



# Parish Newsletter

## Pānui i te Pārihi

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth  
1st March 2026 Second Sunday Of Lent



### Important Dates

#### ADORATION

Thursday Evenings  
St Joseph's Church  
7.00pm

Tuesdays at OLHC  
(after 9:10 am Mass)  
9:35am to 10:35 am  
Sunday 1st March  
3:00pm-4:00pm

Bell Block Mass Centre,  
First Friday, 6 March  
4.00pm

#### Shine Junior Youth Group

Sundays  
4.00pm to 5.00pm

#### Caritas Lenten Reflection

Bell Block Catholic Centre Wednesdays during Lent  
7.00pm to 8.00pm  
St. Joseph's Parish Office  
Mondays  
5:45pm to 6:45pm

#### Sacramental Preparation Parent Information Evening

St. Joseph's Church Hall  
Wednesday 25 March  
6.30pm to 8:00pm

#### Gospel Meetings

Wednesdays,  
7:00pm to 8:00pm,  
Our Lady Help of Christians Foyer

## A BIG WELCOME TO NEW PEOPLE AND NEW FAMILIES AT OUR SUNDAY MASSES!



Fr Simon Story

**You are so welcome to our Sunday gathering and we love having you with us!**

**We strive to be a genuine community who love and care for one another.**

**There will be people in our church foyers to meet and connect with you at Catholic Café this Sunday.**

**Alpha will begin in April for anyone seeking to know more about the big questions in life.**



#### 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**





**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 will begin the Stations of the Cross on 20th February, every Friday during Lent at St. Joseph's Church at 7:00pm in Malayalam language.



**CARITAS LENTEN REFLECTION EVENINGS:**

The Lenten season provides an opportunity each year to deepen our understanding of our faith reflecting the Gospels. The Lenten Reflection series can offer this, through the psalms, Gospel readings, discussion, reflection and quiet time. Offered at:  
 Bell Block Catholic Centre, 138 Parklands Ave, Bell Block 7.00pm to 8.00pm, each Wednesday during Lent.  
 St Joseph's Parish Office, Ngamotu Room, 5.45pm to 6.45pm Mondays during Lent.



**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](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz) to prepare for Easter by receiving daily email encouragements with Fr John O'Connor.



**A TIME TO GIVE: CARITAS LENTEN APPEAL:**  
**As the world's second largest humanitarian network, working in over 160 countries, Caritas stands ready to save lives and uphold human dignity in the wake of devastating international disasters and emergencies.** Caritas encourages supporters to donate online, through the website or through direct deposit. For donation information and details visit [Caritas.org.nz](http://Caritas.org.nz)  
 Simply call the friendly team on 0800 22 10 22 to donate using your credit or debit card.

If you wish to give by cash, envelopes are available in the foyer. Just put it on the plate and we will forward the donation to Caritas.



Scan above to change lives right now!

**MARIAN MOTHERS:** The next Marian Mother's Meeting is Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm to 8.30pm. To be held at Paulines, 101 Lizardet Street, NP. Phone: 06 758 2859. Please bring a small sharing plate. Look forward to seeing you all.



**GENERAL NOTICES**

**ROSTERS:** All rosters for the next three months 1st-March to 31st May have been distributed. If you haven't received your roster please contact the co-ordinator of your ministry or the Parish Office.

**ANOINTING MASS:** The monthly Mass of Anointing will be held at 10.30am this Saturday 7 March at St Joseph's Church. Join us for something to eat afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

**GOSPEL ENCOUNTER GROUP:** You are warmly invited! Deepen your life of Faith and prayer through an authentic encounter with Jesus through the Gospels, as you foster community with others who seek to grow closer to our Triune God. Meetings are every Wednesday day of the week at 7:00pm to 8:00pm, starting on the 25th of February 2026 in St. Joseph Parish Hall. Doors open at 6:40pm for a short welcome coffee/tea & biscuits. Please bring your Bible or Bible Phone App. For more detail please contact: Christina Chow; [jp2padua2020@gmail.com](mailto:jp2padua2020@gmail.com) or Jaime Cerda; [jzle012@gmail.com](mailto:jzle012@gmail.com).



**World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service  
 "I Will Give You Rest: Come"**

You are invited to join in worship and fellowship at St. Joseph's Church on 6th March, Friday at 10.00am.

