



Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

106 Powderham St, PO Box 32, New Plymouth

Phone (06) 757 3682 | 9am to 4pm

office@catholicparishnp.nz

www.catholicparishnp.nz

Emergency Phone 027 224 2100



25th October 2026 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Youth for Christ at the North Island Conference – NICON 2026

The **Youth for Christ** group, from our parish who held a series of fundraising car washes to support their trip to the **North Island Conference (NICON) 2026**, returned filled with gratitude, joy, and appreciation for the opportunity to gather with young Catholics from across the country under this year's theme, **"Together as One" (1 John 1:3-4)**.

The conference was a powerful reminder of the importance of Christian fellowship and the unity we share as one family in Christ. Through prayer, worship, inspiring talks, and meaningful connections, our young people were encouraged to deepen their faith, strengthen friendships, and grow in their commitment to living out the Gospel in their daily lives.

Throughout the week, workshops provided valuable insights into living out our faith as young Christians, while the sporting events strengthened teamwork, friendship, and chapter spirit. The Praise Fests were particularly moving, creating a powerful atmosphere of worship and prayer that deeply touched many participants and strengthened their relationship with God.

As a smaller chapter, we experienced an even stronger sense of connection and support, proving that true unity is not measured by numbers but by the strength of our shared faith. We were also blessed to build meaningful friendships with fellow youth from across the North Island, sharing fellowship, laughter, and memorable experiences together.



Fun, Frolic and Faith



On Stage at the Conference

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who supported, encouraged, and guided us throughout this journey. Your generosity, dedication, and care made NICON 2026 an unforgettable experience that we will treasure for years to come. Together, we celebrated our faith, shared our talents, and experienced the joy of being one community in Christ.

Important Dates

Adoration

Thursday Evenings
St Joseph's Church
7.00pm

Tuesdays at OLHC
(after 9:10am Mass)
9.35am to 10.30am

First Sunday Adoration
Sunday, 1st November
Our Lady Help of
Christians
3.00pm-4.00pm

Tuesday 27th October

Assisi Prayer for
World Peace
St Joseph's Church
7.00pm

Wednesday 28th October

Praise and Worship
St. Joseph's Church
7.30-8.30pm

Wednesday, 28th October

Unlocking the Mystery of
the Bible
Our Lady's Help of
Christian church, Fitzroy
7.00-8:30pm

Friday 30th October

Sunflower Hidden
Disabilities Scheme
Nga Motu Room
Parish office
6.00pm

Saturday 14th November

Bereavement Liturgy
St Joseph's Church
10.00am



Dear Parishioners,

Fr Simon Story

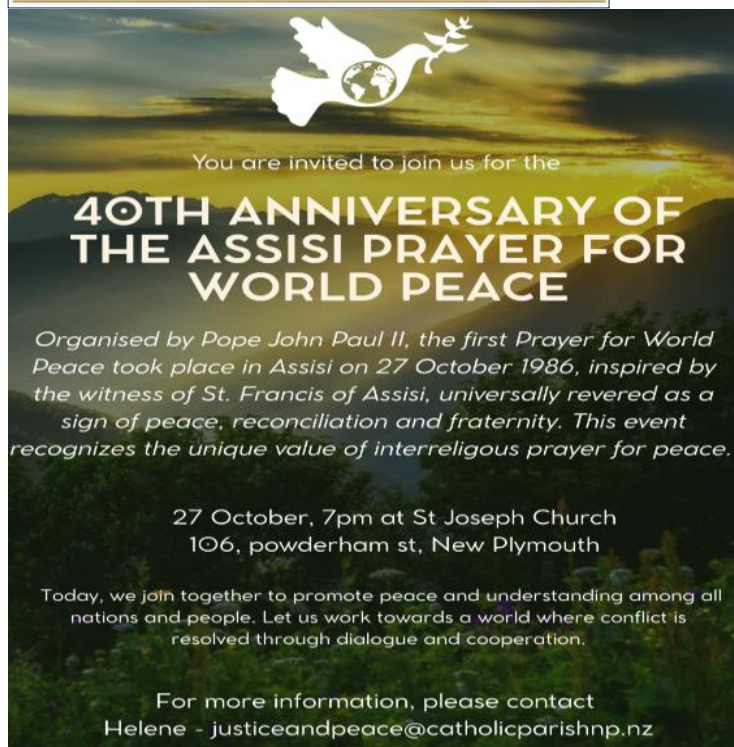
The mission of the Church, the mission of Jesus is your mission. We are disciples of Jesus who help people to encounter Jesus Christ, to be followers of him. Transformed lives lead to a transformed world. Our world needs what Jesus offers and mission needs to be resourced. It takes your donations to hold our events, to pay our staff, to maintain our buildings, to form community. It is good for you to give because it is your mission. When your money goes into Jesus' mission, then it is happening because of your contribution - you are personally invested. You share in the work and in the outcomes of our parish - our portion of this universal work of God's. Please join planned giving and please make a sacrifice for the mission here in New Plymouth. Information pamphlets are on your seats and in the foyer. Thank you.

