



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

22nd March 2026 Fifth Sunday Of Lent



Stage 1 of new parish centre almost complete!



Parishioners will recall that at the Parish Annual Get Together in September last year, Stage 1 of the New Parish Centre, the reroofing of St Joseph's Church and Hall, was announced. The roof had reached the end of its useful economic life, having been installed when the church and hall structure was built in 1967/68, some 58 years ago!

Central Roofing are making good progress with the reroof. They have completed the replacement

of all the cladding on the main roof, an area equivalent to the roofing of approx. 12 dwellings. The reroof over the hall (separate lower roof) is progressing well and scheduled to be completed this coming week. All going well, and weather permitting, Central Roofing aims to have the job completed by Easter.

Our reroof subcommittee of parishioner volunteers, Paul Bouterey, Chris Wells and Craig Maclean, have overseen the tendering process and diligently monitored the reroofing as it has progressed, maintaining close liaison with the Central Roofing project manager throughout. We owe a big THANKS to Paul, Chris and Craig!

We are fortunate the cost of the reroof, in the order of \$480,000 + GST (the GST is refundable by IRD as a claimable expense) can be met from parish reserves (which are now severely depleted).

Parishioners may recall that we attended to the recladding and refurbishment of the St Joseph's Church spire in 2021. On completion of the church and hall reroof project, we should once again have a weather-tight building!



Important Dates

LENTEN RECONCILIATION TIMES

20th March Friday
5:00pm to 7:00pm
at St. Joseph's Church

Tuesday 24th March
OLHC, Fitzroy
9:40am to 10:30am
(During Adoration)
St Joseph's Church
11.00am to 12 noon

Wednesday 25 March and 1st April
OLHC Fitzroy
9:40am to 10:30 am
(After 9:10am Mass)

Saturdays
At St Joseph's Church
11.30am to 12 noon

At Our Lady Help
of Christians
prior to the 5.30pm
Vigil Mass
4.30pm to 5.15pm
(No Vigil Mass 4th April)

St Patrick's Okato
28th March
5.15pm to 5.45pm
prior to Vigil Mass
(No Vigil Mass 4th April)

Thursday
During Adoration at
7.00pm 26th March
St Joseph's Church .

EMPOWERING PARENTS SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PARENT INFORMATION

Wednesday 25 March
6.30pm
St Joseph's Church Hall
See page 3

AV Gospel Encounter Meetings

Every Wednesday,
7:00pm to 8:15pm,
Our Lady Help of
Christians foyer

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**

GENERAL NOTICES

AV GOSPEL ENCOUNTER All warmly welcomed to a healing encounter with Christ as we prepare our hearts for the following Sunday's Gospel on the **Raising of Lazarus**. Not a Bible study, we allow the Breath of God (Holy Spirit) and the Word of Life Himself (Jesus) to teach, encourage, free, heal & love us. It's about experiencing the steady, loving gaze of God the Father and responding to His love with gratitude & joyful obedience. Next Lenten meeting:



25th March 2026; Our Lady Help of Christians foyer 7:00pm to 8:15pm.

Doors open at 6:45pm for welcome coffee/tea & biscuits. Please bring your Bible. Questions? Contact: Christina Chow jp2padua2020@gmail.com or Jaime Cerda: jzle012@gmail.com

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP: Move on Orders

As you will have seen on Television and heard on the radio, the Government is intending to provide police with the power to issue move-on orders to homeless people sleeping rough. They will face fines and prison terms if they fail to comply with move-on orders proposed by the Government under new legislation.

At the heart of our faith is a radical claim: every human being, regardless of their bank account or the roof over their head, bears **the Image of God**. This divine dignity cannot be stripped away by poverty, and it must not be ignored by the law. These people need housing and support, not enforcement.

In Matthew 25:40 we read "whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters, you did to me."

Please consider adding your voice to those of many churches and civic organisations that are calling on the government to abandon these "move-on" orders and care for the needs of every child of God.

You can email your message to any of these important ministers. Forms are available to do this at <https://www.commongrace.nz/common-grace-actions/moveonorders>, but your own words carry more weight.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon:

c.luxon@ministers.govt.nz

Justice Minister Paul Goldsmith:

p.goldsmith@ministers.govt.nz

Police Minister Mark Mitchell:

m.mitchell@ministers.govt.nz

Housing Minister Chris Bishop:

c.bishop@ministers.govt.nz

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

justiceandpeace@catholicparishnp.nz



LENTEN RECONCILIATION TIMES

Our Lady Help of Christians after 9.10am Mass Tuesday 24 March & Wednesday 25 March & 1st April. 9.40am to 10.30am

Our Lady Help of Christians prior to Saturday Vigil Mass 4.30pm to 5.15pm No Vigil Mass 4th April

St Joseph's Church during Adoration 7.00pm Thurs 26 March And before Mass Tuesday 24 March 11.00am to 12 noon.

