



Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

Sunday 6 April 2025
Fifth Sunday of Lent



Holy Week 2025 and Reconciliation times

HOLY THURSDAY

17th April 2025

Morning Prayer St Joseph's Church 8.30am
(There are no morning Masses on this day)

MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER St Joseph's 7.00pm

GOOD FRIDAY

The Passion of the Lord
18th April 2025

Morning Prayer St Joseph's church 8.30am

PASSION OF THE LORD

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH 3.00pm
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS 3.00pm
BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE 3.00pm
ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH OKATO 2.00pm

HOLY SATURDAY

19th April 2025

EASTER VIGIL

19th April 2025

Morning Prayer St Joseph's church 8.30am

EASTER VIGIL MASS

St Joseph's Church 6.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY

MASSES

20th April 2025

EASTER SUNDAY

St Joseph's Church 9.00am
Our Lady Help of Christians Fitzroy 10.30am
Bell Block Catholic Centre 10.30am

RITE 1 RECONCILIATION

Monday 7 April 7.00pm to 8.00pm St Joseph's Church
Wednesday 9 April 7.00pm to 8.00pm Our Lady Help of Christians
Wednesday 16 April Our Lady Help of Christians after 9.10am Mass

There is no VIGIL MASS at Our Lady Help of Christians Saturday 19 April
There is no VIGIL MASS at St Patrick's Okato Saturday 19 April
There is no 5.30pm evening Mass at St Joseph's Sunday 20 April

Important Dates

Monday 7 April
Lenten Faith Formation
7.30pm in St Joseph's Church Hall

Tuesday 8 April
Adoration

Our Lady Help of Christians 9.35am

Thursday 10 April
Adoration and Reconciliation
St Joseph's Church 7.00pm

Thursday 10 April
Final night of the Caritas Lenten Reflection Programme
St Joseph's Office 5.45pm
Bell Block Catholic Centre 7.00pm

Friday 11 April
Final of the Friday Lenten Stations of the Cross
OLHC 5.30pm
St Joseph's 7.00pm

ALPHA @6 2025
Begins 1 May 6.00pm at St Joseph's Church Hall
Registrations are open. See page 3 inside

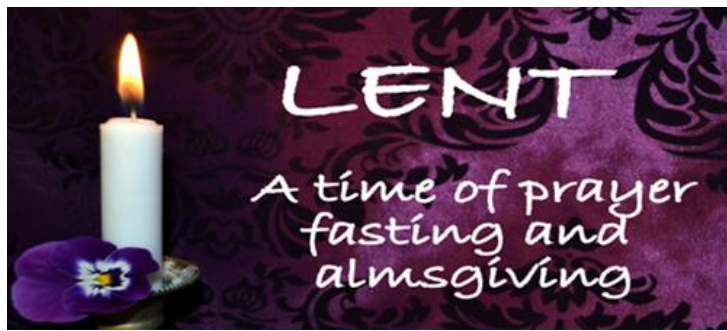
RECONCILIATION DURING LENT
Monday 7 April 7.00pm
At St Joseph's
Wednesday 9 April 7.00pm
at Our Lady Help of Christians
Thursday 10th April during 7.00pm Adoration at St Joseph's
Wednesday 16 April Our Lady Help of Christians after 9.10am Mass

Saturday 5th and 12th April at St Joseph's 11.30am
At Our Lady Help of Christians at 4.30pm to 5.15pm prior to Mass.

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





Lent and Easter

Purpose of Lent: Lent is a season of repentance and conversion, as the Church anticipates her celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is also the season of preparation to be baptised and confirmed and/or renewing one's baptismal promises at the Paschal Vigil or Easter Sunday. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days. These 40 days parallel the journey of the people of Israel through the desert to the promised land and Jesus' time of temptation in the desert. Lent ends before the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

Holy Week: Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week is marked with the use of green palms and liturgical red to celebrate the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem and points towards the Triduum, the Three Great Days. To 'celebrate' liturgically means to enter into the events of our salvation. Jesus is revealed as the suffering messiah, obedient to the Father, Lord of all and lover of humanity. We approach the liturgies of the Triduum not as three individual experiences, but rather as one single liturgy that lasts three days. As the three principal ceremonies belong together, their progress is enhanced by returning to one particular place for their celebrations. In New Zealand we are required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

ANOINTING MASS AT BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE: Catholic Centre, Wednesday 9 April, 9.30am, followed by a cuppa. Everyone welcome. Residents in Bell Block rest homes will also be anointed.

