



Parish Newsletter

Pānui i te Pārihi

Sunday 13 July 2025

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



ALPHA 2025

On the 1st May, 70 people in our community started a journey of discovery as they began Alpha 2025. Arriving a little anxiously, with different expectations, for different reasons and with different levels of understanding, each guest was warmly welcomed by the Alpha Team, as they took their first step on an exciting spiritual journey. Over 8 Thursday evenings and during a Retreat Weekend, a deep sense of community evolved. At the celebratory dinner on Thursday 26th June, amidst the joy, laughter and chat, was a sense of sadness that something wonderful was drawing to an end.

Guest Evaluations revealed that Alpha impacted on everyone's spirituality in some way, a testament to the working of the Holy Spirit. 37 of the guests claimed that Alpha developed their understanding of Christianity and deepened their existing faith. Others reflected that doing Alpha provided them with more purpose in life and almost everyone commented on how wonderful it was to meet new people, make new friends, feel part of a community and engage in deep and thought-provoking conversations in a safe and non-judgemental environment.

The superbly presented Alpha videos shown each week, prompted great questions and allowed guests the opportunity, many of them for the first time, to discover "Who Jesus is?", "Why did Jesus die?", "What does the Holy Spirit do?" and "How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?". Thank you to all on the Alpha team who volunteered their assistance over the 10 weeks – Alpha would not have been successful without your commitment, energy, enthusiasm and smiles.

98% of guests agreed that they would recommend Alpha to family and friends, 16 guests have expressed an interest in the RCIA programme and 32 guests are interested in attending a small group or a follow-up course. Praise God for this.

If you are seeking a deeper relationship with God and more meaningful relationships with people in our Parish, Alpha offers a wonderful opportunity to do so. Alpha will be run in Term 2 of 2026 and we warmly invite you to join us on what will be an incredible personal spiritual journey. Janine (Alpha Co-ordinator)



A big thank you to those involved in our Alpha! Alpha has been an amazing experience of the joy of the Holy Spirit, of generosity from the helpers, from the hosts and co-hosts, the cooks Bzee Beez, the FDMC and SHGC student helpers and organisers. Our parish is on mission with evangelisation. It is so simple and rewarding to participate in. To all those who dedicate themselves to prayer in our parish, who give support to the mission through prayer - thank you! Your intercession for the mission ensures the Holy Spirit is present at every Alpha evening. Fr Simon

Important Dates

Sunday 13 July

Junior Youth Mass
St Joseph's Church
5.30pm

Monday 14 July

School Holiday have finished. We will revert to our usual weekday timetable on page 4

Monday 14 July JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

Week 3 of the examination of Laudato Si' in the Parish Office 5.45pm

Tuesday 15 July

Adoration after 9.10am
Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians

Thursday 17 July and every Thursday

St Joseph's Church
Adoration with Reconciliation 7.00pm

Thursday 17 July

STILL LYFE
Online via Zoom
7.30pm to 8.30pm

Friday 1 August

Christian Life Programme
St Joseph's Hall
7.00pm

Saturday 16 August

Catholic Women's League
BINGO
1.30pm in St Joseph's Hall
1.30pm

GENERAL NOTICES

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP: Laudato Si

On Monday 7th July we read chapter 2 of the Laudato Si encyclical - "The Gospel of Creation".



God created everything from nothing in an act of unconditional love. We embrace a new understanding - knowing our universe is 13.8 billion years old and our Earth is 4.6 billion years old. Our role is as custodians of God's creation on earth - NOT its master and owner.

The spirit of life dwells in every living creature - linked to form a universal family. God has joined us so closely, we can almost feel the pain of the desertification of soil and the disfigurement of extinction of species.

Join us Monday at 5:45pm in the Ngamotu Room in the Parish Office (please come to the back door), to read and reflect on Chapter 3 of Laudato Si "The human roots of the ecological crises".

Reading material is provided, but you can also access the encyclical here: LAUDATO SI' www.vatican.va

Since our weekly readings of Laudato Si are on Mondays, the Justice and Peace group business meeting will be online on Tuesday 15 July · 17:45 – 18:45

Time zone: Pacific/Auckland

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/sep-aark-jny>

Contact us at justiceandpeace@catholicparishnp.nz if you have any queries or would like further details.

HELP REQUIRED WITH THE CHURCH FLOWERS: If you enjoy arranging flowers at home, would you please consider putting your name forward to join the roster of flower arrangers at St Joseph's church?

It is not a huge commitment in terms of time as currently it means you would be arranging the flowers four times a year. If you're interested and would like to find out more, please contact Janice (06) 7536 321 or 021 948 587.

Training is available or if you wish you could work with another team member. If you don't have a source of flowers, we can help here.

