



Parish Newsletter Pānui i te Pārihi

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www.catholicparishnp.nz

Emergency Phone 027 224 2100

1st November 2026 All Saints Day



St Joseph's School Centenary Celebrations

The St Joseph's School New Plymouth Centenary celebrations culminated in a joyful and faith-filled Mass on Sunday, bringing together past and present students, staff, families, and friends to mark 100 years of Catholic education.

The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Michael, together with Fr Simon and Fr Bryan, before a large congregation gathered on the school grounds. The beautiful liturgy was enhanced by the uplifting music provided by the St Antony's of Padua Choir, whose singing added to the spirit of thanksgiving and celebration.

Among those present were the Mission Sisters, whose dedication and service have played a significant role in the history of Catholic education in the region. Their presence was a special reminder of the strong foundations upon which St Joseph's School was built and continues to thrive.

The day was filled with fellowship, laughter, and cherished memories as former students reconnected with old school friends and shared stories from years gone by. It was particularly heartwarming to see many alumni attending with their own children, creating a wonderful link between past and present generations of the school community.

Visitors also enjoyed the festive atmosphere, with food stalls and activities organised by schools from across New Plymouth. The centenary celebrations provided a fitting opportunity to honour the school's rich heritage, celebrate its achievements, and look forward with hope to the next century of faith, learning, and service.



The Mission Sisters group along with others



Bishop John Adams with Fr Simon Story, Fr Brian Carmine, and Fr Ansure



Above, Bishop John Adams celebrates the Centenary Mass for St Joseph's School

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

Bell Block Catholic
Centre, **First Saturday**
7th November
(New Time and Date)
9.30am - 10.30am

Thursday 5th November
Marian Mother's Meeting
OLHC Church, Fitzroy
7pm to 8.30 pm

Saturday 7th November
Anointing Mass
St Joseph's Church
10.30am

Saturday 14th November
Bereavement Liturgy
St Joseph's Church
10.00am

Saturday 14th November
Bell Block Catholic
Center Activity Day
5.00pm

Thursday 19th November
Annual Parish
Get-together
St Joseph's Church Hall
6.00-9.00pm

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



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.

Connect Groups

I have met people ready to join a weekday gathering as a connect group and grow in their discipleship of Jesus Christ. Groups already exist and are doing this. Would you like to be part of a connect group? It has been found that people who meet together to learn, converse and be challenged by the witness of faith in another, do grow in faith and understanding of discipleship. If you would like to be part of a connect group, please put your name and contact on the clip board in the foyer. I would love to see connect groups growing in our parish.

God bless, Fr. Simon

St. Vincent De Paul VdP Christmas Care Package Appeal



The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVdP) sincerely thanks parishioners for their generous support, donations, and prayers throughout 2026, which have helped sustain the Tuesday Community Meals programme in New Plymouth.

As a Christmas gesture for the approximately **75 diners** who attend these meals, SVdP hopes to provide each person with a care package at the final Community Meal on **8 December**. Parishioners are invited to donate **one or more items**, such as toiletries, socks, sun caps, chocolates, biscuits, or other personal care essentials, to help make this possible.

Donation boxes will be available in the church foyers at all weekend Masses on 7/8, 14/15, 21/22, and 28/29 November.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of SVdP's ministry. Your kindness truly makes a difference.

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.



JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP:



Advance voting has started.
Election day is November 7th. If you

can't find a closer place to vote, you can come to the St Josephs church hall and vote from Monday November 2nd until election day. There are different hours each day.



Your Easy vote card is helpful but not needed. IF you can't get to a voting place because of your health or lack of transport, contact Rachel, our electoral manager and she will get papers to you.

Rachel Church

Email: newplymouthGE26@vote.nz

Ph: 067594923

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE CHRISTMAS

RAFFLE: CWL will be selling tickets for their fabulous Christmas raffle in St Joseph's church foyer Sunday 29th November and 6th December. \$2 a ticket and \$5.00 for 3 tickets. (Please bring some cash). Proceeds of the raffle support the work of CWL.



Marian Mother's: Our next Marian Mother's Meeting is Thursday 5th November. It will be held at OLHC Church, 24 Clinton Street, Fitzroy 7pm to 8.30 pm. Please come along and join in prayer and a cuppa. Please bring a small plate. Any queries please contact Glenda Mob: 021 323 765.



