Raymond McKie or Teresa Walton or email:

[Louisa.Parker@tdhb.org.nz](mailto:Louisa.Parker@tdhb.org.nz)



**FOODBANK:** In the newspaper this week we read of the dire need for extra food stocks at our local Foodbanks. We can help. Each Sunday the Foodbank collection baskets are in the church foyers, A simple donation, like a cake of soap will make a difference in someone's life.

# 2026 CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

## Opening Mass (Youth Mass)

Calling all 2026 Confirmation candidates and parents! Join us for an inspiring Opening Mass (Youth Mass) to kick off your journey.

Afterwards, we'll gather in the church hall for our first session.

05:30PM - 6:30PM

**SUNDAY, 26 APRIL**

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

PURPOSE

*whakaaturanga*

FIRST SESSION  
6:45pm - 8:45pm

St. Joseph's Church Hall



# QUIZ NIGHT



Illumin8 youth group  
Teams of 6-8 people

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

\$\$-RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE- BRING CASH-\$\$

## \$10/PERSON

REGISTER YOUR TEAM

che@fdmc.school.nz

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUTH GROUP



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS TERM 1

# WE ARE ON BREAK

SEE YOU IN TERM 2

# YOUTH GROUP

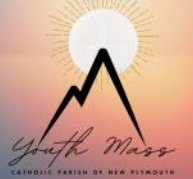
TERM TWO

JOIN US FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE TIME ON SUNDAY, 3 MAY 2026, AT THE SAME TIME AND LOCATION!

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND LET'S CREATE AMAZING MEMORIES TOGETHER!

JOIN US

YOUTH MASS  
SUNDAY  
26 APRIL 2026  
5:30PM



**SHINE**  
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

**ILLUMIN8**  
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

## REGISTRATIONS CLOSE MONDAY, 20th APRIL 2026

DATES:

**OLDER CHILDREN BAPTISM**  
Sunday 24th May - 1:30pm

**FIRST RECONCILIATION**  
Friday 31st July - 5:30pm

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Our Lady Help of Christians**  
Sunday 23rd August - 10:30am

**St. Joseph's Church**  
Sunday 30th August - 9:00am

youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz  
<https://www.catholicparishnp.nz>



SCAN THE QR CODE TO ENROL YOUR CHILD.



Reconciliation



First Holy Communion



## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES 2026

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

St. Hilary, bishop

### WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Michael Goodin, Mary Nallon, Bryan Lawn, Dave Newland, Norma Lobb, Sunny and Rita Chamany and John Schicker.

### FROM POPE LEO: THE APRIL INTENTION

**Priests experiencing moments of crisis**

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



### 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





### Way of the Cross by the SyroMalabar Community on Good Friday

Nearly 250 parishioners took part in the Way of the Cross organised by the SyroMalabar Community on Good Friday. The community gathered in large numbers at St. Joseph's Grounds for a deeply prayerful and moving outdoor celebration. The Stations of the Cross drew a remarkable turnout, with families, young people, and children coming together to walk in reflection on the Passion of Christ.

Fr. Sobin presided over the Stations, leading the community through each station with great reverence and devotion. Fr. Simon was also present, joining the faithful in prayer and accompaniment. As the procession moved across the grounds, participants carried crosses from station to station, offering a powerful and visible witness of faith.

The peaceful surroundings of St. Joseph's Grounds provided a fitting setting for this contemplative journey. The strong participation of children and youth alongside adults highlighted the vitality of the SyroMalabar Community and its commitment to passing on rich traditions of prayer and reflection. Marked by moments of silence, song, and shared prayer, the gathering enabled all present to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's suffering and sacrifice.

The event concluded with a profound sense of unity and gratitude, leaving parishioners strengthened in faith and bound more closely as a community. It stood as a meaningful reminder of the enduring power of communal prayer during the sacred season of Lent.





