



Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

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Emergency Phone 027 224 2100



8th March 2026 Third Sunday Of Lent

RITE OF CHRISTIAN OF INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

On the three Sundays leading up to Easter, the Elect (those preparing for Baptism) are invited to participate in Scrutiny after the homily. During the Scrutiny, we pray and ask God to strengthen and deepen the Elect's faith as they prepare for Baptism.

As we listen to and reflect on the Gospel readings – the Samaritan Woman, the Man Born Blind, and the Raising of Lazarus – we journey together in this process of conversion, recognising Christ as the Living Water, the Light of the World, and the Resurrection and the Life.

Glimpses of the Elect and their Sponsors at St. Joseph's and Our Lady Help of Christians



A Wonderful Welcome Last Sunday!

Last Sunday was a grace filled and joy filled day for our parish as we welcomed many new families and individuals at all Masses.

Our Hospitality and Welcoming Team played a vital role, offering warmth, kindness, and genuine care – something our new parishioners deeply appreciated. Parishioners also helped create a vibrant sense of community, especially at Catholic Café, where conversation and connection flourished. We are delighted that several of our new parishioners have since enrolled and officially joined our parish family.

Thank you to everyone whose smiles, service, and hospitality made our parish feel like home. May this spirit of welcome continue to shape our community.

Important Dates

ADORATION

Thursday Evenings
St Joseph's Church
7.00pm
Tuesdays at OLHC
(after 9:10 am Mass)

AV Gospel Encounter Meetings

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

Sacramental Preparation Parent Information Evening St. Joseph's Church Hall

Wednesday 25th March
6.30pm to 8:00pm

MONDAY CONNECT GROUP Gospel

Readings: There will be
no Connect Group this
Monday 9th March in
the Parish Office as it is
Anniversary Weekend.

St. John Bosco (School Led Mass)

Sunday 15th March
10.30am
Our Lady Help of
Christians

Shine Junior Youth Group

There will be no Shine
this Sunday, 8th March
due to the long
weekend.

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





STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Each Friday during Lent beginning 20th February, at 5:30pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Fitzroy.

Also, the Syro-Malabar Community Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at St. Joseph's Church at 7:00pm in Malayalam language.



GENERAL NOTICES

AV GOSPEL ENCOUNTER GROUP: You are warmly invited! Deepen your life of Faith and prayer through an authentic encounter with Jesus through the Gospels, as you foster community with others who seek to grow closer to our Triune God. Meetings are every Wednesday day of the week at **7:00pm to 8:15pm, 11th of March 2026** in Our Lady Help of Christians. Doors open at 6:45pm for a short welcome coffee/tea & biscuits. Please bring your Bible. For more detail please contact: Christina Chow: jp2padua2020@gmail.com or Jaime Cerda: jzle012@gmail.com.



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 to prepare for Easter by receiving daily email encouragements with Fr John O'Connor.

ANOINTING MASS: Our Lady Help of Christians, Thursday 12th March 10.00am. Everyone is welcome. There will be no Mass at Sacred Heart Girls College on that day.

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP:



As every second Monday, the Justice and Peace group will meet in the Nga Motu room at the back of the office, at 6:45pm after the Caritas Lenten reflection. Come to the back door of the office building. Our next meeting will be held this coming Monday, 9th of March. For any enquiries or if anyone needs transport to join us, please contact Joan 021 1100775

Join us to further investigate how we can bring the call of the gospel into our lives and that of our community.

As Pope Leo reminded us In **Dilexi te 97** All the members of the People of God have a duty to make their voices heard, albeit in different ways, in order to point out and denounce such structural issues, even at the cost of appearing foolish or naïve. Unjust structures need to be recognized and eradicated by the force of good, by changing mindsets but also, with the help of science and technology, by developing effective policies for societal change. It must never be forgotten that the Gospel message has to do not only with an individual's personal relationship with the Lord, but also with something greater: "the Kingdom of God (cf. Lk 4:43); it is about loving God who reigns in our world. To the extent that he reigns within us, the life of society will be a setting for universal fraternity, justice, peace and dignity. Both Christian preaching and life, then, are meant to have an impact on society. We are seeking God's Kingdom." [105]



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.