**CWL FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH:** Friday 6 March, after the 12.05pm Mass at St Joseph's, CWL offer a delicious lunch in the church foyer. Plated sandwiches and cakes with tea or coffee for just \$7.00 and this also includes a raffle ticket! Go to the CWL website to see CWL nationwide work [www.cwl.org.nz](http://www.cwl.org.nz)



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

**PRAYER  
 MINISTRY**

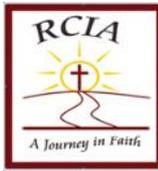
will be available after Mass on  
**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

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

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN OF INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)



**The Rite of Election** and **the Call to Continuing Conversion** mark significant milestones for those preparing to be baptised (Catechumens) and those preparing to be received into full communion (Candidates) in the Catholic Church. During **the Rite of Election**, those seeking Baptism write their names in the Book of the Elect, which lists those who have been chosen for the sacraments of initiation. Meanwhile, those already baptised, who seek full communion in the Church, participate in **the Rite of the Call to Continuing Conversion**, renewing their baptismal commitment to Christ and His Church. In the coming weekend masses, 16 Catechumens and Candidates in our parish will be participating in **the Rite of Election** and **the Call to Continuing Conversion**. Please keep them in your prayer as they continue their Catechesis and Conversion for a long-life relationship with Jesus as part of our Catholic family.

## FROM POPE LEO: THE MARCH INTENTION For disarmament and peace.

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



## ALPHA 2026 IS COMING!

We're excited to commence

ALPHA

coming soon

**ALPHA 2026 at St Joseph's Hall on Thursday evenings, 6:00–8:00pm, starting 23 April and running for 10 weeks, finishing 25 June.**

The **Alpha Retreat Weekend** is planned for **5–6 June** (final times to be confirmed).

To make Alpha happen, we need a committed team of volunteers – and we'd love for you to be part of it! As a volunteer, the weekly time commitment is **5:30pm – 8:15pm** on Thursdays, plus the retreat weekend.

Alpha isn't hard work – it's uplifting, relational, and genuinely enjoyable. We work together, support one another, and share a meal before the session begins.

### Ways you can help:

- Hospitality (e.g., helping with dishes)
- Childcare
- Small-group discussions
- Setting up for the evening
- Welcoming and socialising with guests

It's just **2.5 hours a week**. You get to be part of a friendly, supportive team. Come at 5:30pm, share the Alpha meal at 6:00pm. Stay to be part of the Alpha experience until 8:00pm. For details; contact Parish Office.



**WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Dave Gardener, Colin McComb and Antonio Gallano.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUTH GROUP

**YOUTH GROUP  
SUN, 1 MAR**

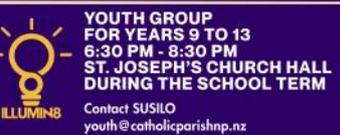
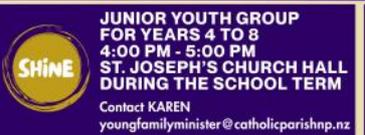
Hope is easy to talk about when everything is going well, but what happens in those difficult moments that challenge our hope?

Come to learn how to embrace hope in moments of darkness and suffering.



**NO YOUTH GROUP  
NEXT SUNDAY | 8 MAR**

There's a long weekend next Sunday! The youth group will pause and return on Sunday, 15 March!



## 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.

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.

Submissions on Liturgical Posture in the Diocese are 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>

# Welcome to Our Parish Family!

We are blessed to have you here, and we warmly invite you to consider how you might share your gifts within our parish community. There are many beautiful ways to serve, grow, and connect – and we would love to help you find a ministry that feels like home.

## Parish Ministries You Can Be Part Of

### ✝ Liturgical & Worship Ministries

- Lectors (Readers)
- Hospitality Ministers
- Musicians (instrumentalist, singers cantors, choir)
- Greeters / Ushers
- Special Ministers of the Eucharist
- Altar Server

### ♥ Pastoral & Support Ministries

- Communion to the Sick and Elderly
- Church Cleaning
- Flowers / Liturgical Environment
- Bereavement Group
- Visiting the Sick and Elderly
- Community Dinners

### ✎ Faith Formation & Sacramental Life

- Children's Liturgy
- Adult Education RCIA
- Preparation for Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation)
- Scripture Study
- Prayer Groups

### 👤 Family, Youth & Community Ministries

- Young Adults / Youth Groups
- Marian Mothers Group
- Catholic Women's League
- Artwork / Noticeboards

*If you feel called to join any of these ministries, our Parish Office would be delighted to assist you.*

## Shine Junior Youth Group and Junior Youth Mass 2026



Shine Junior Youth Group has started again for 2026. Shine is for children in years 4-8. We meet on Sunday afternoons during term time from 4-5pm in St Joseph's Church Hall. Shine is all about fun and a shared faith. It is a great opportunity for children to form connections and friendships within our parish family with children from different schools. Shine is full of fun, laughter and energy. Many of our Shine families then head to Mass at 5.30pm to St. Joseph's Church.

