



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



28th June 2026 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time



PARISH



Fr Simon Sto-

Dear parishioners,

Last Sunday we baptised 27 children and most of them knelt into the baptism pool and had three big jugs of water poured over their heads as they were immersed into the life of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. A big thank you to

parishioners who turned up to welcome these families into the parish family. It is always a joyful celebration for everyone involved, including the grandparents, the parents and for the children who as one father commented, "were very calm in the baptism font" and full of smiles when stepping out. We pray, hope and want to accompany these families into the life of the parish, and into missional discipleship of Jesus the Lord.

This Sunday, 68 young people will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. We pray, hope and want to accompany these young people into an encounter with the Holy Spirit and into the mission of the Church - Jesus' mission. It will transform their lives. Bishop John will be present for the event. Susilo and many parents, have worked with the Holy Spirit to form and love these young people to love Jesus.



The group of children baptised last Sunday

Alpha finished last Thursday and so far, 25 of the guests have indicated they would like to continue in some way the journey they have begun. Some want to return to help with the next Alpha. We will be forming connect groups for those who wish to join.

The reasoning behind connect groups is seen in the story of the walk to Emmaus in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 24. Jesus intentionally came alongside Cleopas and the other disciple as they walked along, and their hearts burned within them. For the many who seek truth, the walk is in unfamiliar territory. The art of accompaniment is a skill I hope our parish will become accomplished at. Do you have in you the gift to intentionally come alongside others on their journey of faith and help them in the direction of drawing closer to Jesus? Please let me know if you do.

Other connect groups will be important for disciples of Jesus to accompany each other along the road of discipleship, in friendship, support and encouragement, and love of one another on the journey. We already have the Passionist Family Group foundation to build on. God bless, Fr Simon.

The final Alpha session closed with a shared meal and engaging discussion among participants.



Important Dates

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

Friday 10:30am
CWL Committee
First Friday Lunch
after the 12.05pm Mass
at St Joseph's Church
foyer.

4th July 2026

Anointing Mass
Saturday, 10.30am
St Joseph's Church

5th July 2026

First Sunday 3:00pm
Adoration
Our Lady Help of
Christians Church

5th July, 2026

Sunday, after the
5:30pm Mass at
St. Joseph's Church
Potluck Farewell
Family Dinner
Celebrating Susilo
contribution to the
Parish
Please bring a Plate
Everyone is Welcome

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

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP: Join us as we read Dilexi Ti which means 'I have loved you.' The draft was written by Pope Francis and completed by Pope Leo.



5:45 - 6:45pm on Monday July 6th in the Ngamotu room. Please come in to the back door of the Parish Office.

For any enquiries, 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 bring your usual reading device. For those without one, the material will be displayed on a screen. Kindly enter through the back door of the office.

Please visit [Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi te of the Holy Father Leo XIV on Love for the Poor \(4 October 2025\)](#)

SCAM ALERT: Emails Impersonating Priests and Parishes

There has been an increase in targeted scam emails appearing to come from priests, parish staff, or familiar parish contacts, and some have resulted in serious privacy breaches. **Please treat any unexpected or unusual email request with caution**, especially if it asks for personal information, contact details, payments, gift cards, or urgent action.

Before responding, check the sender's email address carefully and, if unsure, phone the person or Parish Office 06 757 3682. **Do not reply, click links, open attachments, or send any information** until you have confirmed the email is genuine.

If you believe a scam email has been received or personal information may have been shared, please contact Richard our Parish Privacy Officer in the Parish Office.

PARKING BEHIND NGAMOTU HOUSE: (This is between Ngamotu House formerly the Atkinson Building and the Court House, entrance off Powderham Street). We have been asked by the car park lease holders to remind parishioners attending Mass, that this carpark is not available for public parking. In the weekend these parks are often required by individual lease holders for their own parking, or for groups connected to events within the building. Please help us to comply with the wishes of the leaseholds, that the carpark is left vacant on Sundays.

Flower Arranging Volunteers Wanted

The flower arranging team at St Joseph's Church is looking for additional volunteers to help with the flowers. Please contact Janice by text or phone at **021 948 587** if you would like more information.

PETER'S PENCE SPECIAL COLLECTION: 28th June there will be a special collection after communion for Peter's Pence. This collection 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. 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, for the collection after Communion.

CWL COMMITTEE MEETING: Friday 3rd July - Committee Meeting at 10.30am in St Joseph's Church foyer.