ANOINTING MASS ST JOSEPH'S Saturday 5 April 11.00am. Everyone is welcome at this Mass and to stay for a late morning tea (or early lunch) afterwards. Pictured below after Anointing Mass in February.



FOOD FOR FAITH CONVERSATIONS: Thursday 10 April at 10.00am at Stumble Inn Merrilands Shopping Centre, 198 Mangorei Road NP. Come along and have a coffee or tea and faith sharing with your fellow parishioners. Just look for the orange F.F.F sign on a table

ROSARY BEAD REPAIRS: If you have any old or broken rosary beads that are no longer required would you consider leaving them at the Parish Office so they could be used as spare parts to repair broken sets. This would be greatly appreciated and is a way of helping us restore rosaries that are missing beads, or centre pieces or crosses. If you would like further details please contact the Parish Office.

EARTHQUAKE IN MYANMAR:

We pray for the people of Myanmar, in a land devastated by last weeks earthquake. We pray especially for Fr Saw Tha Khu (Fr Joseph) who worked here in this parish 2019 and later in Immaculate Conception Parish Stratford, before returning to Myanmar in 2022 . We pray that Fr Joseph is safe and that he is able to continue with his priestly ministry. Pictured above, Fr Vui and Fr Joseph in the Parish Office in happier times.



CARITAS IN MYANMAR: Mena Antonio of Caritas writes. "At least 2,000 in Myanmar are confirmed dead as a result of a tragic earthquake. Infrastructure, homes, buildings and businesses have collapsed, and livelihoods have been destroyed. Families are searching for loved ones. Our local partner Caritas Myanmar is racing to reach the most affected, as quickly as possible.

Donating to our Lent appeal, enables us to respond to emergencies like this as soon as they happen. [Every dollar makes a difference. If you can, please give generously today](#)". Donate at caritas.org.nz/lent or by using the envelopes that are in the church foyer or by contacting the Caritas team 0800 22 10 22.

EASTER VIGIL MASS at St Joseph's 19 April, will begin at 6.00pm. There will be no Vigil Mass at St Patrick's Okato or at Our Lady Help of Christians that night.

CHRISM MASS for the Diocese of Palmerston North will be celebrated Tuesday 15 April 12.05pm at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit P.N. All welcome. If anyone is going to the Chrism Mass and would like to talk to Fr Simon about collecting the oils, please contact the Parish Office.



SAVE THE DATE!

Alpha will commence on
Thursday, 1 May 2025
from 6 pm to 8 pm
St Joseph's Church Hall

Registrations will be opening soon!

Explore
Life
Faith
Meaning

Got questions about life?
TRY ALPHA!

 www.catholicparishnp.nz/alpha/
 alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz

The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth is excited to announce the launch of the 2025 Alpha Programme, a transformative and dynamic initiative designed to deepen faith, build community, and strengthen spiritual growth. Starting Thursday 1st May 6.00pm in St Joseph's Church Hall Devon Street, the Alpha Programme will run for 10 weeks, offering an opportunity for individuals to explore the big questions of life, faith, & meaning in a welcoming and non-judgmental setting.

Alpha is an engaging series of sessions where participants explore topics like "Who is Jesus?" and "How can we have faith?" in a relaxed and friendly environment. Whether you're new to the Christian faith or have had a lifelong belief, Alpha provides an opportunity to ask questions, share thoughts, and engage in open discussion. Each session is designed to encourage community, and everyone is welcome, regardless of where they are on their faith journey. There is a simple format to the Alpha night. We start with a meal which the parish provides, followed by the Alpha video, then discussion about the video, and anything else that arises, in small groups - the same group each week. The evening finishes at 8.00pm

The Alpha Programme is an essential part of the Parish's wider evangelisation effort. Evangelisation is at the heart of the Catholic mission, and reaching out to others with the love and truth of the Gospel is crucial to the growth of our parish. Many people may not yet know the life-changing message of Christ. The Alpha Programme offers an accessible way to invite people into a deeper relationship with God and with one another.