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





You are invited to join us for the

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSISI PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

Organised by Pope John Paul II, the first Prayer for World Peace took place in Assisi on 27 October 1986, inspired by the witness of St. Francis of Assisi, universally revered as a sign of peace, reconciliation and fraternity. This event recognizes the unique value of interreligious prayer for peace.

27 October, 7pm at St Joseph Church
106, powderham st, New Plymouth

Today, we join together to promote peace and understanding among all nations and people. Let us work towards a world where conflict is resolved through dialogue and cooperation.

For more information, please contact
Helene - justiceandpeace@catholicparishnp.nz



Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

JEFF CAVINS and SARAH CHRISTMYER

At the end of the Egypt & Exodus, and Desert Wanderings periods, the Israelites stood on the threshold of entering the Promised Land, ready to begin a new chapter in their journey with God.

In Session 5 we cover the two time periods: Conquest & Judges, and Royal Kingdom. Led by Joshua, the Israelites enter into the Promised Land triumphantly and settled there. It doesn't take long, however, before the next generation sins against God. As a result, the Israelites fall into servitude to the surrounding nations.

Following 7 cycles of servitude, they cry out for help, and God raises up a judge. After a period of twelve judges, Israel asks for a king which led to the establishment of a Kingdom, fulfilment of God's 2nd promise to Abraham. Following the reign of Saul, the Israelites unite and expand under David's kingship while King Solomon built the first temple in Jerusalem.

As we journey through these two periods, we are invited to reflect on our own relationship with God. Like the Israelites, we too can lose our way, but God remains faithful and patiently calls us back to Him. Through Israel's story, we begin to recognise our need for a Saviour and see how God's plan of salvation continues to unfold, leading us to Jesus Christ, our true and everlasting King.

Wednesday, 28th October, 7-8:30pm, Our Lady's Help of Christian church, Fitzroy.

Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to email Albert: ahjchow@gmail.com

BEREAVEMENT LITURGY

On Saturday 14 November at 10.00am, at St Joseph's Church, we will remember our loved ones who passed away during 2025 at our annual bereavement liturgy.

If you had any family members or friends, who died during 2025, whose funeral records we may not have and you wish to remember them in this liturgy, please contact the Parish Office, and they will be prayed for. Please feel welcome to bring a photo of your loved one and a flower or flowers from your garden. All family members and friends of the deceased and all parishioners are most welcome to join us. Please phone or visit us at the Parish Office if you have any queries.

NOVEMBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

During November, many Masses celebrated in the parish, will be prayed for our dead brothers and sisters who as yet do not enjoy the fullness of God's love and joy.

Our Book of the Deceased and the Remembrance Boxes will be placed in the sanctuary near the altar at St Joseph's church or near the altar at Our Lady Help of Christians church. You can express your love by making a list of your beloved dead and placing it in the Remembrance Box. No money is required to be left.

If you would like names of deceased to be recorded in the Memorial Book please contact the Parish Office.



Older Children's Baptism

8th November - 4.15pm at
St Joseph's Church - preparation and practice.
Followed by attending 5.30pm Mass together as a group, where children will be anointed as part of the preparation for baptism.

15th November - 2:00pm
Baptism celebration at St Joseph's Church

To Register
Contact Karen at youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz
Registrations close 1st November 2026.

Sunflower Hidden Disabilities Scheme - Making the invisible visible

Help us to foster a disability-friendly culture in our parish. The green sunflower lanyard, bracelet, or badge lets us know that the wearer has a disability that we can't see. They may need us to allow a bit of extra time, or maybe some help or understanding.