St Patrick's Okato 28 Mar 5.15pm to 5.45pm prior to Vigil Mass



CARITAS: BISHOPS' LENTEN APPEAL: The New Zealand Bishops are encouraging the Catholic community to prayerfully consider how they can contribute to the annual Lenten Appeal. The appeal supports the work of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, which through its global network serves some of our world's most vulnerable and needy communities. The Bishops explain that acts of Christian charity can change the lives of those who benefit from that charity, but also can transform those who give with generosity – according to their own circumstances. Find out more at www.caritas.org.nz/lent

Caritas encourages supporters to donate online, through the website or through direct deposit. For donation information and details visit Caritas.org.nz

Simply call the team on 0800 22 10 22 to donate using your credit or debit card. If you wish to give by cash in an envelope, envelopes are available in the foyer. Just put it on the plate and we will forward the donation to Caritas.

Donations received by Caritas prior to 31st March 2026 will receive a tax receipt for this current tax year.

For full article, please see electronic version of the newsletter Pg 6.

USHER AND WELCOMERS MINISTRY

Our Ushers and Welcomers are the friendly face of our parish, helping everyone who walks through our doors feel welcomed, respected, and included.

We're looking for parishioners who enjoy greeting others and offering simple, practical hospitality. With enough volunteers, you'll be rostered every 4–6 weeks with one other person and arrive at church by 8.30am on your Sunday at St. Joseph's Church.

If you're interested in joining this ministry, please contact Cushla Coleman at Coleman63@xtra.co.nz for more information, or leave your details at the parish office and she will be in touch.

PATHWAY TO HOME OWNERSHIP: Join us for a free workshop supporting Pasifika women and families to understand the pathway to owning a home. With guidance from property and lending professionals, this is a safe, welcoming space to learn, ask questions, and gain confidence in your next steps.

When we grow in knowledge and make wise decisions, we strengthen not just ourselves, but our families, our wellbeing, and our spiritual journey for generations to come.

Thursday 26 March 2026 | 5:00pm – 7:30 pm
St Joseph's Church Hall, 155 Devon Street West, New Plymouth. **Contact:** Sieni Richardson 021 176 5963 | sienirichardson@gmail.com

All parish members and Pasifika families are warmly welcome – Bring a friend or family member. Must register to confirm numbers.

EMPOWERING PARENTS

FOR SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES 2026



If you wish for your child over 7 years old to be baptised, to receive First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, or for your child in Years 11 to 13 to be confirmed, you will need to attend our parent information evening.

As our Sacramental Programmes are family-based, we need all involved to see firsthand the preparation process for these sacraments and how it works in our parish!

For children and families to be part of the sacramental programmes, it will be very important that a parent or caregiver attend this meeting.



Wednesday, 25 March 2026, 6.30pm-8:00pm
St. Joseph's Church Hall

Contact Us

- For Older Children's Baptism, First Reconciliation and Holy Communion inquiries, contact KAREN at youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz
- For Confirmation inquiries, contact SUSILO at youth@catholicparishnp.nz

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUTH GROUP

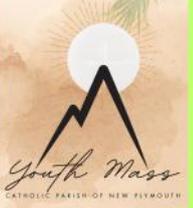
NO YOUTH GROUP SUN, 22 MAR

NO YOUTH GROUP THIS SUNDAY DUE TO THE CONFIRMATION LEADERS 2026 TRAINING WEEKEND. WE WILL RESUME ON SUNDAY, MARCH 29, FOR SOCIAL NIGHT, THE LAST MEETING OF TERM 1.



JOIN US

YOUTH MASS
PALM SUNDAY
29 MARCH 2026



YOUTH GROUP NEXT SUNDAY | 29 MAR

LAST YOUTH GROUP FOR TERM 1!
JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL NIGHT AND BRING FRIENDS TO MAKE MEMORIES.



ATTENTION PARENTS OF CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES: YOUR PRESENCE IS NEEDED AT THE PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING. HERE ARE THE DETAILS:
WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2026
6:30PM - 8PM
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL

SHINE
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

ILLUMIN8
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

Alpha

Explore Life Faith Meaning

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

alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz

MEET NEW PEOPLE & EXPLORE FAITH TOGETHER



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

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP – REGISTER NOW

Thursday 16 April; Time – 7.00pm to 8:30pm
Venue – St. Joseph's Church Hall, 151 Devon Street West, Please register early by emailing Jane Hahn, National Safeguarding Lead Jane.hahn@nops.org.nz

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

QUIZ NIGHT

illumin8 youth group
Teams of 6-8 people

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

\$\$-RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE- BRING CASH-\$\$
\$10/PERSON

