



Parish Newsletter

Pānui i te Pārihi



Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

1st February 2026 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome Masses for new students of Francis Douglas Memorial College and Sacred Heart Girls College at St. Joseph's Church this week



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**

Important Dates

ADORATION

Sunday 1 February Our Lady Help of Christians

3.00pm

Tuesday 3rd February
after 9.10am Mass Our Lady Help of Christians

Thursday Evening
Adoration
Recommences
St Joseph's Church
Thursday 7.00pm

Anointing Mass

Saturday 7 February St Josephs Church 10.30am

Illumin8 Youth Group
Recommences Sunday 8 February 6.30pm

Shine Junior Youth Group

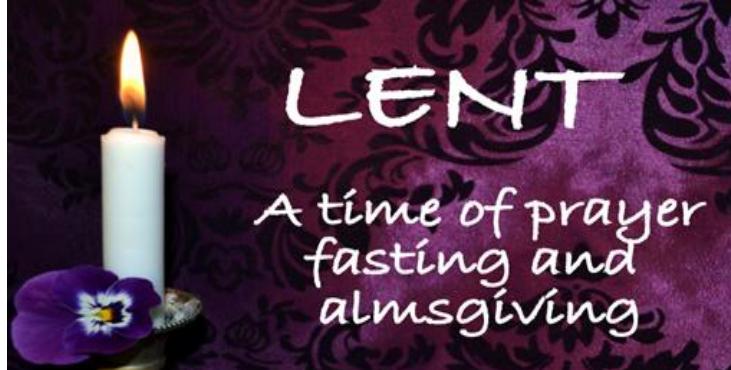
Recommences Sunday
15 February
4.00pm to 5.00pm

Ash Wednesday

18 February
Full Mass times will be available next Sunday

Caritas Lenten Reflection
Bell Block Catholic Centre
Starts Wednesday
18 February
7.00pm to 8.00pm

Lenten Seminar on Contemplative Prayer
Two sessions start
Wednesday 25 February
10.30am and
Thursday 26 February
7.15pm



CARITAS LENTEN REFLECTION EVENINGS will be held at Bell Block Catholic Centre, 7.00pm to 8.00pm, each Wednesday during Lent, starting on Wednesday 18 February.

You are most welcome to come along and join others as they reflect on and share thoughts on the gospel reading for the following Sunday.

The Lenten booklet that is used also focuses on how Caritas is empowering people in needy countries to live

ANOINTING MASS:

The monthly Mass of Anointing will be held at 10.30am next Saturday, 7th February at St Joseph's Church. Everyone is welcome at this Mass, even if they do not wish to be anointed. There will be morning tea/lunch after Mass.



ROSTERS: We are beginning to make the rosters for the next 3 months, March, April and May. If you have any special requests, (remembering that this covers Easter and the next school holiday times), please contact your roster co-ordinator or the Parish Office for St Joseph's, and Helen Chitty helen4sun@hotmail.com for Our Lady Help of Christians.

JUBILEE FOR PRISONERS: Last year on 13/14 December, as part of the "Year of Jubilee", we acknowledged Jubilee For Prisoners. We were going to distribute bookmarks on that day, asking parishioners to pray for the prisoner in a particular cell in one of the three prisons in the diocese. The bookmarks didn't arrive in New Plymouth that weekend, and in fact arrived just last week. As Pilgrims of Hope, we ask parishioners to now take a book mark from the church foyers and pray. We have bookmarks for those in cells 428 to 552 in Hawkes Bay Regional Prison. Mercy is God's Light. Let us extend the gift of mercy and love to all in prison. Please, take a book mark with you on Sunday.



MARIAN MOTHERS meet Thursday 5 February at Glenda's home @ 3 Karamea Street Whalers Gate NP, 7.00pm to 8.30pm. This is a change from our usual meeting place at Our Lady Help of Christians Church. Please come along and join in prayer and a cuppa. Please bring a small sharing plate. Any queries please phone Glenda 021 323 765.



CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE: As Waitangi Day, a public holiday, is celebrated Friday 6 February, there will be no 12.05pm Mass at St Joseph's Church that day. This means there will be No First Friday luncheon. Everyone is invited instead, to be part of this regular fundraising luncheon, on the first for the month, 6 March after 12.05pm Mass.



PALMS FOR ASHES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY: We are collecting the 2025 palms to burn for ashes for Ash Wednesday. If you want to bring in your 2025 palms, they can be left in the baskets in the church foyers or in the Parish Office.