The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme group are meeting with the Leader and Advisor of Inclusiveness for the Diocese of Palmerston North, David Loving-Molloy in the **Nga Motu Room** of the Parish office at **6pm on Friday October 30th**.

Anyone who is interested in knowing more or being part of promoting this important means of making everyone welcome in our parish is very welcome to join us.



Praise and Worship

Earlier this year I completed a course on Worship, Music, Prayer and Music within Mass through the One Hope Project (OHP) Academy, an online worship school based in the UK. Each week we delved into different elements of Catholic worship, music, music ministries, prayer and mass. It was a wonderful opportunity full of amazing teachings. Our world is blessed with many different types of powerful, Holy, Sacred music, and contemporary worship music is one of these.

So, we are starting up Worship and Adoration again and everyone is welcome!

Our Youth will help lead an evening of contemplative contemporary music, prayer, worship, adoration and reconciliation. Come and experience a different atmosphere for encounter, prayer and surrender to the Glory of God.

A chance for us to reconnect with Jesus. A chance to just sit and let the Holy Spirit wash over us, a chance to sing together in prayer to our Lord, a chance to receive prayer, a chance to reconcile. A chance to encounter the Holy Spirit and be transformed.

May all our days be an offering of Praise to God, who alone is worthy of all worship.

Amelia Luke

"IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME. SO I LIVE IN THIS EARTHLY BODY BY TRUSTING IN THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME."
- GALATIANS 2:20



Night of
WORSHIP
ADORATION AND RECONCILIATION

WED, 28 OCT
7:30PM - 8:30PM
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
NEW PLYMOUTH
ALL ARE WELCOME

DON'T FORGET - In order to vote at this year's election, you need to be enrolled by midnight on **Sunday, October 25**. Head to www.vote.nz and find out how you can get yourself sorted.



WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Maree Keegan, Helena Rooyackers, John Huggins, Mark Walsh, Elizabeth Vickers, Faye Dravitski, Joan Gaines, Kenneth Martin, and Maria Juffermans.

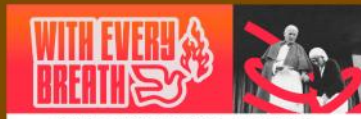
October Edition

2026

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUTH GROUP

NO YOUTH GROUP THIS SUNDAY FOR LABOUR WEEKEND

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP NIGHT - 7.30PM WED 28 OCT



HELP SPONSOR A TEEN TO ATTEND LIFETEEN SUMMER CAMP 2027

We have a group of 19 teenagers with 3 chaperones, and 4 summer missionaries attending Life Teen Summer Camp from the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth.

For a Teenager to attend Summer Camp, it costs \$380.00.

We invite you as our parish community to pray for all the teens, summer missionaries and adult leaders attending Summer Camp from the 19th-23rd of January 2027 and contribute financially to supporting a teen or missionary to attend. A donation can be big or small; every little bit helps our young people!

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

INTERNET BANKING
Catholic Parish of
New Plymouth
02-0630-028002-03
PARTICULARS: Your Name
CODE: CAMP
REFERENCE: Youth

CASH
Write on an envelope "Youth Sponsorship", your details and put your donation inside then place it in the collection at Mass, or drop it at the parish office.

**NEXT SUNDAY
SUN, 1 NOV**

**SAINTS & ANGELS
COMBINED SHINE AND
ILLUMIN8 YOUTH GROUP**



SHINE
**JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP
FOR YEARS 4 TO 8
4:00PM - 5:00PM
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL
DURING THE SCHOOL TERM**
Contact KAREN
youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz

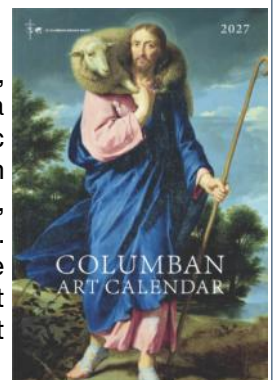
ILLUMIN8
**YOUTH GROUP
FOR YEARS 9 TO 13
6:30PM - 8:30PM
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL
DURING THE SCHOOL TERM**
Contact LOUISE
youth@catholicparishnp.nz



Last week, the dioceses of Palmerston North hosted the celebration for the Jubilarian priests, priests celebrating significant anniversaries. Our Fr. Vijay, (seated, front row) celebrated 20 years of priestly ministry. Congratulations Fr. Vijay.