Direct deposit

To make a one-off direct deposit, simply login to your online banking profile and 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 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 we have a current email address for donors, receipts will be emailed. If you would rather have a paper copy tax receipt please advise the office. If we do not have a current email address, paper copy tax receipts will be left in the church foyers.

If you wish to bring your giving for the year up to date, there is an opportunity over the next few weeks.

PARISH NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

To include items in the newsletter, email your material by TUESDAY 3.00pm to communicationslead@catholicparishnp.nz Late submissions will be considered for the next issue.

St Patrick's Okato Sunday Mass

Sunday 22nd March @
9.30am

All Welcome

Morning tea to follow

We extend an invitation to past
Okato Parishioners and to anyone else
wanting to join our double celebration of
145 yrs of St Patrick's Church
and
a belated celebration of
St Patrick's Day

No Vigil Mass Sat 21st

March Edition

2026

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUTH GROUP

NO YOUTH GROUP SUN, 8 MAR

Youth Group will be taking
a break this weekend!

Take this opportunity to
create cherished memories
with your loved ones and
craft stories that will last a
lifetime.

YOUTH GROUP RESUMES ON
SUNDAY, 15 MARCH 2026



JOIN US FOR A THREE-DAY
TRIDUUM OF REFLECTIONS,
WHICH WILL INCLUDE HOLY
THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY,
AND THE EASTER VIGIL.
2 APR - 3 APR - 4 APR



This reflection day is organised in
collaboration with the parish,
Francis Douglas Memorial
College, and Sacred Heart Girls'
College!

YOUTH GROUP NEXT SUNDAY | 15 MAR

How to live with **RADIANT
HOPE** and **BE BEACONS OF
LIGHT** to others? Come to learn
about this. You won't want to
miss it.

FIRST LIGHT

A LIFE NIGHT ON
RADIANT HOPE



REGISTRATIONS WILL CLOSE IN
TWO WEEKS! MAKE SURE TO
REGISTER NOW!



Scan the QR code to register,
and check the updated
schedules on our parish's
website, as they differ from
the previous programme.

SHINE

**JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP
FOR YEARS 4 TO 8
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL
DURING THE SCHOOL TERM**

Contact KAREN
youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz

ILLUMINS

**YOUTH GROUP
FOR YEARS 9 TO 13
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL
DURING THE SCHOOL TERM**

Contact SUSILO
youth@catholicparishnp.nz



Alpha 2026

Explore Life Faith Meaning

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
- Watch an episode on topic of faith
- Enjoy a meal and a meaningful conversation
- Ask questions and share your thoughts

alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz

www.catholicparishnp.nz/alpha/

MEET NEW PEOPLE & EXPLORE FAITH TOGETHER

SCAN HERE

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

SIGN UP →



WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Duncan Kennedy, Don Crossan, Eileen O' Neill, Noeline Collins, Evan Perrett, Rosenda Maxwell, and Dave Gardener.

MAR	WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE	
9	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH	
MON	8.30am	St Joseph's Church (Anniversary Day)
10 TUE	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9.10am	Our Lady Help of Christians
	12.05pm	St Joseph's Church
11 WED	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9.10am	Our Lady Help of Christians
12 THU	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	10.00am	Our Lady Help of Christians (Anointing Mass)
	2.20pm	Francis Douglas Memorial College
13 FRI	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	12.05pm	St Joseph's Church
14 SAT	8.30am	St Joseph's Church
	5.30pm	Our Lady Help of Christians (Vigil Mass)
	6.00pm	St Patrick's Okato
15 SUN	9.00am	St Joseph's Church
	10.30am	Our Lady Help of Christians Church (School Led Mass)
	10.30am	Bell Block Mass Centre (Liturgy of the Word with Communion)
	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 Adoration at St Joseph's Church 7.00pm. Reconciliation is available by appointment with the

KINGDOM KIDZ CHILDREN'S

LITURGY: Our Lady Help of Christians Church: No Children's Liturgy 15 March. It is a school Led Mass 10.30am at Our Lady Help of Christians. **St Joseph's Church:** Each Sunday at 9.00am Mass in the church foyer.