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE: Monthly general meeting to be held in the foyer, St Joseph's Church 17 July 12.00pm. Bring your lunch and take the opportunity to have some time together. Note this meeting is in St Joseph's Church foyer, Not at Our Lady Help of Christians church, or in the hall.



CWL ANNUAL BINGO
Saturday 16 August starting at 1.30pm in St Joseph's Church hall. Save the date for an afternoon of fun.

JOIN US FOR A LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY OF FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

 **COUPLES FOR CHRIST
TARANAKI**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE
PROGRAMME**

ABIDE:
A LIFE WITH CHRIST



**STARTS
FRIDAY, 01 AUGUST
7:00 PM
ST JOSEPH HALL
NEW PLYMOUTH**

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and in Me, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

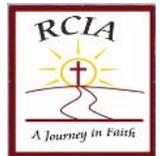
**CONTACT CESAR / IONE:
0212676913**



SCAN QR CODE

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

RCIA is a process that involves a journey of faith and conversion, where individuals explore, learn, and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church.



We are planning to commence RCIA early August 2025. If you, or someone you know, is interested in RCIA, please come to a RCIA information session at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Clinton Street Fitzroy 6:30-7:45pm, Thursday, 24 July 2025



Congratulations to Evelyn Jijo, Daniel Robinson and Ann Terance, who made their First Communion and were Confirmed on Monday 7 July at the monthly Syro Malabar Mass at St Joseph's NP.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASSES AND GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:

Our yellow covered booklets containing all Sunday Mass readings from 29th June to 23 November 2025 are available in the church foyers.

Please just take a copy.

MONDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP meets in the Parish Office, Ngamotu Room, each Monday at 9.30am.

THURSDAY GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP meets 10.15am at Our Lady Help of Christians church each Thursday during the school term.

In both groups we share the Sunday readings for the coming week, using the above Gospel Reflection book which is provided if you don't have a copy already. Everyone is welcome at these groups. Contact the Parish Office for further details, or just come along on Monday and/or Thursday .



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Pictured above the 4 cartons of planned giving envelopes delivered to the Parish Office. And then alongside at St Joseph's Church part of the 4 cartons transformed into addressed sets of Planned Giving envelopes. We have tried to send the addressed envelopes to the correct Mass centre. If you cant find your envelopes please contact the Parish Office. One change this year. Our printer can no longer source brown envelopes for the special collection envelopes. SO these are now white envelopes but to try to prevent confusion, will always be printed in red print. The Sunday envelopes this year are printed in green.

If you would like to take this opportunity to change your method of donating to the parish, eg from weekly envelopes to online banking please contact the Parish Office.

If you donate by cash on the plate, but would rather donate by automatic payment or online banking, and receive a tax receipt which could give a tax rebate refund of 30% of the donation, just contact the Parish Office and we will be able to help.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY

The Youth Group is on a break during your term 2 holidays.



Our Youth Group resumes on Sunday, 20 July!

There is no Shine 13 July as it is the school holidays. There is a Junior Youth Mass 13 July at 5.30pm Sunday evening at St Joseph's Church Powderham Street.



LYFE Group: Growing Deeper. Living Fuller.
Thursdays | 7:30-8:30pm | Starting 17th July | Online via Zoom

We warmly welcome all who have recently completed Alpha and parishioners to join our **LYFE Group**, a relaxed and beginner-friendly Bible study.

This is a space to explore a deeper, more meaningful life with God in a way that's simple, practical, and grounded in everyday life. No prior knowledge needed – just come as you are.

Our first series will be **STILL LYFE**, where we will reflect on the value of prayer, silence, listening, and slowing down to help us recognise God's presence in our daily lives. (And it is online via Zoom)

This series is transformative in helping us slow down in our busy lives, full of distraction, and find the stillness of God.

Keen to join us? We'd love to hear from you. Contact us for the Zoom link:
Roly & Sarah Devine

Phone 021 925 911

Email sarahdevine43@gmail.com



We pray for our deceased family and friends: Kath Goodin, Megan, Elizabeth, Brian Hunger, Maureen and Kevin Boyer, John Connell, Graeme Moyle, Alex MacInnes, Cajetan Dias, Clotilda Dias, Anthony Jerry Dias, Leonard Heal, Thomas Healion, Rev John Healion, John Wisnewski, Connie Pepper, Helen Meads, Frank Davis, Leo Zimmerman, Pat Holmes, Richard Archer, Wolfgang Schafer, Sister Liquori, Judy Scott, Sue Jolly, Lazarus Rodrigues, Sebastin Rodrigues, Mary Fernandes, Maria Remelia Rodrigues, Colleen Holdt, Flory Fernandes, and Domnic Fernandes.