Columban Art Calendars

For sale in the Parish Office, Columban calendars. It has been a long time tradition in Catholic homes, to have a Columban calendar. Wonderful art calendars, featuring religious masterpieces. See at a glance, Lent, Easter the dates of the major feast days. At \$15.00, this could be a simple gift for a loved one.



OCT

26

MON

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

TO 1st NOVEMBER FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8:30am St Joseph's Church (Labour Day)

27

TUE

8:00am St Joseph's Church
9:10am Our Lady Help of Christians
12:05pm St Joseph's Church

28

WED

8:00am St Joseph's Church
9:10am Our Lady Help of Christians

29

THU

8:00am St Joseph's Church
10:00am Sacred Hearts Girls College (Mary's Chapel)
2:20pm Francis Douglas Memorial College

30

FRI

8:00am St Joseph's Church
9:00am St Pius X School (St Philomena Hall)
12:05pm St Joseph's Church

31

SAT

8:30am St Joseph's Church
5:30pm Our Lady Help of Christians (Vigil Mass)
6:00pm St Patrick's Church Okato (Vigil Mass)

NOV

1

SUN

9:00am St Joseph's Church
10:30am Our Lady Help of Christians
10:30am Bell Block Mass Centre
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 7.00pm Adoration at St Joseph's Church. Reconciliation is also available by appointment with the priests, by initially phoning the Parish Office 757 3682.

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Before morning Mass on Monday and Tuesday at 7.40am and Saturday 8.10am in the Parish Office Mary McKillop Room. Please come to the back door of the office building.

KINGDOM KIDZ CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

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



Our Lady Help of Christians:

Each Sunday at 10:30am in the St John Bosco School Library.

LITTLE ANGELS MUSIC AND PLAY GROUP FOR PRESCHOOLERS



Lady Help of Christians. Music, play, and morning tea from 9.00am during school term. For more details contact Amelia at musiccoordinator@catholicparishnp.nz

SUNDAY READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

All Saints Days 1 November

1ST READING: Revelations 7.2-4, 9-14

PSALM: 24

2ND READING: 1 John 3.1-3

GOSPEL: Matthew 5.1-12a



CONTACT US

Parish Office, 106 Powderham St,
PO Box 32, New Plymouth (06) 757 3682
www.catholicparishnp.nz
Email - office@catholicparishnp.nz
Office Hours - 9.00am to 4.00pm weekdays
Emergency Phone - 027 224 2100

PRIESTS:

Fr. Simon Story simon@catholicparishnp.nz
Tom Lawn tom@catholicparishnp.nz
Fr. Sobin sobin@catholicparishnp.nz
Fr. Sobin Sebastian Phone 027 255 8097

STRATEGIC LEADER Richard

sl@catholicparishnp.nz

FINANCE OFFICER Cynthia

accounts@catholicparishnp.nz

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION Ireen

office@catholicparishnp.nz

COMMUNICATIONS LEAD Russell

communicationslead@catholicparishnp.nz

YOUNG FAMILIES MINISTER Karen

youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz

YOUTH MINISTER Louise

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.





You are invited to join us for the

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSISI PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

Organised by Pope John Paul II, the first Prayer for World Peace took place in Assisi on 27 October 1986, inspired by the witness of St. Francis of Assisi, universally revered as a sign of peace, reconciliation and fraternity. This event recognizes the unique value of interreligious prayer for peace.

27 October, 7pm at St Joseph Church
106, powderham st, New Plymouth

Today, we join together to promote peace and understanding among all nations and people. Let us work towards a world where conflict is resolved through dialogue and cooperation.

For more information, please contact
Helene - justiceandpeace@catholicparishnp.nz

"IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME. SO I LIVE IN THIS EARTHLY BODY BY TRUSTING IN THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME."