Dear Parishioners,



PARISH
PRIEST



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

ADORATION: First Saturday Adoration at Bell Block Mass Centre Saturday 7th November 9.30am - 10.30am



First Sunday Adoration at Our Lady Help of Christians Sunday 1st November 3.00pm.

ANOINTING MASS: The monthly Mass of Anointing will be held at 10.30am Saturday 7th November at St Joseph's Church. Join us for something to eat afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

Interfaith Prayers for Peace

Forty years ago, in 1986, Pope John Paul II called the religious traditions of the world to gather in Assisi to pray for peace. The people came and prayed. Pope Leo called us all to gather again on October 27th 2026. On Tuesday evening, eleven different faith traditions of New Plymouth gathered in peace and friendship to continue this kaupapa at St Joseph's church. We are grateful to Pretheeva and Hiran for introducing us to such a wide range of wonderful people from different cultures and creeds.

Father Simon welcomed everyone to our church. We shared prayers and readings on our joint plea for peace on earth, and recommitted ourselves to the ten interfaith commitments for peace, dialogue, and non-violence that were prepared following the gathering at Assisi.

Other Christian faith communities who joined us were Anglican, Seventh Day Adventist, Christian Orthodox, Lutheran and Quaker. We were also honoured to have prayers for peace and readings from the Holy books from representatives of the Muslim, Hindu, Baha'i and Buddhist communities. All of these faith traditions were represented at the gathering Pope John Paul II called 40 years ago.

The St Anthony's choir lead us beautifully in song and in sung responses. Through the readings, prayers and songs, we heard seven different languages. All of these were translated for us.

After Fr Sobin prayed a blessing for us all, we enjoyed supper and fellowship with so many new friends who came to pray with us and share our longing for justice and peace.

This wonderful ecumenical occasion was made possible by the hard work and talent of a large number of people.

A Big "Thank you" to them all.



Fr. Simon speaking to the gathering



Heartfelt performance by the St Anthony's choir

November Edition

2026

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUTH GROUP



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
02-0630-0288002-03
PARTICULARS: Your Name
CODE: CAMP
REFERENCE: Youth

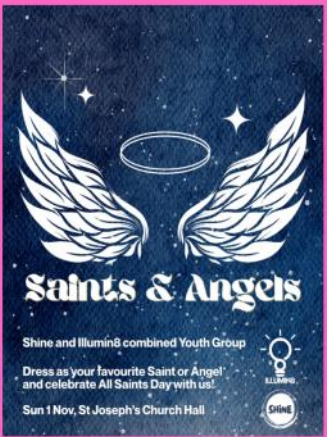
CASH

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.

Life Teen Life Teen Life Teen Life Teen

THIS SUNDAY
SUN, 1 NOV

SAINTS & ANGELS
COMBINED SHINE AND
ILLUMIN8 YOUTH GROUP



Shine and Illumin8 combined Youth Group

Dress as your favourite Saint or Angel and celebrate All Saints Day with us!

Sun 1 Nov, St Joseph's Church Hall



NEXT SUNDAY

TERM 4 SERIES "MADE KNOWN"
HOW WE CAN BECOME SAINTS

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

You are invited!

Dear Parishioners
Annual Parish Get-Together!

Please save the date and hear what our parish has been up to.
Annual General Meeting will be part of the evening.

Thursday 19 November,
6 - 9pm, in the parish hall.

Potluck dinner!

Dessert provided and entertainment.



Bell Block Catholic Centre Activity

Pizza & Dessert Tea, with a few social activities,
Saturday, 14 November at 5.00pm at Bell Block Catholic Centre
Cost: \$6 (one person), \$10 (couple), \$12 (family).

If you would like to come, contact Sue (027 428 2492)
so enough food can be ordered.

Everyone most welcome.



WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Mary Sheppard, John Flemming, David Ogier, Deceased members of the Nallon, Clark and Stevens families, Bernardo De Luna, John Roylance and Laura Noblejas.

NOV

2

MON

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

TO 8th NOVEMBER SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

8:00am St Joseph's Church

3

TUE

8:00am St Joseph's Church

9:10am Our Lady Help of Christians

12:05pm St Joseph's Church (Communion Service with Liturgy of the word)

4

WED

8:00am St Joseph's Church

9:10am Our Lady Help of Christians

5

THU

8:00am St Joseph's Church

No Masses at the School's

6

FRI

8:00am St Joseph's Church

12:05pm St Joseph's Church

7

SAT

8:30am St Joseph's Church

10:30am St Joseph's Church (Anointing Mass)

5:30pm Our Lady Help of Christians (Vigil Mass)

6:00pm St Patrick's Church, Okato (Vigil Mass)

8

SUN

9:00am St Joseph's Church

10:30am Our Lady Help of Christians

10:30am Nga Pekanga (Cnr Bayly St and Princess St Waitara)

5:30pm St Joseph's Church (Junior Youth Mass)

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.

