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

8th November 2026 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Visit Parihaka Pa

On Saturday 24th October I was one of the group of 19 who visited Parihaka Pa. It was an initiative of the St Joseph's Justice and Peace group.

It was good to have Fr Tom with us. The plan was that we'd be hosted by Dr Ruakere Hond who has a deep connection with Parihaka. Ruakere is a son of Pat (Mathieson) and Jeff Hond. Senior parishioners may remember them.

Ruakere was a mine of memory and information about the origins of this special place. It is not typically a particular marae of iwi and hapu. Rather it is the place where the prophets Tohu and Te Whiti O Rongomai welcomed tangata whenua scatterings of the Land Wars which had decimated communities in various areas under different movements and leaderships. At present there are 60 residents living there.

It was interesting to walk around the tidy roads – part of the extensive Parihaka Block. It is a Reserve under government protection. The sense of history is palpable.

Ruakere led us to the top of the hill from which the canon looked down on Parihaka and the assembled children, women and Iwi leaders. This gave us a fine panoramic view.

He led a karakia and we responded with a waiata; Te aroha, me whakapono, me te Rangimarie tatou tatou e. Love, Hope and peace – God is with us - which reflects the founding prophets' Christian perspective.

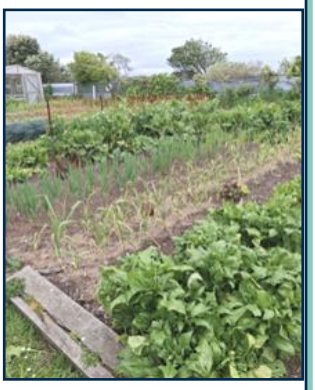
We regathered later to attend St Patrick's Okato 6pm Vigil. Fr Tom presided.

A blessed day on many levels. Shirley Knuckey

Glimpses from the visit below







There was shared kai by the gardens. The Gardens are a very important part of life in Parihaka now, as they were in the time of Tohu and Te Whiti O Rongomai. Parihaka has always been a place that sustains people physically and spiritually in peace. The extensive Parihaka gardens feed the local people and anyone who needs food. Working in the gardens brings peace and joy.

Another important kaupapa of Parihaka is fostering the preservation and learning of Te Reo Māori. The garden is a place where people can learn Te Reo in a practical way at the same time as learning about nature.

We are grateful to Ruakere for giving up his precious time to share his knowledge and passion with us and to Fr Tom for facilitating this very special day. Two precious kaumatua!

Important Dates

Adoration
Thursday Evenings
St Joseph's Church
7.00pm

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

Sunday 8th November
Prayer Ministry after
9.00am and 5:30pm
Masses at St Joseph's
Church and 10.30am
OLHC Mass

Monday 9th November
Justice and Peace group
Monthly Meeting
Nga Motu room
5.45pm

Wednesday 11th November
Unlocking the
Mystery of the Bible
Our Lady
Help of Christians
7.00pm-8.30pm

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

Sunday 22nd November
St Pius X School
Led Mass
St Joseph's Church
9.00am

GENERAL NOTICES

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.

St. Vincent De Paul 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.

"Messiah for the World" – Advent Carol Service
St Joseph's Church at 3.30pm: Sunday, 10 December.

A Parish Carol Service to involve and acknowledge our multi- national congregation. Carol singing, readings and prayers to start your Christmas season.

Calling all singers who would like to lead the singing of carols at this celebration. 1st Rehearsal – will be at St Joseph's church. **7.30pm on Tuesday 10 November.**

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP:

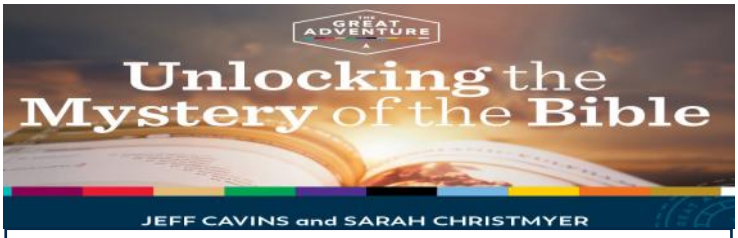
The Justice and Peace group will be having their monthly meeting at **5:45pm on Monday November 9th in the Nga Motu room of the Parish Centre.**

EVERYONE is welcome to join us as we learn more about the Church's social justice teaching and strive to bring it to the whole parish.