- GALATIANS 2:20



Night of
WORSHIP
ADORATION AND RECONCILIATION

WED, 28 OCT
7:30PM - 8.30PM
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
NEW PLYMOUTH
ALL ARE WELCOME

TAKE COURAGE! I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD
JOHN 16:33



WORLD YOUTH DAY

3 - 8 AUGUST 2027
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

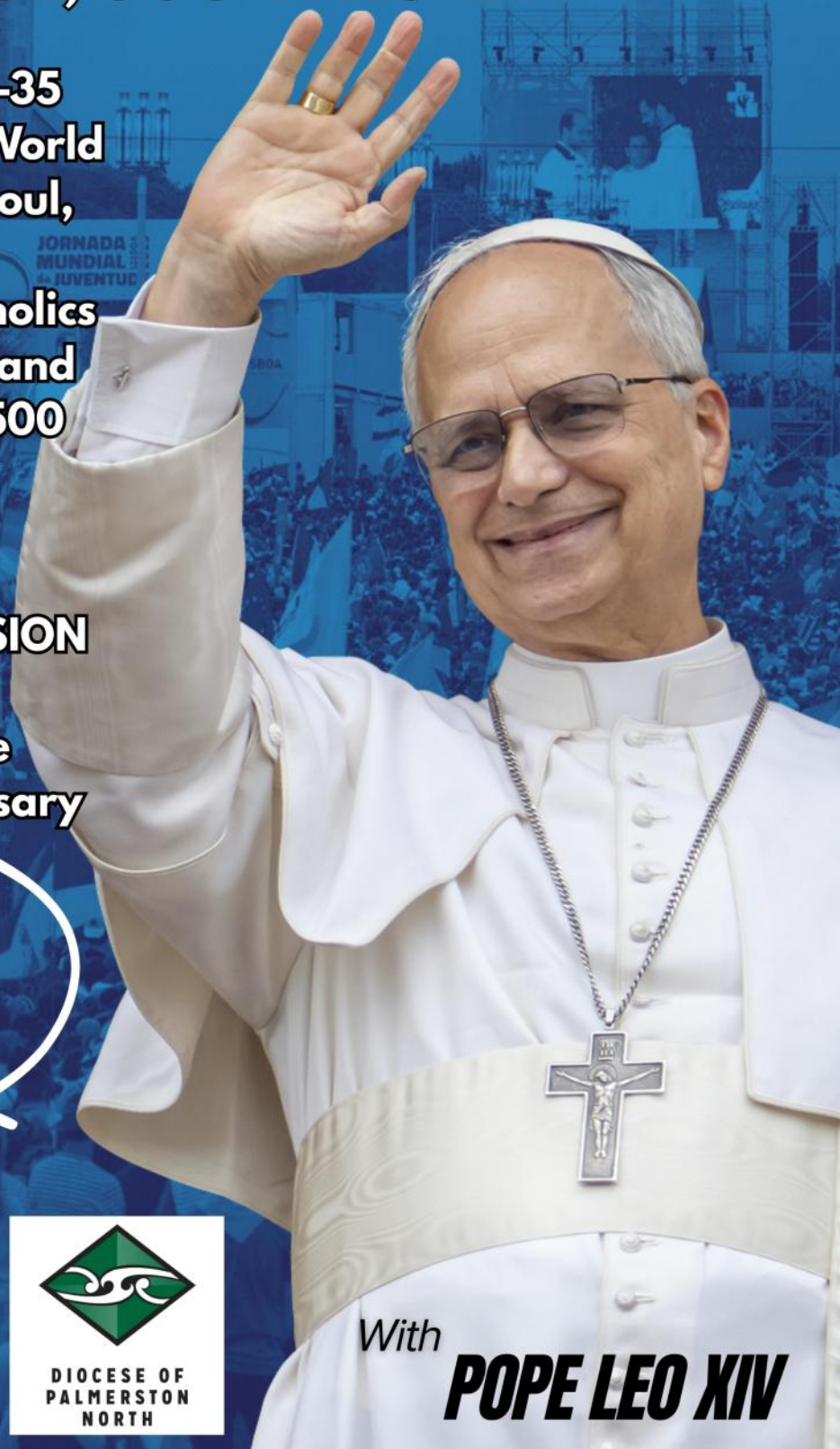
Young adults aged 18–35 are invited to attend World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, where millions of young Catholics will gather. New Zealand bishops aim to bring 500 young people.

Scan the QR code to complete the **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** form, allowing us to provide you with all the necessary information.

