



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



21st June 2026 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Important Dates

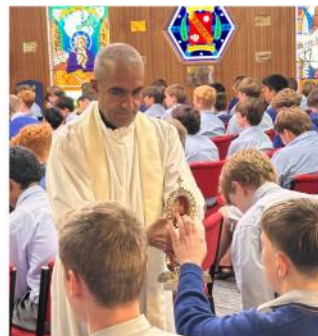
St. Carlo Acutis Relic's Visits to Francis Douglas Memorial College and Sacred Heart Girls' College



On Thursday, 11 June, students, teachers, and staff from Francis Douglas Memorial College and Sacred Heart Girls' College were blessed with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to encounter the relic of Saint Carlo Acutis, the new millennial saint who was canonised on 7 September 2020.

The relic is currently travelling to Christchurch, then Dunedin before heading to Brisbane, Australia.

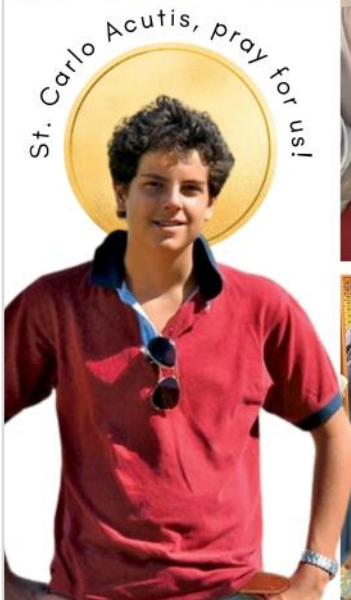
Monsignor Anthony Figueiredo, who was assigned to the Diocese of Assisi about six years ago by the late Pope Francis and as part of his priestly duties, looks after Carlo's relics, bringing them to countries throughout the world for veneration, came to New Zealand on the way to Australia as part of the preparation for the Eucharistic Congress in 2028 in Sydney, Australia.



In the morning, the Relic visited Francis Douglas Memorial College. Monsignor Anthony spoke to 200 boys who were there, about the life of St. Carlo Acutis, who had a deep devotion to the Eucharist and used his talents in technology to spread the Gospel. He encouraged the boys not to be afraid to live a holy life and to continue attending Mass and Adoration.

He exposed the Blessed Sacrament for a brief period of Adoration, and Monsignor Anthony gave a personal blessing to every boy, teacher, and staff member who attended with the relic.

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Adoration

Our Lady Help of Christians Church
Tuesday after 9.10am
Mass

St Joseph's Church
Every Thursday
Adoration and
Reconciliation 7.00pm

28th June 2026

Sunday 9.00 am
Confirmation Mass
St Joseph's Church
(The Mass will be longer – 30 to 40 minutes longer than usual)

3rd July 2026

School holidays begin.
Please check the newsletter for any changes to our usual Mass schedule, as there will be no weekday school Masses during this time.

8th August 2026

Saturday 1.30pm
St. Joseph's church hall
Catholic Women's League
Bingo Fun afternoon

GENERAL NOTICES

Passionist-Family Group Movement



You are invited to join a Family Group:

Would you like to get to know more people in the parish. A Family Group is just where you can do that.

A new group is starting for young families. We had an informal gathering recently with some of the interested members and their children. We have set a date for the first gathering, and are planning a gathering at Pukekura Park perhaps at the playground. This with a picnic lunch on a fine day was always a favourite with many Family Groups. So if you are interested in finding out more about this group or any of the 5 existing groups please contact Linda email: paulandlinda.d@gmail.com or the Parish Office 06 757 3682. Page 10 of the online or emailed newsletter contains more information on Family Groups as well, for those interested.

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP:

The Justice and Peace group meet on the second Monday evening of every month.



This month we have been planning : the upcoming Prayers for Peace Service, the shared reading of Pope Leo's first apostolic exhortation, *Dilexi te*, and supporting people to enroll to vote.

We welcome input from anyone who would like to help in the preparation of our Prayers for Peace in the World Service which will be held in St Joseph's church on Friday, July 24th. If you would like to be part of this in any way, please email the Justice and Peace group justiceandpeace@catholicparishnp.nz or phone or text Joan 021 1100775

Dilexi Te – join with others to read Pope Francis' draft that has been completed by Pope Leo.

“Dilexi te means ‘I have loved you’.”

It serves as a theological and practical guide for Catholics, and for all people of good will. Meetings on **July** 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th for readings – Monday nights; 5:30 – 6:30 pm Ngāmotu Room, Please come to the back door of the Office.

Flower Arrangement Volunteers Needed.

The flower arranging team at St Joseph's church would warmly welcome some more volunteers.

If you like arranging flowers please consider joining this team.

For more information please text or call Janice 021 948 587

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ON DEVON STREET WEST:

We have been advised that Devon Street West between the Robe Street and Dawson Street will be closed from Tuesday 16 June to Friday 31 July. The closure includes the road and the carparks in front of, and surrounding the hall, so will affect all who like to use that area. Pedestrian access will still be available.

CATHOLIC CAFÉ: Catholic Café is held after nearly every Sunday Mass. It is the drink and the food, the fellowship and the friendship offered after Mass.

At St Joseph's we are asking for more volunteers who could help in a variety of ways. Perhaps by joining one of the teams who set up, tidy up and generally host Catholic Café. There is a roster and probably a turn every five weeks.

Or contribute by bring some baking. Try out a new recipe at Catholic Café or bring the easy favourites, Anzac biscuits, Hokey Pokey biscuits, pikelets. An endless list.

Or donate supermarket biscuits on the day.

