

Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth Te Parihi Katorika Ki Ngamotu



Sunday 14 September 2025 Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Dear Parishioners,

We need to talk about money!

We are immensely grateful to the people who have given over many years and continue to do so. We could not have reached the place we are now without your generosity!

Talking about money can be an awkward topic but is also an important one, and one we should not avoid.

The trajectory of income for the parish is in decline and in a year or two we will be operating at a deficit if we do not address it now. Details about the financial health of the parish, and how we can improve it, are given elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our parish staff work over and above what they are paid for. If we lose parish staff the parish will slip backwards.

We have many parishioners who out of missional discipleship of Jesus Christ invest hours into the parish. We can all see the growth in the parish because of this generosity. It is the mission of Jesus Christ that we belong to.

The mission needs the gifts and talents of disciples; it needs the giving of dollars toward the mission. If you are not in a position to give financially, we fully respect that and do not ask you to give financially but you may like to consider giving give in other ways.

We ask you to be a percentage giver. Is there a percentage of your income that you can comfortably give to the parish? Then can you raise it a couple of percent so that it is a sacrifice? Automatic payments from your bank are the best way for the parish to receive your donations.

Please take this to prayer and your consideration today, the step of faith, in sacrificial giving, to the mission of Jesus Christ. We are changing people's lives in our parish family. We plan to allow you to hear people speaking of the transformation that has happened through the Holy Spirit among us. I too will join planned giving, of a percentage I receive, through automatic payment.

Money is a spiritual issue. Some people do not see it as important to give to their church community. However, Jesus spoke about money and possessions many times in the gospels. Anything we have ultimately comes from God because God is wonderfully giving. I encourage you to look through the lens of the scriptures to view your stewardship of your gifts and dollars that you offer the faith community. We have a generous God. In appreciation, Fr Simon.

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

Important Dates

Saturday 13th September

Passionist Family Group Formation Programme St Joseph's Hall 2.00pm

Sunday 14th September

Fundraising concert for St Pius X school at the school in Philomena Hall 2.00pm

Thursday 18th September

Catholic Women's League Monthly General Meeting St Joseph's Hall 12.00noon

School Holidays 20 September to 5 October

There will be no school or College weekday Masses during the holiday time. Please check the timetable on page 4 each week.

Saturday 20 September

Our Lady Help of Christians 5.30pm Mass

Sunday 21 September

St Joseph's 9.00am Mass and 5.30pm Mass Our Lady Help of Christians 10.30am Mass Bishop Peter Cullinane will be speaking at these Masses.

Sunday 28th September

Youth Mass St Joseph's Church 5.30pm

Monday 6 October

Quiz Night to support Youth Group At The Good Home Ariki Street 7.00pm

Everyday:

Join in our Prayer for Peace in Ukraine and all the war torn countries throughout the world.

GENERAL NOTICES

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS

How we can (re)connect with the vibrancy of the early Church by 'being for others' and building a place of welcome and belonging in our local parish communities.

Paul Traynor, National Co-ordinator for Passionist Family Groups will be exploring this under the topics of:

*Why does community matter? and

*Belonging

Saturday September 13th in the St Joseph's Hall Supper room from 2.00pm until 5.00pm

Come, listen, learn and share fellowship and afternoon tea with your fellow parishioners

ALL WELCOME: This afternoon is for everyone.



Left: McMahon
Family Group photo
from 1998. Family
Groups had been in
the parish for six or
seven years then.

HOPE AND RENEWAL SUMMIT: The programme for the Hope and Renewal Summit has been made available to participants. The Summit begins Friday 3 October at 2.00pm at Awapuni Racecourse Palmerston North with break out sessions, dinner and evening sessions. We continue on Saturday starting with Mass, followed by breakout sessions through the day, finishing with dinner in the evening. There are still some spaces left, if you are considering going to the Summit. To learn more or support the Hope and Renewal Summit, visit hoperenewal@pndiocese.org.nz.



ANOINT THEIR WORDS AND WORSHII

Lord, anoint those who will teach, testify, and lead us in praise at the Summit. May their words lift hearts and their music awaken hope.

Mary, born to bring Christ to the world, pray for every speaker and worship leader.

May their hearts glorify God and help renew your Church. Amen.

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (8 SEPTEMBER)

HOPE RENEWAL

BISHOP PETER IS COMING TO SPEAK TO US: In the upcoming Local Body Elections we are asked to vote in a referendum that will decide the future of Māori Wards in our district. Everyone in New Plymouth has the opportunity to vote on whether to keep or remove the Māori Ward. Bishop Peter Cullinane has been invited to speak to us, on this topic. We need to make this vote in the context of, and remembering that, we are disciples of Our Lord Jesus.