# Explore Life Faith Meaning

**THIS IS YOUR  
INVITATION.**

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

## WHAT IS ALPHA?

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

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

SCAN HERE



SIGN UP →

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

[alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz)

[www.catholicparishnp.nz/alpha/](http://www.catholicparishnp.nz/alpha/)

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

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

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

## ALPHA IS FOR EVERYONE

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





## SHGC Grotto Relocation Project Be Part of Something Special

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

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

The total cost to complete this project is **\$11,800**.

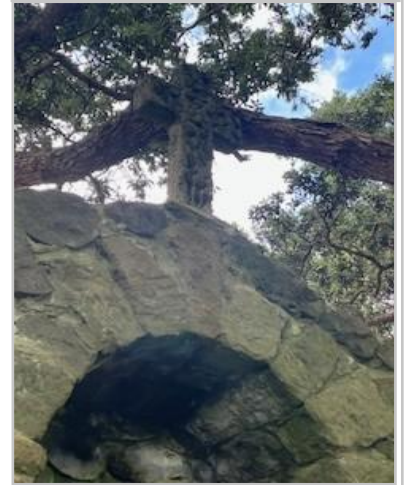
Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have already raised **\$7,000**, which is a wonderful start. We are now seeking support to raise the remaining **\$4,800**.

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

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

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

**Wendy Mulligan**  
Director of Religious Studies  
**Sacred Heart Girls' College**  
[wmu@shgcnpschool.nz](mailto:wmu@shgcnpschool.nz)



# SHGC GROTTA MOVIE FUNDRAISER

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

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

Date: 23 April

Time: 6.30pm

Venue: Events Cinema

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

Wendy Mulligan - [wmu@shgcnpschool.nz](mailto:wmu@shgcnpschool.nz)

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

• Wendy Mulligan - [wmu@shgcnpschool.nz](mailto:wmu@shgcnpschool.nz)

• Amelia Luke - [alu@shgcnpschool.nz](mailto:alu@shgcnpschool.nz)

★ About the film:

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



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR

## SEMINARIANS



**Sy Nguyen**

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



**Zecharia Mathow**

Zecharia is from Auckland and joined our diocese this year



**Hung Nguyen**

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



**Dung (Zung) Phan**

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



**Rodney Rebecca**

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

For enquiries or to support our seminarians, please contact:

**Fr Trung Nguyen**  
Phone: 022 062 6726  
Email: [yocations@pndiocese.org.nz](mailto:yocations@pndiocese.org.nz)

**DIocese OF PALMERSTON NORTH**

2026

## World Day of Prayer for Vocations and Seminary Appeal Sunday, 26 April 2026

On the **Fourth Sunday of Easter, 26 April 2026**, we are invited to pray especially for those called to the priesthood. This day also marks the beginning of **National Vocations Awareness Week**.

We are greatly blessed by the generosity and enthusiasm of the men who are currently discerning and following God's call to priestly service within our diocese.

**Our Seminarians;** at present, we have **five seminarians** in formation:

**Sy Nguyen**, is in his second year and brings a strong passion for youth outreach and community service all of which is nourished daily by his quiet, interior life of prayer.

**Zecharia Mathew**, is in his second year of formation and has a deep love for the liturgy, along with a strong passion for journeying with youth and young adults.

**Br Rodney Rebecca**, was a Trappist monk for 20 years and has spent several years at Kopua Monastery. As a priest, he would like to be a good pastor in the way of Christ, who is the Good Shepherd. Practically, his primary concern is the faithful administration of the Church's sacraments. Furthermore, he seeks to make people aware of the surpassing greatness of God's mercy.

**Hung Nguyen**, first year, who returned to New Zealand last year after completing his IELTS exam, and brings a strong passion for parish life and service.

**Zung Manh Phan**, fourth year of formation, currently on pastoral placement in Feilding, Taihape, and Ohakune, with a particular interest in pastoral care and parish ministry.

We also ask you to please keep **Lam Van Nguyen and Canh Minh Hoang** in your prayers, as they continue preparing for their English test in Vietnam – an important step in their vocational journey.

Arriving this month is **Lam Phan Van Lam**, originally from Vietnam and currently residing in the United Kingdom. Lam is joining our diocese for a period of discernment, with the hope of potentially entering the seminary next year.

