



Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth
Te Parihi Katorika Ki Ngamotu

Sunday 30 November 2025

First Sunday of Advent



Important Dates

Monday

**1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd
December**

Our Lady Help of Christians
Advent Reflections with
the Social Justice Group.
7.00pm

Wednesday 3 December

Praise and Worship
Bell Block Catholic
Centre 7.00pm

Friday 5 December

Adoration Bell Block
Catholic Centre 4.00pm

Friday 5 December

Night of Glory
Praise and Worship and
Adoration
7.00pm to 9.00pm

Sunday 7 December

Adoration Our Lady Help
of Christians 3.00pm

Friday 12th December to Saturday 13th December

Our Lady Help of
Christians Church
24 Hour Adoration
Begins with Mass on
Friday 9.10am

Wednesday

December 17th

St Joseph's Church hall
Joy to the World
A Christmas Concert
10.00am to 12.00noon

Friday 19 December

Rite 1 Reconciliation St
Joseph's Church
5.00pm to 7.00pm
(Several priest will be
seated around the church
for individual confession)



CATHOLIC PARISH OF NEW PLYMOUTH
INVITES YOU TO A

JOY TO THE WORLD

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Join us for a morning filled with fun, carols, festive delights
and Christmas crafting for children.

DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY

17

10 AM - 12 PM

St. Joseph's Church Hall
151 Devon Street West, New Plymouth



DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY

17

10 AM - 12 PM

DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY

17

10 AM - 12 PM

St. Joseph's Church Hall; 151 Devon Street West, New Plymouth

St. Joseph's Church Hall; 151 Devon Street West, New Plymouth

GENERAL NOTICES

Annual Sick & Retired Priests Special Collection Sunday, 30 November 2025

The Clergy Trust Fund supports the well-being and care of priests in our Diocese. This includes stipends, food, travel home for overseas priests, retreats, and all healthcare-related costs.

Specially marked envelopes were attached to the newsletter last week. Those who donate by planned giving will have a white Sick and Retired Priests Special Collection envelope (coloured red) with their envelopes. Alternatively, you can donate via online banking to The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth bank account 02 0630 0288002 03. Please include your name as the payee and use **Sick & Retired** as the reference and your planned giving number if you have one. And of course putting cash in the plate contributes as well.

MUSIC NOTES: Calling all singers!! If you are interested and would like to be part of the singing for the Christmas Vigil at St Joseph's this year, please email Amelia Luke, our Music Co-ordinator, musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz

First Sunday of Advent 30th November 5.30pm
Mass at St Joseph's is Youth Mass. We will be celebrating a baptism. 5 December 7.00pm A Night of Glory, Worship, Praise & Adoration at St Joseph's.

ANOINTING MASS: The monthly Mass of Anointing will be held at 10.30am next Saturday 6 December St Joseph's Church. Everyone is welcome.

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP:

In the coming four weeks, we prepare with mounting expectation for the coming of Christ in a spirit of waiting, conversion and hope. Our weekly Advent reflections will journey through the four weeks of Advent.

Each week, one of the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love is explored, through quotes, scripture, reflections, music, and prayer.

This week our Caritas Advent Reflection service focuses on "HOPE". We will begin with this quote from Pope Leo.

"This is what true hope consists of: not in trying to avoid pain, but in believing that even in the heart of the most unjust suffering, the seed of new life is hidden"

Pope Leo XIV, *General Audience* 27th August 2025

Come to Our Lady Help of Christians Church 24 Clinton Street Fitzroy from 7.00pm until 7.30pm Monday 1st December.

Join with the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth Peace and Justice group to see, hear, reflect on, and pray about this message and the scriptures for the week. All Welcome. Supper will follow the service.



ADORATION VIGIL FOR RIGHT FOR LIFE

FOOD FOR FAITH ADVENT: For daily readings, podcasts, prayer requests and Advent encouragements go to Food For Faith. Sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz to prepare for Christmas by receiving daily email encouragements with Fr John O'Connor.

You are welcome to join us at Stumble Inn, 200 Mangorei Road at 1.30pm Wednesday 3 December for tea or coffee and sharing and reflecting on the Advent themes from the Food For Faith messages. All welcome. Just look for the orange F.F.F sign on a table. Any questions to Joan 021 1100 775.