Please come in the back door of the parish office building.

For more information or transport to the meeting, please contact justiceandpeace@catholicpraishnp.nz or phone or text Joan 0211100775

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.



By the end of the Conquest & Judges, and Royal Kingdom periods, God's second promise to Abraham – that of an everlasting royal kingdom – finds its fulfilment in King David. This is remarkable because it happens despite Israel's repeated failure to remain faithful to God and to keep His commandments.

In Session 6 we cover three time periods: Divided Kingdom, Exile and Return. Through these challenging moment in Israel's history, the Kingdom is divided into two: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. After repeated warnings from God's prophets, both kingdoms turn away from Him. Eventually, the mighty empires of Assyria and Babylon conquer the kingdoms and carry their people into exile. Jerusalem falls, and the Temple is destroyed.

Yet, even in the midst of this devastation, God does not abandon His people. After 70 years in exile, the people of Judah return to Jerusalem and begin rebuilding their homeland and the Temple.

Through this period of struggle, exile and restoration, we are reminded of God's enduring faithfulness. Even when His people turn away from Him, God continues to guide them, calling them back to Himself and remaining with them every step of the way.

Wednesday, 11th November, 7-8:30 pm, 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

Month of the Rosary Celebrated with Faith, Colour and Joy



The Syro-Malabar Community came together in large numbers to celebrate the Month of the Rosary with a solemn and vibrant Holy Mass in the Malayalam language. The church was filled with an atmosphere of deep devotion, cultural pride, and festive spirit as families gathered in prayer and thanksgiving.