Junior Youth Masses will continue to be held this year on the second Sunday of each month at St Joseph's Church at 5.30pm Mass. These Junior Youth Masses give children in year 4-8 a chance to help lead the Mass, taking on all the roles in the Mass. These Junior Youth Masses might be an opportunity for your family to commit to coming to Mass together once a month. These Masses are vibrant and energetic, and you will certainly leave feeling uplifted! Our first Junior Youth Mass for the year is on 8th March. Come along as a family!!

If you want to know more about Shine and our Junior Youth Masses, please get in touch with Karen at [youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz)



# Music lifts our souls into deeper praise and worship.



At our parish we are excited to welcome anyone who would like to be part of our musical family!

We have a variety of music groups in our Parish, each offering a unique way to get involved:

Little Angels – for pre-school children who love singing and music.

The Seedlings – our junior choir for children in Years 4–8 (ages 9–13).

The Mustard Seeds – our Youth Band for young people in Years 9–13 (ages 14–18).

Adult Song Leaders / Cantors – helping to lead singing at Mass.

Organists / Pianists – if you play and would like to support our liturgies, we would love to hear from you!



We also have a number of cultural music groups in our Parish community, including: Pasifika – St Anthony Choir; Couples for Christ, Youth for Christ and the Syro Malabar Choir.

If you're interested in joining any of these groups, please contact our Music Coordinator, Amelia, who would be delighted to help you find the right fit:

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



## YOUTH MINISTRY

A Journey of Faith, Friendship, and Fun!

THE ILLUMIN8 YOUTH GROUP

ILLUMIN8 IS FOR YEARS 9 TO 13!



We meet every Sunday during the school term from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at St. Joseph's Church Hall. Our gatherings feature exciting social events and inspiring Life Nights with conversations about faith and life!

Energetic Youth Masses on the 2nd & last Sunday of the month in secondary schools & Sacramental programmes in term 3

Unforgettable annual retreat and camp!

JOIN US FOR AN ADVENTURE YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!

For more information, contact me at [youth@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:youth@catholicparishnp.nz)

SUSILO KENTJANA  
Youth Minister





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](mailto:youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz)

For Confirmation inquiries, contact SUSILO at [youth@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:youth@catholicparishnp.nz).



Pilgrimage to

Hiruhārama Jerusalem

SATURDAY, 11 APRIL 2026

A new date has been confirmed, and 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](mailto:BISHOP-PA@PNDIOCESE.ORG.NZ)  
WITH YOUR NAME, PARISH, AND  
PHONE NUMBER.



**CHRIS SKINNER**

**FUNDRAISING CONCERT**  
*Proceeds to Forrestal Lodge*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> • 2 P.M.**

**SACRED HEART CHURCH**  
STANDISH STREET, INGLEWOOD

Tickets available from Inglewood Hammer Hardware and Parish Office

Cost of ticket: **\$30**

Email: [shparish@xtra.co.nz](mailto:shparish@xtra.co.nz) | Phone: 0274 519 112

### 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".

**FORMED** is an online library resource and the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth has a paid subscription to Formed. This means that parishioners of all ages and stages on their faith journeys can use FORMED at no cost.

Instructions to access:

1. Visit <http://signup.formed.org/>
2. Enter our parish name: Catholic Parish of NP
3. Enter your name and email.

FORMED brings beautiful and faithful Catholic content to parishes, families, and individuals. There is something for everyone here: Bible study, small group studies, the Liturgical calendar, the Sacraments, award-winning studies and parish programmes, inspiring audio content, movies, e-books, and family-friendly kid's programming. Led by the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press, and in collaboration with over 100 content providers, this site reaches more than one million subscribers worldwide. Hop online and discover this resource available **FREE TO PARISHIONERS!** Let us know what you think.