CWL FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH: Friday 3rd July, after the 12.05pm Mass at St Joseph's. CWL offer a delicious lunch. Plated sandwiches and cakes with tea or coffee for just \$7, and this also includes a raffle ticket! This is a fundraising activity for the CWL, so the more lunch guests there are, the more CWL can help others. Go to the CWL website to see CWL nationwide work www.cwl.org.nz

ANOINTING MASS: The monthly Mass of Anointing will be held at 10.30am next Saturday 4 July at St Joseph's Church. A late morning tea will follow after Mass. Everyone is welcome.

MARIAN MOTHERS: The next Marian Mother's Meeting is Thursday 2nd July at 7.00pm to 8.30pm. To be held at Our Lady Help of Christians Foyer, Fitzroy. Look forward to seeing you all. Please bring a small sharing plate. Any queries please phone Glenda 021 323 765.



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.shgcnps.school.nz/enrolment/Enrolment-Application>

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

A Note of Gratitude for Susilo

We thank Susilo for his faithful and joyful service to our parish youth, inspiring them to grow in faith and actively participate in parish life. Through his guidance, he has helped nurture a strong sense of community, purpose, and discipleship among them.

Through his dedication, he has helped create a space where faith is lived and shared. He has inspired our youth to take part in parish life – through prayer, service, and various activities – nurturing their confidence and helping them discover their place within the Church. In his gentle way, he has reminded them that following Christ is not just a duty, but a journey filled with purpose, joy, and upbringing of the community that they live in. We will deeply miss his guiding spirit and the warmth of his cheerful presence, his kindness, encouragement, and ready smile that have left a lasting mark on our hearts and will be fondly remembered by all.



Susilo, all smiles as always, with his youth group

As he moves on, we remain grateful for the lasting impact he has made. The youth and their families invite everyone to a potluck farewell dinner on Sunday, 5th July, after the 5:30pm Mass at St. Joseph's Church. Please bring a plate of finger food to share. Let us keep Susilo in our prayers and wish him God's blessings in the future.

SHGC Hockey Team Bake Sale

Are holding a bake sale outside the church after Confirmation Mass at St. Joseph's Church; this Sunday, 28th June; to help our SHGC Hockey Team get to the AIMS Games in Tauranga. All items are just **\$2.50**, with **cash and EFTPOS** available.



Musicians Needed for the Parish

We invite parishioners of all ages to join our music ministry. If you enjoy singing and/or play the piano/keyboards and wanting to serve through music at the parish, you're most welcome. 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 Ameila; music coordinator via email to musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUTH GROUP

NO YOUTH GROUP ON SUNDAY 28 JUNE



JOIN US FOR A POTLUCK FAREWELL FAMILY DINNER FOR SUSILO

DETAILS >>>

POTLUCK
Farewell Family Dinner

Join us in celebrating Susilo's contributions to the parish over the past three years.

St. Joseph's Church Hall
Sunday, 5 July 2026
6:45pm to 8:45pm

Kindly bring food to share.



SCHOOL'S OUT FOR THE HOLIDAYS! THAT MEANS THE YOUTH GROUP WILL BE TAKING A BREAK.

ENJOY YOUR BREAK!

Term 2 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



make "GOOD" MEMORIES

No Youth Group on Sundays 12 and 19 July
YOUTH GROUP IS BACK ON SUNDAY 26 JULY

JOIN US

YOUTH MASS
SUNDAY, 26 JULY 2026
5:30PM
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: Kevin Mulholland, Wendel Appert, Martin Appert, Craig O'Connor, Rev. Fergus Reeves and Dermont Murphy.

JUNE

29

MON

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

TO 5th JULY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8:00am St Joseph's Church

30

TUE

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

JULY

1

WED

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

2

THU

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

3

FRI

8:00am St Joseph's Church
9:00am St Pius X School (Philomena Hall)
12:05pm St Joseph's Church

4

SAT

8:30am St Joseph's Church
10:30am Anointing Mass
5:30pm Our Lady Help of Christians (Vigil Mass)
6:00pm St Patrick's Church Okato (Vigil Mass)

5

SUN

9:00am St Joseph's Church
10:30am Our Lady Help of Christians
10:30am Bell Black Catholic Centre
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, **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

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time 5 July 2026

1ST READING: Zechariah 9.9-10

PSALM: 145

2ND READING: Romans 8.9, 11-13

GOSPEL: Mathew 11.25-30



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.



