



Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

Sunday 23 March 2025
Third Sunday of Lent



Dear Parishioners,

In 1999, St. Pope John Paul II declared Our Lady of Guadalupe as the Patroness of the New Evangelisation. He wrote "I sense that the moment has come, to commit all the Church's energies to a new evangelisation." (Redemptoris missio #3). For decades now, our popes have been calling parishes to be dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ and to live out the call of the New Evangelisation. This means nothing less than becoming a community of missionary disciples. Disciples who are on mission so that our parishes cease to be about us, but about those we are called to reach through evangelisation and the works of mercy to those on the periphery. This includes becoming a real welcoming community and not just a gathering of strangers. Disciples who have encountered Jesus and are committed to becoming like him. Toward this pastoral priority, we need in place the structures that will help us turn our attention toward the New Evangelisation. Divine Renovation, the organisation that supports Catholic parishes to become missional, recommends a Leadership Team and a Parish Pastoral Council. The Leadership Team helps the parish priest every week, to make decisions that lead us closer toward the vision of an outward looking missional community of Christ's disciples. The Parish Council helps lead the parish to take up longer term strategies that support our progress toward the parish vision, using the mission plan. A big thank you to the people who commit to a period on these teams. A big thank you also to dedicated parishioners who volunteer for a period on the Finance Committee, The Parish Centre Steering Group, The Health & Safety Committee The Liturgy Committee and The RCIA Team.

The Leadership Team

Scope - The leading and managing body that helps the parish priest to make day-to-day operational decisions. They guide the implementation of strategic plans and priorities of the parish as it seeks to achieve its vision. They share in leadership of the parish through the raising up and support of other leaders. A team that supports the parish priest in creating clarity around and casting the vision.

Who - Committed teammates who share the vision and help lead the parish out of a team with the Parish Priest. They are missionary disciples who bring a balance of gifts, charisms, experience, and expertise together to help the parish priest to make the decisions needed to support the various aspects of parish life. Typically, 3 - 4 members are invited by the parish priest.

The Parish Pastoral Council

Scope - The strategic body of the parish. It helps the parish priest to continually discern the will of the Holy Spirit for the parish. Future-focused, long-range, big-picture strategic planning. The council acts somewhat as a vision keeper, providing accountability checks to make sure that strategies and actions align with the vision.

Who - Trusted advisors with strategic gifts who help the parish priest gain perspective and alignment between vision, parish reality, and promoting future growth. Membership can be through an invitation or expressed interest but should always include a process of prayerful discernment from the parish priest and potential member. Typically, 7 - 8 members form a council.

Does the parish leadership team or pastoral council seem like a group where your strengths could assist the parish? God bless, Fr Simon

Important Dates

Monday 24 March
Lenten Faith Formation
7.30pm in St Joseph's
Church Hall

Tuesday 25 March
Adoration 9.35am
Our Lady Help of Chris-
tians

Thursday 27 March
7.00pm Adoration
St Joseph's Church

Thursday 27 March
5.15pm
St Joseph's Church Hall
Alpha Helpers meeting

Thursday 27 March
And Thursdays of Lent
Caritas Lenten
Reflection Programme
Bell Block Mass Centre
7.00pm
St Joseph's Office 5.45pm

Friday 28 March and
Fridays of Lent
Stations of the Cross
OLHC 5.30pm
St Joseph's 7.00pm

EMPOWERING PARENTS SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PARENT INFORMATION

Thursday 3 April 6.30pm
St Joseph's Church Hall
See page 3

PARISH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

To include items in the newsletter, email your material by TUESDAY 3.00pm to office@catholicparishnp.nz. Late submissions will be considered for the next issue. Parish and diocese news will be prioritised.



Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving: "Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ". The collect for the First Sunday of Lent provided a framework for thinking about the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving: we aren't doing these things for God, but it is God who desires to do something for us through these practices.