We are further encouraged by a growing interest in vocations, with others expressing a desire to begin seminary formation next year.

### Seminary Appeal

The cost of formation is significant – approximately **\$60,000 per seminarian per year**, along with **\$20,000 annually** to meet the fixed costs of running the seminary. Your support is more important than ever.

We invite you to support our seminarians **both prayerfully and financially**. Any contribution, no matter the amount, makes a real difference.

### How to contribute:

Specially marked donation envelopes are attached to the newsletter today. Alternatively, donations may be made by direct credit to The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth, bank account 02 0630 0288002 03, using your name as the payee and "Seminary" as the reference and the planned giving number if you have one.

Your support and kindness is always very much appreciated.

### A Word of Encouragement

**To our young people:** the priesthood is always a beautiful and courageous option for your life. If you are considering it, please speak with any of our diocesan priests.

**To parents:** if your children express an interest in a vocation to the priesthood, we encourage you to support them with openness, love, and prayer.

Fr Trung is currently preparing a **Vocations Discernment Retreat the weekend of 26 - 28 June 2026**. Please contact him for further information.

For enquiries or support, please contact the **Diocese of Palmerston North Vocations Director, Fr Trung Nguyen** on **022 062 6726** or email [vocations@pndiocese.org.nz](mailto:vocations@pndiocese.org.nz).

Thank you for your continued generosity, support, and prayers for vocations.

APR	WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE	
	FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH	
20 MON	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
21 TUE	8.00am 9.10am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians St Joseph's Church
22 WED	8.00am 9.10am	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians
23 THU	8.00am 10:00am 2:20pm	St Joseph's Church Sacred Heart's College Francis Douglas Memorial College
24 FRI	8.00am 9:00am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church St Pius X School (Philomena Hall) St Joseph's Church
25 SAT	8.30am 5.30pm 6.00pm	St Joseph's Church (ANZAC Day) Our Lady Help of Christians (Vigil Mass) St Patrick's Church Okato (Vigil Mass)
26 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 Parish Office 757 3682.

### MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Before morning Mass on Monday, Tuesday AT 7:40am & Saturday 8.10am in the Parish Office. Come to the back door of the office building.

### KINGDOM KIDZ CHILDREN'S LITURGY:



#### Our Lady Help of Christians Church:

Each Sunday at 10.30am Mass Children's Liturgy in the St John Bosco School Breakout Space.

**St Joseph's Church:** Every Sunday during 9.00am Mass in the church foyer.

### Little Angels MUSIC and play GROUP



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

**TAX RECEIPTS:** The tax year ended 31 March 2026 and tax receipts for parish donations have been issued during the week. If we had a current email address for donors, receipts have been emailed, unless you have specifically requested a printed copy. If we did not have a current email address a paper copy has been printed and these have been left in the appropriate church foyer. If you would prefer a paper copy tax receipt to an emailed receipt, please advise the Parish Office and we print a copy. If you have any queries concerning the receipts, again please contact the Parish Office.

### SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Fourth Sunday of Easter 26th April 2026

**1ST READING:** Acts 2.14a, 36b-41

**PSALM:** 23

**2ND READING:** 1 Peter 2.20b-25

**GOSPEL:** John 10.14



### CONTACT US

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

### PRIESTS:

Fr. Simon Story [simon@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:simon@catholicparishnp.nz)  
Tom Lawn [tom@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:tom@catholicparishnp.nz)  
Fr. Sobin [sobin@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:sobin@catholicparishnp.nz)  
Fr. Sobin Sebastian Phone 027 255 8097

### STRATEGIC LEADER Giniya

[sl@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:sl@catholicparishnp.nz)

### FINANCE OFFICER Cynthia

[accounts@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:accounts@catholicparishnp.nz)

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATION Ireen

[office@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:office@catholicparishnp.nz)

### COMMUNICATIONS LEAD Russell

[communicationslead@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:communicationslead@catholicparishnp.nz)

### YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTER Karen

[youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz)

### YOUTH MINISTER Susilo

[youth@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:youth@catholicparishnp.nz)