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



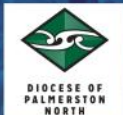
WORLD YOUTH DAY

3 - 8 AUGUST 2027
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

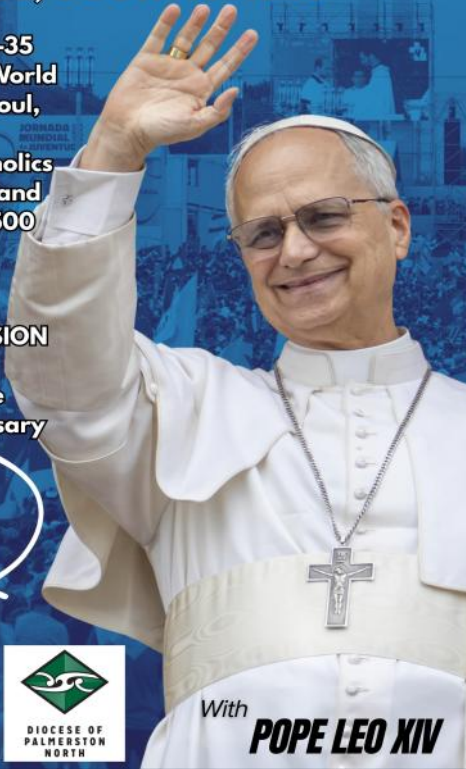
Young adults aged 18-35 are invited to attend World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, where millions of young Catholics will gather. New Zealand bishops aim to bring 500 young people.

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**



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



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

♥ SUPPORT ♥

Aims Game HOCKEY TEAM

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE 2026

CAR WASH

Park and head to church service
pick up your car when you are done :)



DELICIOUS
Hot Coffee
MADE ON SITE WITH
OUR COFFEE MACHINE



DELICIOUS
Baking



SAUSAGE
Sizzle



AS WELL AS A
Scratchy Raffle!

EFTPOS AND CASH AVAILABLE



Where
WISNEWSKISMITH CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
20 ROBE STREET, NEW PLYMOUTH 4310

WISNEWSKISMITH
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS



FROM 8.30AM till late



**HELP SUPPORT OUR GIRLS
TO GET TO AIMS TAURANGA!**



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: nz4.medjugorje@gmail.com

WEEKLY DIOCESAN UPDATES

The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
22 – 28 June 2026

Scam Alert: Emails Impersonating Priests and Parishes

There has been an increase in targeted scam emails appearing to come from priests, parish staff, or familiar parish contacts, and some have resulted in serious privacy breaches. **Please treat any unexpected or unusual email request with caution**, especially if it asks for personal information, contact details, payments, gift cards, or urgent action.

Before responding, check the sender's email address carefully and, if unsure, phone the person or parish office using contact details you already know. **Do not reply, click links, open attachments, or send any information** until you have confirmed the email is genuine.

If you believe a scam email has been received or personal information may have been shared, please contact your Parish Privacy Officer or the Diocesan Privacy Officer: Liam Greer – lgreer@pndiocese.org.nz

Collection of St. Peter's Pence | A Gesture to Support the Pope in His Mission

Sunday June 29 is the annual Peter's Pence collection. The collection is to support the Holy Father in his ministry and his charitable activities in response to emergencies and needs around the world. Peter's Pence is a gesture of communion and participation in the Pope's mission to proclaim the Gospel, promote peace and spread Christian charity. You are encouraged to consider how you can contribute through your local community or online at www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html

Fulfilled: The Promise of the Christian Life

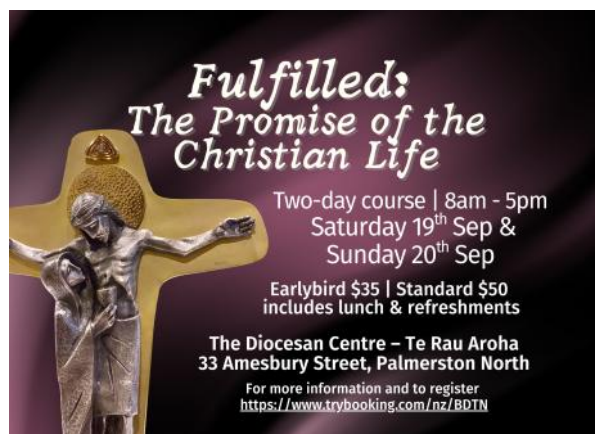
What does it mean to live the Christian life fully?

Join us for a two-day course exploring the beauty of God's plan for the human person through St John Paul II's Theology of the Body and the Apostles' Creed. Discover how our faith speaks to our deepest desires, relationships, identity and call to holiness.

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September, 8.00am–5.00pm. Diocesan Centre – Te Rau Aroha, 33 Amesbury Street, Palmerston North.

Earlybird: \$35 | Standard: \$50. Lunch and refreshments included.

Register at: www.trybooking.com/nz/BDTN



KNOWN & CALLED: A Women's Discernment Retreat

What is God calling you to in this season of your life?

Join the MGL Sisters for Known & Called, a weekend retreat for women seeking space to pray, reflect and listen more deeply to God's voice. Discernment is not only about religious vocation. This retreat is an opportunity to explore God's call in every part of life, including relationships, work, mission, family life and the unique way He is inviting you to follow Him.