MAR	WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE	
2	SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH	
MON	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
3 TUE	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9.10am	Our Lady Help of Christians
	12.05pm	St Joseph's Church
4 WED	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9.10am	Our Lady Help of Christians
5 THU	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	10.00am	Sacred Heart's College (St. Mary's Chapel)
	2.20pm	Francis Douglas Memorial College
6 FRI	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	12.05pm	St Joseph's Church
7 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 (Vigil Mass)
8 SUN	9.00am	St Joseph's Church
	10.30am	Our Lady Help of Christians Church
	10.30am	Nga Pekanga (Cnr Princess St and Bayley St Waitara)
	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, by initially 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.

### 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 musiccoordinator@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

Third Sunday of Lent 8th March

**1ST READING:** Exodus 17.3-7

**PSALM:** 95

**2ND READING:** Romans 5.1-2, 5-8

**GOSPEL:** John 4.42, 15



### 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  
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

### 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



For updates on parish, diocese,  
and national events.



Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

## FROM THE DIOCESE OF PALMERSTON NORTH

**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@pndioocese.org.nz](mailto:bishop-pa@pndioocese.org.nz) if you would like to share your thoughts. More information can be found at <https://tumanako.pndioocese.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.

**Mission Hub – Ephesians 4: The Five Gifts for Building the Church:** Every member of the Church has a role to play in building up the Body of Christ. This March, join us at Mission Hub as we reflect on Ephesians 4 and the five gifts Christ gives His people: Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, and Teacher.

Together, we'll explore how to recognise these gifts in ourselves, how they strengthen the Church, and how we can respond with courage and faith.



Monday 9 March



7:00–8:30pm (NZ time)



Online via Zoom



Prayer, inspiring content, discussion

Everyone is invited to register here: <https://bit.ly/march9webinar>

**Te Kupenga Webinar Series | 3 March 2026:** Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College will hold its first webinar of the year in preparation for World Youth Day 2027. Join Dr John Sehorn, Academic Dean of the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, as he unpacks the theme of WYD, "Take courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33) and reflects on how this message speaks to young people and the whole church. This will be on Tuesday, 3 March 2026, 5 - 6pm via Zoom. Go to [www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026) for more information and to register.

**CathNews New Zealand:** CathNews New Zealand shares the big news from the Catholic Church and stories of relevance to Catholics every Tuesday and Friday. Sign up for the free digital newsletter and read the latest stories at [cathnewsnz.com](http://cathnewsnz.com)

**Diocesan Hub – March 7–8 | Register Now:** Our first Diocesan Hub gatherings are fast approaching. These diocesan afternoons of prayer, reflection, and conversation are open to all. In March, we will reflect on Sacrosanctum Concilium, the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, exploring how worship forms us as a baptised people sent on mission. The same gathering will be offered in two locations and everyone from across the diocese are warmly encouraged to attend either location:

Saturday 7 March – Palmerston North

Sunday 8 March – Hastings

Lunch is provided. Please register to ensure we can cater and prepare well for all attending:

<https://forms.office.com/r/si6GpNKWz9> We look forward to gathering as one diocesan community.

**Call for Small Group Facilitators – Diocesan Hubs:** Would you consider offering your time and heart to help facilitate a small group at the Diocesan Hubs? The Diocese is seeking volunteers to help create welcoming spaces for conversation, prayer and reflection during these afternoons of formation. No special experience is required, just a willingness to listen and encourage others in faith. Training and support will be provided. If you would like to be part of this new initiative and help strengthen our diocesan community, please register your interest at:

<https://bit.ly/diofacilitate>

**ACROSS Social Work Referrals now open:** ACROSS is a not-for-profit organisation here to walk alongside whānau through life's challenges. Whether it's offering a listening ear, advocating for families, or providing practical support, they are committed to strengthening their community. They are now open for social work referrals.

**Who needs social workers?** Whānau under pressure | Whānau navigating complex systems | People facing housing or financial stress | Those experiencing trauma or major life changes | Anyone needing advocacy and support.

**Why social workers matter:** They help prevent crisis before it happens | They strengthen whānau resilience | They support mental and emotional wellbeing | They connect people to the right services.

At ACROSS, social workers are here to support whānau every step of the way.