July

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

14 MON	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
15 TUES	8.00am 9.10am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Joseph's Church
16 WED	8.00am 9.10am	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church
17 THU	8.00am 9.50am 2.20pm	St Joseph's Church Sacred Heart Girls College (Mary's Chapel) Francis Douglas Memorial College:
18 FRI	8.00am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church St Joseph's Church
19 SAT	8.30am 5.30pm 6.00pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Patrick's Okato
20 SUN	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 5.30pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church Bell Block Mass Centre Liturgy of the Word with Communion 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, by initially phoning the Office 757 3682.

MORNING PRAYER: There is no Morning Prayer 14 July to 19 July. Resumes 21 July.

KINGDOM KIDZ CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Our Lady Help of Christians Church:

Each Sunday at 10.30am Mass. A special Children's Liturgy in the St John Bosco School Breakout Space.



St Joseph's Church: Each Sunday at 9.00am Mass in the church foyer.

LITTLE ANGELS MUSIC AND PLAY GROUP FOR PRESCHOOLERS:

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



QUIET YOUR HEART ~ Music with Kadisha
St Joseph's Monday 11.00am to 11.30am and at Our Lady Help of Christians Friday 9.30 to 10.00am

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

20 July 2025 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1ST READING: Genesis 18.1-10a

PSALM: 15

2ND READING: Colossians 1.24-28

GOSPEL: Luke 38-42



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
office@catholicparishnp.nz
www.catholicparishnp.nz

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

STRATEGIC LEADER Giniya
sl@catholicparishnp.nz

FINANCE OFFICER
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



For updates on parish, diocese, and national events.



Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

WEEKLY DIOCESAN UPDATES

for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 7th – 13th July 2025

"Jesus, are you calling me to the Summit?"

This week, we're inviting every parishioner to pray and listen.

- Is the Lord inviting you to the Hope and Renewal Summit?
- Is there someone the Lord is placing on your heart to pray for or encourage?
- Could someone in your life be waiting for a personal invitation?

Let's become a Church that listens to the Spirit and responds in faith.

Pray. Discern. Invite. Find out and view at the web site www.hoperenewalsummit.com

Katrina Mitchell-Kouttab Speaks on Palestine

Date: Sunday, 13 July 2025 Time: 7:30 PM (after 6pm Mass at the Cathedral) Location: Diocesan Centre, 33 Amesbury St, Palmerston North

Join us for a talk by Katrina Mitchell-Kouttab, a Palestinian Christian actress, writer, and mother, on "Palestine: Grief Building a New Kind of Love." She will also present a petition by Thyme for Action.

Hosted by the Commission for Justice, Peace, Ecology, and Development.

Jubilee Youth Festival | 2 August 2025

On August 2, 2025, the Palmerston North Diocese will celebrate the global Jubilee for Youth with the Jubilee Youth Festival at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. This event is all about renewal, hope, and deepening faith through inspiring talks, worship, music, and activities.

Event Details:

- Date: Saturday, August 2, 2025
- Time: 10:45 AM - 8:30 PM
- Location: Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North
- Cost: \$10 per person

Young people from all diocesan groups are invited to come together for a day filled with Mass, fellowship, workshops, games, adoration, and a party!

If you're coming from out of town, overnight accommodation is available at local church halls (bring your own bedding).

Registration:

- Group Leaders must register by July 16.
- Individual Registration by July 27.
- Adult Leaders must register by July 27.

Get ready for an unforgettable day of faith and fun. Let's celebrate youth as Pilgrims of Hope! For more details, contact Nick Wilson at nwilson@pndiocese.org.nz

Hearts Aflame Catholic Summer School

Hearts Aflame Catholic Summer School is back again this summer with ten days of world-class lectures, uplifting prayer and authentic community!

Hearts Aflame is a life-changing experience for young adults aged 18 to 35 who want to know more about their faith, have an authentic encounter with Christ and meet other Catholic young adults from all over New Zealand. Join us this year at Nga Tawa Diocesan School, Marton, from January 2-11 2026! Registrations open July 6th at 1pm: we sell out fast so be in quick! Visit heartsaflame.org.nz to register or find out more.

Enrol at Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College

Study anywhere, at your own pace, with the support from qualified lecturers, with Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College online courses. Semester 2 starts July 21. To see courses offered in Semester 2, view on the website www.tekupenga.ac.nz/distance

Saint Teresa's School Bluff | 125 Years

Join us in celebrating a remarkable milestone! Saint Teresa's School Bluff is proud to announce its 125th Jubilee, taking place on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 October 2025.

We warmly invite you to be part of this special occasion. Please spread the word to your friends and family. For enquiries, contact: Sonz125@hotmail.com

World Youth Day 2027 | Expressions of Interest

The diocese is taking expressions of interest for those young people who are thinking about attending World Youth Day (WYD) in Seoul, South Korea in 2027.

The theme of this next WYD is “Take courage! I have overcome the world.” Pope Leo will be there.

