



# Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

106 Powderham St, PO Box 32, New Plymouth

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office@catholicparishnp.nz www.catholicparishnp.nz

Emergency Phone 027 224 2100

## PALM SUNDAY 29 March 2026



**PARISH  
PRIEST**



Fr Simon Story

**Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday.** On this day, we celebrate the triumphant entry of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, into Jerusalem, riding a donkey. On that day, the people laid palms before Him, a gesture reserved for triumphant leaders. We celebrate this at Mass by distributing palms. The palms are blessed at Mass. Eventually, these palms are returned to the Church where they are burnt and traditionally, their ashes are used at next year's Ash Wednesday services.

The next major event in Holy Week is Holy Thursday. On this day, Jesus celebrated the Passover feast with the disciples. We know this feast as the Last Supper - it was the first Mass. This is the night Jesus was betrayed by Judas and arrested. It is the night Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. The Last Supper is celebrated at every Mass, and in a special way on Holy Thursday, when parishioner's feet are washed. We will receive the holy oils blessed by Bishop John at the Chrism Mass.

After supper, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives and prayed. This event inspires our practice of Eucharistic Adoration, where we are invited to spend one hour in prayer with Jesus, truly present, in the Eucharist. We will do this at the end of Mass, on Holy Thursday by following the procession down to the Altar of Repose in the hall.

The next day is Good Friday, and on this day, we commemorate the trial and crucifixion of Jesus.

Holy week ends with the Easter Vigil. The night Jesus rose from the dead as Lord of All. It is his obedience to the Father that won us our salvation. This night we celebrate resurrection - the power that resurrection has over death. And all that this symbolises. At the Easter Vigil this year, we will baptise 8 adults, who will also celebrate Confirmation and First Eucharist. We will receive 6 people, who were baptised in another Christian church, into the Catholic faith and parish family. They will be Confirmed and receive the Eucharist for the first time. The Easter Vigil will begin at 7.00pm with the Easter fire outside the church. This is a great Mass and experience for those who are to be baptised and received. Everyone is warmly invited to participate in these liturgies and support our new family members at the Easter Vigil.

## Important Dates

**There will be No AV Gospel Encounter  
At Our Lady Help of Christians foyer during Holy Week**

### LENT RECONCILIATION TIMES

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

**Wednesday  
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  
But not on **4th April (Holy Saturday)**  
4.30pm to 5.15pm at  
OLHC prior to the 5.30pm  
Vigil Mass

### ALPHA IS FOR EVERYONE

PLEASE PRAY ASKING THE

HOLY SPIRIT WHO YOU

COULD INVITE TO ALPHA

Starting Thursday 23rd

April 6.00pm

St Joseph's Hall



### 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

There will be NO meeting this Wednesday (Holy Week) as we pause and enter into the depths & sacredness of the holiest Week of our Liturgical year.

We resume on **EASTER WEDNESDAY** : 8th April 2026  
7pm - 8.15 pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church foyer. (Doors open for cuppa @ 6.45pm )



### QUIET YOUR HEART: Music with Kadisha.

Next Monday will be the last session of "Quite Your Heart" with Kadisha at St Joseph's Church - 11.00am to 11.30am.



### SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP – REGISTER NOW

Thursday 16 April; Time – 7pm to 8:30pm  
Venue – St. Joseph's Church Hall,  
151 Devon Street West, New Plymouth  
Please register early by emailing Jane Hahn,  
National Safeguarding Lead [Jane.hahn@nops.org.nz](mailto:Jane.hahn@nops.org.nz)

### USHER & 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](mailto:Coleman63@xtra.co.nz) for more information, or leave your details at the Parish Office and Cushla will be in touch.

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** is a devotion that was revealed by God to St Faustina in Cracow, Poland in the 1930s. During the pontificate of Pope John Paul II, St Faustina's countryman, the devotion was given a special place in the life of the church when he designated the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. A novena leads up to this celebration. Brochures for the novena, which is a private novena, beginning Good Friday, are available in the church foyers.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY DEVOTION:** The Divine Mercy devotion will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians church Sunday 12 April at 2.30pm. There will be Rosary and Exposition followed by the Chaplet at 3.00pm. The Veneration of the Image will follow, finishing at approx. 3.15pm. If a priest is available, Reconciliation will be celebrated during this time. Please come and learn about this devotion. Everyone is most welcome.