Or make a specific donation to Catholic Café.

Or be the person who is happy to mingle with those at Catholic Café, welcoming the newcomers and visitors, making sure everyone feels included, part of the gathering.

Email Marion at marianbiggs54@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office 06 757 3682 for more details.

PRAYER FOR PALLIATIVE CARE: From 6:00am till 6:00pm on Tuesday 23rd June, the Catholic Women's League in Inglewood is organising the "Twelve Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" in Inglewood Catholic Church, on Standish St. We invite pray-ers to take an hour out of their busy day and join us in prayer.

Exposition will follow the 9:00am Mass. Respect for all life until it's natural end is the goal.

Musicians Needed for the Parish

We invite parishioners of all ages to join our music ministry. If you enjoy singing and play the piano/keyboards and want to serve through music, you're most welcome – no experience needed. Help lead worship at Mass and special events in a friendly, supportive group. Rehearsals are friendly and welcoming, and it's a wonderful way to connect with others while sharing your gifts. **Interested?** Please contact the Ameila; music coordinator; musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz

Sacred Hearts Girl's College Enrolments for 2027 – Reminder

We would like to remind families that enrolment applications for 2027 must be submitted by **Friday, 3 July 2026**.

Information and application forms are available on our website:

<https://www.shgcnp.school.nz/enrolment/Enrolment-Application>

Please ensure every application includes a signed preference form. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.



BINGO

SATURDAY, 8 AUGUST 2026 - STARTS AT 01:30 PM

St Joseph's Church Hall – 151 Devon St, New Plymouth

ENTRY \$15
which includes 10 cards, afternoon tea and raffles.

Come along to
The Catholic Women's League annual Bingo Fundraiser.
Funds raised will support

ALZHEIMER'S

Through a wide spectrum of services, providing vital support and services to patients and their families as they navigate life's challenges.

PETER'S PENCE SPECIAL COLLECTION: 28th June

we will be making the annual Peters Pence Collection. This collection made on or near the Feast of St Peter and St Paul, is a way in which each of us can give, expressing the sense of belonging to the Church, and our love and trust in the Holy Father. It is a tangible sign of communion with Him, as Peter's Successor, and also of attention to the needs of the disadvantaged, for whom the Pope always cares.

The money collected is used by the Pope for acts of service carried out by the Holy See every day. By contributing to Peter's Pence, we can all together support the Pope's mission to support the numerous charitable works, in aid of people and families in difficulty, populations afflicted by natural disasters and wars, or those who are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Those who donate by Planned Giving will have numbered Peter's Pence donation envelopes. Giving envelopes are also attached to today's newsletter. Parishioners can also donate on line. The bank account number is 020 630 0288002 03 and the bank account name is The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth. Please use Peter's Pence as a reference and if you wish to receive a tax receipt your surname and initials and your donation (planned giving) number as the code and particulars. If you don't have a donation number please use your phone number. Or just bring cash to Mass, Sunday 28 June for the collection after Communion.

June Edition 2026

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUTH GROUP

NEXT SUNDAY YOUTH GROUP SUN, 21 JUNE

JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL NIGHT, AS THIS WILL BE THE FINAL YOUTH GROUP GATHERING FOR SUSILO.

SOCIAL NIGHT



SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2026 6:30PM - 8:30PM ST JOE'S HALL

JOIN US FOR A COZY AND FUN EVENING. HANG OUT WITH SUSILO AS THIS IS HIS LAST YOUTH GROUP!

YOUTH GROUP DATES IN TERM 2

3 MAY
17 MAY
7 JUNE
21 JUNE
5 JULY

SAVE THE DATE YOUTH FESTIVAL SATURDAY 1 AUGUST 2026 ST. PETER'S COLLEGE PALMERSTON NORTH



Youth Fest 2026

CONFIRMATION MASS SUNDAY, 28 JUNE 2026 9:00AM ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH



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

ILLUMINS
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



9:00 AM

Confirmation Mass

**SUNDAY, 28 JUNE 2026
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH**

Please note, this mass will be longer than usual.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Reit Juffermans, Johnny & Kathleen Goodin, Xavier Chamany, Deceased Members of the McBride, Barry and Webb Families, Rae Komene, Karu Abraham, Fr. Wally Cooke, Peggy Mora, and Wayne Coombe.

Shirley Knuckey Reflects on the Music Ministry

Shirley Knuckey “Lord Jesus of you we have sung on the Journey

Fr Tom’s Blessing at the concluding liturgy of 7th June, longevity and journey themes nudge me to note my appreciation of our parish’s many people involved in the music ministry over the years.

From learning organ at age 15 in the Eltham’s Methodist Church, to Catholic adulthood and family life, we made a move to Okato and St Patrick’s parish. By the later 60’s we addressed the Vatican 2 shift from Latin chant to general singing in English. Elizabeth Gilhooly of St Joseph’s, helped us with these English hymns. The 4-hymn structure for all masses – Gathering, Presentation of the Gifts, Communion and Recessional was embedded. Athlea Roebuck led Okato’s vocal support through 15 years.



Fr. Simon, Amelia and Shirley after Shirley's Farewell Mass

The Parts of the formal liturgy are sung routinely. The first of these, the New Zealander Douglas Mews’ Mass was commissioned by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops shortly after the Latin Gregorian Chant settings were laid to rest. We’re currently singing the Mews in rotation with a couple of others.

In 1980, my family and I moved to St Joseph’s parish, where Shirley Murphy’s music leadership was notable. The Cantor role was set in place. I played for Sunday evening Masses. A Youth group led singing for a time.