Evangelisation in the parish is not just about words but about building relationships and living out our faith in everyday life. The Alpha Programme is one of many outreach initiatives to help foster a welcoming and vibrant community, enabling parishioners to share their faith and encourage others to walk with Jesus.

We invite everyone to join us for this exciting journey of discovery, transformation, and renewal .
Scan the QR code below or go to the website to enrol.



SCAN HERE

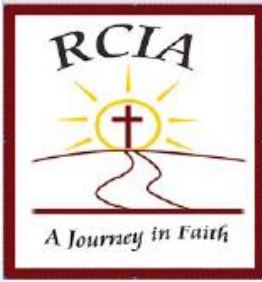


 alphateam@catholicparishnp.nz

 www.catholicparishnp.nz/alpha/



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)



We celebrate the 3rd Scrutiny for the Elect this Sunday. As we hear the Gospel on the Raising of Lazarus, we anticipate Jesus' Death and Resurrection and His power over death. As baptised, we share in this gift when we take up our cross and follow Jesus.

In celebrating the Scrutinies as a community, our faith is strengthened and our understanding of Christ's role in our spiritual journey is deepen.

Please pray for these RCIA candidates as they prepare for Baptism, Confirmation & 1st Communion at Easter Vigil and Eastertide.



Aaron Bibby



Andrea Pretty



Brent Parker



Jason Peterken



Keith Bognuda



Larissa Standish



Laurie Edwin



Lee Ann Mullin



Maxime Lauilhe



Melda Brewer



Rico Mapanao



Thomas Smith



Alexandria & Craig Connolly



Lisa & Hayden Fitzgerald



Tracy Turner



JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

You may be aware that our diocese now has a recently formed Justice Peace Development and Ecology Commission (JPDEC). Catholic members of the Commission representing the New Plymouth, Kopua, Napier and Palmerston North areas of our diocese are working with Inter Faith members from Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran (and Te Ao Maori) Methodist, Muslim, and Presbyterian faith traditions.

In this Jubilee Year, the hope of the Commission is that by the end of our Pilgrimage of Hope, the heart of every parish in our diocese will be beating vibrantly with their own Parish JPDE Group. **New Plymouth already has such a group who meets regularly to promote reflection and events grounded in Catholic Social teaching.** We usually meet on the 2nd Monday of the month throughout the year.

However our next meeting has been brought forward to Monday 7 April (first Monday of the month) due to Holy Week.

In this Year of Jubilee we will have numerous opportunities to promote the message of Hope. When the world seems a dark place, Pope Francis is tirelessly calling us to be the voice of the poor and let the light of Christ shine through our actions.



Join us

Monday 7 April at 5:45 in the Parish Office Ngamotu Room. Please come in through the back door.

Standing with Care & Support Workers: Invitation from Justice, Peace, Ecology & Development Commission

As we celebrate the [Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers this weekend](#), and pray for those working to care for others, let us not forget to also use our voices in solidarity with care and support workers.

One simple action we can take is to read about how care workers are working together for a care system that provides support to those who need it, while also providing decent work for those who provide it, at <https://etu.nz/transformingcare/> and write a letter to the Government calling for pay equity for care and support workers at <https://etu.nz/payequityletter/>. We invite all parishioners to pray and take practical steps to celebrate and support the sick and healthcare workers in our church and community this weekend.

"Gratitude should likewise be shown to all those healthcare workers who, often in precarious conditions, carry out their mission with constant care and concern for the sick and for those who are most vulnerable." ([Spes Non Confundit](#) at 11).

We pray for our deceased family and friends: Paul Darbyshire, Brian Ford, Dave Newland, Julius Marshall, Marian Adamski, Mieczyslaw Dziobak, Evan Perrett, Deceased members of the Perrett and Joyce Families, deceased members of the Fabish Families, Laura Hiestand, Pat Goodin and Eugenio Porcincula San Diego.

 WE GATHER ON SUNDAYS DURING THE SCHOOL TERM AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL.	 JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP FOR YEARS 4 TO 8 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
	 SENIOR YOUTH GROUP FOR YEARS 9 - 13 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

ILLUMIN8 & SHINE

YOUTH GROUPS FAMILY DINNER

Sunday, 6 April 2025
7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Please bring a dish to share with everyone!