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:



CWL will be selling raffle tickets for their fabulous Christmas raffle, before and after all Masses the weekends of 29 and 30 November and 6 and 7 December. Just \$2 a ticket, or even better 3 for \$5. Please bring cash.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP Bell Block Catholic Centre Wednesday 3 December 7.00pm to 8.00pm. This will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENING Christmas Carols Evening Bell Block Catholic Centre Sunday 14 December 5.00pm to 6.00pm followed by a finger food tea. Children and adults will be acting the Christmas story which will be interspersed with multicultural Christmas carols.

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE

COMMITTEE MEETING: Friday 5 December Committee Meeting at 10.30am in St Joseph's Church foyer.

CWL FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH: Friday 5 December 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.



MARIAN MOTHERS meet Thursday 4 December at Our Lady Help of Christians Church 7.00pm to 8.30pm. Please come along and join in prayer & a cuppa. Please bring a small sharing plate. Any queries please phone Glenda 021 323 765.



NEEDED EXTRA CHURCH CLEANERS AT OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS: Every week the church at Our Lady Help of Christians is cleaned by a group of volunteers. We have 8 groups of 4 people (men and women) so this means a turn ever 8 weeks. This involves vacuuming, dusting, toilets and the kitchen. With 4 people it takes about an hour. We need some more people to join the teams. If this sounds like a way you would like to volunteer to help in the parish, please call Carol Crowley 027 481 6520. Present cleaners contact Carol also if you have 2026 requests around duties and dates.

YOUTH GROUP
WE MEET ON SUNDAYS
DURING THE SCHOOL TERM AT
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL.

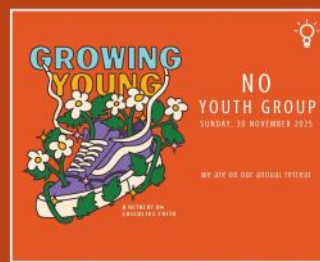


JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP
FOR YEARS 4 TO 8
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm



YOUTH GROUP
FOR YEARS 9 -13
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

NO YOUTH GROUP
THIS SUNDAY, 30 NOV 2025



YOUTH MASS

THIS SUNDAY!
30 November 2025
5:30 pm
St. Joseph's Church



Youth Mass
CATHOLIC PARISH OF NEW PLYMOUTH
"The Eucharist is my
highway to heaven." -
Saint Carlo Acutis

SHINE & ILLUMIN8 Youth Groups Families, join us for
a Potluck Family Dinner on Sunday, 7 December
2025, from 6:45 PM to 8:30 PM at Joseph's Church
Hall. All family members are warmly invited!



notification

ILLUMIN8 is hitting the snooze button for a
summer siesta from 8 December 2025 to 6
February 2026. Fear not, the Youth Group
will spring back to life on Sunday, 7
February 2026, same bat-time, same bat-
place!

IN BETWEEN, MARK THESE DATES!

- Jingle all the way to the Christmas Concert on Wednesday, 17 December 2025; 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at St Joseph's Hall!
- Ring in the season with the Christmas Midnight Mass on Wednesday, 24 December 2025. (We're on duty!)
- Yeehaw! Spend a fun-filled day on the farm on Tuesday, 6 January 2026, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Joyce's Farm.

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

ST PATRICK'S SPRING CLEAN



**FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER -
9.00AM**

**BRING OWN
EQUIPEMENT**

- Internal Walls
- Windows
- Garden Cleaning

RSVP
Marian 027 630 3428

ANY HELP APPRECIATED

We pray for our deceased family and friends:

Charlie Matthews, Lawrence Scott, Marie Hickey, Alex Fife, Colleen Connolly, Mick O'Connor and Mary Bernet.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF NEW PLYMOUTH

