

Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

Sunday, 1st December 2024 First Sunday of Advent



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Advent means "arrival" and signifies the start of an event or the arrival of a person. In Christian communities around the world, Advent refers to a four-week season of remembering and celebrating the arrival of Jesus on Earth. It's a time to reflect on the unexpected nature of Jesus' humble birth and join in the anticipation of when he will come again to reunite Heaven and Earth once and for all.

The Advent wreath is one of the best known symbols of Advent. Traditionally made of evergreen branches formed into a circle with 4 candles held within. The evergreen circle is a symbol of eternal life. Green from the evergreen is considered a symbol of hope. The four candles of the Advent wreath specifically symbolises the Christian concepts of **hope**, **peace**, **joy and love**, with these candles being lit subsequently throughout each week of the Advent season.

This Sunday, the Advent wreath will be blessed at Mass and any wreaths that parishioners bring will be blessed also. The first candle will be lit, the candle that represents Hope. Sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle," the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.

This Candle is purple, the primary colour of Advent and a colour symbolising, penance, preparation, sacrifice and royalty. The first week of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but to celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season



as well. (We are now in Year C). We remember the Old Testament prophets who foretold of Jesus' coming with hope and anticipation. Are you ready to discover the hope Jesus is inviting you to experience this Advent?



RAFFLE WINNERS

On Sunday, 24 November, after the 9.00am Mass at St Josephs, at Catholic café, the Youth Raffle was drawn. The foyer was crowded with parishioners eagerly awaiting the results. (Pictured opposite)

Here are the winners

1st place: Larry Charteris: Dinner with the priests

2nd place: Martin Chamberlain Christmas Cake

3rd place: Deirdre Brockhill \$100 Pak n Save Voucher

4th place: Alena Sofeni \$50 Briscoes Voucher

5th place: Mark Rodejo \$50 Briscoes Voucher

Congratulations to all! Please pick up your prize at the Parish Office during office hours with Ireen.

Important Dates

Saturday, 30 November Volunteers Breakfast After 8.30am Mass St Joseph's Church

Sunday, 1 December
Blessing of Advent Wreaths
at all Masses
Bring your own family
wreath to be blessed

Sunday, 1 December Adoration at Our Lady Help of Christians 3.00pm to 4.00pm

Monday, 2 December Social Justice Group Our Lady Help of Christians 6.00pm

Thursday, 5 December Anointing Mass At Our Lady Help of Christians 10.00am

Saturday, 7 December Anointing Mass at St Joseph's 11.00am

Saturday, 7 December Worship Night At St Joseph's Church 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Sunday, 8 December Last day for church donations for the St Vincent de Paul Gift Bag project or bring to the office on Monday

Reconciliation this week Our Lady Help of Christians Saturday 4.45pm to 5.15pm

St Josephs Church Saturday 11.30am to 12 noon
And during Thursday
7.00pm Adoration and
before Wednesday 5.30pm
Mass at 4.45pm to 5.15pm

GENERAL NOTICES

ADVENT NOTES ADVENT NOTES ADVENT NOTES

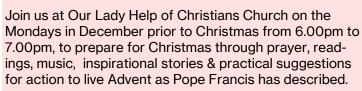
ADVENT SUNDAY GOSPEL REFLECTIONS sessions, at the Bell Block Catholic Centre, Thursdays, 7.00pm-8.00pm, during 4 weeks of Advent. First session starts on 28 November. Everyone is welcome to come along.

ANOINTING MASS will be celebrated at Our Lady Help of Christians on Thursday, 5 December at 10.00am And St Joseph's Saturday, 7 December 11.00am

ADVENT WREATH BLESSING: This year there will be no midweek Ecumenical celebration to bless the wreaths. Instead the wreaths will be blessed at the Masses on the First Sunday of Advent, 1 December and Vigil Masses 30 November. You are welcome to bring your family wreath to Mass for a blessing.

CHRISTMAS CAROL EVENING at Bell Block Catholic Centre, Sunday, 8 December 4.30pm, followed by a finger food shared tea (approx. 5.45pm). Children and adults will be acting the Christmas story, interspersed with multicultural Christmas carols. A warm welcome to everyone.

PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS: Pope Francis has described Advent as "a time of waiting in anticipation for Jesus' arrival, restoring hope, coming to know the Lord in new ways and acknowledging the grieving & suffering in the world".



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.

Another Food for Faith event. CAFÉ GATHERINGS advertised in the FFF daily Advent posts. We have a FFF Café Gathering in New Plymouth coming up. Everyone is invited to join us for a coffee and faith sharing at Stumble Inn, Merrilands Shopping Centre, Mangorei Road from 10.00am on Wednesday, 4 December. Just look for the "FFF" sign on a table & parishioners you might recognise.