Prayer is simply conversation with God. We listen to him and discern where he is leading us. We respond with utter vulnerability, and we share our honest reactions and deepest longings. When we are in love, we tend to do what makes our partner happy and avoid doing things that make them unhappy. So it is with God. Out of love, we recognise that communion with him in prayer will transform our minds and our hearts, leading us to think differently about ourselves, others, and the world.

Pray with us at: **Adoration**, this week Tuesday at Our Lady Help of Christians after 9.10am Mass and Thursday 7.00pm at St. Joseph's. **Stations of the Cross** Our Lady Help of Christians Friday at 5.30pm and St Joseph's 7.00pm. **Rosary in the Park**, starting at Pukekura Kiosk at 10.30am and the **Caritas Lent Reflection Programme** Bell Block Mass Centre Thursday 7.00pm and St Joseph's Office Thursday 5.45pm. View **Food For Faith** www.foodforfaith.org.nz

Fasting, too, is a tool that can conform us to Christ. Whether it be "giving up" particular foods, drinks or behaviours, going without creates a space for us to sit with our deepest appetites. What is it I truly crave? Companionship? Understanding? What is holding me back from surrendering all to Christ? In the end, we recognise that fasting is not about a diet plan so much as it is about becoming more like Jesus by creating intentional space for the Lord to dwell.

The last of the three Lenten practices is a complement to fasting: almsgiving. Lent is not simply a season to give things up. We also share what we have with others. From God's abundance, we have received, and in a spirit of charity, we generously show the same mercy and love to our brothers and sisters. What is of most value to me? Do I generously share what God has given to me with others (time, talent, treasure)?

For monetary donations the Catholic Bishops of New Zealand call on us, to provide for the needs of the poor and vulnerable, through the work of Caritas. Please reach out to the Caritas team at caritas.org.nz or call the team 0800 22 10 22. Giving envelopes are in the foyer. Envelope donations to Caritas for the Second Sunday of Lent were \$382.00

Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving are all remedies for sin. Like the Spirit that leads Christ into the desert, we, too, mindful of our own baptism, are drawn into these spiritual practices and a time of intentional reflection so that we might live for God alone. He desires to accomplish his work in us.

PARISH LENTEN FAITH FORMATION: S.W.A.D.O.S. Spiritual warfare and Discernment of Spirits:

In previous sessions, we learnt that true peace is found in abiding in Christ. That "not all thoughts in our heads are ours, and that we shouldn't listen to them". Dan Burke. This peace requires awareness and our co-operation with God's grace who is always drawing us to Him through **everything**— Prayer, Scriptures, Sacraments, the wisdom of the Saints and His encompassing presence, and ineffable **goodness in all things**— this includes all daily encounters and experiences— yes, the good ones and even the very difficult ones.

Session 4 Monday 24 March 7.30pm at St Joseph's Hall. We will learn anxiety is an **invitation to healing**; that **perseverance** in our relationship with Christ brings us closer to Christ; how to remain steadfast with loving fervour in desolation; how to counter desolation; the **gift of the Present moment** and how to be set free of habitual sin, by fighting **with and in Christ**. Looking forward to seeing you on Monday!

More info? See page 6 of the webpage and emailed newsletter.

FOOD FOR FAITH CONVERSATIONS: Thursday 27 March at 10.00am at Stumble Inn Merrilands Shopping Centre, 198 Mangorei Road NP. Come along and have a coffee or tea and faith sharing with your fellow parishioners. Just look for the orange F.F.F sign on a table. Everyone is welcome.

FILMING: We are filming (professionally) a 2 minute video clip after 9.00am Mass at St Joseph's Church, Sunday 30 March. We will catch many Mass goers on the clip, but if you would like to be an extra with a star role, we will be filming extra scenes in the church about 10.15am onwards. All ages are welcome & no acting skills are required. There is no speaking. Please enquire at the Parish Office if you are interested, or just stay behind after Mass. If we have 100 extras that won't be too many. Stay after Mass and become a film star.