Margaret Hurley was our long-tenure organist. The late Harry Brown was generous in his coaching of aspiring organists in St Joseph’s with several parishioners enjoying his expert assistance. Other organists included, Rae Edgecombe who served for some years and Dennis Edgecombe who was a regular until recently. Alongside church liturgy, the Charismatic Renewal provided a fresh impetus with a variety of worship styles.

An important development was extending te Reo Maori hymn repertoire beyond the staple Whakaaria Mai (How Great Thou Art). The Bidding Prayers response is set in place with te Reo “E te Ariki, whakaronga mai ki a Matau” (Hear us Lord).

From 1997, Pretheeva Fernando directed the SATB Choir for 20 years. Weekly practices provided a monthly 9.00am anthem with extra prep for the high seasons.

St Joseph’s and St Pius X Schools lead 9.00am Masses monthly during the term-time at St. Joseph’s. Large congregations fill the church for these joyful celebrations.

Fr Tom recognised that our church interior needed mic’d song help so he initiated a Song Leader ministry to boost singing. This 4-person grouping continues and includes a regular Filipino line-up.

In 2021, Amelia Luke was appointed Music Co-ordinator. She attends to many general tasks. Her directing of youth-involved music enlivens 5.30pm Masses. Pretheeva’s organ expertise enhances most 9.00am Masses.

The Pasifika Group of St Anthony of Padua offers beautiful resonant adult harmonies on occasion. Fr Simon, Fr Sobin and Fr Tom’s affirmation of the music ministry is greatly appreciated.

Before I left the building on June 7th, a 5.30pm regular said to me she “liked the way I played from the heart”. I liked that! My fond memories remain, and I do enjoy the parish gift of a beautiful orchid in my favourite colour livening up my apartment lounge.

Nga mihi nui, Shirley Knuckey



Blast from the Past –
a cherished photo of the choir during Christmas 2017.
We see in it some of our Youth music group
in their younger days.

Sacrament of Baptism and First Holy Communion at Sacred Hearts Girls College

Sacred Hearts Girls' College joyfully celebrates the sacred milestones of Baptism and First Holy Communion in the lives of its students. Baptism marks the beginning of a child's journey in faith, welcoming them into the Christian community and blessing them with grace and new life in Christ. It is a moment of spiritual renewal, symbolizing purity, hope, and belonging.

As one of the foundational sacraments, Baptism lays the groundwork for a lifelong relationship with God, calling each individual to live a life of faith and love. First Holy Communion, in turn, nourishes and deepens this relationship, inviting students to participate fully in the Eucharistic celebration and to grow in unity with Christ and one another.



Pictured with Fr Sobin, are Isla Green, Matilda Lord, Lucy Gibson and Michaela Kwangwari. These girls will now start preparing for Reconciliation for the end of this term, and first Holy Communion for term 3.

First Holy Communion is another significant step in this faith journey. Through this sacrament, students receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time, deepening their relationship with God and strengthening their spiritual foundation. It is a moment of reverence, preparation, and joy shared among students, families, and the school community.

At Sacred Hearts Girls' College, these sacraments are not only celebrated with devotion but are also supported through guidance, prayer, and religious education, helping each student grow in faith, love, and service. Together, they form a meaningful part of the school's commitment to nurturing both the spiritual and personal development of every young

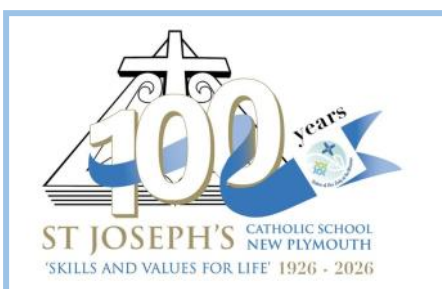


Pictured with Fr Simon, are Azalia Faga, Hope Hirini-Crow, Rosa Sergent-Shadbolt, Nancy Chen and Ruby Smither on their first Holy Communion. These senior girls are already active within our parish, and are now preparing to make their confirmations!

We are delighted to be approaching a special milestone in the life of St Joseph's Catholic School, and we warmly invite past students, staff, and families to join us in this joyful celebration of this Mission Sister's historic and iconic school. This will be a meaningful time to come together in fellowship, to reconnect, and to give thanks for the spiritual purpose and history of the school, and the many memories and blessings shared within our school community.

Please mark your calendars for Friday 23 October, Saturday 24 October, and Sunday 25 October.

We kindly ask you to complete the "Register Your Interest" form here: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeUuzs83RR.../viewform...>



As our planning continues and we gain a clearer idea of numbers attending, further details will be shared here. In the spirit of community, please feel free to pass this invitation on to others who have been part of St Joseph's Catholic School, so we can gather as widely as possible.

In the meantime, we invite you to stay connected by following our Facebook page, where you can see the life and spirit of our school as it continues today.

We look forward to welcoming you back, renewing connections, and celebrating together as a faith-filled whānau.

For further updates, the following is the official Centenary Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576850039718>

St. Carlo Acutis Relic's Visits to Francis Douglas Memorial College and Sacred Heart Girls' College - continued from page 1

Here are some testimonies written by the students of FDMC.

The experience of not just viewing but touching St. Carlo Acutis' relics was one with a profound impact on me - I felt grateful and blessed.

When the piece of St. Acutis' heart was in my hand, it was as if I was able to feel his holiness take root within me. I thought that if I could do even just a fraction of his accomplishments, then my life would be pleasing to God, too.

Kynan Uy - FDMC Student

The visit of St Carlo Acutis' relic was a memorable experience that strengthened my appreciation for both my faith and the wider school community.