Friday 28 – Sunday 30 August 2026, Palmerston North. Further details and registration information coming soon.

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>

Fully Alive Youth Fest with Braden Johnson

Young people from across the Diocese of Palmerston North are invited to **Fully Alive Youth Fest** on **Saturday 1 August 2026** at **St Peter's College, Palmerston North**.

Featuring international Catholic speaker and evangelist Braden Johnson, the festival will be a day of faith, friendship, prayer, worship and fun, helping young people discover the life God created them to live.

Parents, grandparents, godparents and parishioners, who are the young people in your family, parish or community whom you could personally invite and encourage to come?

Register now: <https://www.trybooking.com/nz/BECK>

Made for more. Fully alive.



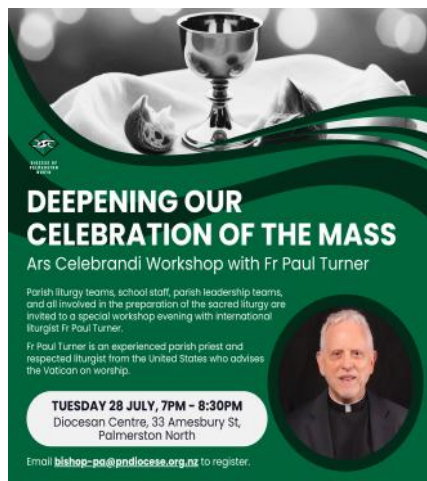
WYD 2027 Webinar Series | The Youth are Called to Grow in Hope

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.

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>

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>



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™
World Organisation of Ovulation Method Educators

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 for up to 37 CME credits for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) purposes. Credits 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

Enrolment for micro-credential Management of Church Organisations

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College is now accepting enrolment for the micro-credential 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

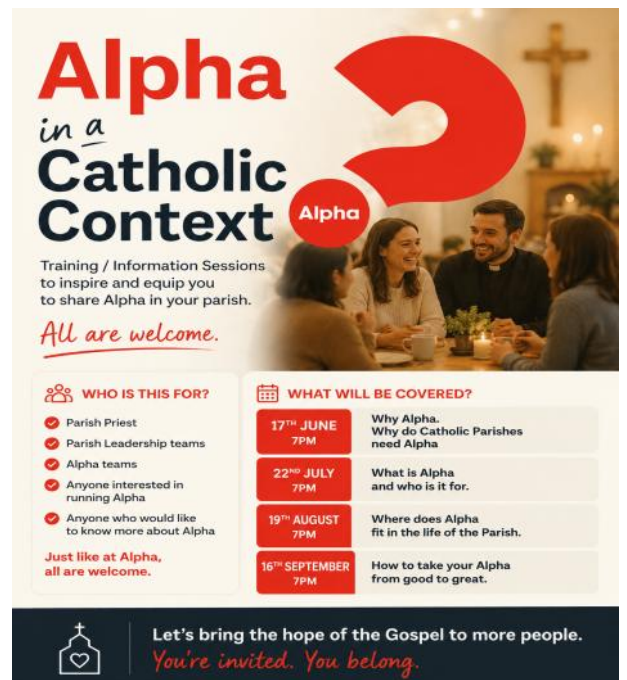
Alpha in a Catholic Context – Online Training

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.

St Joseph's School New Plymouth Centenary | 23 -25 October 2026

St Joseph's Catholic School invites former students, staff, and families to attend this significant milestone. The event will take place Friday 23 – Sunday 25 October.

Those interested are asked to register at St Joseph's School New Plymouth Centenary Registration: Labour Weekend 2026

Follow the official Centenary Facebook page for more information and updates: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61576850039718>



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.

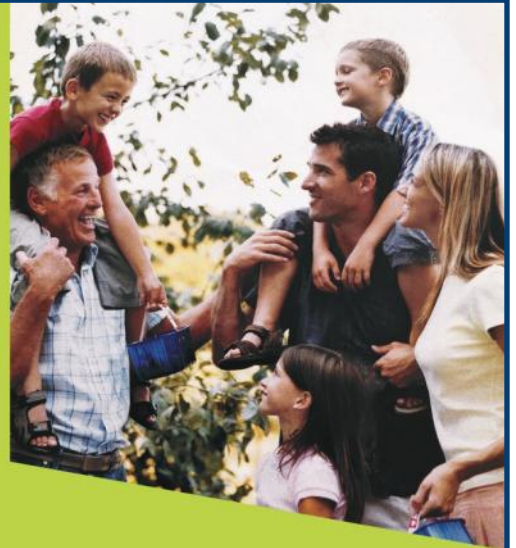
History of the Passionist Family Group Movement

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.





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)