### MUSIC COORDINATOR Amelia

[musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz)

### PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

[parishleadershipteam@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:parishleadershipteam@catholicparishnp.nz)

### JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

[justiceandpeace@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto: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



# Prayer Retreat for Women

3 days, 2 nights

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

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

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

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





# 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 Lobo 021 280 9285  
Greg Sullivan 021 437 747

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



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



## REGISTRATION IS OPEN

### Chevalier Cyril John

CHARIS INTERNATIONAL INTERCESSION COMMISSION




Cyril will be in NZ for two days.  
Teaching and Training on  
**Prophetic Intercession**

**Date** 11th and 12th May 2026  
**Times** Monday 11th: 6 pm to 9 pm  
Tuesday 12th: 10 am to 9:30 pm


**Venue** Christ the King Church  
Mt Roskill  
Auckland

Amazing opportunity for all.



For enquiries contact Vanessa Nathan  
021 143 3703 or email  
[maranatha.jvz@gmail.com](mailto:maranatha.jvz@gmail.com)  
**Registration \$20.00**

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




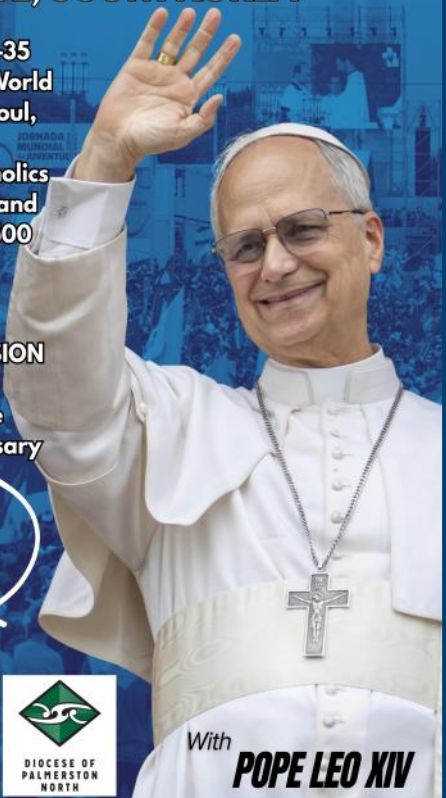
# WORLD YOUTH DAY

3 - 8 AUGUST 2027  
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

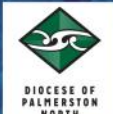
Young adults aged 18-35 are invited to attend World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, where millions of young Catholics will gather. New Zealand bishops aim to bring 500 young people.

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

for the Third Sunday of Easter  
13 – 19 April 2026

**World Day of Prayer for Vocations and Seminary Appeal | Sunday, 26 April 2026 (Please see page 7)**

## **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>

## **Job Vacancy – Parish Secretary/Coordinator (Part Time)**

St Brigid's Parish, Feilding has a vacancy for a secretary/coordinator – 16 hours per week.

We are looking for a person who has had at least five years' office related experience, along with good communication and office computer skills. Familiar with MS Office, Gmail and preferably some hands-on experience with accounting and payroll packages – ideally Xero and MYOB.

This role provides parish administration support to the clergy and parish and is based in Feilding. Experience in a similar small group position would be an advantage.

For further information please email [stbrigidsfeilding@gmail.com](mailto:stbrigidsfeilding@gmail.com)

Applications should include a Curriculum Vitae and be marked Private and Confidential, either email to the office or post to: Father Trung, St Brigid's Parish, 4 Monmouth Street, FEILDING 4702. Applications close on 14 April 2026 at 4pm.

## **Job Vacancy – Palmerston North Hospital Chaplain**

The Diocese is looking for a new person to continue this critical ministry. Chaplains offer compassionate presence through bedside visits, prayer, communion, and arranging priest visits when requested. They also work within multidisciplinary teams to support holistic care for all people, regardless of background or belief.

Applicants with chaplaincy or pastoral care experience and relevant qualifications are preferred.

Visit <https://www.seek.co.nz/job/90953924> for a detailed job description.