**DONATIONS AT THE END OF THE TAX YEAR:** The tax year ends 31 March 2026 and tax receipts for parish donations will be issued during April. If you wish to bring your giving for the year up to date, to receive a tax receipt in April, donate on or before Tuesday 31st March by dropping your donation on the plate or at the Parish Office or by donating online. We have eftpos in the office for donations also.



**FOOD FOR FAITH LENT:** For daily readings, podcasts, prayer requests and Lent encouragements go to Food For Faith. Sign up at [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz) to prepare for Easter by receiving daily email encouragements with Fr John O'Connor.

**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](http://www.caritas.org.nz/lent)

### MARIAN MOTHER'S

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm to 8.30pm. Pauline will be hosting it at her house 101 Liardet Street, NP. Please bring a small sharing plate. Any queries please call Glenda 021 323 765



**ALPHA 2026 IS COMING!** We're excited to commence.

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

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

To make Alpha happen, we need a committed team of volunteers – and we'd love for you to be part of it! As a volunteer, the weekly time commitment is

**5:30pm to 8:15pm** Thursdays, & the retreat weekend.

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

### Ways you can help:

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



It's just **2.5 hours a week**. You get to be part of a friendly, supportive team. Come at 5:30pm, share the Alpha meal at 6:00pm. Stay to be part of the Alpha experience until 8:00pm. For details; contact the Parish Office or email [alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz)

**HOLY PLACES SPECIAL COLLECTION:  
Good Friday Collection – 3 April 2026**

Each year, the Holy Father invites Catholics around the world to support the Good Friday Collection – a humble yet powerful gesture of solidarity with the Christian communities who continue to walk faithfully in the very places where Jesus lived, preached, died, and rose again.

Here in Aotearoa New Zealand, our contribution supports the upkeep of the Shrine Church in Cana, Galilee, as well as twenty university scholarships for students at Bethlehem University. Since 1342, the Apostolic See has entrusted the Franciscans as the guardians of the Holy Land, and funds from every nation is forwarded to the Franciscan Custody to assist with their essential pastoral, educational, and humanitarian work.

I hope that the collection of the coming Good Friday 2026 will be a concrete sign of solidarity from our local Church with the Church in the Holy Land, which today suffers more than ever because of the ongoing war in the Middle East. Your generosity helps sustain Christian families who are living through profound hardship and uncertainty, and it witnesses to our shared hope in Christ's peace.

Please give generously to this important collection in support of our brothers and sisters living in the land where our Lord ministered. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity again this year – it is deeply appreciated.

Specially marked donation envelopes are attached to the newsletter today. Alternatively, donations may be made by direct credit to The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth, bank account 02 0630 0288002 03. Please include your name as the payee and use "Holy Places" as the reference and your planned giving number if you have one. **Bishop John Adams**

**Easter Sunday Dues – Special Collection, 5 April 2026**

Many thanks to all parishioners who, in past years, have contributed to the Easter Dues / Offerings Special Collection. This collection supports the work of the Clergy Trust Fund, which assists our priests with the various costs associated with their ministry and personal well-being. The Fund is responsible for every aspect of caring for our priests, and they are deeply grateful for the generosity and ongoing support they receive from parish communities.

Specially marked donation envelopes are attached to the newsletter today. Alternatively, donations may be made by direct credit to The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth, bank account 02 0630 0288002 03, using your name as the payee and "Dues" as the reference. Your support and kindness are always very much appreciated.

**Monsignor Brian Walsh, Chairman, Clergy Trust Fund**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUTH GROUP**

**YOUTH GROUP  
SUN, 29 MAR**

It's **SOCIAL NIGHT** at Youth Group!

Come and join us for a time of fellowship and friendship.

Bring your new friends!