Contact: Freephone 0800 ACROSS (227 677) or email [reception@across.org.nz](mailto:reception@across.org.nz)

**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](mailto: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](http://www.harvestjourneys.com/pv2659)

## From Our Justice and Peace Group

This Lent, the **Laudato Si' Movement** invites you to walk a **shared journey of prayer, contemplation, and ecological conversion** – one that is simple, deep, and rooted in faith.



Rather than many disconnected activities, our Lenten journey follows **gentle, repeatable rhythms of prayer** that can be lived personally, in families, parishes, and communities across the world.

### [Meditation video](#)

#### **Prayer for every day.**

**God our Creator**, thank you for the gift of creation. Draw us into contemplation, so that we may recognize your presence in the beauty that surrounds us.

*Pause:* Where did I hear and see creation's song today?

**Christ, heart of creation**, united with all that suffers, help us contemplate honestly our lives. Through discernment, show us where our choices have harmed the earth and the poor.

*Pause:* Where did I hear and see creation's cry today?

**Spirit of renewal**, send us forth into action. Teach us to live humbly within creation and to respond with love and justice.

*Pause:* What is creation calling me to do today in response to creation's song and cry?

### **Weekly Reflection Questions**

Each week, visit the Interactive Heart on our website <https://laudatosimovement.org/lent/> And spend time with the weekly reflection. Then, return here to respond in prayer.

#### **February 18. Ash Wednesday.**

What has distracted my heart from what truly gives life, and how is God inviting me to return to the heart – His heart and my own?

[space for personal response]

Weekly gesture (prayer): Examine your ecological conscience and choose one simple practice to deepen your ecological spirituality. Each day, thank God for three natural resources you used today (water, food, air) and ask for the grace to care for them more responsibly.



# THIS LENT, JOIN US FOR A GOSPEL ENCOUNTER

## WHERE:

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

## WHEN:

WED 25<sup>TH</sup> FEB, 2026

AND EVERY 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> WED  
OF THE MONTH

\*6.45PM: DOORS OPEN FOR  
A WELCOME CUPPA

\*7PM-8.15PM: GOSPEL  
ENCOUNTER

## ANY QUESTIONS?

NAME: Christina Chow  
[jp2padua2020@gmail.com](mailto:jp2padua2020@gmail.com)

Jaime Cerda  
[jle012@gmail.com](mailto:jle012@gmail.com)

## WHAT IT IS

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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!

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ST PIUS X



# GALA DAY



15<sup>TH</sup> 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

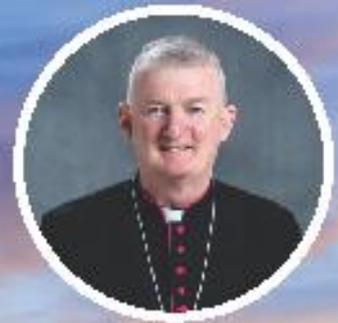
18  
DAYS

# 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 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



# DO NOT MARCH LIFE

NZ NATIONAL MARCH – NEW LOCATION!

**AUCKLAND**  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**GATHER FROM 1PM**

at the bottom of Queen Street,  
Te Komititanga Square

**MARCH AT 2PM**

up to Aotea Square.

**Did you know that New Zealand has one of the  
most extreme abortion laws in the world?**

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

You can march for life together with thousands of others, and speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. March for life and show New Zealand that every life is precious. Enjoy a positive, family-friendly day with live music, inspiring speakers, and a community spirit.

**VISIT [MARCHFORLIFE.NZ](https://marchforlife.nz)**





## **NEW PLYMOUTH BUDGET** **ADVISORY SERVICE**

### **FREE MANAGING YOUR MONEY COURSE**



(Financial Literacy Course)

**Free help is here, so you can take control of your money**

#### **TOPICS COVERED**

- Managing debt
- Kiwisaver
- Weekly budgeting
- Living within your means
- Easy bank account systems
- Mortgages
- Insolvency
- Interest free loans
  - Nga Tangata Micro Finance
  - E funding and much more

**THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

At Community House, 32 Leach Street, New Plymouth

**9.30am – 1.45pm**

### **Cooking demonstration with recipes for morning tea and lunch (provided)**

**Go into the draw for a great food hamper if you attend all three sessions**

**Call Jos Merwood – Manager NP Budget Advice**

**Phone 0800 11 49 11 or 06 758 5996**

**or ph/text 027 31 94 358**

**or [office@npbudget.co.nz](mailto:office@npbudget.co.nz).**

**Or private message on Facebook**

**[Check out our FB page](#)**