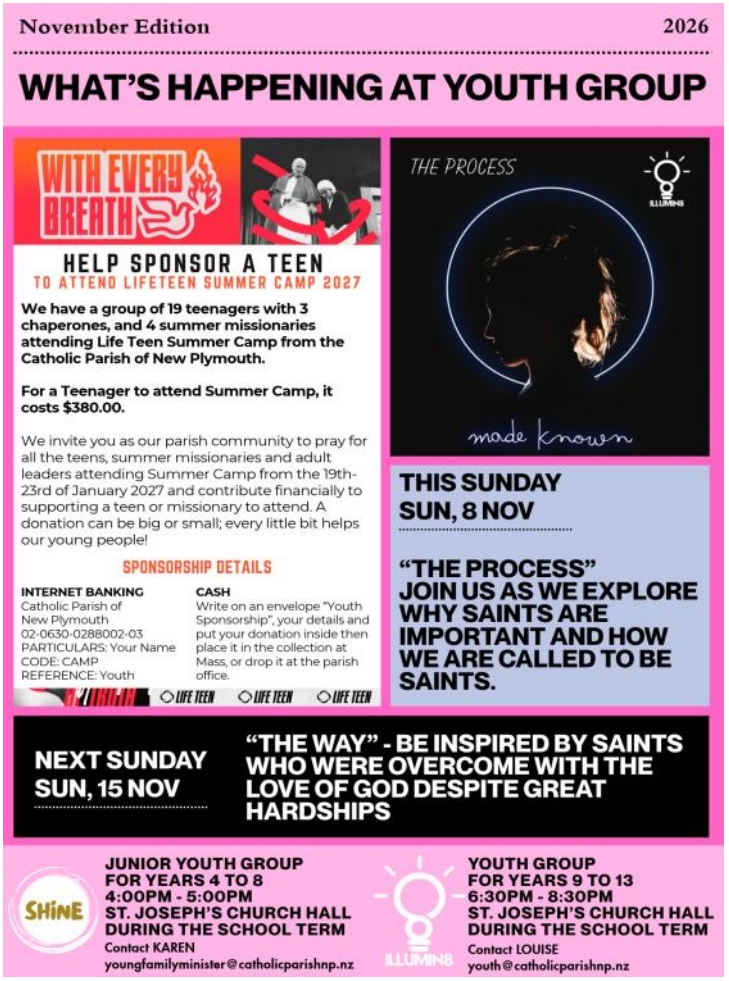


One of the most moving moments of the celebration was the procession of the statue of Mother Mary, the Blessed Mother of Jesus, which was reverently carried through the church accompanied by hymns, prayers, and candlelight. The beautiful display of Marian devotion created a powerful and prayerful atmosphere, inspiring all present. Following the Mass, the celebrations continued with a lively cultural programme featuring energetic and graceful dance performances by the talented youth of the community. Their enthusiasm and creativity captivated then audience and added to the festive mood of the evening.



The memorable celebration concluded with warm fellowship and a grand dinner, where parishioners and guests enjoyed sharing food, laughter, and community spirit. It was truly an evening that beautifully united faith, culture, and friendship, leaving everyone with hearts full of joy and gratitude.







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: Kevin Drinkwater, David Cruickshank, Kathleen Hood, John Edwards, Norma Lobb, Alex Meads, Josey and Everest Chamany, Anne Meads, John and Eileen O'Neill, Agnes Hopkins and Joan Divine.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

TO 15th NOVEMBER THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

NOV 9 MON	8:00am	St Joseph's Church
10 TUE	8:00am	St Joseph's Church
	9:10am	Our Lady Help of Christians
	12:05pm	St Joseph's Church
11 WED	8:00am	St Joseph's Church
	9:10am	Our Lady Help of Christians
12 THU	8:00am	St Joseph's Church
	10:00am	Sacred Hearts Girls College (Mary's Chapel)
	2.20pm	Francis Douglas Memorial College Chapel
13 FRI	8:00am	St Joseph's Church
	9:00am	St. Pius X School (Philomena Hall)
	12:05pm	St Joseph's Church
14 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)
15 SUN	9:00am	St Joseph's Church
	10:30am	Our Lady Help of Christians
	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.
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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 15 November

1ST READING: Proverbs – 31.10-13, 16-18, 20, 26, 28-31

PSALM: 128

2ND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-6

GOSPEL: Matthew 25.14-30 or 25.14-15, 19-21



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

FOLLOW US **For updates on parish, diocese, and national events.**

Catholic Parish of New Plymouth

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FINANCE OFFICER Cynthia
accounts@catholicparishnp.nz
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION Ireen
office@catholicparishnp.nz
COMMUNICATIONS LEAD Russell
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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

You're invited to

HEAVENLY HOMES

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

15 November 2026

HEAVENLY HOMES 2026
AN INSPIRATIONAL CHRISTMAS

St Pius X

Scan for tickets and more info

Handel's Messiah

Saturday 28 November | 2.30pm

TSB Showplace, Theatre Royal



Ars Nova Choir | Taranaki Symphony Orchestra
Bryony Williams | Charlotte Secker
John Beaglehole | Roger Wilson
Christopher J. Luke director

Tickets from

eventfinda Puke Ariki

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

WEEKLY DIOCESAN UPDATES

for the Thirty Sunday in Ordinary Time
2nd November —8th November 2026

Saint of the Week | St Martin of Tours

This coming week, we are accompanied by St. Martin of Tours. He is the patron saint of soldiers, beggars and the poor, and conscientious objectors. His feast day is on the 11th of November. Pick up the printout on St. Martin of Tours or follow our WhatsApp channel for regular updates https://bit.ly/diowhatsapp

One Hope Project Academy NZ | Grow in Worship and Mission

Do you have a heart for worship and a desire to help others encounter Jesus? OHP Academy is a six-month online Catholic worship school offering formation, practical training and mentoring for musicians, singers, worship leaders and anyone wanting to grow in faith and worship.