Oscar Fryer - FDMC Student

Seeing the relic and witnessing it made me understand God's timing because only one day after I saw the relic, I needed to choose a saint for my confirmation programme, and I chose Saint Carlo Acutis because of what he achieved at a young age. **Keshara Jayasinghe - FDMC Student**

Then, St. Carlo Acutis' relic visited the students, teachers, and staff at Sacred Heart Girls' College. The presence of the relic at school was not a coincidence, as that day was the vigil of the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is the school's feast day.

Monsignor Anthony addressed the girls about the significance of the heart for humans, explaining how it pumps blood 136,000 times a day to keep us alive. He likened this to how Jesus wants us to experience the true fullness of life. St. Carlo lived a holy life; since he was seven years old, he attended daily Mass and even brought his parents to conversion.

He mentioned that many people tend to focus only on themselves. St. Carlo once said, "**Sadness is looking at ourselves; happiness is looking towards God.**" Monsignor Anthony encouraged the girls to keep looking towards God and find happiness from Him.

He then walked through the events center to bless all the students, teachers, and staff with the Relic.

It was a beautiful and spirit-filled morning, and we felt very blessed to have this opportunity. Afterward, the relic of St. Carlo Acutis visited Cullinane College in Whanganui before returning to the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.



2026

CONFIRMATION

Susilo Kentjana Youth Minister

camp



After spending time in weekly sessions where the candidates learned about Confirmation, including how to be witnesses by learning from the Saints who have gone before us, and diving deeper into the heart of God—who promised the Holy Spirit and fulfilled that promise through Jesus—the confirmation candidates gathered last weekend for a Confirmation Camp from Friday, 12 June to Sunday, 14 June, at Francis Douglas Memorial College.



During the camp, the candidates explored who the Holy Spirit is, what He does in our lives, and the fruits, gifts, and extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit. They also had the opportunity to spend time with Jesus in Adoration and Reconciliation. We are grateful to Fr. Simon, Fr. Sobin, Fr. Tom, Fr. Bruce, Fr. Allan, and Fr. Brian for generously giving their time to listen to the candidates' confessions. It was a night of breakthrough and healing.



We concluded the camp with a Family Mass, where the families and sponsors of the candidates came together and shared a meal afterward. It truly was a great weekend.



Now, the candidates are entering the final phase of their confirmation preparation, which includes one last session on Monday, 22 June, a rehearsal on Saturday, 27 June, and the Confirmation Mass with Bishop John Adams on Sunday, 28 June, at 9:00am, followed by a confirmation celebration.

Please note that this Mass will be 30-40 minutes longer than usual, but our young people will greatly appreciate your presence to witness their Confirmation day. I believe it will be a grace-filled day.



Please keep them in your prayers.



JUNE

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

TO 28th JUNE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

22

MON

8:00am St Joseph's Church

23

TUE

8:00am St Joseph's Church
9:00am St Joseph's School (School Hall)
9:10am Our Lady Help of Christians
12:05pm St Joseph's Church

24

WED

8:00am St Joseph's Church
9:10am Our Lady Help of Christians

25

THU

8:00am St Joseph's Church
10:00am Sacred Hearts Girls College

26

FRI

8:00am St Joseph's Church
12:05pm St Joseph's Church

27

SAT

8:30am St Joseph's Church
5:30pm Our Lady Help of Christians (Vigil Mass)
6:00pm St Patrick's Church Okato (Vigil Mass)

28

SUN

9:00am St Joseph's Church (Confirmation Mass)
10:30am Our Lady Help of Christians
5:30pm St Joseph's Church

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 11.30am to 12 noon at St Joseph's Church OR 4.45pm to 5.15pm at OLHC prior to the 5.30pm Vigil Mass. And during Thursday 7.00pm Adoration at St Joseph's Church. 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 and Saturday 8.10am in the Parish Office McKillop Room. Please 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 St John Bosco School Library.

St Joseph's Church: There is **NO** Children's Liturgy at 9.00am Mass **21st June** as it is a school led Mass and **28th June** as it is our Confirmation Mass.

LITTLE ANGELS MUSIC AND PLAY GROUP FOR PRESCHOOLERS



at Our Lady Help of Christians. Music, play and morning tea. 9.00am during the school term. For more details contact Amelia at musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time 28 June 2026

1ST READING: 2 Kings 4.8-12a, 14-16

PSALM: 89

2ND READING: Romans 6.3-4, 8-11

GOSPEL: Mathew 10.37-42



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:

Fr. Simon Story simon@catholicparishnp.nz
Tom Lawn tom@catholicparishnp.nz
Fr. Sobin sobin@catholicparishnp.nz
Fr. Sobin Sebastian Phone 027 255 8097

STRATEGIC LEADER Richard

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

COULD GOD BE CALLING YOU?

A relaxed weekend of prayer, honest conversation and space to listen. You'll have time to ask real questions, meet other men discerning their vocation and encounter God without pressure.



THIS RETREAT IS FOR YOU IF..

- You've wondered - even briefly - whether God is calling you
- You want space to pray and think without distraction
- You're curious about what the life of a priest actually looks like
- You have the courage to ask the question

FRIDAY 26 JUNE 5PM - SUNDAY 28 JUNE 3PM
MAGNIFICAT RETREAT CENTRE | FEATHERSTON



DIOCESE OF
PALMERSTON
NORTH

DISCOVER MORE AND EMAIL FR TRUNG TODAY
pettrung89@gmail.com

But I'm already very busy!