Pilgrims for this WYD need to be older than 18 to travel with the NZ group. We anticipate an early August 2027 time frame, but we are still waiting to hear officially.

This expression doesn't lock anyone in to going, but it means we have a group of people to communicate with going forward.

Register your interest by going to www.tinyurl.com/WYDPN27

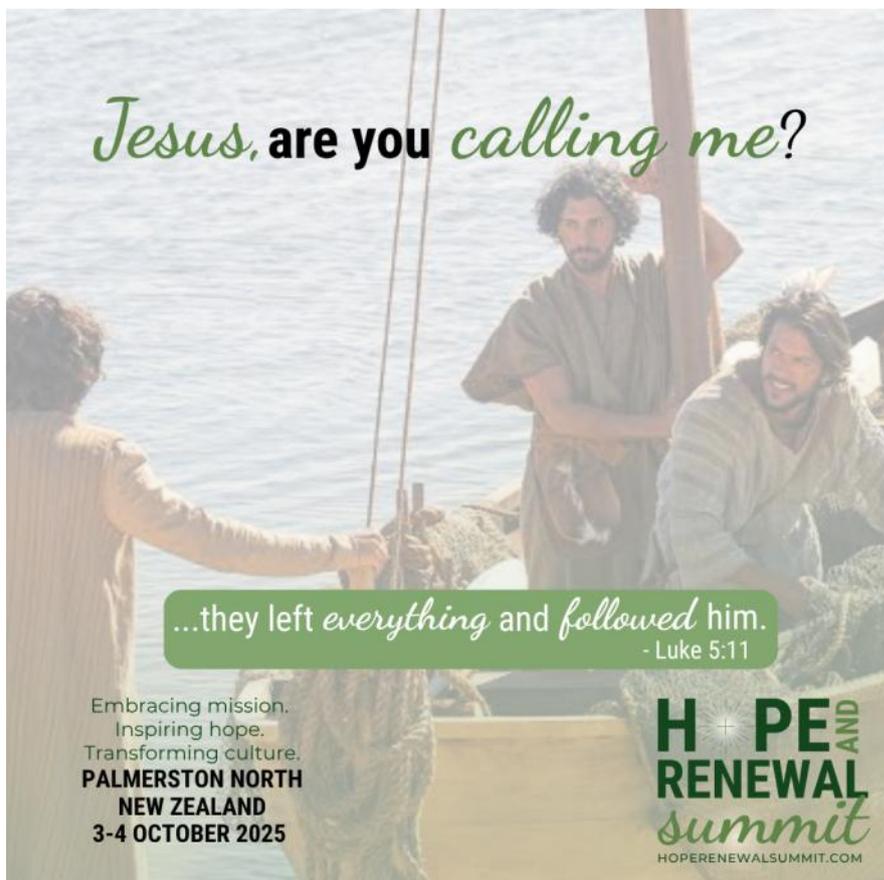
YEAR OF JUBILEE 2025

Upcoming Events

The following Jubilee events are coming up over the next few weeks. Visit www.pndiocese.org.nz/YearofJubilee2025):

26 – 27 July Jubilee of Grandparents and Older Persons

28 July – 3 August Jubilee of Youth



Come and celebrate with Pope Leo XIV



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027

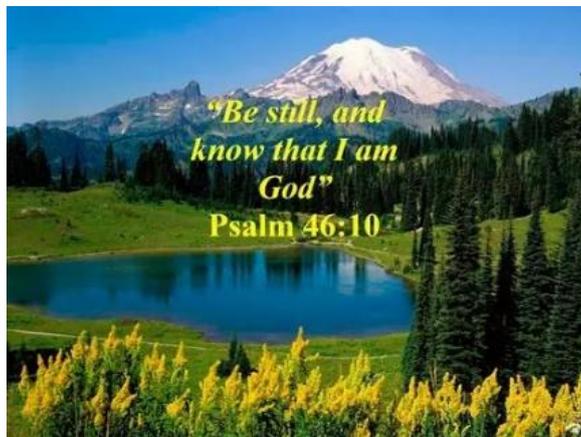
To register your expression of interest go to
www.tinyurl.com/WYDPN27

or contact
Nick Wilson
nwilson@pndiocese.org.nz



Residential Taranaki Guided Christian Retreat
At Taranaki Diocesan School for Girls, Stratford, Taranaki
with
Te Rōpū Hoa Wairua Karaitiana o Taranaki
Taranaki Christian Spiritual Directors / Companions

*Come, rest, and listen to
the still small voice of God*



Friday 26th September 5pm to Sunday 28th September at 3.30pm

All welcome

Cost: \$195 (includes all meals, single occupancy comfortable spacious accommodation, tools for prayer resources & spiritual direction)

Please register your interest with Heather Lofthouse, Spiritual Director / Supervisor
at heather1349@gmail.com or text 021617894

There are limited spaces. Please register promptly