ALPHA 2025 IS COMING:

We are starting ALPHA @6 Thursday 1 May 6.00pm in St Joseph's Church Hall. BUT before we start ALPHA we need volunteers to help run the programme. We need people to be involved. It's not hard work and it's fun. It's with people and building relationships with people. Could you help with the hospitality, like doing the dishes? Could you help with the childcare? Could you help with the group discussions? Could you help with the setting up for the night? Could you socialise with the guests?

It's only 2 and a half hours a week for 10 weeks. The Alpha team is a friendly group who work together. We all have a meal together at 6.00pm, so why not think about coming in at 5.30pm, joining the Alpha meal at 6.00pm, and then being part of the Alpha experience from 6.30pm until the finish at 8.00pm. If interested email Karen at youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz or alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz or contact the Parish Office 06 757 3682. We need your help. We need you.

There is a meeting of the ALPHA volunteers, St Joseph's Church Hall Thursday 27 March 5.15pm. If you are interested in helping at ALPHA, you will be welcomed to find out more at this meeting as well.



DONATIONS AT THE END OF THE TAX YEAR:

The tax year ends 31 March 2025 and tax receipts for church donations will be issued during April. We have had several online donations, which we can not match with a donor. We issue tax receipts by number not name, so a number is important. If you think we may have an unknown donation from you please contact the Office.

FIRST COMMUNION OLDER CHILDRENS BAPTISM CONFIRMATION

If your child is 7 years and older and you want them to make their First Communion, or be baptised or be Confirmed this year, the process is starting now.

You will need to be at our parent information evening.
Thursday 3 April 6.30pm in St Joseph's Church Hall.

As our programmes of Older Children's Baptism and Reconciliation and First Communion are family based, we need all involved to see firsthand the process for preparation for these sacraments, and how it works in our parish! It will be very important for a parent or care giver to be at this meeting as enrolment for First Communion and Older Children's Baptism start at this meeting.

Enquiries to youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz

SAVE THE DATE: - Thursday 3 April 6.30pm

YOUTH GROUP WE GATHER ON SUNDAYS DURING THE SCHOOL TERM AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL.	SHINE JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP FOR YEARS 4 TO 8 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm LIFE TEEN SENIOR YOUTH GROUP FOR YEARS 9 - 13 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
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YOUTH GROUP THIS SUNDAY 23 MARCH 2025 **YOUTH GROUP NEXT SUNDAY 30 MARCH 2025**

SUNDAY: 23 MARCH 2025 	Social Night BRING A NEW FRIEND FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE
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SEEING THE UNSEEN Jesus' Resurrection The Resurrection offers hope, inviting us to be new creations in Jesus through Baptism and calling us to claim our place as children of God in His family. THEME COLOUR BLUE!	SAVE THE DATE YOUTH GROUP FAMILY DINNER Sunday, 6 April 2025 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Please bring a dish to share with everyone!
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The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: **Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!**
CHRISTUS VIVIT (CHRIST IS ALIVE) - PARAGRAPH 1- POPE FRANCIS

 Fearless	PURPOSE <i>what's your purpose?</i>
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION year 11 - 13 2025	
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN Here are some options to register and access further details about the important dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit the parish website• Scan the QR code found here or on the YOUTH notice board in the foyer 	
SCAN HERE	

ST JOSEPH'S HAWERA 150 YEARS:
St Joseph's Parish & School, Hāwera, will be celebrating 150 years over Labour Weekend, 24th-26th October 2025. Registration forms and the Event Calendar are available at www.stjoeshawera150celebration.co.nz. For details email: stjosephshawerajubilee@gmail.com.



We pray for our deceased family and friends Paul Darbyshire, Rita Holdener, Michael Chong, Eileen O'Neill, Cajetan Dias, Clotilda Dias, Anthony Jerry Dias, Leonard Heal and Margaret Bear.