Night of Glory

PRAISE & WORSHIP | ADORATION
PRAYER | RECONCILIATION

**Friday
5 December
2025**

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

**ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
NEW PLYMOUTH**

O COME, LET US WORSHIP AND BOW DOWN,
LET US KNEEL BEFORE THE LORD, OUR MAKER!
PSALM 95 : 6

DEC

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

1 MON	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
2 TUES	8.00am 9.10am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Joseph's Church
3 WED	8.00am 9.10am	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians
4 THU	8.00am 9.10am	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Mass at Sacred Heart Girls College has finished for the year Mass at Francis Douglas Memorial College has finished for the year
5 FRI	8.00am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church St Joseph's Church
6 SAT	8.30am 10.30am 5.30pm 6.00pm	St Joseph's Church St Joseph's Church Anointing Mass Our Lady Help of Christians Church (Vigil Mass) St Patrick's Church Okato (Vigil Mass)
7 SUN	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 5.30pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church Bell Block Catholic Centre 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 Adoration at St Joseph's Church 7.00pm. Reconciliation is also available by appointment with the priests, phone the Parish Office (06) 757 3682.

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Before morning Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Friday 7.40am & Saturday 8.10am in the Parish Office. 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 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

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



QUIET YOUR HEART ~ Music with Kadisha

St Joseph's Monday 11.00am to 11.30am .

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Second Sunday of Advent 7 December

1ST READING: Isaiah 11.1-10

PSALM: 72

2ND READING: Romans 15.4-9

GOSPEL: Matthew 3.1-12

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:

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





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

STRATEGIC LEADER Giniya
sl@catholicparishnp.nz

FINANCE OFFICER Cynthia
accounts@catholicparishnp.nz

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION Ireen
office@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

CHRISTMAS CARDS: If you wish to send religious Christmas cards this year, we have some stock, as pictured below. 8 cards (4 separate designs) for \$5.00. Available today in the Parish Office. (Again limited stock)

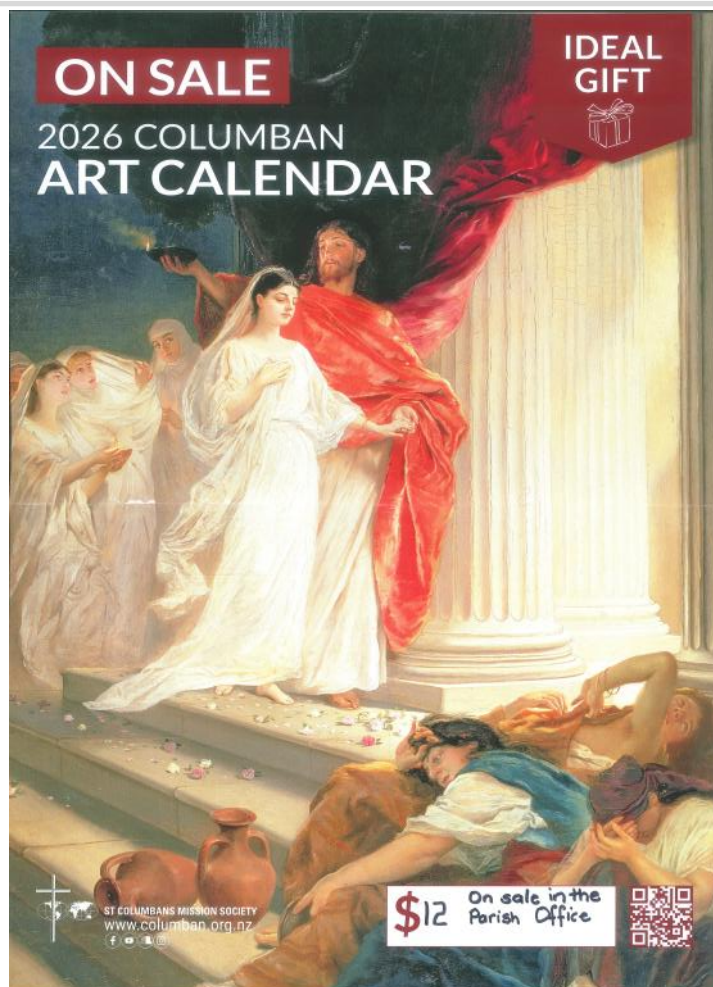


ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS REFLECTION BOOK:

Archbishop Paul has encouraged parishes to make available Bringing the Word to Life, a new book of daily reflections for Advent and Christmas. Written by Fr James Lyons, Cardinal John Dew, and other Catholic contributors, the book offers spiritual nourishment by connecting Scripture with everyday life in Aotearoa New Zealand. As we approach the end of the Year of Jubilee, these reflections are especially timely and helpful amid the busy season. Copies are available for just \$5 in the Parish Office now.