Bishop Peter will be with us at the Vigil Mass (5.30pm) Saturday 20 September and Sunday Masses 21 September at Our Lady Help of Christians 10.30am and St Joseph's 9.00am and 5.30pm

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP:

Creation Day 1st September marked the beginning of the Season of Creation on a day that many Christian traditions observe as the World Day of Prayer for Creation. The Season of Creation, is an annual time of prayer and action for our common home. Lasting from 1 September until 4 October, the Feast of St Francis, we join the global family in worship, reflection and commitment. This year's theme is "Peace with Creation," drawing inspiration from Isaiah 32.18. "My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.

Season of Creation News: You can watch the recording of the worldwide celebration prayer service for Creation Day (September 1st) Click here for the link. <u>Here</u>

CLIMATE CHANGE: TECHNOLOGY AND ATTENTIVE- NESS: Living with Hope in an Age of Anxiety. Monday
22nd September Te Whare Hononga Taranaki Cathedral.
7.00pm. See the poster in the foyer or the online newsletter, for further details.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE UKRAINE: Parishioners are asked to join us, just a small group, to pray for peace in the Ukraine daily. We suggest that at 8.00pm each night we stop wherever we are and pray for peace in the Ukraine. Lord give peace to the people of the Ukraine. If you wish to join up with this prayer group, sign up sheets are in the church foyers. However, it is not necessary to sign up, to pray for peace. It is not necessary to pray at a specific time to pray for peace. But let us just take the time (at any time of the day) to pray for peace in Ukraine.

JUBILEE OF JUSTICE WEBINAR - 19 SEPTEMBER

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is hosting a 30-minute webinar to celebrate the Jubilee of Justice. This will include an update on the progress of the global "Turn Debt Into Hope" campaign focusing on debt justice, and expert advice on how to advocate for justice in your local community. The webinar will feature guests from NZ and Australia with specialist expertise. Mark your diaries for 12.30pm on Friday, September 19. Find out more and learn how you can get involved at www.caritas.org.nz/season-of-creation-2025

FOODBANK collection baskets are in the foyer each Sunday. Every donation, a non perishable supermarket item, makes a difference in the life of a family in need.

WE NEED A NEW ROOF



As reported at the Annual Parish Gathering on 4 September, the roof of St Joseph's Church and Hall is nearing the end of its useful life.

It dates from when the Church was built in 1968, some 57 years! The experts tell us the life expectancy of an iron roof is usually around 30 years, so, to date, divine providence seems to have been looking after us! Although, as some will be aware, we have had the occasional ingress of rain due to its deteriorating condition.

However, the time has now come for replacement – this will be Phase 1 of the New Parish Centre.

It's a very big roof, around 1,500 square metres – equivalent in roof area to 10 – 12 standard 3-bedroom dwellings.

Our reroof subcommittee is currently considering five quotes from roofing specialists. The cost looks like being between

\$400,000 and \$500,000 plus GST. Fortunately, we have cash reserved for the project and we have approval from the bishop for the expenditure. The roof colour will be similar to that of the existing roof and the foyer roof will not be replaced as that will be effected by the planned Parish Centre development

We will select the preferred quote soon, and we are expecting the work will be undertaken over the coming 2025/26 summer months.

We will be able to continue using the church and hall over the duration of the reroof.

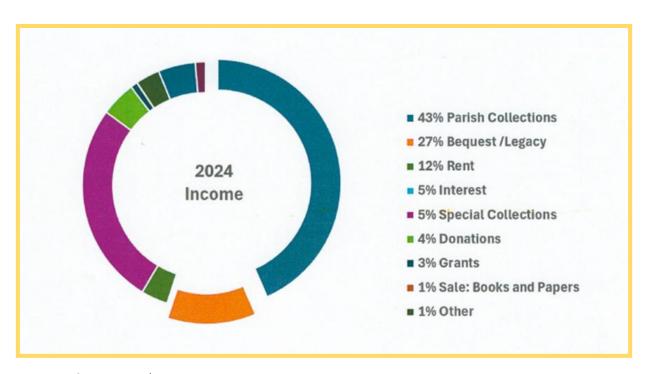


Our Financial Health

Those who attended our Annual Parish Gathering on 4 September were informed of the current state of the parish finances. The following is a summary of what was reported at that event.