MONDAY CONNECT GROUP Gospel Readings:

There is no Connect Group this Monday 9th March in the Parish Office as it is Anniversary Weekend.

LITTLE ANGELS MUSIC AND PLAY

GROUP FOR PRESCHOOLERS at Our Lady Help of Christians at 9.00am in the church foyer on Mondays. For more details please contact Amelia at musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz



QUIET YOUR HEART: Music with Kadisha. Each Monday at St Joseph's Church - 11.00am to 11.30am.



SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Fourth Sunday of Lent 15th March

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

PSALM: 23

2ND READING: Ephesians 5.8-14

GOSPEL: John 9.1-41



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
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Emergency Phone – 027 224 2100

PRIESTS:

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YOUTH MINISTER Susilo

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MUSIC COORDINATOR Amelia

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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



Older Children's
Baptism



First Holy Communion



Reconciliation



SACRAMENT OF
CONFIRMATION

PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING

EMPOWERING

PARENTS

ALL PARENTS WISHING FOR THEIR CHILD TO RECEIVE BAPTISM, RECONCILIATION, FIRST COMMUNION, AND CONFIRMATION IN 2026 ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THIS PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING.

COME AND HEAR HOW YOU CAN BE EMPOWERED TO BECOME YOUR CHILDREN'S FIRST TEACHERS OF FAITH AND, AS A FAMILY, GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.

Wed, 25 Mar 2026

**STARTING FROM 6:30 PM – 8 PM
AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL**

[CONTACT US](#)

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

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

WEEKLY DIOCESAN UPDATES

for the Third Sunday of Lent

2 – 8 March 2026

Pilgrimage to Hiruhārama | Saturday 11 April 2026

A new date has been confirmed, and we are continuing to take expressions of interest for our second pilgrimage to Hiruhārama. We look forward to sharing this beautiful journey of faith together.

If interested, email bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz with your name, parish and phone number.

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/1FAIpQLScfUWcTPgzkxtwIH86NPEnHqvdt2scpc1nkj_4WjzGrbx4WKQ/viewform?pli=1

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

Submissions on Liturgical Posture in the Diocese still open

If you haven't had a chance to email Bishop John around the issue of Liturgical Posture in the Diocese, the deadline for submissions has been extended to Easter Sunday (5 April). Please send all submissions to bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz if you would like to share your thoughts. More information can be found at <https://tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz/2025/12/liturgical-posture-in-the-diocese-of-palmerston-north>

NZ Catholic Medical Association Retreat & Seminar

The New Zealand Catholic Medical Association provides community, support and chaplaincy for those involved in health care in Aotearoa. The association welcomes doctors, nurses, midwives, carers, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologists, dentists, health administrators, counsellors, social workers, chaplains, lawyers, and anyone in allied roles. The next nationwide event is a retreat and seminar at the St Francis Friary & Retreat Centre, Auckland on March 20 and 21. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.newzealandcatholicmedical.co.nz/2026-auckland-retreat> or email newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com

Lourdes to Lisieux Pilgrimage, 8 – 27 May 2026

Discover the sacred beauty of France on an inspiring 18-day pilgrimage. Visit Lourdes, Lisieux, Paray le Monial, Chartres, Normandy and Paris, and walk in the footsteps of beloved saints including St Thérèse of Lisieux, St Bernadette, St John Vianney, and St Vincent de Paul.

This journey offers daily Mass, expert guides, and the chance to deepen your faith in some of the most grace filled places in the Catholic world.

For details and bookings: NZ Free Call: 0800 819 156 or visit www.harvestjourneys.com/pv2659

LENTEN RESOURCES

Behold Lenten Companion | Third Week of Lent

Behold – Receiving the Living Water

Jesus meets the Samaritan woman and offers living water – mercy that restores and gives new life.