Beautiful soaps from Soap for HOPE are available from the Parish Office for \$5. These soaps are lovingly made as a fundraiser for Gabby's Starlit HOPE. Proceeds from the sale of these soaps enable Gabby's Starlit HOPE to make acts of kindness to support children in hospital and their families. These soaps make a lovely gift.



For sale in the Parish Office, Columban calendars. It has been a long time tradition in Catholic homes, to have a Columban calendar. Wonderful art calendars, featuring religious masterpieces. See at a glance, Lent, Easter the dates of the major feast days. At \$12.00, this could be a simple gift for a loved one.

Aotearoa Bible Diary 2026

Daily Prayers

Daily Readings

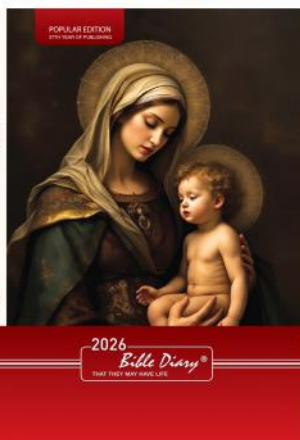
Short, Reflections

Saints of the Day

Short Quotes

Elegant Pages

Handy & Useful
for all age groups.



AVAILABLE

NOW

\$20

Popular Edition

AOTEAROA BIBLE DIARY 2026.

On sale in the Parish Office. This hard cover Bible Diary has the readings for each day of the year. The psalm for each day of the year. Prayers: Stations of the Cross, Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, the Rosary, Daily prayers and Family prayers. Quotes and listing of daily saints. Just \$20 from the Parish Office. These have been so popular, we have sold all we had, and have had to ask Sacred Heart Parish Inglewood to share some of their stock with us. So plenty of copies in the office now.

THE ADVENT WREATH: Are you making an Advent wreath in your home this year, for the First Sunday of Advent, 30 November. We have very limited supplies of the Advent candles (3 sets only) in the Parish Office. \$12 for the four candles, 3 purple and 1 pink. These candles are the tall straight candles.





THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF NEW PLYMOUTH

106 Powderham St, PO Box 32, New Plymouth | 9am to 4pm

Phone (06) 757 3682

Office@catholicparishnp.nz



ADVENT SCHEDULE 2025

ADVENT: JUSTICE AND PEACE: In the coming four weeks, we prepare with mounting expectation for the coming of Christ in a spirit of waiting, conversion and hope.

Join us at Our Lady Help of Christians church every Monday in December before Christmas, from 7.00pm to 7.30pm to prepare for Christmas, using the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love.



BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATHS: We will bless Advent Wreaths at All Masses on the First Sunday of Advent, 29 November and 30 December. If you wish to bring your own home wreath to be part of the blessing at Mass, please do so.



ADVENT AT BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE:

ANOINTING MASS at Bell Block Catholic Centre, 138 Parklands Ave Bell Block, Wednesday 26 November 9.30am, followed by morning tea. Everyone is most welcome to come. Fr Sobin will anoint residents in Bell Block rest homes after the Mass.

PRaise AND WORSHIP Bell Block Catholic Centre Wednesday 3 December 7.00pm to 8.00pm. This will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is most welcome

CHRISTMAS CAROLS EVENING Christmas Carols Evening Bell Block Catholic Centre Sunday 14 December 5.00pm to 6.00pm followed by a finger food tea. Children and adults will be acting the Christmas story which will be interspersed with multicultural Christmas carols. Everyone is most welcome at this celebration.

RITE 1 RECONCILIATION Saturday 20 December 9.00am to 10.00am Bell Block Catholic Centre.