REGISTER YOUR TEAM
che@fdmc.school.nz

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Mary Ganter

MAR	WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE	
	FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH	
23 MON	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
24 TUE	8.00am 9.10am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians St Joseph's Church
25 WED	8.00am 9.10am	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians
26 THU	8.00am 10:00am	St Joseph's Church Sacred Heart's College (Mary's Chapel)
27 FRI	8.00am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church (Liturgy of the Word with Communion) St Joseph's Church
28 SAT	8.30am 5.30pm 6.00pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians (Vigil Mass) St Patrick's Okato (Vigil Mass)
29 SUN	9.00am 10.30am 5.30pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians St Joseph's Church (Youth Mass)

Holy Week 2026 Liturgy Times

HOLY THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2026

Morning Prayer St Joseph's Church 8.30am
(There are no morning Masses on this day)

MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER

St Joseph's Church 7.00pm

We follow in procession from Mass to the hall where we have Adoration until Night Prayer at 9.00pm

GOOD FRIDAY: 3 APRIL 2026

Morning Prayer St Joseph's Church 8.30am

PASSION OF THE LORD

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH	3.00pm
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS	3.00pm
BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE	3.00pm
ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH OKATO	2.00pm

HOLY SATURDAY 4 APRIL 2026

Morning Prayer St Joseph's Church 8.30am

EASTER VIGIL MASS 4 APRIL 2026

St Joseph's Church 7.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY 5 APRIL 2026

St Joseph's Church	9.00am
Our Lady Help of Christians	10.30am
Bell Block Catholic Centre	10.30am

There is no VIGIL MASS at St Patrick's Okato Saturday 4 April or at Our Lady Help of Christians Saturday 4 April and No 5.30pm evening Mass at St Joseph's Sunday 5 April

Reconciliation times see Important dates cover page

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Palm Sunday 29th March

1ST READING: Isaiah 50.4-7

PSALM: 22

2ND READING: Philippians 2.6-11

GOSPEL: Mathew 26.14-27.66



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



For updates on parish, diocese,
and national events.

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

STRATEGIC LEADER Giniya

sl@catholicparishnp.nz

FINANCE OFFICER Cynthia

accounts@catholicparishnp.nz

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION Ireen

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COMMUNICATIONS LEAD Russell

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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



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

For Confirmation inquiries, contact SUSILO at youth@catholicparishnp.nz.

Christian Charity: An invitation from the Bishops of New Zealand

Every year in this holy season, the New Zealand Bishops asks Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand to run a fundraising campaign on their behalf – **the Bishops’ Lent Appeal**.

The theme for the Lent appeal in 2026 is **Hear the Voice, Answer the Call – *Whakarongo ki te reo, Whakahokia te karanga***. During this time, and especially as we near Easter, we invite you to consider how you can hear the voice of those in need and answer the call to Christian charity.

Our world is becoming increasingly wrought by conflict and division. We see great suffering in places like Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, South Sudan and, most recently, in Iran.

We watch this happening as we prepare to meditate on the great suffering that Jesus endured on Good Friday, and with the recent echoes of Scripture – “whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me” – urging us to be mindful of those who are in need.

Supporting the work of Caritas, the second-largest humanitarian organisation in the world, is a chance to tangibly respond to those ruptures across the globe. Each year, the **Bishops’ Lent Appeal** is the best way to fund Caritas’ work – supporting vulnerable communities globally.

As Caritas’ leadership explained at the start of the Lent Appeal, this global instability, along with the pain caused by displacement, humanitarian crises and the impacts of climate change, is increasing the significant strain that many communities were already facing.

As we pointed out in our pastoral letter last November on the World Day of the Poor, Christian charity – which can be lived out through almsgiving, among other practices – is an important part of a life lived in the spirit of the Gospel.

It is an invitation for people to be mindful of the needs of those who are vulnerable and an invitation to be generous, according to their own circumstances.

The money raised in this year’s appeal will support many projects across the world, but one focus is addressing the dire situation facing Rohingya refugee families in Bangladesh. More than 1.3 million Rohingya are stuck in camps with few rights and constant threats of violence, trafficking and exploitation.

Many of us know little, if anything, of this crisis, but Caritas is making a difference to the lives of people in those camps, for whom hope can be elusive.

Every year, individuals and parishes across New Zealand are very generous in supporting this appeal. We hope that this will continue in this Lenten season.

We invite you, during this time of preparation, prayer and almsgiving, to take the time to discern how you can contribute to this campaign. We then encourage you to donate to the **Bishops’ Lent Appeal 2026** at caritas.org.nz/lent or by using the envelopes provided at Mass.

This act of generosity will make a difference – to those Caritas serves near and far, yes, but also within you, as you live out the spirit of Christian charity.