Bell Block Catholic Centre:

Children's liturgy every time when there is Mass or Liturgy of the Word with Communion.

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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8 November

1ST READING: Wisdom 6.12-16

PSALM: 63

2ND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18

GOSPEL: Matthew 25.1-13



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
Tuesday
9.35am to 10.30am
(after 9.10am Mass)

First Sunday of the month
3.00pm – 4.00pm

BELL BLOCK CATHOLIC CENTRE
First Saturday of the month
9.30am to 10.30am

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH
Every Thursday 7.00pm–8.00pm

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
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.

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth



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.

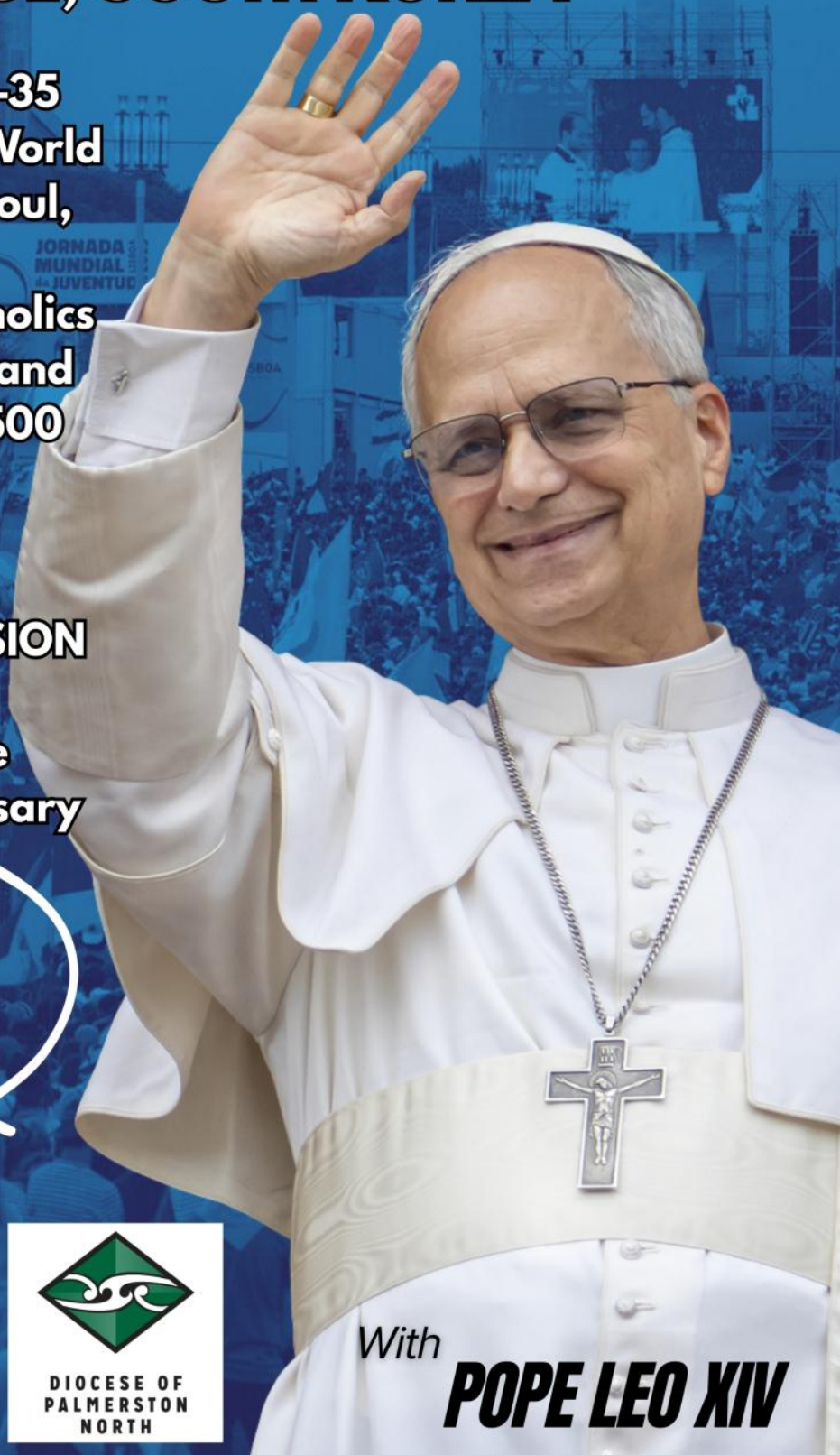
Scan the QR code to complete the **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** form, allowing us to provide you with all the necessary information.