Statement from Bishop John Adams

We are aware of a story in the media this weekend which includes reports of two Catholic priests each having engaged in sexual activity with women. One of them is the former Bishop of Palmerston North, Charles Drennan. Several women have reported that Bishop Charles has had a sexual relationship with them. Although Bishop Charles has not been in public ministry in our country for some years now, we are still waiting for a final determination from Rome about his future as a cleric. Once again, the terrible spectre of abuse is before us, please be assured of my ongoing efforts to work with survivors and our own safeguarding team to make our Church a place of safety for children and vulnerable adults. + John

VOLUNTEERS: The backbone of our Parish So many of us support our Parish and the wider community giving of our time selflessly for others.

These gestures can range from a one-off, such as baking for an event, to regular cleaning of the church, reading at Mass, helping with the needy and homeless. No matter how great or small, your offering makes a difference to someone. You are living as a Missional Disciples.

The Parish Pastoral Council would like to thank all volunteers with an invitation to a Special Mass for Volunteers on Saturday, 30 November, (that's this weekend) 8.30am St Joseph's Church, followed by breakfast. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Annual Sick & Retired Priests Special Collection - Sunday, 1 December 2024. Today!

The Clergy Trust Fund provides for the well-being and care of priests in the Diocese. This includes stipends, food, travel home for 'overseas priests', retreats and all costs relating to healthcare. The Clergy Trust Fund is struggling to meet growing medical costs. Hence, your giving to this special collection is most appreciated, especially by our elderly priests who then benefit from your generosity. Your support is a great way of showing your gratitude to your priests. Many thanks and blessings to all who contribute to this special collection.

Every contribution helps.

Envelopes for this collection are in the church foyers. Those who are part of planned giving will have an envelope in their pack. Or alternatively you can donate online, to the parish bank account 02 0630 0288002 03 using your name, Planned giving number if available, and Sick and Aged Priests as the references.

Mons Brian Walsh Chairperson Clergy Trust Fund Diocese of Palmerston North

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets will be on sale after Sunday Mass at St Joseph's and Our Lady Help of Christians Churches 1 & 8 December. **\$2.00 a ticket**. Bring a few extra gold coins to Mass to buy a ticket.



CWL COMMITTEE MEETING: Friday 6

December- Committee Meeting at 10.30am in St Joseph's Church foyer.

CWL FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH: Friday 6 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! It's a Christmas theme this week, so wear your Christmas apparel. This is a fundraising activity for the CWL, so the more lunch guests there are, the more CWL can help others. Go to the CWL website to see CWL nationwide work www.cwl.org.nz

COLUMBAN CALENDARS: Each year the Columban Mission Society issues the Columban Art Calendar, which contains examples of religious art and highlights the liturgical events throughout the year. Calendars are again only \$12.00, & are available from the Parish Office or at OLHC Sunday Mass in the foyer with John Goodin.

⊕ FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Special Intention from Pope Francis for December: For Pilgrims of Hope:

Pope Francis requests this month's prayers "so that this Jubilee strengthens us in faith, helps us recognise Christ risen in our lives, and transforms us into pilgrims of Christian hope."

VACANCY

FULLTIME PARISH CO-CORDINATOR

Are you interested in joining the vibrant New Plymouth Catholic Parish team, supporting and growing our Parish faith journey?

Are you organized, motivated, relational and enjoy a challenge? Does building relationships and collaborating with others around shared goals sound like you?

Then call the office on 06-757-3682 or email: parishleadershipteam@catholicparishnp.nz, to request the Job Description & Application Form. For any queries email parishleadershipteam@catholicparishnp.nz

Applications close Friday, 6th of December.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Each year parishioners help SVdP to make up Christmas gift bags for those they help.

This year we ask that you continue your generosity and help us to provide toiletries and treats to others. Many of those who receive gift bags do not have storage facilities or cooking facilities and most are men. If you can help, please place donations in the SVdP container which will be in the church foyers, during Sunday and Vigil Mass times for the next two weeks. Or items can be dropped off at the Opp Shop in Fitzroy or at the Parish Office.

Suggested donations are: Combs, Sunscreen, Soap (bar or small bottle of liquid soap), shampoo, tissues, nail clippers (large), emergency rain jackets/ponchos, home baking and ready to eat food. Puddings, like Dole fruit salad, Aunty Bettys. Ready to eat rice meals, noodle cups, tinned food meals with pull top lids, biscuits & chocolate.

Next Sunday 8 December is the last day of this collection in the church or Monday in the office. We are giving out the parcels at the Community Dinner 10 December.