Income

The parish income for the year ending 30 September 2024 can be summarised as follows::



Parish Collections \$417,000.00

Bequests \$255,000.00

Rent \$111,000.00

Interest \$44,000.00

Special Collections \$47,000.00

Donations \$34,000.00

Grants \$30,000.00

Sales \$9,000.00

Other \$13,000.00

Total Income \$960,000.00

Note: Amounts quoted are rounded to nearest \$1,000.

The Parish relies on Donations

The main source of income for the parish is the online Planned Giving donations and the weekly collections at Mass. It is through the generosity of parishioners that the parish is able to maintain its financial health. We depend upon planned giving. We receive no income from the Diocese. We have to 'sail our own ship.'



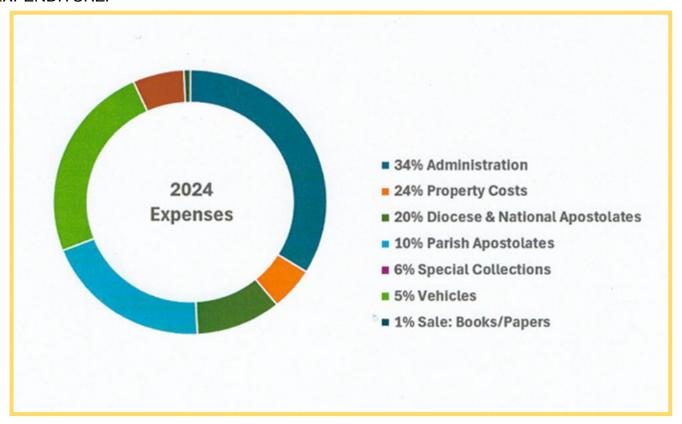






The Mass Centres pictured above show four of the nine properties we maintain and care for.

EXPENDITURE:



Administration \$261,000.00

Property Costs \$186,000.00

Diocese & National Apostolates \$154,000.00

Parish Apostolates \$78,000.00

Special Collections \$47,000.00;

Vehicles \$40,000.00

Sale Costs \$6,000.00

Total Expenses \$772,000.00

Note: Amounts quoted are rounded to nearest \$1,000.

End of Year Results*

*Excludes asset sales and bequests

2022 -\$69,621 deficit

2023 -\$82,772 deficit

2024 -\$65,047 deficit

Annual Parish Get Together. The Shared Meal

Trend - Annual shortfall \$69,000 - \$82,000

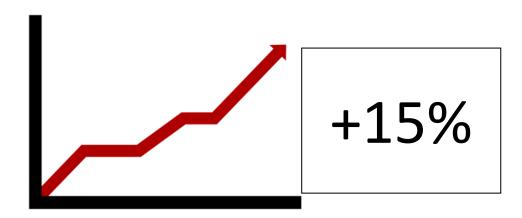
These recuring shortfalls have been funded from cash reserves. This has to stop as we need to preserve cash for capital projects such as the new Parish Centre. Note that bequests vary significantly year on year and unless otherwise directed are reserved for capital projects including equipment replacement e.g. audio visual.

What the numbers tell us

While we endeavour to keep a tight control on expenses there is continuing upward pressure on administration (staff costs), vehicle running costs, insurances, and unforeseen expenses with property e.g. aging drainage and electrical rewiring.

Call to action!

To address the annual deficit and move into a better than break even position we will need to increase our giving by some 15%. An increase of 15% looks like....



If you give \$5 per week... this would increase to... ~\$6.00 per week

If you give \$10 per week... this would increase to... ~\$12.00 per week

If you give \$20 per week... this would increase to... ~\$25.00 per week

If you give \$40 per week... this would increase to... ~\$45 00 per week

If you give \$50 per week... this would increase to... ~\$60 00 per week

Planning Giving

Just like any household or business, **regular income** for our parish is essential so that we are able to budget and function well financially. **Planned giving is the key**.

Give regularly - weekly, fortnightly or monthly

Automatic bank payment to the parish bank account BNZ# 02-0630-0288002-097

Name of the bank account The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

include your name and your Planning Giving number

Check with Parish Office if you don't have or don't know your Planned Giving number

Receipts will be emailed or a paper copy provided to you annually in April.

Claim from the IRD a 33% rebate refund of your giving (which you can gift to the parish)

For full details, see the new parish Planned Giving brochure which will be on the church seats and in the church foyers today. Complete the details sheet and return to the Parish Office to join planned giving

How much should I choose to give?