Jesus did not ask us to welcome strangers and love each other, but not to worry about this if we are busy. Family Group life is gospel life and we should never be too busy to live that way. Apart from that, if you are too busy you are going to miss out on a lot of fun.

What if I've already got enough friends?

Well, maybe a group needs you! And if you do have many friends, you don't have to lose them to belong to a Family Group.

Have you ever thought what it is like for the people who are not like you and don't have many friends? What if we could create a network where everybody knew at least 10 families well? Wouldn't that be a great way for you to contribute to the parish community?

What about the benefits to the Parish?

Family Groups promote community in the parish through the active involvement of parishioners. Experience shows many people become more actively involved in parish life as a result of belonging to a Passionist Family Group.

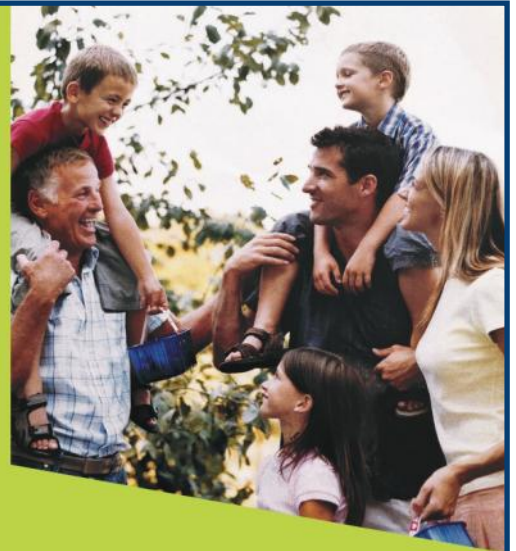
History of the Passionist Family Group Movement

The Family Groups began in 1972 as an inspiration of Father Peter McGrath in the tiny parish of St Anthony in the Fields, Terrey Hills, an outer suburb of Sydney. Being a Passionist, Peter guided the Movement with a down-to-earth, practical and friendship based spirituality. Peter used to describe it as "a matter of the heart". As the parish grew in numbers, Peter and others set about preserving the original community spirit when people knew each other by name and shared each others joys and struggles. Other parishes wanted this same spirit and a Movement developed across Australia.

Passionist Family Groups began in Aotearoa in June 1988 through the work of Fr Brian Traynor CP and Lynn and Rob Hill from Paeroa parish and as happened in Australia, the Movement spread far and wide. Today, effective and committed leaders across each diocese still work with Fr Brian, the Advisor.

Together they provide active support, resources and spiritual formation to continue developing healthy leadership models within the Movement. Passionist Family Groups are continuing to encourage, support and guide small group community, a recognised need in the modern church. They bring a sense of fun and friendship to Christian life - a dimension too often missing in parish life.

Will you join in?



Passionist Family Group Movement

For More Information Contact

"Matters of the Heart"



www.passionistfamily.org.nz



The Family Group Movement

Have you ever asked yourself? "How could I be more involved in our parish?" Maybe you have wondered how you could get to know some of the people you see in the church?

Changing faces into names and names into Family

Nearly everyone finds it difficult to meet new people. There is an increasing number of parishioners from overseas countries. How do they get a sense of welcome and belonging? Joining a Family Group enables parishioners to meet regularly with a small number of people in a social environment. A Family Group is a great way of helping break down barriers and really getting to know others, so that we can look out for each other and build community.

What are the Aims of the Family Group Movement?

The Movement has a down-to-earth spirituality. We want people to feel welcomed in their parish and to have a true sense of belonging. We want members to accept and appreciate each other, to support each other in times of need and in this way assist people to live their faith in a truly practical way.

Is it Social or Religious?

Jesus would have found this a strange distinction, but some people still ask the question. He called his followers to love one another and that's what people do in Passionist Family Groups. Many people believe that faith is 'caught' rather than 'taught' and there is a lot of 'faith catching' in Family Groups.

Do I have to be holy?

Holiness is most obvious in the practical ways we respond to human need. Being a member of a Family Group enables you to experience true holiness, by creating an environment where people can be themselves and respond to each others' everyday needs.

Who will be in my Family Group?

A Family Group is made up of about 10 – 12 families. Many of these will be couples or single adults. Everyone is welcome to join. Family Groups are for all.

What happens in a Family Group?

Faces become names and names become family. Groups gather once a month (e.g. for a picnic, barbeque, pot luck shared meal, etc) to enjoy being with one another and gradually develop supportive relationships that are as strong as any true family. In the past, most groups had a cross section of ages including children. While there are still many such groups, there are also many Family Groups with senior adult members who have been together for decades and developed a true sense of family.

What can I give to a Family Group?

Yourself! You can give your heart, your time, your friendship.

How committed do I have to be?

A Family Group is just like a family; the members create a sense of responsibility for one another. As with all aspects of life, you reap what you sow. You will get from Family Groups what you put into Family Groups.

What if I'm not Catholic or I am single or divorced?

The Passionist Family Group motto is "A Family for All" Family Groups provide an extended family for anyone who wishes to belong, whatever their faith tradition or whether they are married, single or divorced. Everyone is welcome to join.