BE STILL & KNOW THAT I AM GOD

LENTE SEMINAR ON CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER
And 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, 19 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:

Bishop John Adam's Transcript on Posture - Dec 2025 invited 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 Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North is embarking on a discussion about liturgical posture, with a focus on the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass.

From Bishop John, 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.

FROM POPE LEO: THE FEBRUARY INTENTION

For children with incurable diseases.

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope beauty of life.



LYFE Group: Growing Deeper. Living Fuller.

Wednesdays | 7:30–8:30pm | Starting 4th February | Online via Zoom

We warmly welcome you to join our **LYFE Group**, a relaxed and beginner-friendly Bible study.

This is a space to explore a deeper, more meaningful life with God in a way that's simple, practical, and grounded in everyday life. No prior knowledge needed – just come as you are to this friendly group.

Keen to join us? We'd love to hear from you. Contact us for the Zoom link: Roly & Sarah Devine 021 925 911 (Roly) sarahdevine43@gmail.com

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

PRAYER MINISTRY

Will be available after Mass this
Sunday 1st February

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

February Edition

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH GROUP SUN, 1 FEB

Join us at Ngamotu Beach from 2 PM to 4:30 PM for a fun-filled afternoon with ice-cold drinks and snacks. Bring beach games to enjoy, and after, we'll attend 5:30 PM Mass at St. Jo's together – just good vibes and great company, with no youth group afterwards!



STAY CONNECTED WITH US ON INSTAGRAM FOR UPDATES ON OUR EXCITING ACTIVITIES!



NEXT YOUTH GROUP SUN 8 FEB

We kick off the series by taking a closer look at hope and defining the difference between natural and supernatural hope. You will be encouraged to be open to the great things God wants to do in your lives by setting your eyes on a higher horizon.



REGISTRATIONS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2026 OPEN ON 2 FEBRUARY.

Scan the QR code to register, and check the updated schedules on our parish's website, as they differ from the previous programme.

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

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



We pray for our deceased family and friends:

Fr. Joe O'Sullivan, David McGuirk, Shirley Brunetti, Marie McLean, Bernie Story, Beth Maclean, Pat Scott, Kerin Schumacher, Rev. John Kavanagh, Erol Taylor, John Wisnewski, Brian Noonan and Judy Scott.

FEB
02
MON

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8.00am St Joseph's Church

03
TUE

8.00am St Joseph's Church
9.10am Our Lady Help of Christians
12.05pm St Joseph's Church

04
WED

8.00am St Joseph's Church
9.10am Our Lady Help of Christians

05
THU

8.00am St Joseph's Church

06
FRI

8.30am St Joseph's Church (Waitangi Day)

07
SAT

8.30am St Joseph's Church
10:30am St Joseph's Church (Anointing Mass)
5.30pm Our Lady Help of Christians (Vigil Mass)
6.00pm St. Patrick's Church, Okato

08
SUN

9.00am St Joseph's Church
10.30am Our Lady Help of Christians Church
10.30am Nga Pekanga (Cnr Princess St & Bayley St Waitara
5.30pm St Joseph's Church

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 8 February

1ST READING: Isaiah 58.6-10

PSALM: 112

2ND READING: 1 Corinthians 2.1-5

GOSPEL: Mathew 5. 13-16



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 and Tuesday at 7:40am. For Waitangi Day, Friday 6 February and Saturday at 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.



There will be children's liturgy on 1st February.

LITTLE ANGELS MUSIC AND PLAY GROUP FOR PRESCHOOLERS at Our Lady Help of Christians will resume 16 February 9.00am. For more details please contact Amelia at musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz



QUIET YOUR HEART ~ Music with Kadisha will resume on Monday 9th February 2026 at 11.00am at St. Joseph's Church.



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

EUCARISTIC ADORATION

CONTACT US

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

PRIESTS:

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

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Susilo youth@catholicparishnp.nz

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PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

parishleadershipteam@catholicparishnp.nz

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

justiceandpeace@catholicparishnp.nz

ST JOSEPH'S

106 Powderham St
New Plymouth



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

24 Clinton St, Fitzroy

BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE

138 Parklands Ave
Bell Block

ST PATRICK'S OKATO

36 Cumming St
Okato



For updates on parish, diocese, and national events.



Catholic Parish of New Plymouth