MARCH

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

24 MON	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
25 TUES	8.00am 9.10am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Joseph's Church
26 WED	8.00am 9.10am	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church
27 THU	8.00am 9.50am	St Joseph's Church (Liturgy of the Word with Communion) Sacred Heart Girls College
28 FRI	8.00am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church St Joseph's Church
29 SAT	8.30am 5.30pm 6.00pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Patrick's Church Okato
30 SUN	9.00am 10.30am 5.30pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Joseph's Church (Youth Mass)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 11.30am to 12 noon at St Joseph's Church OR 4.45pm at OLHC prior to the 5.30pm Vigil Mass. No Reconciliation at Thursday Adoration at St Joseph's Church 27 March. Reconciliation is also available by appointment with the priests, by initially phoning the Parish Office.

MORNING PRAYER: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 7.40am and Saturday at 8.10am. Please go to the back door of Parish Office building. We are in the Mary Mckillop Room.

KINGDOM KIDZ CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

Our Lady Help of Christians Church:

Each Sunday at 10.30am Mass. A special 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:

Music, play and morning tea. Our Lady Help of Christians Church foyer from 9.00am each Monday during term time. Enquiries please contact Tess 027 583 7732.



QUIET YOUR HEART: Music with Kadisha.

Monday at St Joseph's Church 11.00am to 11.30am. And each Friday at Our Lady Help of Christians Church 9.30am to 10.00am.

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

4th Sunday of Lent 30th March 2025
Because we have RCIA baptisms at Easter we are using Year A readings during Lent

1ST READING: 1 Samuel 16.1b,6-7,10-13

PSALM: 23

2ND READING: Ephesians 5.8-14

GOSPEL: John 9.1-41

St Joseph's banner: The Blind Man



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

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PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM
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ST JOSEPH'S
106 Powderham St
New Plymouth



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
24 Clinton St, Fitzroy

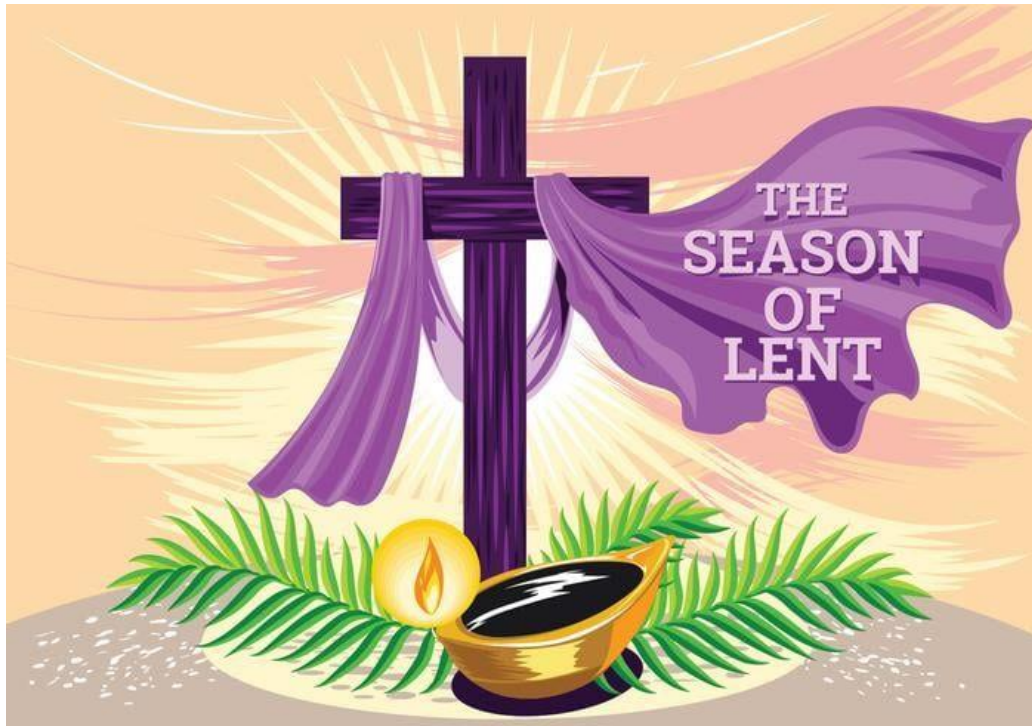
BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE
138 Parklands Ave
Bell Block