School Holidays 12 - 27 APRIL 2025

NO YOUTH GROUP DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, BUT FEAR NOT, WE'LL BE BACK IN ACTION ON

Sunday 4 MAY 2025

MAKE LASTING MEMORIES, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT MASSES.

SAVE THE DATE

Holy Thursday, 17 April 2025
7:00 pm at St Joseph's Church
Organised by the Youth Group

Sunday, 27 April 2025
5:30 pm
St Joseph's Church

Youth Mass
CATHOLIC PARISH OF NEW PLYMOUTH

The 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

Fearless

PURPOSE *whakawhanganui*

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2025
year 11 - 13

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Here are some options to register and access further details about the important dates:

- Visit the parish website
- Scan the QR code found here or on the YOUTH notice board in the foyer

SCAN HERE

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

All are invited to come to **NIGHT OF WORSHIP, ADOPTION AND RECONCILIATION** on Friday, 11 April 2025, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at St Joseph's Church Hall. See page 7 of this newsletter for more detail.

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY PLACES SPECAIL COLLECTION 18 APRIL 2025

This is the collection made at the Good Friday service.

The Holy Father's Good Friday Collection is a small gesture of solidarity for the Christian communities that still walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Our New Zealand collection is given for the upkeep of the Shrine Church in Cana, Galilee, and twenty University scholarships to Bethlehem University. In 1342 the Apostolic See confirmed the Franciscans as the legitimate guardians of the Holy Land. Funds gathered by each country is forwarded to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.

Please give generously to this collection in support of our brothers and sisters living in the land in which our Lord ministered. Many thanks for your anticipated generosity again this year, it is very much appreciated.

Those who donate by Planned Giving will have the Holy Places envelope. Envelopes will also be attached to the newsletter next Sunday, 13 April and will be in the church foyers. Alternatively please pay by direct credit to our bank account 02 0630 0288002 03 (The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth Te Parihi Katorika Ki Ngamotu), your name as payee, and Holy Places as reference plus Planned Giving number if available.

EASTER SUNDAY DUES SPECIAL COLLECTION 20 APRIL 2025

This is the collection which is made as a second collection at the Vigil Mass and masses on Easter Sunday.

Many thanks to parishioners who in the past have contributed to the Easter Dues/Offerings Special Collection. The collection is used by the Clergy Trust Fund to support the priests in the various costs pertaining to their ministries and personal lives. The Clergy Trust Fund is responsible for every aspect of our priests' wellbeing. The priests have always expressed their gratitude for the people's financial support and the care that they receive.

Those who donate by Planned Giving will have the Easter Dues envelope. Envelopes will also be attached to the newsletter next Sunday, 13 April, and will be in the church foyers. Alternatively please pay by direct credit to our bank account 02 0630 0288002 03 (The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth Te Parihi Katorika Ki Ngamotu), your name as payee, and 'Dues' as reference, plus Planned Giving number if available.

Your support and help is always appreciated! Fr. Brian Walsh (Chairman of the Clergy Trust Fund)



Support for Lent Appeal is an 'act of generosity' Excerpts from a statement from the Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand

Every year in this sacred time, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference asks Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand to run a six-week fundraising campaign on their behalf called **the Bishops' Lent Appeal**.

The money raised during this time is essential to the mission of Caritas. It provides much of the funding necessary for them to continue their life-changing work in Aotearoa, the Pacific and beyond.

This year's appeal is even more urgent than usual. The US government recently stopped almost all foreign aid. France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and the UK have also cut their overseas development aid budgets. These decisions will cause significant suffering for those facing poverty, conflict, disasters and the effects of climate change. Your support is needed so Caritas can step in across the Pacific as donor governments withdraw.

Every year, individuals and parishes across New Zealand demonstrate great generosity by donating to this appeal. We hope that this will continue for this Lenten season.

The theme for the Lent appeal in 2025 is **Restoring hope: Your compassion in action / Kia puawai te Tūmanako**. Caritas' mission, as the Catholic agency for justice, peace and development, is of vital importance to us all. The **Bishops' Lent Appeal** is the best way to directly fund Caritas' work – supporting vulnerable communities around the world.