You don't need to be an experienced musician, just a heart willing to grow!

Find out more: www.onehopeproject.co.uk/ohpacademy

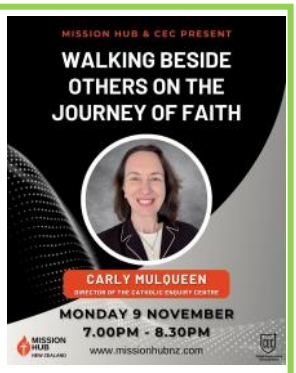
Youth Ministry Coordinator | Catholic Diocese of Hamilton

Do you have a heart for young people and a passion for sharing Jesus Christ? The Catholic Diocese of Hamilton is looking for a full-time Youth Ministry Coordinator to support and grow youth ministry across our parishes and Catholic schools.

Based in Hamilton, this role will involve supporting existing youth groups, developing new initiatives, connecting schools and parishes, and helping organise diocesan youth events and Masses. The position starts in January 2027, or earlier by negotiation, and involves regular travel throughout the diocese.

For further information, contact Joanna Kearney at joannak@cdh.org.nz.

Mission Hub: Walking Beside Others on the Journey of Faith



Every person exploring Catholicism needs more than information. They need relationships, encouragement and a sense of belonging.

Join Mission Hub for a practical evening as Carly Mulqueen from the Catholic Enquiry Centre explores how Connectors, sponsors, OCIA teams and parish communities can support people as they journey towards Christ and the Church.

Drawing on the OCIA process and experiences from parishes around New Zealand, we'll explore what helps people feel welcomed, supported and connected from initial enquiry through to deeper participation in the life of the Church.

Ideal for OCIA teams, parish volunteers, Connectors, sponsors and anyone passionate about helping people encounter Christ and find a home in the Church.

Monday 9 November 202, 7pm–8.30pm. Register at https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Lr69ObbxQHS7GuCSdKDRLg#/registration

When was the last time you set aside time just for your marriage?



Join Dan and Stephanie Burke for a weekend of renewal, prayer and deeper connection with God and one another. Discover how your marriage can become a path to greater intimacy with Christ and a source of grace in your everyday life.

22–24 January 2027 | Copthorne Hotel, Palmerston North A residential retreat for married couples. Financial assistance is available.

For more information and to register: https://divineintimacy2027.netlify.app

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

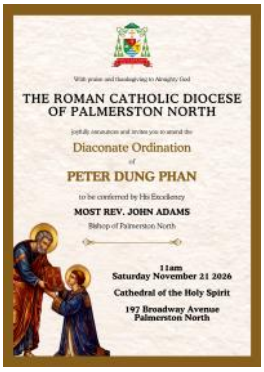
All are welcome to attend the Thanksgiving Mass marking the closure of St Joseph's School, Patea, on **Saturday 12 December 2026, 10.30am,** at St Patrick's Church, 27 Egmont Street, Patea.

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.**



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.



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.

JOIN US FOR OUR

2026 AGM MEETING

ACROSS
Te Kotahitanga o Te Wairua

25th November 2026

12:00pm - 2pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Church Foyer

96 Shamrock Street, Takaro, Palmerston North

Please RSVP to adminsupport@across.org.nz or phone 06 356 7486 by 20th November 2026

Refreshments will be provided
Please let us know if you have dietary requirements

SAVE THE DATE!