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/>



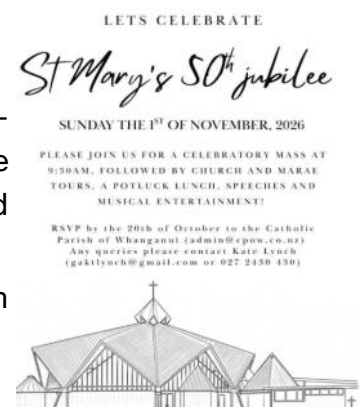
How can we, as lay faithful, encourage and support our priests in their vocation and mission?

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

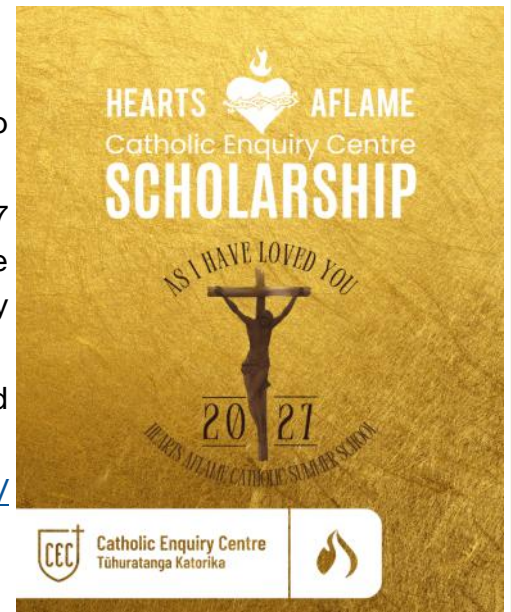
Hearts Aflame Catholic Summer School Scholarship

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).

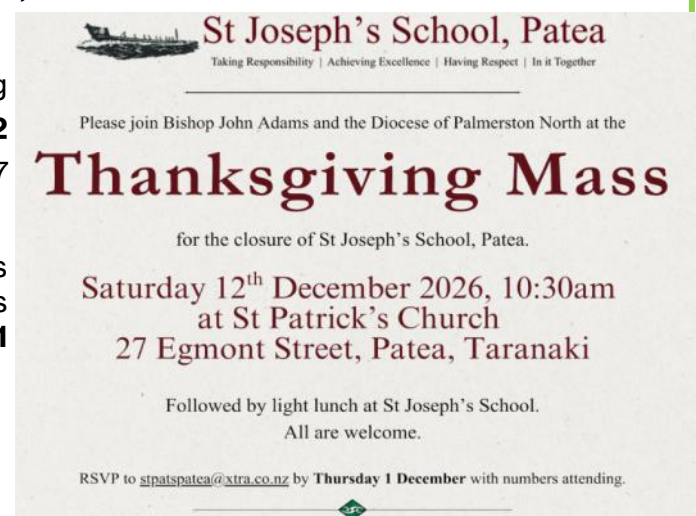
Applications close 8pm Friday 30 October. Apply at <https://forms.gle/o3D37NWtbEzHTEB59>



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.

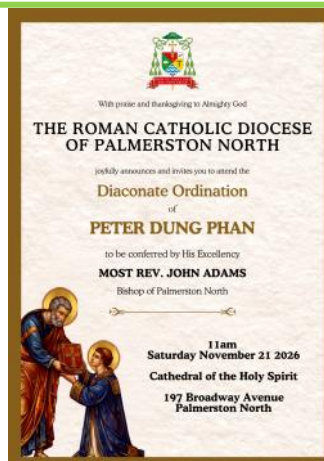
World Youth Day 2027 | Seoul, South Korea

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/1FAIpQLScfUWcTPgzkxtwIH86NPEnHqvdt2scpc1nkj_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