## **Rebuild My Church | Dr Mary Healy**

In June, internationally renowned Catholic theologian Dr Mary Healy will be in Hamilton for a three-day formation series, (June 9–11) exploring the power of God's Word, the life of the Holy Spirit, and our call to live our faith today.

Known around the world for her engaging teaching on Scripture and the Holy Spirit, Dr Healy helps people hear God's voice more clearly and grow in confidence in the gifts He gives for the building up of the Church.

Full details and registration are available at <https://www.eventzilla.net/e/rebuild-my-church--dr-mary-healy-2138676397>

## **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>

## **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/1FAIpQLScfUWcTPgzkxtwIH86NPEHqvd2scpc1nkj\\_4WjzGrbx4WKQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfUWcTPgzkxtwIH86NPEHqvd2scpc1nkj_4WjzGrbx4WKQ/viewform)

## **Prophetic Intercession Training**

Chevalier Cyril John from the CHARIS International Intercession Commission will be in Auckland to lead a two day formation on *Prophetic Intercession*. Cyril John has spent many years teaching and forming intercessors around the world.

Intercession is urgently needed in our Church and communities, and all who feel called to this ministry are encouraged to attend. The training will be held 11–12 May 2026 at Christ the King Church, Mt Roskill. Registrations are now open: <https://prophetic-intercession-training-with-cyril-john.lilregie.com>

## **Vatican II Deep Dive – Online Formation**

After the first Diocesan Hubs in Palmerston North and Hastings, the conversation continues online through Vatican II Deep Dive.

In April we will reflect on selected passages from *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, exploring how the Church's teaching on the liturgy shapes our understanding of worship and parish life.

Sessions:

Wednesday 15 April, 7:00–8:45pm

Wednesday 29 April, 7:00–8:45pm

Join us online. To register: [bit.ly/deepdiveapr26](http://bit.ly/deepdiveapr26)

## **Prayer Retreat for Women | Magnificat Retreat Centre, Featherston**

All women are warmly invited to a Prayer Retreat for Women, a weekend to step away from daily life and grow in prayer. The retreat includes talks exploring the meaning of prayer, why we pray, and how to deepen our prayer through humility, along with time for personal prayer, Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and spiritual direction.

The retreat begins with dinner at 6pm Friday 15 May and concludes 3pm Sunday 17 May after the final session and Rosary. To register: <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/BBMC>

MAY 2026 • A NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

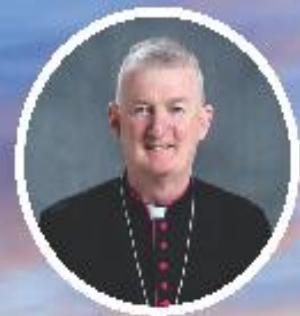
18  
DAYS

# 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 of the great saints of the Church who continue to inspire and teach us about how accessible a life of holiness is. We will also encounter saints that influenced the beginning of the Church in New Zealand and perhaps learn from them more about the Church in this country. Right faith is a wonderful adventure – this pilgrimage promises to be a great opportunity for those able to join us." – Bishop John Adams*



St Bernadette  
Soubirous



St Margaret  
Mary Alacoque



St Claude de la  
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

# Better Later Life Action Plan

2025 to 2028



**Please join the Minister for Seniors, Hon Casey Costello to discuss the Better Later Life Action Plan – Tuesday 5 May**

The Minister for Seniors, Hon Casey Costello is visiting communities across Aotearoa New Zealand to discuss the new Action Plan for the Government's Better Later Life Strategy.

At this event, you'll hear how the Government is working to support older people, respond to cost-of-living pressures, strengthen aged care, and help people stay independent and connected as they age.

You'll also have the chance to meet local organisations and services that support wellbeing in your community.

There will be time for kōrero, questions, and informal networking. Please share this invitation with your networks. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Date: Tuesday 5 May**

**Time: 1.30pm - 3.00pm**

**Venue: The Plymouth International Hotel, 220 Courtenay Street, New Plymouth**

**Hosted by GreyPower New Plymouth**

Open to all. No RSVP required