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Prepared by Colin Comber, Chairperson, Finance Committee colin.comber@xtra.co.nz

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOUNDATION:

NOVEMBER 2025 FUNDING ROUND: Parish groups, agencies & church organisations that provide a helping hand by supporting Families & Social Services are invited to apply for funding from the Catholic Charities Foundation of Palmerston & the Tindall Foundation through the Diocesan Allocations group. Applications are now open & are due by 30/09/2025. Go to https://pndiocese.org.nz/who-we-are/application-for-funding-catholic-charities-allocations or contact reception@pndiocese.org.nz

CWL MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING: Thursday 18th September in St Joseph's Hall 12.00 noon. Bring your own lunch and take the opportunity to spend some time with other CWL members. Visitors and new members are very welcome.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross is a fixed-date annual feast celebrated on September 14th, (this Sunday) so it is a Sunday celebration only every six years. On this day we honour the Holy Cross by which Christ redeemed the world. The public veneration of the Cross of Christ originated in the fourth century, according to early accounts, with the discovery of the Coss on which Christ was crucified, by Saint Helen, mother of Constantine, while she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

Today, the Cross — because of what it represents — is the most potent and universal symbol of the Christian faith. It has inspired both liturgical and private devotions: for example, the Sign of the Cross, which is an invocation of the Holy Trinity; the "little" Sign of the Cross on head, lips, and heart at the reading of the Gospel; praying the Stations (or Way) of the Cross; and the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday.

Placing a crucifix in churches and homes, in classrooms of Catholic schools and in other Catholic institutions, or wearing this image on our persons, is a constant reminder – and witness – of Christ's ultimate triumph, His victory over sin and death through His suffering and dying on the Cross.

FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

Open Home Foundation are seeking Christian families to provide weekend respite and short-term foster care in the Taranaki region. If you've had an interest in foster



care or been wondering how YOU could make a difference in our community. please get in touch. All questions, and enquiries welcome.

Teena Bennett 027467327 or teena.bennett@ohf.org or visit OHF.ORG.NZ



he 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





We pray for our deceased family and friends: Diane Healion, Emiliano Ibag, George Day,

Sharon Dallas, Liz Koorey, Honorato Calzada Pintor, Dulce Calzada Pintor Raboy, Sheryl Thompson, Eva and George Goodwin and Jason Brookes.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE Sept **THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH** 15 8.00am St Joseph's Church MON 8 00am St Joseph's Church 16 **NO Tuesday 9.10am Mass** at Our Lady Help of Christians Church this TUES week. Please see Webpage on Monday for an updated schedule 12.05pm St Joseph's Church 17 8.00am St Joseph's Church 9.10am Our Lady Help of Christians Church WFD 8.00am St Joseph's Church 18 9.50am Sacred Heart Girls College THU No Thursday Mass at Francis Douglas College until Term 4 19 8.00am St Joseph's Church 12.05pm St Joseph's Church FRI 8.30am St Joseph's Church 20 5.30pm Our Lady Help of Christians Church (Vigil Mass) SAT 6.00pm St Patrick's Okato (Vigil Mass) 21 9.00am St Joseph's Church SUN 10.30am Our Lady Help of Christians Church 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 also available by appointment with the priests, by initially phoning 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: Music,** play and morning tea. 9.00am Our Lady Help of Christians, during the school term. Please contact Tess 027 583 7732.

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

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

21 September 2025 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1ST READING: Amos 8.4-7

PSALM: 113

2ND READING: 1.Tim 2.1-7

GOSPEL: Luke 16.1-13

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH HOLY HOUR 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 EUCHARISTIC ADORATION ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH Every Thursday 7:00pm - 8:00pm

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



For updates on parish, diocese, and national events.



STRATEGIC LEADER Giniva 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











Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth

Alumni Association Event

10am - 12pm Saturday 1 November

To celebrate the launch of the College's new Alumni Association, we are delighted to welcome former students and staff members on **Saturday 1 November** for a liturgy, tour of the school and Elizabeth House, morning tea plus the chance to learn more about the Alumni Association from its leaders.

When: 10am - midday, Saturday 1 November 2025 (All Saints' Day)

What: A liturgy will be held in the Mary Phelan Chapel, followed by school tours with current students and manaakitanga with a delicious morning tea provided by the PTFA. It will be a great chance to catch-up with former classmates and enjoy a special walk down-memory-lane!

How: RSVP at your earliest convenience please and by Wednesday 22 October at the latest.