Sunday 29 March 2026

# Social Night



6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

St. Joseph's Church Hall

**JOIN US**

**YOUTH MASS  
PALM SUNDAY  
29 MARCH 2026**



YOUTH MASS  
PALM SUNDAY  
29 MARCH 2026

*Youth Mass*

CATHOLIC PARISH OF NEW PLYMOUTH

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
VERNERATION OF THE CROSS  
THROUGH MUSIC, MEDITATION, REFLECTION, AND PRAYER

**BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED**

ISAIAH 53:5

FRIDAY, 3 APRIL 2026 | 4:30PM - 5:30PM  
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

**NO YOUTH GROUP  
DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS TERM 1

**WE ARE ON BREAK**

SEE YOU IN TERM 2

**JOIN US FOR GOOD FRIDAY – VENERATION OF THE CROSS THROUGH MUSIC AND SCRIPTURES ON 3 APRIL FROM 4:30 PM TO 5:30 PM AT ST JOSEPH'S HALL**

**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

**ILLUMIN8**

**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

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  
Ariki Street

**\$\$-RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE- BRING CASH-\$\$**

## \$10/PERSON

**REGISTER YOUR TEAM**

che@fdmc.school.nz

**WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Helen Bannister, Cajetan Dias, Clotilda Dias, Assumption Lobo, Antony Jerry Dias, Margaret Fleming, David Ogier and Ursula Schafer

## St Patrick's Celebration:

On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March a large group of people attended 9.30am Mass at St Patrick's, Ōkato to celebrate 145 years of the church community and a belated opportunity to celebrate St Patrick's day. We were blessed with a wonderful day, with Mass being celebrated by Fr Tom joined by many of our families and those parishioners who have since moved from our area. Morning tea and fellowship followed Mass which was enjoyed by all who attended and followed an Irish theme with decorations and green sweets loved by the children.

In 1880 the design for a small church in Ōkato was completed by Fr Etienne Chastagnon. Once completed it was formally opened on 4 May 1881 and dedicated to St Patrick. By March 1886 a larger church had been built and was blessed and opened by Archbishop Redwood. This church still stands today. During the same year a two storied presbytery was opened next to the church to house Marish priests. Ōkato became the base for a permanent mission for the Taranaki Māori. For several years this was used but closed in 1927. In the early 1940's the Mission was re-opened but in 1947 a fire completely destroyed the Ōkato presbytery. In 1954 St Patrick's the main body of the building was extended which doubled the seating capacity of the church. Since then, the physical appearance of the church has remained the same and recently was uplifted with an external repaint.

Over the years St Patrick's has been part of the Opunake, New Plymouth and Pungarehu Parishes, returning to the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth - Te Parihi Katorika ki Ngamotu in 2015. St Patrick's church has witnessed 145yrs of prayers and tears within the warmth of its rimu walls, with many sermons, weddings, baptisms, first communions, confirmations and funerals, calling the people of Ōkato and the surrounding area. Currently we celebrate a weekly Vigil Mass on Saturday evenings at 6.00pm. We encourage you to join us, parking is not an issue and there is plenty of seating.

Thanks to Fr Simon who allowed us to change our Mass time for this occasion and who with Fr Sobin attended our celebration after their Sunday commitments. Thanks, Fr Tom, for celebrating this special day with your home St Patrick's community. *Thank all of those that came to support our St. Patrick's Day, and the 145 years Celebration of St. Patrick's Church on Sunday 22nd March.*

*We were very humbled to see you all there to celebrate Mass, and to share in the hospitality afterwards in the wonderful weather. Thank you to all who helped make this such a success. We greatly enjoyed having Nicola coming to play the organ and Emily to Cantor.*



*(Right Photo): Fr. Tom and Kath Julian cutting the cake.*



# SHGC GROTTTO MOVIE FUNDRAISER

Sacred Heart College is raising funds to help return the historic Mission Sisters' Grotto back to the college. Built in 1907 on the grounds of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions Convent, the Grotto still stands in its original location but has recently been gifted back to the College. Our school community is now working to raise the funds needed to return this treasured piece of our heritage back home.