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



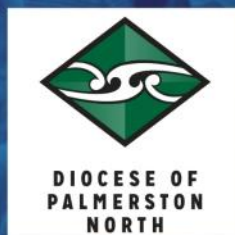
WORLD YOUTH DAY

3 - 8 AUGUST 2027
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

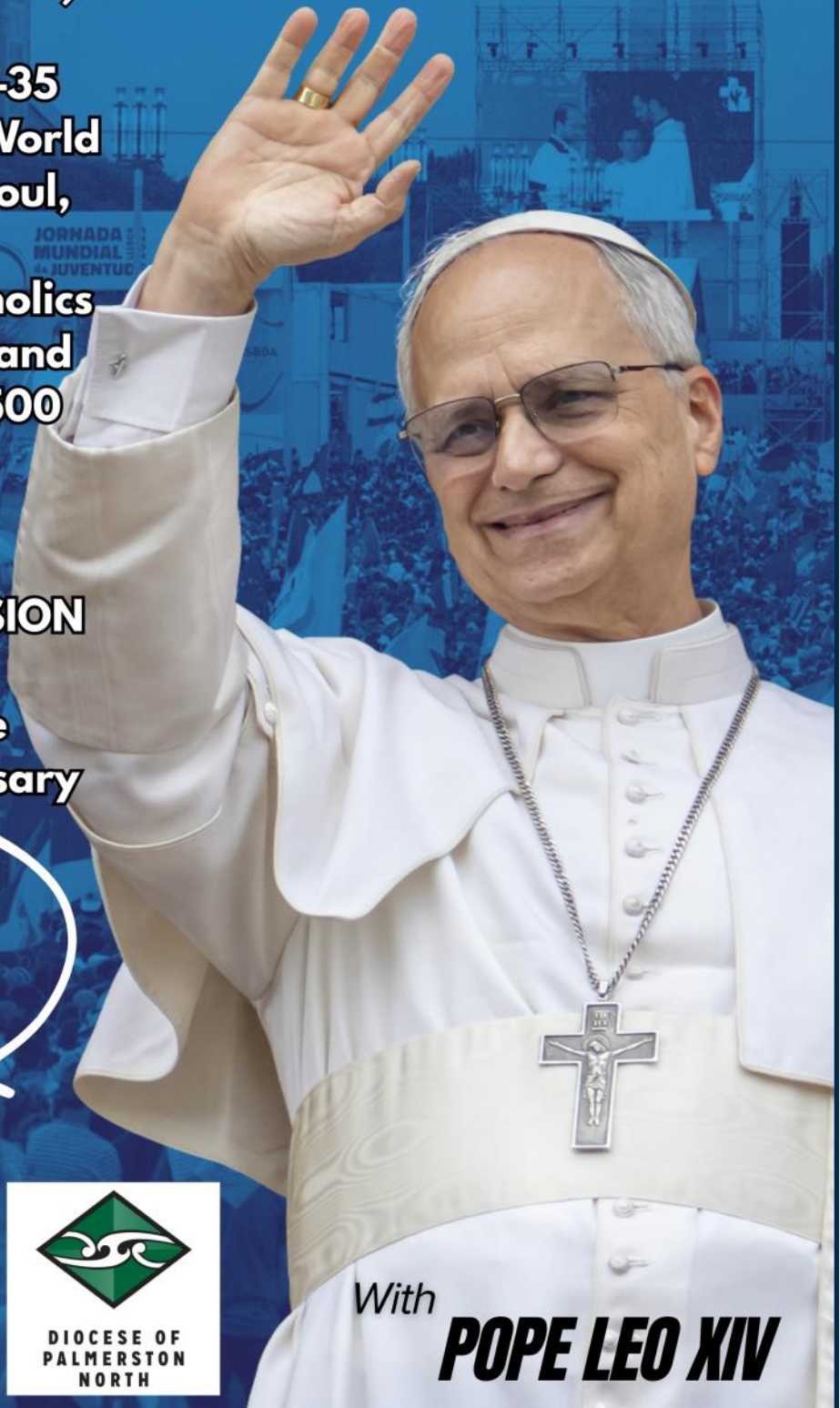
Young adults aged 18–35 are invited to attend World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, where millions of young Catholics will gather. New Zealand bishops aim to bring 500 young people.

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

The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
15 – 21 June 2026

DELARGEY AWARDS 2026

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Delargey Awards, which recognise significant and outstanding ministry with young people. In addition to identifying key contributors to youth ministry, the awards provide a chance to highlight the Church's outreach to teens and young adults. The awards are named for Cardinal Reginald Delargey, former Archbishop of Wellington and Bishop of Auckland. Nominations close on July 31. Find out more at: <https://bit.ly/Delargey2026>

WYD 2027 Webinar Series | The Youth are Called to Grow in Hope

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College will have its third session on the WYD 2027 webinar series on July 7, 2026, 5:00-6:00pm via Zoom. In this session, Hope: Rooted in the Resurrection of Christ, the Youth are Called to Grow in Hope, Prof Renee Kohler-Ryan will inspire our rangatahi to live as witnesses of hope in today's world. For more information, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/webinars-2026. Student discount applies.

Tūmanako Print Edition Available Now!

The print edition of Tūmanako, the monthly diocesan newsletter, is available this weekend!

If you or someone you know would benefit from the print issue, please talk to your parish office.

All material in the printed edition is already available online, either at <https://tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz> or <https://cathnewsnz.com>



DEEPENING OUR CELEBRATION OF THE MASS
Ars Celebrandi Workshop with Fr Paul Turner

Parish liturgy teams, school staff, parish leadership teams, and all involved in the preparation of the sacred liturgy are invited to a special workshop evening with international liturgist Fr Paul Turner.

Fr Paul Turner is an experienced parish priest and respected liturgist from the United States who advises the Vatican on worship.

TUESDAY 28 JULY, 7PM - 8:30PM
Diocesan Centre, 33 Amesbury St, Palmerston North

Email bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz to register.