SCAN ME



DIOCESE OF
PALMERSTON
NORTH



With **POPE LEO XIV**

WEEKLY DIOCESAN UPDATES

for the Thirty Sunday in Ordinary Time
19 - 25 October 2026

ELECTION WEBINAR – OCTOBER 28

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference is hosting a webinar to unpack the bishops' 2026 election statement, Discerning Our Nation's Future Through a Gospel Lens. Join Wellington Archbishop Paul Martin SM, Catholic Family Support Services Hamilton manager Renee Rewi and Trinity Catholic College principal Kate Nicholson live at 7pm on Wednesday, October 28. The conversation will examine how faith can inform participation in public life and help shape a society that upholds human dignity, promotes justice and serves the common good. Learn more and register at: <https://bit.ly/NZCBCElection>

BISHOPS' ELECTION STATEMENT

As the General Election nears, Catholics are encouraged to read the bishops' 2026 election statement, Discerning our nation's future through a Gospel lens. It invites Catholics and people of good will to consider voting as a moral and civic responsibility, not just a matter of personal preference. The bishops urge people to consider how they will cast their votes by reviewing candidates' and parties' positions across a range of key issues, and they also encourage people to pray for the country.

Access the election statement at: <https://bit.ly/NZCBCElection26>

Why not make time for your marriage in 2027?

When was the last time you and your spouse had the opportunity to step away from the busyness of everyday life and simply spend time together? Would you like to grow closer to one another and deepen your relationship with Christ? Join Dan and Stephanie Burke for a special weekend of prayer, reconnection and renewal in at the Divine Intimacy Marriage Retreat in Palmerston North, 22–24 January 2027. Find out more and register: <https://divineintimacy2027.netlify.app/>



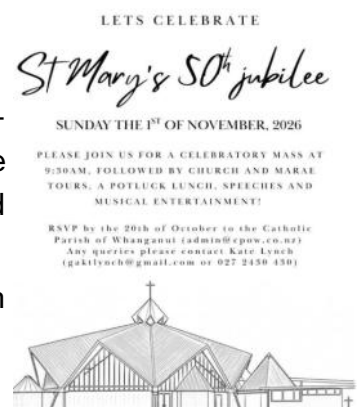
How can we, as lay faithful, encourage and support our priests in their vocation and mission?

This January, priests from across New Zealand are invited to gather in Palmerston North for five days of prayer, fraternity and renewal, to be strengthened in their priesthood and renewed in their love for Christ and His Church. Could you personally encourage your parish priest, or a priest you know, to attend and keep him in your prayers? Find out more: <https://priestlyrenewal2027.netlify.app/>

St Mary's Whanganui 50th Jubilee Celebration

The Catholic Parish of Whanganui warmly invites parishioners and friends to celebrate the 50th Jubilee of St Mary's Church on **Sunday, 1 November 2026**. The celebrations will begin with a Jubilee Mass at 9.30am, followed by church and marae tours, a potluck lunch, speeches, and musical entertainment.

For catering purposes, please RSVP by 20 October 2026 to the Catholic Parish of Whanganui at admin@cpow.co.nz



International Day of Peace – 27 October

Join a people of many faith traditions for an Inter-Religious Prayer for Peace on **Tuesday 27 October, 7pm** at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North. Marking the 40th anniversary of the Assisi Prayer for World Peace, the gathering is an opportunity to pray together for peace, understanding and reconciliation in our world.

For more information, contact maeastham23@gmail.com

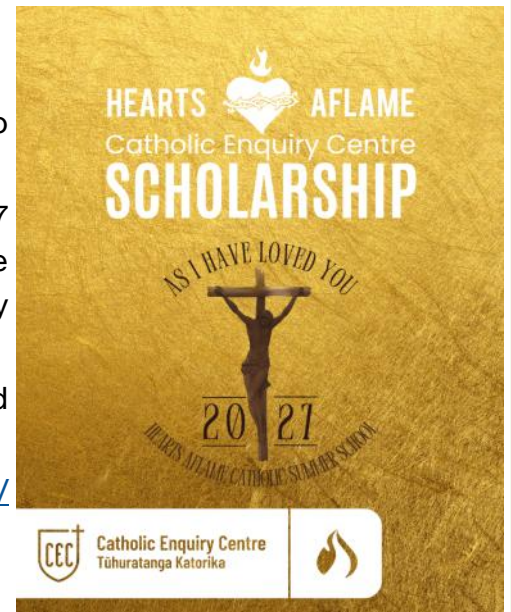
Hearts Aflame Catholic Summer School Scholarship

The Catholic Enquiry Centre is delighted to be offering a scholarship to one young adult to attend Hearts Aflame 2027.