To support the project, the College is hosting a Movie Night and warmly invites parishioners to attend.

 **Date:** 23 April

 **Time:** 6.30pm

 **Venue:** Events Cinema

 **Tickets** are available from the school office (06 758 5023) or by emailing:  
- Wendy Mulligan - wmu@shgcnp.school.nz  
- Amelia Luke - alu@shgcnp.school.nz

#### About the film:

'Holy Days' is a warm, gently humorous Kiwi road-trip story about a grieving boy who travels with three unconventional nuns, exploring themes of faith, loss, and belonging.

★ **Age rating:** Family-friendly (generally suitable for ages 8-10+).



## 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>



## A JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

# GOOD FRIDAY

4.45 PM (AFTER 3 PM CHURCH SERVICE) | 18 APRIL 2025  
VENUE: WESTERN PARK/CHURCH HILL HEIGHTS 88 MORLEY STREET, NEW PLYMOUTH

St Joseph's Catholic Church, New Plymouth  
106 Powderham Street, New Plymouth Central, New Plymouth 4310



# Chrism Mass

12:05PM  
TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2026

CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
197 BROADWAY AVE  
PALMERSTON NORTH

Please come and celebrate with us



CPNP AND ILLUMIN8

# EASTER EGG HUNT

CHILDREN AGED 4 - 8

JOIN US FOR A DELIGHTFUL EASTER EGG HUNT FILLED WITH FUN!  
PLEASE NOTE THAT CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED  
BY THEIR PARENTS.

SUNDAY, 5 APRIL  
AFTER 9AM MASS

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH



# Explore Life Faith Meaning

**THIS IS YOUR  
INVITATION.**

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

## WHAT IS ALPHA?

Alpha is a 10-week programme that creates a space where people of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures. Come together to discuss life, faith, and Jesus.

- 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**

**SCAN HERE**



**SIGN UP →**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

[alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz)

[www.catholicparishnp.nz/alpha/](http://www.catholicparishnp.nz/alpha/)

## A TIME TO GIVE: CARITAS LENTEN APPEAL:

You can give a secure online donation by simply clicking '[donate now](#)' on this website. Donating through our website is the quickest and easiest way to make an impact where it's needed most. Donate direct to Caritas prior to 31 March 2026 and you will receive a tax receipt for this tax year, which can be used to claim a tax rebate of 33.3%

### Direct deposit

To make a one-off direct deposit, just login to your online banking profile & make a payment using the following payee details

**Bank:** Westpac

**Account name:** Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

**Account number:** 03-0518-0211216-003

**Reference:** Supporter ID (if possible)

**Code:** 'lent'

**Particulars:** Your first and last name

**Over the phone** Simply call the Caritas team on 0800 22 10 22 to donate using your credit or debit card.

**By Cash in the Donation Envelop:** Donation envelopes are available in the church. Just put cash in the envelope and then on the plate. We get this to Caritas. For a tax receipt from Caritas just fill in the envelope slip. Donations received after 31st March will receive a tax receipt for the 2026/2027 tax year.