In Christ,

✠ Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Auckland

✠ Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin

✠ Paul Martin SM, Archbishop of Wellington

✠ Michael Gielen, Bishop of Christchurch

✠ John Adams, Bishop of Palmerston North

✠ Richard Laursen, Bishop of Hamilton

FDMC GALA DAY

SAT 28 MARCH
11am - 2pm

Francis Douglas
Memorial College
Grounds

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
BEHOLD
LENT CENTRED ON JESUS CHRIST
OUR EUCHARISTIC LORD

*What fear do I need to place
into His hands?*

Chrism Mass

12:05PM
TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2026

CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
197 BROADWAY AVE
PALMERSTON NORTH

Please come and celebrate with us

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".

**Prayer Retreat
for Women**
3 days, 2 nights

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

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

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

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

WEEKLY DIOCESAN UPDATES

for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

16 – 22 March 2026

Tūmanako Print Edition Available Now!

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

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>

BISHOPS' LENTEN APPEAL

The New Zealand Bishops are encouraging the Catholic community to prayerfully consider how they can contribute to the annual Lenten Appeal. The appeal supports the work of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, which through its global network serves some of our world's most vulnerable and needy communities. The Bishops explain that acts of Christian charity can change the lives of those who benefit from that charity, but also can transform those who give with generosity — according to their own circumstances. Find out more at www.caritas.org.nz/lent

Vatican II Deep Dive – Online Formation

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

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

Sessions: Wednesday 15 April, 7:00–8:45pm Wednesday 29 April, 7:00–8:45pm Join us online. To register: bit.ly/deepdiveapr26

Prayer Retreat for Women | Magnificat Retreat Centre, Featherston

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

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

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@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>

Rebuild My Church | Dr Mary Healy

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

Known around the world for her engaging teaching on Scripture and the Holy Spirit, Dr Healy helps people hear God’s voice more clearly and grow in confidence in the gifts He gives for the building up of the Church. Full details and registration are available at <https://www.eventzilla.net/e/rebuild-my-church--dr-mary-healy-2138676397>

EASTER ON AIR

On Good Friday, the Christian Broadcasting Association (CBA) will once again bring the Easter story to life on Newstalk ZB. This year will feature Bear Grylls sharing his faith journey and discussing his new book, ‘The Greatest Story Ever Told.’

Each year, an estimated 300,000 listeners tune in to experience this powerful retelling. Tune in to Newstalk ZB from 6am – 6pm on Friday 3 April and be part of the story!

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.

World Youth Day 2027 | Seoul, South Korea

Young adults aged 18 – 35 are invited to attend WYD27, where millions of young Catholics will gather. The NZ bishops aim to bring 500 young people.

Fill out the expression of interest form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfUWcTPgzkxtwlH86NPEhHqvdt2scpc1nkj_4WjzGrbx4WKQ/viewform

Diamond Jubilee - The Catholic Parish of Wellington South

All former and current parishioners are invited to a celebration of several historical milestones on Sunday, 19 April 2026. The first Catholic church, St Francis de Sales Church, Island Bay, was built in 1906, 120 years ago, and the current church was blessed and opened on 17 April 1966, 60 years ago. The weekend of celebration will also acknowledge 100 years since the opening of the St Madeleine Sophie primary school, the forerunner of the current primary school of St Francis de Sales. A special Mass of remembrance and thanks featuring past and present priests will be followed by a lunch at the Pines Cabaret, Houghton Bay. Registrations of interest are welcomed by providing contact details at: office@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org

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/>

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.harv

LENTEN RESOURCES

Behold Lenten Companion | Fifth Week of Lent

Behold – Trusting the Lord of Life

“I am the Resurrection and the Life.”

As Lent draws toward Holy Week, the Behold Lenten Companion leads us into deeper trust. Christ stands as Lord over life and death.

Prepare your heart prayerfully.

Behold the Lord of Life. Download this week’s resource at <https://tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Behold-2026-Fifth-Week-of-Lent.pdf>

Ashes to Hope | Caritas Lent Webinar Series

Journey through lent with New Zealand’s Catholic Bishops and others of the faith as they guide us in prayer and reflection on each Sunday’s Gospel. Wednesdays in lent, 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

The next webinar, ‘The Raising of Lazarus’ with Bishop Michael Gielen, will be on Wednesday 25 March. Registrations are now open: visit www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars

FORTY DAYS & FORTY NIGHTS

Growing in maturity of Faith accompanied by Food For Faith through Lent with daily reflections at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

MAY 2026 • A NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

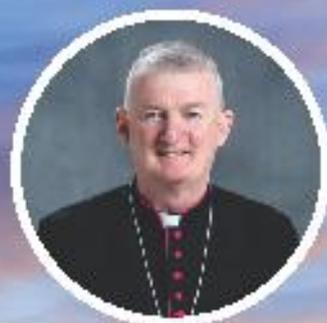
18
DAYS

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

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