



# Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

Sunday, 22nd December  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



## Our Christmas and Jubilee Messages from Bishop John

Dear Members of our Faith-filled Catholic Communities in the Diocese of Palmerston North,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication, hard work, and the generosity of your time as you prepare now for the great festival of Christmas. Your commitment to serving others within our Diocese of Palmerston North is both inspiring, and an agent for change in our community. Thank you for all that you do.

I pray that you take this time to be with those close to your heart, time to be renewed, and time to reflect on the blessings of the past year. May this Christmas season bring you peace, joy, and a renewed sense of purpose as we journey together in faith.

And Bishop John writes of The Year of Jubilee

And as we near the beginning of the Year of Jubilee, a year of God's favour when the church asks herself how she might liberate those who have been enslaved by the ephemeral, how might we unblock the ears of those deaf to the good news of the Gospel, how might we set the hearts of the faithful free after they have become bound up sorrow and regret. Each Christian person has been anointed to carry out these tasks.

Traditionally a year of favour was announced by the blast of a trumpet. The word "jubilee" comes from the Hebrew word for "rams horn" which when used to issue a trumpet blast was a sign to the people the beginning of a year of jubilee.

Let's each one of us sound the trumpet, let's each one of us discern how we might participate in this great task of liberating the human heart, let's each one of us use our anointed gifts to play our role in this great opportunity to throw open the doors to Christ and the joy his Friendship.

The Opening of the Year of Jubilee will be celebrated across the Diocese of Palmerston North on Sunday 2 February, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Sincerely in Christ + John Adams

## Important Dates

### Sunday 22 December 5.30pm Mass

St Joseph's Penultimate night of Simbang Gabi Novena of nine evening Masses

### Monday, 23 December 7.00pm St Joseph's

Final night of Simbang Gabi Novena of nine evening Masses.

### Monday, 23 December

Social Justice Group Preparing for Advent Our Lady Help of Christians 6.00pm

**Reconciliation times are on page 4.**

**Christmas Masses also see page 4**

**Holiday weekday Masses times until 18 January again please see page 4**

**New Year Eve Mass  
St Joseph's Church  
Adoration 31 December  
2024 11.00pm to midnight  
then followed by Mass**



The Syro Malabar Catechism Group Christmas Gathering after 9.00am Mass Sunday 15 December

# GENERAL NOTICES

**PRIESTS' SHIFTS:** Recently Bishop John announced the names of priest who will be moving to new parishes in 2025. Parishioners may have heard the announcement made at Mass that Fr Trung is to move to St Bridget's Fielding, as Administrator where he will also be looking after Taihape and Ohakune parishes and Kimbolton church. We wish Fr Trung all the very best for his new responsibility which will begin early 2025. Fr Trung says his last weekend here will be 18/19th January, so we will have time for our goodbyes.

## TO THANK GOD FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS WE HAVE RECEIVED:

New Years Eve, 31 December 2024, at St Joseph's Church we will have Adoration 11.00pm to Midnight. Adoration will be followed by Mass, offering everything to God. A perfect way to start the year.

**PREPARE FOR 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 the grieving and suffering in the world".



Join us at Our Lady Help of Christians Church for the last Monday 23rd December from 6.00pm to 7.00pm, preparing for Christmas through prayer, readings, music, inspirational stories and practical suggestions for action to live Advent as Pope Francis has described.

**MINISTERS TO THE SICK:** The Christmas mince pie packages are available to give to those you take Communion to, 22 December. They will be in the church foyers. Please also take one of the lovely cards the St John Bosco students have created with care and love.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Please pick up your Parish Christmas card from the foyer today. Take one as well please, for your relations, friends, neighbours, and anyone who you think may welcome a card. The Christmas and January Mass times are in the card.

The Parish Office is closed until 13 January however please continue to ring the Parish Office phone number 06 757 3682 during this time with all queries. In an emergency please ring the emergency number 027 224 2100.

## Christmas Dues Special Collection

Many thanks to parishioners who in the past have contributed to the Christmas Dues/Offerings Special Collection. The Special Collection planned giving envelopes gifted on Christmas Day are for this collection. The collection is given to the Clergy Trust Fund to support the priests of the Diocese.

Those who donate by Planned giving will have the special collection brown envelopes. There will also be collection envelopes attached to the newsletter today. These are also be in the church foyer. Or alternatively please pay by direct credit or online banking to the parish bank account 020 630 0288002 03 your name as payee, 'Dues' as reference and Planned Giving Number if you have one.

Your support and help is always appreciated!