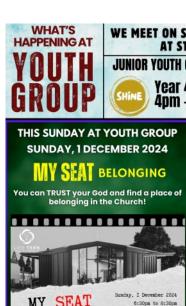
We certainly don't pray to the saints instead of Christ. We pray through the saints to God in Christ.

Ultimately the saints don't answer our prayers, they echo our prayers with greater profundity, insight and love.

So say the Scriptures: "the prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects". (James 5:16)

Source: Scott Hahn





WE MEET ON SUNDAY DURING THE SCHOOL TERM AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

Year 4 - 8

4pm - 5pm

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP

Year 9 - 13 1 TEEN 6.30pm - 8.30pm



MUSIC BY THE MUSTARD SEEDS WED, 25 DEC 2024

AT 00:00 AM

Organised by Illumin8 YOUTH GROUP



"Dear young people, make the most of these years of your youth. Give yourselves over to the best of life!"

CHRISTUS VIVIT (CHRIST IS ALIVE) - PARAGRAPH 143 - POPE FRANCIS



The National March for Life presents a new opportunity each year to remind our MPS, and members of the public who witness the March itself, that every human life is sacred and has inviolable dignity from the moment of conception to natural death and deserves legal protection, We invite you to participate in the National March for Life, Saturday, 7 December in Wellington. The March will go out from Parliament Grounds at 2.00pm and return for speeches concluding at 4.00pm. Rosary will be prayed in Parliament Grounds after the main event has concluded. Mass for Life and One Hour of Eucharistic Adoration will be celebrated at St Mary of the Angels (17 Boulcott Street in Wellington Central) the day before the March, on Friday, 6 December 7.00pm.





We pray for our deceased family and friends:

Irene Brophy, Yvonne Phelan, Jill Rawson, Mick O'Connor, Marie Hickey, Bill Murray, Peg Harbottle and Natalie Donovan.



Generous donations to Foodbank from St John Bosco School community

FOODBANK: We have been alerted to the fact that food stocks are low at Foodbank. St John Bosco School made a collection for Foodbank at their recent school led Mass. Pictured above was the result. Foodbank was delighted to see this unexpected delivery. We can help, by including a small, extra item, in our shopping, (toothpaste, soap, cereal, spreads etc), for the donation baskets in the church foyers. This will make a difference to a family in need. And this month as part of our Advent preparation, a suggestion that we make a little extra donation of some Christmas goodies, so Foodbank can add a little Christmas joy with the food parcels. Suggestions: Chocolate, tinned fruits, fruit mince pies, jelly, Christmas puddings.

ST JOSEPH'S CARPARK: We have granted permission to our neighbour, KDH Property Group, to undertake maintenance on the eastern wall of their building, the former Shell Todd Tower Block that borders the St Joseph's Church property, next to the carpark.

The work requires scaffolding to be erected on Church property for a few weeks. This will result in the temporary loss of two standard carparks and three disabled carparks.



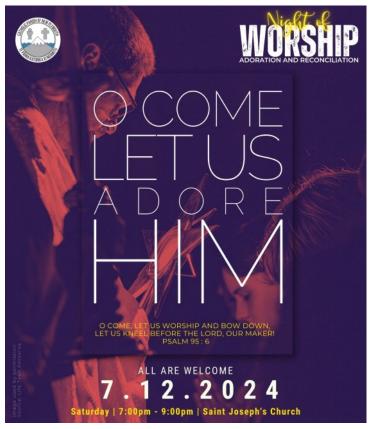
To compensate, we are designating three ordinary carparks on the Salvation Army boundary as parking for the disabled. These three carparks will be sign posted. We take this opportunity to remind everyone that these designated parks are only for those who hold a dis-

ability card, which must be displayed on the dash board.

The scaffolding will be erected on Monday, 25 November. KDH have said their intention is to complete their work and remove the scaffolding prior to Christmas.

KDH thanks the parish for its consideration and apologises for any inconvenience to parishioners.





ST VINCENT DE PAUL~ HELP IS REQUIRED:

St Vincent de Paul are looking for volunteers who could assist for a few hours every couple of weeks, helping in the St Vincent de Paul van, to collect and deliver furniture items to families in need in New Plymouth.

If interested or you want to know more, please phone Kevin 027 251 9998.



Want to travel in this van? Contact Kevin to volunteer.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Coming up at St Joseph's...