# Holy Week 2026 Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

Holy Thursday Morning Prayer 8.30am

2 April

St Joseph's Church

**MASS OF THE**

7.00pm

**LAST SUPPER**

St Joseph's Church

Adoration at the Altar of  
Repose followed by Night

Prayer at 9.00pm



Good Friday

Morning Prayer

8.30am

3 April

St Joseph's Church

**THE LORD'S PASSION**

St Joseph's

3.00pm

Our Lady Help

Christians

3.00pm

Bell Block

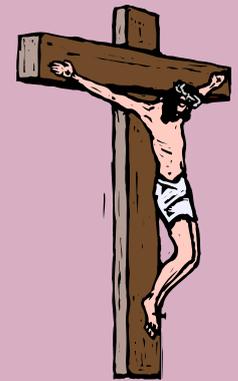
Mass Centre

3.00pm

St Patrick's

Okato

2.00pm



Holy Saturday

Morning Prayer

8.30 am

4 April

St Joseph's Church

Easter Vigil

**EASTER VIGIL MASS**

7.00 pm

**St Joseph's Church**



Easter Sunday

**EASTER SUNDAY**

5 April

St Joseph's Church

9.00am

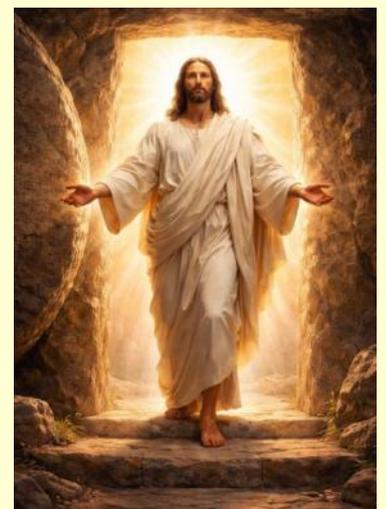
Our Lady Help of

Christians Fitzroy

10.30am

Bell Block

10.30am



WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE	
EASTER SUNDAY	
<b>MAR</b> 30 MON	8.00am St Joseph's Church
<b>31</b> TUE	8.00am St Joseph's Church
	9.10am Our Lady Help of Christians
	12.05pm St Joseph's Church (Liturgy of the Word with Communion)
<b>APR</b> 1 WED	8.00am St Joseph's Church
	9.10am Our Lady Help of Christians
<b>2</b> THU	7.00pm Mass of the Last Supper (This is the only Mass in the Parish on this day)
	2:00pm Passion of the Lord St. Patrick's Okato 3:00pm Passion of the Lord St Joseph's 3:00pm Passion of the Lord Our Lady Help of Christians 3:00pm Passion of the Lord Bell Block Catholic Centre
<b>3</b> FRI	
<b>4</b> SAT	7.00pm St Joseph's Vigil Mass (This is the only Mass in the parish on this day)
	9.00am St Joseph's Church 10.30am Our Lady Help of Christians Church 10.30am Bell Block Catholic Centre
<b>5</b> SUN	

## 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

### MORNING PRAYER during the Tridium 8.30am

Thursday, Friday and Saturday at St Josephs Church.  
8.10am Easter Monday but every other Monday and Tuesday its 7.40am as usual.

**NIGHT PRAYER** 9.00pm in the hall Holy Thursday 2nd April.

## SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Easter Sunday 5 April 2026

**1ST READING:** Acts 10.34a, 37-43

**PSALM:** 118

**2ND READING:** Colossians 3.1-4

**GOSPEL:** John 20.1-18 OR 20.1-9



## CONTACT US

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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

**PLEASE NOTE THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER MONDAY**

## 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 Giniya

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## FINANCE OFFICER Cynthia

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## OFFICE ADMINISTRATION Ireen

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## COMMUNICATIONS LEAD Russell

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## YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTER Karen

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## 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

# WEEKLY DIOCESAN UPDATES

for Palm Sunday  
23 – 29 March 2026

## Job Vacancy – Palmerston North Hospital Chaplain

The Diocese is looking for a new person to continue this critical ministry. Chaplains offer compassionate presence through bedside visits, prayer, communion, and arranging priest visits when requested. They also work within multidisciplinary teams to support holistic care for all people, regardless of background or belief.

Applicants with chaplaincy or pastoral care experience and relevant qualifications are preferred. Visit <https://www.seek.co.nz/job/90953924> for a detailed job description.

## 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>**

## Prophetic Intercession Training

Chevalier Cyril John from the CHARIS International Intercession Commission will be in Auckland to lead a two-day formation on Prophetic Intercession. Cyril John has spent many years teaching and forming intercessors around the world.

Intercession is urgently needed in our Church and communities, and all who feel called to this ministry are encouraged to attend. The training will be held 11–12 May 2026 at Christ the King Church, Mt Roskill. Registrations are now open: <https://prophetic-intercession-training-with-cyril-john.lilregie.com>

## VACANCY – CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

The Diocese of Christchurch is seeking an experienced and forward-thinking Chief Finance Officer (CFO) to lead a passionate and committed team and contribute meaningfully to the strategic direction of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch.