For the Catholic community, Caritas is how we help our brothers and sisters in need, upholding their human dignity through local partnerships grounded in Catholic social teaching.

Over the last few years there has been a drop in giving to Caritas, putting pressure on their ability to fund the programmes that serve those most in need. We ask that during this time of preparation, prayer and almsgiving, you make a special donation to the **Bishops' Lent Appeal 2025** at caritas.org.nz/lent or by using the envelopes that are in the church foyer or by contacting the Caritas team 0800 22 10 22.

This act of almsgiving is an act of generosity. It will mean so much to the people Caritas serves across our region.

Night of
WORSHIP
ADORATION AND RECONCILIATION

HOPE RENEWED

**FRI, 11 APR 2025
7 PM - 9 PM**

**ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
HALL**

BE STRONG
AND
TAKE HEART,
ALL YOU
WHO HOPE
IN THE LORD.
PSALM 31:24



APR		WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
7 MON	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
8 TUES	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9.10am	Our Lady Help of Christians Church
	12.05pm	St Joseph's Church
9 WED	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9.10am	Our Lady Help of Christians Church
10 THU	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	9.10am	Our Lady Help of Christians (No Mass at Sacred Heart)
	2.20pm	Francis Douglas Memorial College
11 FRI	8.00am	St Joseph's Church
	12.05pm	St Joseph's Church
12 SAT	8.30am	St Joseph's Church
	5.30pm	Our Lady Help of Christians Church
	6.00pm	St Patrick's Church Okato
13 SUN	9.00am	St Joseph's Church
	10.30am	Our Lady Help of Christians Church
	10.30am	Nga Pekanga (Cnr Bayly St and Princess St Waitara)
	5.30pm	St Joseph's Church (Youth Mass)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturdays 11.30am to 12 noon at St Joseph's Church OR 4.30pm at OLHC prior to the 5.30pm Vigil Mass. Reconciliation at 7.00pm Thursday Adoration at St Joseph's Church. Reconciliation is also available by appointment with the priests, by initially phoning the Parish Office.

LENT AND HOLY WEEK RECONCILIATION TIMES:



Monday 7 April St Joseph's 7.00pm
 Wednesday 9 April OLHC Fitzroy 7.00pm
 Every Saturday 11.30am St Josephs
 Every Saturday 4.30pm OLHC Fitzroy (Note earlier time)
 Every Thurs at 7.00pm Adoration at St Joseph's.
 Wednesday 16 April after Mass OLHC Fitzroy

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

MUSIC NOTES:

Worship/Adoration night: The Mustard Seeds – 11 April, St Joseph's Church Hall 7.00pm

Palm Sunday-Junior Youth Mass The Seedlings – 13 April, St Joseph's 5.30pm

QUIET YOUR HEART: Music with Kadisha. There will be no Quiet Your Heart, during the school holidays Monday 14th and 21st at St Joseph's and Friday 18th & 25th at Our Lady Help of Christians.

PALM SUNDAY 13th April 2025

1ST READING: Isaiah 50.4-7

PSALM: 22

2ND READING: Philippians 2.6-11

GOSPEL: Luke 22.14-23.56

St Joseph's banner: Hosanna

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH
 Tuesday
 9:35am to 10:30am
 (after 9:10am Mass)

HOLY HOUR
 God dwells in our midst
 in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar
 St. Maximilian Kolbe

BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE
 First Friday of the month
 4:00pm - 5:00pm

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
 Every Thursday
 7:00pm - 8:00pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

CONTACT US

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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

Good Friday Pilgrimage

18 April 2025

remembering
Jesus Christ
dying for
us all

everyone
welcome.
5 stops.
join the walk
anywhere
along the
route.

starts: 12 noon in Wesley Broadway Church
(264 Broadway Ave, Palmy)

then:

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit (197 Broadway Ave),
The Salvation Army church (431 Church St),
Pathways At St Andrew's (388 Church St).

ends: approx 2.30pm in centre of The Square /
Te Marae o Hine

refreshments provided
afterwards at Hope Vineyard
church (156 The Square)

organised by PNCLA (Palmerston North Christian Leaders Assoc)