Ars Celebrandi Workshop with Fr Paul Turner

Parish liturgy teams, school staff, parish leadership teams, and all involved in the preparation of the sacred liturgy are invited to a special workshop evening with international liturgist Fr Paul Turner. Fr Paul Turner is an experienced parish priest and respected liturgist from the United States who advises the Vatican on worship.

We're invited to deepen our love for the liturgy at the Ars Celebrandi Workshop with Fr Paul Turner. Drawing on Desiderio Desideravi, this workshop will enrich how we understand and celebrate Mass. All involved in liturgy are encouraged to attend.

Tuesday 28 July, 7 – 8:30pm | Diocesan Centre, 33 Amesbury St, Palmerston North. Please email bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz to register.

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>

JOSHUA 40
CELEBRATION WEEKEND
14 - 16 AUGUST 2026
KESWICK CHRISTIAN CAMP
5 COOPER AVE, HOLDENS BAY, ROTORUA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ROBERT FALZON
LEADER OF AUSTRALIA'S MARGALITE ACTION (light touch of a present day)

ALL MEN WELCOME
FREE TO SUNDAY BREAKFAST
MEALS & ACCOMMODATION INCLUDED
Contact: Mike Lahn 021 289 0289
King Andrew 021 942 2847

SPACES ARE LIMITED
EMAIL OR CALL TO BOOK
OR APPLY ONLINE AT
<https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua>

Billings Life Seminar

Billings Life NZ will host a two-day Natural Fertility Awareness seminar in Whanganui on June 19 and 20. The event is designed for couples using or considering the Billings Ovulation Method, health professionals or others wanting to learn more about the method, and people interested in becoming accredited Billings teachers. Find out more and register at

www.billingslife.org.nz/training-seminar



Billings LIFE
Leaders in Fertility Education
In Whanganui from a Billings
A SERVICE OF WOMEN NZ

Billings Ovulation Method™ Natural Fertility Awareness Seminar
Whanganui Friday 19th & Saturday 20th June 2026

Billings Ovulation Method™ is a Fertility Awareness Method used by couples to prevent or achieve pregnancy and monitor general & reproductive well-being. It does not depend on regular cycles, thermometers, kits or devices. It is highly effective if used correctly.

Attendance will benefit health professionals, natural health practitioners, interested in women's health & fertility, those wishing to become accredited Billings Teachers, those using or considering the Method, & women keen to understand and track the menstrual cycle phases.

The "Billings Ovulation Method™ Natural Fertility Seminar" activity has been endorsed by The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) and has been approved to up to 37 CPD hours for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) purposes. Details are for active Fellows of the College only.

To register or for further details, Phone 0800 693 378
Email: info@billingslife.org.nz
www.billingslife.org.nz

FULLY ALIVE – Youth Fest 2026

Saturday 1 August | Palmerston North

This is the biggest gathering of young Catholics in our diocese – and we want your young people there.

Fully Alive Youth Fest is a full day of talks, fellowship, food, fun, Mass, worship, and adoration, with speaker Braden Johnson sharing his powerful testimony of how an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist changed everything. If you have young people in your parish or family – bring them. This is their day. More information coming soon – save the date!



Enrolment for micro-credencial Management of Church Organisations

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College is now accepting enrolment for the micro-credencial on Management of Church Organisations. This is an online course over 6 weeks. Class starts on July 20, 2026. For more information, go to www.tekupenga.ac.nz/churchmanagement

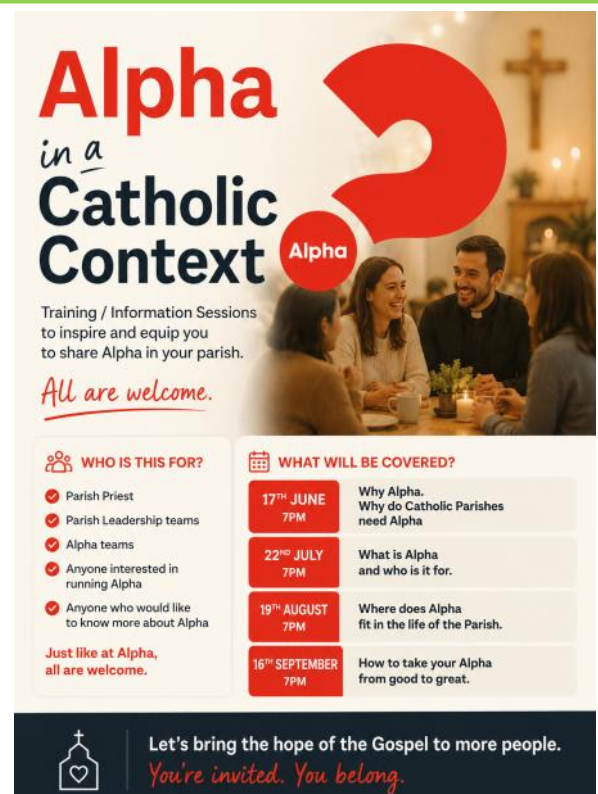
Alpha in a Catholic Context – Online Training

A series of online training sessions on *Alpha in a Catholic Context* will be offered via Zoom in the coming months. These sessions are open to parish priests, leadership teams, Alpha teams, and anyone interested in learning more about Alpha.

Topics include:

- **17 June, 7pm:** Why Alpha? Why do Catholic parishes need Alpha
- **22 July, 7pm:** What is Alpha and who is it for
- **19 August, 7pm:** Where Alpha fits in parish life
- **16 September, 7pm:** Taking Alpha from good to great
-

Each session can be attended individually, though all are recommended for a fuller understanding. Please register to receive the Zoom link for each session: <https://forms.office.com/r/kVmxvX9hFb>



Alpha
in a
Catholic Context
Alpha

Training / Information Sessions
to inspire and equip you
to share Alpha in your parish.