ST PATRICK'S OKATO
36 Cumming St
Okato

Taranaki Spiritual Companions Group
A Sacred Quiet Morning

At St. Mary's Anglican Church, 204 Princes Street, Hawera

Listening to God in Lent



On Saturday 5th April 2025
9.30am - 1pm

A quiet time during lent for silent prayer, music, scripture reading, and reflection with a focus on listening to God as we journey with our Lord to the Cross

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you. Psalm 33:20-22

Bring your Bible, writing materials, rug and or cushion for comfort if desired. Refreshments are provided. Koha is welcomed in assisting to meet costs. Resources are provided.

Please register your attendance by the 30th of March 2025 with Heather Lofthouse Mobile - 021617894 Email heather1349@gmail.com

PARISH LENTEN FAITH FORMATION –We started Monday 3 March but you are welcome to come along in week 2, 10 March.

Join Us for an Enlightening Video Series with Dan Burke.

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming video sessions on “Spiritual Warfare and Discernment of Spirits,” led by Dan Burke. An introduction into understanding the spiritual battles we face and learn how to discern the spirits with wisdom and faith.

About Dan Burke: Dan Burke is the founder and President of the Avila Institute for Spiritual Formation and Avila Institute for Spiritual Direction which offers graduate and personal enrichment studies in spiritual theology to priests, deacons, religious, and laity in 90 countries and partners with 40 dioceses to prepare men for the priesthood. He is also the author and editor of more than 15 books on authentic Catholic spirituality.

Don't miss this opportunity to grow spiritually and strengthen your faith journey.

When: Mondays -3 March to 7 April 2025. 7:30PM to 9:00PM

Where: St. Joseph Parish Hall (New Plymouth)

Registration: Walk – in (**Doors open @ 7:15PM for a cuppa)

Cost: Free **Trailer video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpBHuteO4iM>



1. Introduction and Overview of the Series

- Authentic discipleship and narrow90ay
- Recognizing the Signs of Spiritual Battles

2. The Armour of God

- Equipping Yourself for Spiritual Combat
- The Role of Faith and Prayer in Spiritual Warfare

3. Discernment of Spirits

- Identifying the Presence of Good and Evil Spirits
- Practical Steps for Discernment

4. Strategies for Spiritual Victory

- Overcoming Temptations and Spiritual Attacks
- Building a Strong Spiritual Defence

5. Welcoming the Holy Spirit

- How do you renounce the lies of the enemy?
- How can you invite the Holy Spirit into your life?

6. Standing Firm and Following His Will

- How can you invite the Lord's grace into your life to help you win the battle for your soul?

To find out more, please contact: Christina jp2padua2020@gmail.com OR Jaime jzle012@gmail.com. Or leave your contact details with the Parish Office, we will ring you.



EMPOWERING PARENTS

The parish asks all parents to attend this evening if you wish your child to receive Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation this year.



Day & Date
Thursday, 3 April 2025



Time
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm



Venue
St Joseph's Church Hall



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.



www.catholicparishnp.nz



Older Children's Baptism



First Holy Communion



Reconciliation



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.

PALESTINE ON SCREEN

WHERE OLIVE TREES WEEP

NO ONE IS FREE UNTIL WE ARE ALL FREE

VOICES FROM
THE OCCUPATION



*"Don't ask the person in the cage
why they're hitting the cage,
breaking their arms, trying to be free.
Ask the person who put them there,
why they're there."*

ASHIRA DARWISH

AHED TAMIMI

*"Brilliantly crafted
and thoughtful in its
choice of narrators, images
and stories"*

DR GABOR MATÉ

ASHIRA DARWISH

Directed by Maurizio & Zaya Benazzo

FILM SHOWING 1.00 PM 22 MARCH

Methodist Church Hall, 66 Liardet Street, New Plymouth

KOHA \$5 Details FB Palestinian Solidarity Taranaki • PALESTINE ON SCREEN IN NGĀMOTU FILM SERIES