The blessing of Christmas be with you all and your loved ones. Fr. Brian Walsh (Chairman ~ Clergy Trust Fund)

**THE ALTAR SOCIETY** at St Joseph's church are looking for an extra helpers to assist with the washing of the altar linen. It involves collecting the altar linen, mainly altar cloths & purificators, then washing, ironing & returning to the church for the following weekend. This is an easy task. We use a roster system, with each person having one month of the year. This can be looked after as a team, if two people want to share a month. If anyone is interested, please call Teresa Tooman (06) 751 3654 for more details.



Our wonderful buskers at Centre City on Wednesday. See page 5 of the electronic newsletter for more photos of the busking, including busking with Santa.



Couples for Christ Christmas Gathering Saturday 14 December, with Praise and Worship and family fun.



Christmas Carol evening at Bell Block Mass Centre, featuring the angels

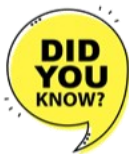


Childrens Mass at St Patrick's Okato 14 December 2024, at the Vigil Mass

The Christmas tree points to heaven and reminds us that God is eternal.

The wreath is a circle that reminds us that God's love never ends.

The candle shines brightly showing us that Jesus is the light of the world.



Parish Christmas Concert, featuring our greatly talented and musical youth.

<b>WHAT'S HAPPENING AT</b> <b>YOUTH GROUP</b>	<b>WE MEET ON SUNDAY DURING THE SCHOOL TERM AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL</b>	
	<b>JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP</b> <b>Year 4 - 8</b> <b>4pm - 5pm</b>	<b>SENIOR YOUTH GROUP</b> <b>Year 9 - 13</b> <b>6.30pm - 8.30pm</b>

**CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS**

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS**  
**TUES, 24 DEC 2024**  
**AT 11:30 PM**  
**MUSIC BY THE MUSTARD SEEDS**

**MASS**  
**TUES, 24 DEC 2024**  
**AT 12:00 AM**

Organised by  
**ILLUMIN8 YOUTH GROUP**

ATTENTION

YOUTH GROUP IS HAVING A CHRISTMAS and SUMMER BREAK!

YOUTH GROUP 2025

RESUMES ON SUNDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2025

Set those calendars ablaze for the epic adventures headed your way in youth group in 2025!

**ILLUMIN8 YOUTH GROUP LIFE TEEN NEW PLYMOUTH WISHES YOU ALL**

*Merry Christmas*

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." Jn 1:14

"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

**I am in search of an additional van and a driver to transport four teenagers along with twelve suitcases to and from Life Teen Summer Camp in January 2025.**

HELP NEEDED

- DROP OFF:** Tuesday, 14 January 2025 leave New Plymouth for Hamilton at 9:00 am from St Joseph's car park.
- PICK UP:** Saturday, 18 January 2025 from Hamilton to New Plymouth. Be at the location by 12:30 pm.

**Location:** St Paul's Collegiate School  
 77 Hukanui Road, Chartwell, Hamilton 3210  
 Feel free to reach me at 022 185 8100 or send me an email at [youth@catholicparishnp.nz](mailto:youth@catholicparishnp.nz).

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING MY TEENS!

With my deepest gratitude,  
 SUSILO (Youth Minister)

PLEASE!

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

year 11 - 13

2025

Applications open in Term 1 of 2025, with the session starting on Monday, 28 April 2025.

"Be STRONG and COURAGEOUS; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9

+

**We pray for our deceased family and friends,** Lawrence "Scottie" Scott, Suzy Dymock, Luke Kerr, Bob Shaw, Terry Dudley, Harry Goodin, Pat Goodin, Dave Newland, Vera, Darcy and Mike Old, Grey Dow, Nancy Dobson, Bill Dobson, Felicity Leahy, Deceased members of the Flynn and Martin families, Trisha Smith, Peter Joseph Cuneen, Deborah Boote, Kimberley Waaka, Beth Bernet, Maree Williams & Eddie Bernet.

DEC

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

23 MON	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
24 am	8.00am 9.10am	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church <b>There is no 12.05pm Mass 24 December</b> <b>Christmas Vigil Masses</b>
24 TUES Vigil	6.45pm 6.30pm 7.30pm 11.30pm	Carols & Mass at 7.00pm St Patrick's Okato Carols & Mass at 7.00pm Our Lady Help of Christians Carols & Mass at 8.00pm St Joseph's Powderham St Carols & Mass at Midnight St Joseph's Powderham St
25 WED	<b>Christmas day Masses</b> 9.00am 9.00am 10.15am	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church Carols with Mass at 10.30am Bell Block Mass Centre
26 THU	8.30am	St Joseph's Church
27 FRI	8.30am	St Joseph's Church
28 SAT	8.30am 5.30pm 6.00pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians St Patrick's Church Okato
29 SUN	9.00am 10.30am 5.30pm	St Joseph's Church Our Lady Help of Christians Church St Joseph's Church

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturdays 11.30am to 12 noon at St Joseph's Church OR 4.30pm to 5.15pm at Our Lady Help of Christians prior to the 5.30pm Vigil Mass.