- The Mustard Seeds are playing next for our Advent Worship night on 7 December at 7pm.
- The Seedlings are next singing for Mass on 8 December at
 5.30pm
- Our annual Christmas Concert on 18 December at 10am
- The Seedlings are busking that afternoon 18 December at Centre City at 1pm
- The Seedlings are Caroling at Rhapsody Rest Home 20 December
- The Seedlings and Adults are singing for Carols & Christmas
 Vigil Mass 24 December starting at 7.30pm
- The Mustard Seeds are playing for Carols & Midnight Mass starting at 11.30pm
- Adults Christmas Day Mass 9am

Friday 3 PM to Saturday 4 PM

divinerenovation.org/openhouse

photo glimpse















Break out session with Fr Simon and Kevin Kerr



Break out session with Susilo



Break out session with Karen





The Mustard Seeds singing in praise of the Lord



OPEN HOUSE MASS FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH



Key note Speak Bishop Michael Gielen



Break out session with Shanon and Rolv



Break out session at the Salvation Army



Music at Open House: A big heartfelt thankyou to 'The Seedlings' and 'The Mustard Seeds' for providing the music for our Open House Masses on the weekend. It was AMAZING!! You all put time, effort and love into rehearsing and preparing the

music, which was so well received by all. It moved people to tears, and was such a beautiful element of the Masses, lifting them up and supporting singing from all. Thank you to Milan and Sienna who Cantored the different settings of the weekday Psalms! I also want to thank Clarence and Isaac for their service to the Music Ministry over the last few years-founding members of the band, who are off to University next year. It has been really great working with you both! Thank you to Pretheeva for playing at Adoration, and thank you also to the Adults joining the Seedlings on Sunday morning - well done Christa who Cantored for the first time! Thankyou to all!

Amelia (Music Co-Ordinator)





THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF NEW PLYMOUTH TE PĀRIHI KATORIKA KI NGĀMOTU

106 Powderham St, PO Box 32, New Plymouth | 9am to 4pm Phone (06) 757 3682 office@catholicparishnp.nz

www.catholicparishnp.nz

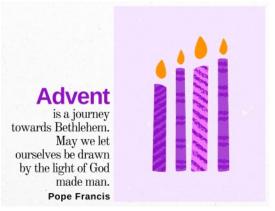
atholic Parish of New Plymouth



ADVENT

Pope Francis has described Advent as a time of waiting in anticipation for Jesus' arrival, restoring hope, coming to know the Lord in new ways and acknowledging and grieving suffering in the world. Join us at

Our Lady Help of Christians church every Monday in December from 6.00pm to 7.00pm to prepare for Christmas through prayer, readings, music, inspirational stories and practical suggestions for action to live Advent as Pope Francis has described.



Each Thursday before Christmas during

11.00am to 11.45am before 12.05pm Mass

Friday 13th and 20th December

Mass

7.00pm Adoration

ADVENT WREATHS' BLESSING

At all Masses on the First Sunday of Advent 30 November and 1 December, we will bless the Advent wreaths. If you wish to bring your own home wreath for a blessing, please do so.

ADORATION

MORNING PRAYER

Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Joseph's: Parish Office building

Tuesdays of Advent 9.40am Monday, Tuesday, Friday - 7.40am

Saturday- 8.10am

Sunday 1 December 3.00pm St Joseph's Church

Thursdays 5 and 12 December 7.00pm

THE GOSPEL REFLECTION BOOKLETS (pink covered) are in the church foyers. Please take a copy to use to read and reflect on the the Sunday readings.

ANOINTING MASSES

Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Joseph's Church

Thursday 5 December - 10.00am Saturday 7 December - 11.00am

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Wednesday 18 December - 10.00am St Joseph's Hall. Christmas actives, music, singing, and morning tea for everyone in the Parish. Come and join the young people as they provide music and entertainment for all the parish. CONCERT This is a concert for everyone. Everyone is welcome.



RITE I RECONCILIATION				
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH	OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS	ST PATRICK'S CHURCH OKATO		
Saturday 7, 14 and 21 December 11.30am to 12.00 noon	Each Saturday 4.45pm to 5.15pm before Vigil Mass at 5.30pm	Saturday 21 December – 4.45pm to 5.45pm prior to the Vigil Mass at 6.00pm		
Tuesday 17 and 24 December- 11.00am to 11.45am before 12.05pm Mass	Tuesday 17 and 24 December after Mass 9.40am to 10.30am during Adoration			
Each Wednesday before Christmas 4.45pm to 5.15pm before the 5.30pm evening	1			

Thursday 19 December after Mass

9.40am to 10.00am



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2024

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 1 December: Annual Collection for Sick and Retired Priests.

Sunday 8 December

Extra Offerings of Christmas Food for Food Bank.

Sunday 15 December

Extra Offerings of Christmas Food for Food Bank.