ANOINTING MASSES:

BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE: Wednesday 26 November 9.30am

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH : Thursday 18 December 10.00am

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH Saturday 6 December 10.30am

ADORATION DURING ADVENT:

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH

Tuesdays of Advent after 9.10am Mass

Sunday 7 December 3.00pm

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Thursday 27 November

Thursday 4 and 11 December 7.00pm

BELL BLOCK MASS CENTRE

Friday 5 December 4.00pm



RITE 1 RECONCILIATION

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

Saturday 6, 13 and 20 December
11.30am to 12.00 noon

Tuesday 16 and 23 December-
11.00am to 11.45am before 12.05pm
Mass

Friday 12th and 19th December
11.00am to 11.45am before 12.05pm
Mass
Every Thursday during 7.00pm Adoration

ST JOSEPHS CHURCH EVENING

Friday 19 December 5.00pm to 7.00pm

RITE 1 RECONCILIATION: Several priests will be available sitting throughout the church for Rite 1 Reconciliation .

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH OKATO

Saturday 13 & 20 December- 5.15pm to 5.45pm prior to the Vigil Mass at 6.00pm

BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE

Saturday 20 December 9.00am to 10.00am

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Each Saturday 4.45pm to 5.15pm before Vigil Mass at 5.30pm

Tuesday 16 and 23 December after Mass 9.40am to 10.30am during Adoration

Wednesday 17 and 24 December after Mass 9.40am to 10.00am



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2025

PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

We prepare by going with less and giving generously to those who are less fortunate.

We suggest that on the Fridays of Advent, we have simpler meals and the amount we save be given as non-perishable food items to those in need.

These goods can be brought to the church on Sundays and will be distributed to the Food Bank.

We will have the following special collections:

Sunday 30 November: Annual Collection for Sick and Retired Priests at Mass.

Sunday 7 December

Extra Offerings of Christmas Food for Food Bank.

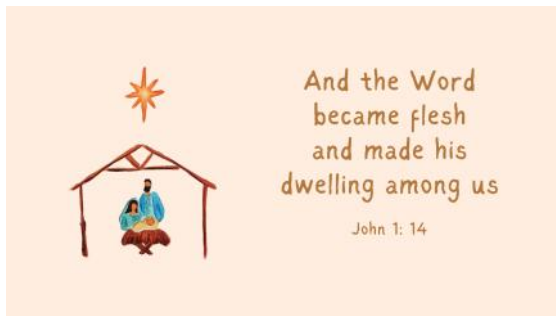
Sunday 14 December

Extra Offerings of Christmas Food for Food Bank.

Sunday 21 December

Extra Offerings of Christmas Food /treats for charity.

Thursday 25 December Annual Collection at all Christmas Masses as a collection for Diocesan clergy.



SIMBANG GABI - Is a Christmas tradition of a series or novena of nine Masses on the nine days leading up to Christmas. This will begin at St Joseph's Church Monday 15 December 7.00pm. Parishioners are invited to be part of this celebration and preparation for Christmas.

See the poster above for the Mass times. When Simbang Gabi is celebrated on a Sunday it will be at the Sunday evening Mass at 5.30pm, on the other days Mass will begin at 7.00pm. Come join in this celebration. You will be welcome.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH 106 Powderham St New Plymouth	OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS Clinton Street Fitzroy New Plymouth	ST PATRICK'S OKATO 36 Cumming Street Okato	BELL BLOCK MASS CENTRE 138 Parklands Ave Bell Block
Wednesday 24 December - VIGIL MASS Carols - 7.30pm Mass - 8.00pm MIDNIGHT MASS Carols 11.30pm Mass 12.00am	Wednesday 24 December VIGIL MASS Carols - 6.30pm Mass - 7.00pm	Wednesday 24 December VIGIL MASS Carols - 6.45pm Mass- 7.00pm	
Thursday 25 December Mass 9.00am	Thursday 25 December Mass 9.00am		Thursday 25 December - Mass Carols - 10.15am Mass - 10.30am

WEEKLY DIOCESAN UPDATES

for the First Sunday of Advent 24 – 30 November 2025

Dwell Advent Series | First Week of Advent

Advent begins this Sunday, and the Dwell Advent Journey is now available.

This simple weekly resource is designed to help us slow down, pray with Scripture, and make room for Christ in the busyness of December. Each week includes a short Gospel reflection, a Marian prayer, and a gentle invitation to live our faith in everyday moments.

Week 1 invites us to begin with stillness and attentiveness — opening our hearts to the Lord who comes to dwell with us. You can download the pdf at <https://tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Dwell-First-Week-of-Advent.pdf>

How might you welcome Jesus more intentionally as Advent begins?