Ecumenical Disability Summit



28 – 30 MAY 2027
PALMERSTON NORTH

For expressions of interest and more information, email David Loving-Molloy at:
catholic.deaf@pndiocese.org.nz

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

WYD SEOUL 2027

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**

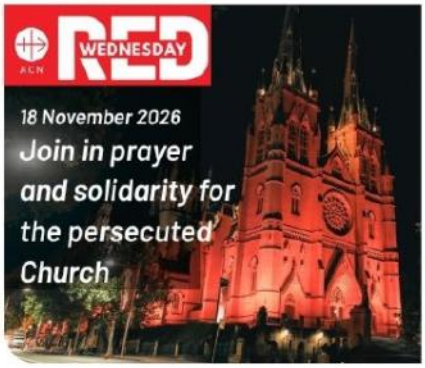
ACN RED NOVEMBER

PRAY • SUPPORT • ACT

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED
PO Box 335 Penrith NSW 2751 **AUSTRALIA**
1800 101 201 *(8am-5pm AEST)*
PO Box 90445 Auckland 1142
NEW ZEALAND 0800 242 322
(10am-7pm NZST)
www.aidtochurch.org

Parishes

Diocese of Palmerston North



13 October 2026

Dear Father,

Invitation to join Red November 2026

I am writing to warmly invite your parish to join Red November this year, as the Church across Australia and New Zealand comes together in prayer and solidarity with Christians who suffer for their faith. Red November is an international initiative led by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), a pontifical foundation supporting the suffering and persecuted Church.

Last year, 33 dioceses and eparchies across Australia and New Zealand participated. With the support of Bishop Adams, the Diocese of Palmerston North will also participate this year by advocating for the Red November Campaign through its communications. I would be delighted if your parish could join this diocesan and international witness of prayer and solidarity.

The heart of our invitation is simple: **to celebrate a Red November Mass for persecuted Christians at one of your usual weekend Masses, or on another suitable day during November**.

Christians continue to face violence, displacement, imprisonment and severe restrictions simply for practising their faith. These are our brothers and sisters in the one Body of Christ: "If one member suffers, all suffer together" (1 Corinthians 12:26). Through the Mass and our prayer, we stand with them spiritually in their suffering, honour their faithfulness, and draw strength from their courageous witness.

How your parish can take part

Internationally, the central focus of this campaign is Red Wednesday, 18 November, when churches around the world are illuminated in red in solidarity with persecuted Christians. Here in Australia and New Zealand, Red November gives parishes the flexibility to participate on any suitable day during the month.

Persecuted Christians repeatedly ask us to pray for them so they are strengthened in faith, speak up for them so they are not forgotten, and support them so they can survive.

In response to their call, I invite your parish to:

- **Celebrate a Red November Mass** for persecuted Christians at one of your usual weekend Masses, or on another suitable day during November. We will provide prayers of intercession and other resources to assist you.

As part of Red November, your parish may also wish to:

- **Pray** the Red Rosary (The Sorrowful mysteries, for the intentions of the persecuted), hold a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament, or organise another parish prayer service for persecuted Christians.
- **Support** the Red November Appeal by inviting parishioners to donate or by taking up an optional parish collection. Funds raised will help ACN support priests and vulnerable persecuted Christian communities.
- **Act** by sharing a Red November video or story through your parish communications, lighting your church or a cross in red, or inviting parishioners to wear red.

Register your parish by 30 October

Whether your parish celebrates one Mass or participates in several ways, please register. This will help our team provide the resources you need and allow us to assure persecuted Christians that parishes across Australia and New Zealand are remembering them in prayer.

Please register your parish Mass or other activity via a quick online form, at www.rednovember.org by **Friday, 30 October 2026**. On our website you can **download additional resources** including prayers, videos, bulletin notices and promotional resources you need.

If you have any questions or would like help planning your parish's involvement, please contact Peter Harrop at peter@aidtochurch.org.

I very much hope your parish will join Red November this year, uniting with Catholics across Australia, New Zealand and the wider Church and assuring our persecuted brothers and sisters that they are remembered, prayed for and not alone.



Yours sincerely in Christ,

Lukas Rajnoch
Acting National Director