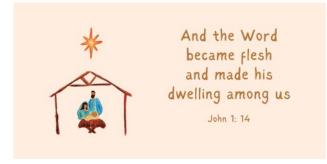
Sunday 22 December

Extra Offerings of Christmas Food for charity.

Wednesday 25 December Annual Collection at all Christmas Masses, as a special collection for Diocesan clergy.

CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS MASSES. CAN YOU HELP?

Will you be at the 9.00am Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians or St Joseph's on Christmas morning? Children are invited to dress as one of the figures (Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherd, wise man) to help Fr Simon and Tom read the nativity story.





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 here at St Joseph's at our Sunday evening Mass 15 December 5.30pm. 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	OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS	ST PATRICK'S OKATO	BELL BLOCK MASS CENTRE 138 Parklands Ave Bell Block	
106 Powderham St New Plymouth	Clinton Street Fitzroy New Plymouth	36 Cumming Street Okato		
Tuesday 24 December - VIGIL MASS	Tuesday 24 December - VIGIL MASS	Tuesday 24 December VIGIL MASS		
Carols— 7.30pm	Carols - 6.30pm	Carols - 6.45pm		
Mass— 8.00pm	Mass - 7.00pm	Mass- 7.00pm		
MIDNIGHT MASS				
Carols - 11.30pm				
Mass— 12.00am				
Wednesday 25 December	Wednesday 25 December		Wednesday 25 December - Mass	
Mass 9.00am	Mass 9.00am		Carols - 10.15am	
			Mass - 10.30am	

DEC		WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH	
2 MON	8.00am	St Joseph's Church	
3 TUES	8.00am 9.10am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Joseph's Church	
4 WED	8.00am 9.10am 5.30pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Joseph's church	
5	8.00am 10.00am	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Anointing Mass No Mass at Sacred Heart Girls College until 2025. No Mass at Francis Douglas College until 2025	
6 FRI	8.00am 12.05pm	St Joseph's Church St Joseph's Church	
7 SAT	8.30am 11.00am 5.30pm 6.00pm	St Joseph's Church St Joseph's Church Anointing Mass Our Lady Help of Christians St Patrick's Church Okato	
8 SUN	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 5.30pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church Bell Block Mass Centre St Joseph's Church (Youth Mass)	

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 11.30am to 12 noon at St Joseph's Church OR 4.45pm at OLHC prior to the 5.30pm Vigil Mass. Reconciliation is also available by appointment with the priests, by initially phoning the Parish Office 757 3682.

MORNING PRAYER: Monday and Tuesday 7.40am and Saturday at 8.10am. Please go to the back door of Parish Office building. We are in the Mary Mckillop Room.

LITTLE ANGELS MUSIC AND PLAY GROUP FOR PRESCHOOLERS have finished for the year. They are on holiday now.

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. This finishes 15 December and restarts 2nd February.

St Joseph's Church: Children's Liturgy

Each Sunday at 9.00am Mass in the church foyer.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC on Monday at St Joseph's and at Our Lady Help of Christians has finished for 2024. Thank you Kadisha for the gift of your music to us over this year.

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

2nd Sunday of Advent 8 December 2024 (Year C)

1ST READING: Baruch 5.1-9

PSALM: 126.1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 6

2ND READING: Philippians 1.3-6, 8-11

GOSPEL: Luke 3.1-6



CONTACT US

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YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTER Karen youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz

YOUTH MINISTER Susilo youth@catholicparishnp.nz

MUSIC COORDINATOR Amelia

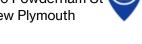
musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

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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



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

41A Calvert Road, New Plymouth 4310

Telephone(o6) 758 0364 email: <u>admin@stjosephsnp.school.nz</u> www.stjosephsnp.school.nz

St Joseph's School New Plymouth/Hato Hohepa ki Ngāmotu is seeking a Cleaner: 22 hours per week.

We are a Catholic State Integrated School, founded by the Mission Sisters to provide a genuine and ongoing encounter with Christ with a value system of Tika, Pono and Aroha; striving for excellence in education and hauora for all.

We are seeking an energetic school cleaner to join our team and educational environment for 22 hours a week. The successful applicant will have practical cleaning skills, deep cleaning procedures and perform a range of duties including dusting, mopping and sweeping floors. They will work efficiently, be reliable, independent and thorough; be able to communicate well with staff and children. The cleaner provides a safe, clean, functional and pleasant working environment in accordance with health and safety.

Please submit a brief CV with your experience to principal@stjosephsnp.school.nz. Applications close at 4pm on Monday 9 December, 2024. Notifications for shortlisting and interview times will follow.