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION TIMES:**

At St Joseph's:

Tuesday 24 December 11.00am to 1.00pm. There is no 12.05pm Mass 24 December.

Our Lady Help of Christians:

After the 9.10am Mass, Tuesday 24 December Reconciliation is also available by appointment with the priests, by initially phoning the Parish Office 757 3682.

**HOLIDAY MASS WEEKDAY TIMETABLE:**

Thursday 26 December to Saturday 18 January there will be Mass or Communion Service at St Joseph's 8.30am Monday to Saturday and Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians 9.10am Tuesday to Friday starting 2 January. There is no Anointing Mass in January.

The Parish Office is closed until 13 January however please continue to ring the office number 06 7573682 during this time with all queries. In an emergency please ring the emergency number below.

**MORNING PRAYER:** Monday & Tuesday 7.40am & Saturday at 8.10am. After Christmas Day until 20th January, Morning Prayer will be Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday at 8.10am. Please go to the back door of Parish Office building. We are in the Mary MacKillop Room.

**SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

Feast of the Holy Family  
29 December 2024 Year C)

**1ST READING:** 1 Samuel 1.20-22,24-28

**PSALM:** Psalm 84

**2ND READING:** 1 John 3.1-2,21-24

**GOSPEL:** Luke 2.41-52



THERE IS NO HOLY HOUR  
AT BELL BLOCK MASS  
CENTRE,

OUR LADY HELP OF  
CHRISTIANS OR

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH,  
WHILE WE ARE USING THE  
8.30AM WEEKDAY  
TIMETABLE

**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**

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

**PRIESTS:**

Simon Story simon@catholicparishnp.nz  
Tom Lawn tom@catholicparishnp.nz  
Trung Nguyen trung@catholicparishnp.nz  
Ph 022 062 6726

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATION** Ireen

office@catholicparishnp.nz  
The Parish Office is closed until 13 January  
however please continue the office number  
06 7573682 during this time with all queries.

**FINANCE MANAGER** Teresa  
accounts@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

**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



Well done to all who were in our Christmas Concert and Centre City Busking on Wednesday! It was a beautiful day, and enjoyed by all. Lots of singing and Christmas cheer at the Concert-thanks to Martha-Rose who did a fabulous job MCing as well as performing with the other Mustard Seeds, and with me on Flute!! Thanks also to Isla W for playing her Flute with Seedlings too!

Busking was very good, particularly when Santa came over and asked if he could sing with us!! We sung Jingle Bells with him and had Santa there to do the 'Ho-Ho-Hos'!!! All donations went to Nurturing Families, our charity The Seedlings support.

Youth are also visiting Rhapsody Nursing home, and singing at both the Vigil and Midnight Masses. Music Ministry wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth  
and  
Couples for Christ Taranaki



invites you to...

# SIMBANG GABI

## (Night Mass)

An evening novena Mass is a cherished tradition among Filipinos,  
held in anticipation of the birth of Christ.

AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH NEW PLYMOUTH

15 December 2024 5:30pm  
16 December 2024 7:00pm  
17 December 2024 7:00pm  
18 December 2024 7:00pm  
19 December 2024 7:00pm

20 December 2024 7:00pm  
21 December 2024 7:00pm  
22 December 2024 5:30pm  
23 December 2024 7:00pm





*You're Invited!*

*3 Events with*

DAN & STEPHANIE BURKE



## TRANSFORM YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

Deepen your faith and take your spiritual life to the next level!

Join Dan Burke, renowned speaker, author, and expert on spiritual growth, with his wife Stephanie, for 3 life-changing events. Learn practical tools to strengthen your prayer life and connect more deeply with God. Discover strategies to recognize and overcome the spiritual battles in your life. Gain insights from scripture and wisdom that will inspire and equip you for daily challenges. Come and find Peace!

*Saturday*

*January 4, 2025*

SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND THE  
DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS

Franciscan Friary and  
Retreat Centre  
50 Hillsborough Road  
Hillsborough, Auckland  
8:30 AM – 5:30 PM

SNZ60 per person includes lunch

*Monday*

*January 6, 2025*

AWAKENING THE HEART TO THE  
PRESENCE OF GOD

Our Lady of Fatima Parish  
4 Lucia Glade  
Meadowbank, Auckland  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
6:00 PM Mass

SNZ10 per person

*Tuesday*

*January 7, 2025*

DEEPER INTO THE  
HEART OF GOD

Little Sisters of the Poor  
9 Tweed Street  
Ponsonby, Auckland  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
6:00 PM Mass

SNZ10 per person



Dan Burke's unique insights have transformed lives around the globe. Don't miss this life-changing opportunity to gain the spiritual armor you need to thrive.



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