- Simply email: <u>alumnishgc@gmail.com</u>
- · Attendance is \$20 per person with funds going to the SHGC PTFA
- Upon receipt of your RSVP, you will be sent bank account details for your payment.
 Thank you in advance.

Anyone who is a former student or staff from Sacred Heart Girls' College, Manawa Tapu, New Plymouth is very welcome to attend and are automatically Alumni. Please spread the word, and we look forward to seeing you there!



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

We are now taking expression of interest for our second pilgrimage to Hiruhārama.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to renovations at Hiruhārama occurring later this year, this will now take place on Saturday 21 February 2026.

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

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW



There will be parishioners from the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth joining the pilgrimage, travelling from New Plymouth and meeting the Palmerston North pilgrims in Whanganui before proceeding to Hiruhārama. If you are interested in being part of this group please contact the Parish Office Phone 06 757 3682



Open Home
Foundation are
seeking Christian
families to
provide weekend
and short-term
care in the
Taranaki region.



If you've had an interest in foster care or been wondering how YOU could make a difference in our community ... please get in touch, all questions and enquiries welcome.

Contact Teena Bennett on (027) 4677327 or teena.bennett@ohf.org.nz for more information

WANT OUT ORE NO

Does something need to change in your life? Join us for this special time of FORMATION and ENCOUNTER

CALLED to LEAD

A Weekend Retreat for All Men

Start: 7pm Fri 10 Oct Finish: 3pm Sun 12 Oct

Venue: Chosen Valley Chistian Camp, Ararimu, Auckland

Retreat Director: Mike Lobo

Attending Priest: Fr Carl Telford SM

Speaker: Bill McElhinney

Praise and Worship: Jeffery Nathan and PWM



GREAT FOOD!!

Cost: \$175 pp

Scan the QR code or click the link below for more information and registration:

https://menforchrist.wufoo.com/forms/called-to-lead

Enquiries: Mike Lobo (021) 2809285 or Jerome Hardy (027) 2334380





Climate Change, Technology, and Attentiveness: Living with Hope in an Age of Anxiety

A growing awareness of the significant ecological challenges the world faces is being accompanied by rising rates of mental illness, particularly amongst young people. For many, thinking about the future fills them with anxiety and despair. What are the conditions that have given rise to this? How might ancient practices from within the Christian tradition help us to live with hope in the face of ecological uncertainties?

Monday 22 Sept 2025
7pm - 9:30pm • Koha entry
Te Whare Hononga, Taranaki Cathedral
37 Vivian Street, Ngāmotu New Plymouth
Enquiries: dan@taranakicathedral.nz

Dr. Andrew Shepherd

Senior Lecturer in Theology and Public Issues Theology Programme, University of Otago



This event is organised by: Taranaki Cathedral, Te Manu Hononga / Sir Paul Reeves Centre, University of Otago Theology Programme & A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand.





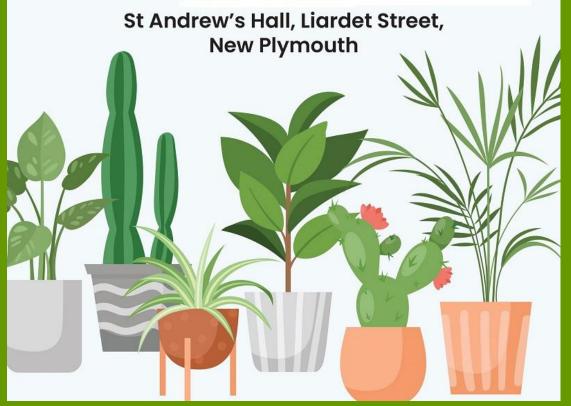






GIANT PLANT SALE

Saturday 27th September 2025 8am - 11am



Taranaki Hospital Chaplaincy Plant Sale is taking place on <u>Saturday the 27th September at St Andrews Hall Liardet St, New Plymouth.</u> The sale will run from **8.00am – 11.00am** (Please note this change from previous years).

We welcome any donations of plants that you may have - of any kind. With the weather looking more promising of summer and bulbs starting to appear, any unwanted plants, trees, bulbs, shrubs, annuals, perennials, vegetables, indoor plants etc. we would greatly appreciate.

Drop off point is from **3pm at St Andrews Church Hall** on Friday 26th September. (The only access will be through the front doors).

Please contact me at the number below if you need any further information. I am in the office Mondays from 8:30 – 12 and Fridays 8:30am – 10am.

Kind blessings Louisa Parker Administration Assistant Hospital Chaplaincy Team 7536139 ext 7968