May this season draw each of us closer to Christ.

Scripture Focus this Advent | Living the Word

You are invited to prepare for Sunday Mass by reading and reflecting on the Scripture we will hear that weekend. Marist priest Fr Frank Bird has for several years been helping people make those preparations through his Living the Word project. As the name suggests, Living the Word is an invitation for Catholics and others to allow the Word of God to shape their lives. You can download the resources, and access other rich content, at www.livingtheword.org.nz/pray

Food For Faith for Advent 2025

Daily reflections for those seeking greater maturity of Christian Faith in preparation for Christmas. Sign up to receive daily emails during Advent at www.foodforfaith.org.nz

Catholic Kiwi Podcast

Six episodes of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference's new podcast series have now been released, sharing stories of faith, ministry and mission of Kiwis and visitors to our shores. Guests in the opening episodes include Carmelite Sister Lauren of the Cross, broadcaster and policy expert Tim Wilson and Wellington Archbishop Paul Martin SM. More episodes will be released before Christmas to complete season 1, with season 2 set for 2026. Search "Catholic Kiwi Podcast" on YouTube or Spotify now.

50 Years of Proclaiming the Gospel | December 2 Webinar

In December 1975, St Paul VI published his landmark apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*. It identified evangelisation as the task of all Christian people, not just clergy and religious, and noted that it required both word and authentic witness. Join Bishop John Adams of Palmerston North, Catholic Enquiry Centre director Carly Mulqueen and Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College director Dr John Evangelista as they share their insights on the wisdom of the document and how it can be lived out in today's context. The event is live at 7pm on Tuesday, December 2. Register at: <https://bit.ly/december2webinar>

Celebrating 60 Years of Nostra Aetate

Nostra Aetate, one of the landmark Vatican II documents, affirms the Church's commitment to interreligious dialogue and peace – a vision as vital today as ever. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference (NZCBC) continues to champion these values through its Interfaith Relations Committee and resources promoting religious diversity and freedom.

To mark the 60th anniversary, the NZCBC Interfaith Relations Committee has released a booklet explaining Nostra Aetate and offering practical ideas for parishes. Limited hard copies are available, or download online at:

<https://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/PromotingInterfaithRelations.pdf> You can follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/NZCBCIR>

OHP Academy – Online Worship School (APAC 2026)

Do you feel called to lead others in worship, grow in your musicianship, or deepen your heart of prayer? The OHP Academy Online Worship School offers a six-month creative formation journey designed to help you live and lead from the place of intimacy with God. Through live online sessions, mentoring, and community worship experiences, you'll be equipped to serve your parish, school, or ministry with renewed faith and confidence.

Programme Dates: January – June 2026

Online sessions: Wednesdays from 28 January at 7:30 pm (NZDT)

Applications close: 11 January 2026

Open to worshippers, musicians, singers, and anyone passionate about encountering God through worship. Learn more and apply: www.onehopeproject.co.uk/ohpacademy-apac

Theology at the University of Otago

The University of Otago's Theology Programme invites you to explore Christian faith with academic depth. You can take individual papers for interest or include up to five in your degree, or study toward qualifications such as the Diploma in Theology, Bachelor of Theology, or postgraduate degrees in Theology, Ministry, Chaplaincy, and Faith-Based Leadership and Management.

Subjects include Biblical Studies, Church History, Systematic Theology, Māori and Moana Pasifika Theology, Ethics, Practical Theology, and Biblical languages. The Centre for Theology and Public Issues offers papers focused on social justice.

Upcoming highlights:

Pre-Christmas Summer School (Nov–Dec 2025): Christianity, War and Violence

Semester 1 Intensives:

Women in the New Testament and Early Church (26–30 Jan, Dunedin)

Christian Ministry in te ao Māori (9–13 Feb, Lower Hutt)

Find out more: www.otago.ac.nz/theology or email theology@otago.ac.nz

GOSPEL REFLECTION BOOKS: The Gospel Reflection books from 30 November to 26 April 2026 are available in the foyers today. The cover is bright pink, Please take a copy. These will be useful for preparing for Mass, and for the Special Ministers to the Sick.