The Behold Lenten Companion invites you this week to come honestly before Christ, bringing your longing and your need for forgiveness.

Only Christ can satisfy the thirst of the heart.

Behold His mercy.

Download this week's resource at <https://tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Behold-2026-Third-Week-of-Lent.pdf>

Ashes to Hope | Caritas Lent Webinar Series

Journey through lent with New Zealand's Catholic Bishops and others of the faith as they guide us in prayer and reflection on each Sunday's Gospel. Wednesdays in lent, 7:30pm to 8:30pm. The next webinar, 'The Woman at the Well' with Bishop Steve Lowe, will be on Wednesday 11 March. Registrations are now open: visit www.caritas.org.nz/lent-webinars



Pilgrimage to
Hiruhārama Jerusalem

SATURDAY, 11 APRIL 2026

A new date has been confirmed, and are continuing to take expressions of interest for our second pilgrimage to Hiruhārama. We look forward to sharing this beautiful journey of faith together.

IF INTERESTED, EMAIL BISHOP-PA@PNDIOCESE.ORG.NZ WITH YOUR NAME, PARISH, AND PHONE NUMBER.



A Family in Taranaki Fighting to Stay Together - Help Keep A Family Together

Vincel and his wife, originally from Fiji, are both parishioners in the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth. They are fighting to stay together as immigration rules threaten to separate them from their 6 year old daughter, Diana, who has Global Developmental Delay. Both Diana and her sister Bernadette attend St. Pius X School, and the family is actively involved in our parish community. Immigration New Zealand has assessed Diana as not meeting health requirements, putting the family at risk of being forced to leave the country or be separated from her.

The family are seeking to raise **\$15,000 NZD** to cover legal representation, visa and medical costs, and other support needed to challenge the decision. A Give A Little Page has been formed and every donation helps give their daughters stability and the chance to remain in the community they call home. The link is <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-keep-our-family-together>

Use of funds

Vincel says “Funds will be used for legal advice, visa and health costs for Diana, helping to keep our family together. Any support will help our family stay stable, even if we don’t reach the full goal. Your help would be appreciated”.



Te Huinga o ngā Pihopa Katorika o Aotearoa
New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference

Caritas

LENT WEBINAR SERIES 2026

WEBINAR 3: THE WOMAN AT THE WELL "I AM HE"

HEAR THE VOICE ANSWER THE CALL

Journey through Lent with New Zealand's Catholic Bishops.

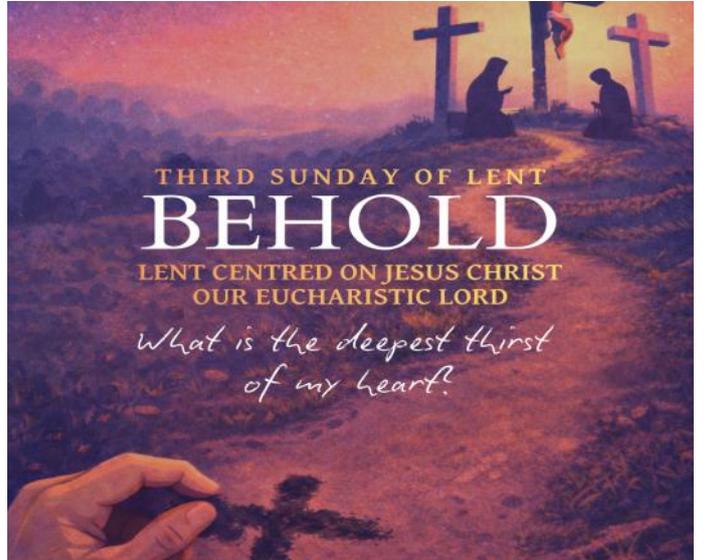
Most Reverend Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Auckland | Dr John Keenan, PhD, Director of The Nathaniel Centre

11 MARCH | 7:30PM ONLINE

- Guided reflection with Bishops and faith leaders
- Insights from Catholic social teaching
- Time for quiet contemplation and community connection

SCAN TO REGISTER

REGISTER NOW



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

BEHOLD

LENT CENTRED ON JESUS CHRIST
OUR EUCHARISTIC LORD

What is the deepest thirst of my heart?