We invite applications from leaders who share the Diocese's sense of purpose, who value meaningful work, and who are energised by contributing to a mission-driven organisation. For more information, or to apply, email [applications@cdoc.nz](mailto:applications@cdoc.nz) Applications close at 9.00pm on Apr 12.

## 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](http://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](https://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>

### **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.

### **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](mailto: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>

### **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/1FAIpQLScfUWcTPgzkxtwIH86NPEHqvd2scpc1nkj\\_4WjzGrbx4WKQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfUWcTPgzkxtwIH86NPEHqvd2scpc1nkj_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.

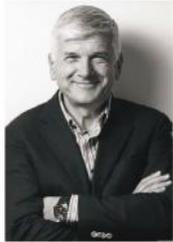
The weekend of celebration will also acknowledge 100 years since the opening of the St Madeleine Sophie primary school, the forerunner of the current primary school of St Francis de Sales. A special Mass of remembrance and thanks featuring past and present priests will be followed by a lunch at the Pines Cabaret, Houghton Bay. Registrations of interest are welcomed by providing contact details at: [office@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org](mailto:office@wellingtonsouthcatholic.org)

# JOSHUA 40

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

## CELEBRATION WEEKEND

14 - 16 AUGUST 2026  
KESWICK CHRISTIAN CAMP  
5 COOPER AVE, HOLDENS BAY, ROTORUA



KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
**ROBERT FALZON**  
LEADER OF AUSTRALIA'S menALIVE  
AUTHOR 'Importance of a present dad'

ALL MEN WELCOME  
FRIDAY PM TO SUNDAY MIDDAY  
MEALS & ACCOMMODATION INCLUDED  
Contact: Mike Lobo 021 280 9285  
Greg Sullivan 021 437 747

SPACES ARE LIMITED  
BOOK IN EARLY TO AVOID  
DISAPPOINTMENT  
SCAN THE QR CODE:



<https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/joshua-40th-anniversary-celebration-rotorua>



## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS



**Sy Nguyen**  
Sy came to New Zealand from Vietnam in 2025 and is now in his second year at the seminary



**Zecharia Mathew**  
Zecharia is from Auckland and joined our diocese this year



**Hung Nguyen**  
Hung is from Vietnam and is in his first year at the seminary.



**Dung (Zung) Phan**  
Dung is from Vietnam. He has been in New Zealand for about six years and is currently on his pastoral placement in Feilding, Taihape, and Ohakune



**Rodney Rebecca**  
Rodney was a Trappist monk for 20 years and has spent several years at Kopua Monastery. He is now training to become a priest for our diocese

For enquiries or to support our seminarians, please contact:  
**Fr Trung Nguyen**  
Phone: 022 062 6726  
Email: [vocations@pndiocese.org.nz](mailto:vocations@pndiocese.org.nz)

DIocese OF PALMERSTON NORTH  
2026

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN

### Chevalier Cyril John

CHARIS INTERNATIONAL INTERCESSION COMMISSION



CHARIS  
NEW ZEALAND  
Aotearoa

Cyril will be in NZ  
for two days.

Teaching and Training on  
**Prophetic  
Intercession**

**Date** 11th and 12th May 2026  
**Times** Monday 11th: 6 pm to 9 pm  
Tuesday 12th: 10 am to 9:30 pm

**Venue** Christ the King Church  
Mt Roskill  
Auckland

Amazing opportunity for all.



For enquiries contact Vanessa Nathan  
021 143 3703 or email  
[maranatha.jvz@gmail.com](mailto:maranatha.jvz@gmail.com)

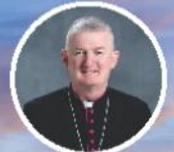
Registration \$20.00

MAY 2026 • A NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

18  
DAYS

## Lourdes to Lisieux

A Journey of Faith & Grace through the Shrines and Saints of France



Accompanied by  
**Bishop John Adams**

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)



"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



The genuine pilgrim experience

harvest  
journeys