Young adults aged 18 – 35 who wish to attend Hearts Aflame in 2027 are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to those exploring the Catholic faith, preparing to become Catholic, or who have been recently welcomed into the Church.

The scholarship covers the full registration fee and deposit (travel and personal expenses are not included).

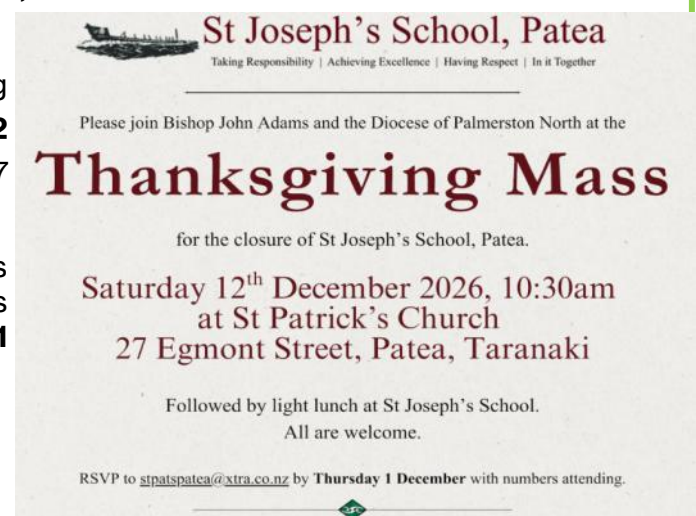
Applications close 8pm Friday 30 October. Apply at <https://forms.gle/o3D37NWtbEzHTEB59>



Thanksgiving Mass for the Closure of St Joseph's School, Patea

All are welcome to attend the Thanksgiving Mass marking the closure of St Joseph's School, Patea, on **Saturday 12 December 2026, 10.30am**, at St Patrick's Church, 27 Egmont Street, Patea.

The Mass will be followed by a light lunch at St Joseph's School. For catering purposes, please RSVP with numbers attending to stpatspatea@xtra.co.nz by **Thursday 1 December**.



Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College Enrolment for 2027

Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College is now accepting enrolments for Semester One 2027. If you are a Catholic school teacher, preparing for ministry, seeking academic formation, or wanting to grow in understanding of the Catholic faith, CTC offers opportunities to learn and engage with Theology in a supportive environment. Go to www.ctc.ac.nz for more information.



Atawhaingia ō tātau kāinga - Show mercy in all the places we dwell

Whānau Mercy Ministries has teamed up with Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington to co-host a 3-day symposium from December 13 – 15 2026. The symposium will explore the impact of religion across education, healthcare, and social services. Open to all, and ecumenical in scope, you won't want to miss this opportunity to hear several excellent speakers and engage in conversations to explore the theme with others.

Visit <https://whanaumercy.nz/catherine-mcauley-symposium/> to find out more and register.

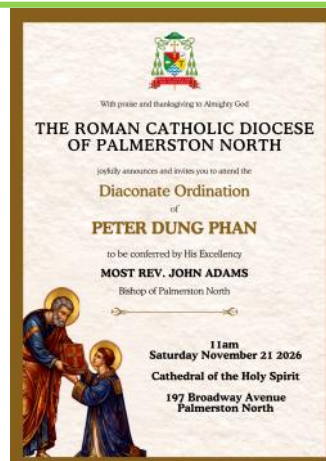
World Youth Day 2027 | Seoul, South Korea

Young adults aged 18 – 35 are invited to attend WYD27, where millions of young Catholics will gather. The NZ bishops aim to bring 500 young people.

Fill out the expression of interest form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfUWcTPgzkxtwlH86NPEnHqvdt2scpc1nkj_4WjzGrbx4WKQ/viewform

Ordination to the Diaconate of Peter Dung (Zung) Manh Phan

Bishop John Adams and the Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North are pleased to announce the forthcoming Ordination to the Diaconate of Peter Dung (Zung) Manh Phan, **11am on Saturday 21 November 2026**, at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North.



You're invited to HEAVENLY HOMES

A one day fundraising event celebrating the
magic and joy of Christmas

15 November 2026



Scan for tickets
and more info

Welcome

All the past, present parishioners
and friends of the Parish.



Reopening Celebration Mass

SUNDAY THE 15TH NOVEMBER

11AM

at St Martin de Tours Church

Pungarehu



Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish

Contact if any queries on

020 4009 3060 or email rcopunake@infogen.net.nz