Chrism Mass

12:05PM
TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2026

CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
197 BROADWAY AVE
PALMERSTON NORTH

Please come and celebrate with us




MISSION HUB
NEW ZEALAND

Helping disciples build a culture of prayer, leadership, and mission

**EPHESIANS 4:
THE FIVE GIFTS FOR BUILDING THE CHURCH**

MONDAY 9 MARCH | 7.00PM - 8.30PM

Email to register: missionhubnz@gmail.com



WHERE:

OUR LADY HELP OF
CHRISTIANS CHURCH FOYER,
CLINTON ST, FITZROY

WHEN:

WED 11 MARCH , 2026

WED 18 MARCH

WED 25 MARCH

*6.45PM: DOORS OPEN FOR
A WELCOME CUPPA

*7PM-8.15PM: GOSPEL
ENCOUNTER

ANY QUESTIONS?

NAME: Christina Chow
jp2padua2020@gmail.com

Jaime Cerda
jze012@gmail.com

THIS LENT, JOIN US FOR A GOSPEL ENCOUNTER

WHAT IT IS

A Gospel Encounter provides an opportunity for authentic encounter with Jesus through the Gospels and each other.

It fosters and encourages the habit of the ancient form of Christian prayer (lectio divina or daily mental prayer).

Please bring your Bible and check us out!



ST PIUS X



GALADAY



15TH MARCH 11AM - 2PM
120 BROOKLANDS RD

WHITE ELEPHANT, RAFFLE,
BOUNCY CASTLE, FACE PAINTING, FOOD STALLS,
CAKE STALL, DUNK THE SENIORS, ARTS & CRAFTS,
FUN GAMES, MYSTERY BOTTLE, ACTIVITIES, BOOKS,
BEAUTY CORNER, CANDY FLOSS & MUCH MORE!

EFTPOS AVAILABLE

MAY 2026 • A NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

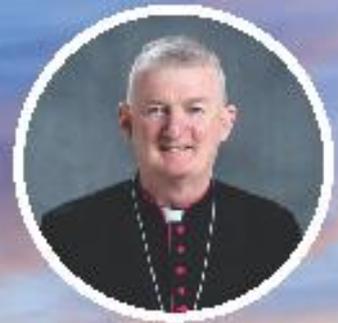
18
DAYS

Lourdes to Lisieux

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

COMMENCES FRIDAY 8 MAY 2026 • 18 DAYS / 16 NIGHTS

Lourdes (3 nights) • Rocamadour (1) • Paray-le-Monial (3) • Nouan-le-Fuzelier (1)
• Chartres (1) • Lisieux (2) • Caen (3) • Normandy • Paris (2)



Accompanied by
Bishop John Adams



"Dear Pilgrim, to travel is a beautiful activity, but to travel with the purpose of deepening our faith in Jesus Christ can be a profound experience indeed. This is what it is to be a pilgrim rather than a tourist, a participant rather than a spectator. Harvest Journeys is at the helm once again of another pilgrimage, this time with a wonderfully powerful French itinerary. Our journey will place us in the company of some of the great saints of the Church who continue to inspire and teach us about how accessible a life of holiness is. We will also encounter saints that influenced the beginning of the Church in New Zealand and perhaps learn from them more about the Church in this country. Right faith is a wonderful adventure - this pilgrimage promises to be a great opportunity for those able to join us." - Bishop John Adams



St Bernadette
Soubirous



St Margaret
Mary Alacoque



St Claude de la
Colombière



St John
Vianney



St Peter
Chanel



Sts Louis &
Zélie Martin



St Thérèse of
Lisieux



St Joan
of Arc



St Catherine
Labouré



St Vincent
De Paul

the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest
journeys