All are welcome.

WHO IS THIS FOR?	WHAT WILL BE COVERED?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Parish Priest✓ Parish Leadership teams✓ Alpha teams✓ Anyone interested in running Alpha✓ Anyone who would like to know more about Alpha	17th JUNE 7PM Why Alpha. Why do Catholic Parishes need Alpha
	22nd JULY 7PM What is Alpha and who is it for.
	19th AUGUST 7PM Where does Alpha fit in the life of the Parish.
	16th SEPTEMBER 7PM How to take your Alpha from good to great.

Just like at Alpha, all are welcome.

Let's bring the hope of the Gospel to more people.
You're invited. You belong.



ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

LAUDATO SI'

"Praise be to you, my Lord."

"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore" – "Praise be to you, my Lord." These are the words that open Pope Francis' encyclical on ecology and care for God's creation. These words, quoting St. Francis of Assisi's beautiful canticle, remind us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* was released in June 2015. Five years later, in 2020, Pope Francis invited all Catholics and people of good will to celebrate its fifth anniversary by protecting families and future generations through action to care for our common home. Here are themes that Pope Francis highlighted in *Laudato Si'* which require our urgent response today.

- **A Moral and Spiritual Challenge.** The ecological crisis, Pope Francis writes, is a summons to profound interior conversion – to renew our relationships with God, one another, and the created world.
- **Care for God's Creation.** God created the world and entrusted it to us as a gift. Now we have the responsibility to care for and protect it and all people, who are part of creation. Protecting human dignity is strongly linked to care for creation.
- **We are All Connected.** We are connected to the rest of the human family, to the created world, and to those who will come after us in future generations.
- **Impact on the Poor.** People in poverty have contributed least to climate change, yet they are disproportionately impacted by it. As a result of excessive use of natural resource by wealthy nations, those who are poor experience pollution, lack of access to clean water, hunger, and more.
- **Called to Solidarity.** We are one human family and have a shared responsibility for others and for creation. Wealthy countries have a responsibility to reduce consumption of non-renewal resources and should help poorer nations develop in sustainable ways.
- **Technological and economic development must serve human beings and enhance human dignity, instead of creating an economy of exclusion, so that all people have access to what is needed for authentic human development.**
- **Supporting Life, Protecting Creation.** Concern for nature is incompatible with failure to protect vulnerable human beings, such as unborn children, people with disabilities, or victims of human trafficking.
- **A Time to Act.** Pope Francis calls for a change in lifestyle and consumption. We can make important changes as individuals, families, and communities, and as civil and political leaders.
- **Hope and Joy.** "Injustice is not invincible" (no. 74) and we act knowing that we seek to live out God's vision of renewed relationships with God, ourselves, one another, and creation.

How You Can Respond

Each of us are called to take concrete steps – from reducing consumption to working for political change – to better care for creation. Here are some ideas.

1. **Become more aware of our connectedness.** Care for one another and creation includes understanding that “everything is connected” (no. 91) and that the economy, politics, community involvement, and technology all affect the future of the planet and humankind. How can we become more aware of our connectedness?

Changes to lifestyle and consumption habits can make a big difference. For example, get a re-usable water bottle, take shorter showers, walk, bike or take public transportation instead of driving, recycle, compost food waste, and buy energy efficient appliances.

1. **Make changes institutionally at your parish, school, or workplace.** For example, start recycling and composting, use washable dinnerware in cafeterias, share electronically instead of printing, do an energy audit, and install solar panels.
2. **Support local efforts to solve environmental problems.** Community groups around the country are working to make city, county, and state-wide changes that can make a big difference. Find out what is going on locally and get involved.
3. Contact your members of Congress to share Pope Francis’ message and urge action to address climate change.

Prayer

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good,
advance the weak, and care for this world in
which we live.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

Excerpted from “A Christian prayer in union with creation,” in
Laudato Si’, no. 246

For More Information

- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops webpage on Environment and Environmental Justice (www.usccb.org/environment)

Catholic Climate Covenant (www.catholicclimatecovenant.org)

Pilgrimage with Mary, Queen of Peace



"Thank you
for having responded to my call "

Pilgrimage to Rome, Loreto, Medjugorje, Assisi and Orvieto

(accompanied by Fr. James Walsh
as spiritual guide)

September 6th - 16th, 2026

Our pilgrimage begins and ends in **Rome** where you can explore the Eternal City. In **Loreto**, we will visit the Holy House of the Annunciation, reflecting on the mystery of the Incarnation.

From there, we journey to **Medjugorje** celebrating Our Lady's birthday and the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

In **Assisi**, we will be walking in the footsteps of Saint Francis in this **Jubilee Year**, commemorating the 800th anniversary of his death.

Our last stop is in **Orvieto**, celebrating Holy Mass in the church of the Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena.

Estimated Cost of Pilgrimage: \$1460

(excluding airfares which are the responsibility of pilgrims, according to individual needs and preferences)

Includes:

- transportation (charter bus + overnight ferry with a cabin)
- accommodation with meals throughout the **11-day pilgrimage**.
- basic health insurance

NB: The earliest possible return departure from Rome is 17 September, with optional extensions to other pilgrimage sites in Italy or Europe, e.g. San Giovanni Rotondo (Saint Padre Pio)



For more information & registration contact

Jana +64 (0)21 081 77837 (WhatsApp) | Email: nz4medjugorje@gmail.com