

PUKEKARAKA, OTAKI

The Church of Hāto Mere, established in 1844

2nd March 2025, 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Our Sunday Celebration is at 10.00 am

Fr Alan Roberts	Parish Priest - bernardweka@gmail.com	Ph 021 0822 8926
Stephanie Harris-Stevens	Parish Administrator - Email: Pukekaraka1@gmail.com	Ph 021 253 1080
Oriwia Raureti	oriwia.raureti@twor-otaki.ac.	Ph 021 648 490
Urutaki Cooper	Principal, St Peter Chanel School urutakai@spc.school.nz	Ph 06 364 8017 - Scho



LITURGIES THIS COMING WEEK

Monday & Friday the Word & Communion at 10 am in the Old Church	Mass on Tuesday & Thursday at 10 am Old Church Ash Wednesday 5,30pm Main Church
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Gospel Commentary for Sunday 1st March 2025 - The readings for today (the final Sunday before Lent) remind us how words and actions illustrate what lies in the heart of each person. The First Reading speaks of the true test of a person being what they say, and thus the importance of listening carefully to others. We also need to be conscious of our own choice of words.

The Psalm celebrates the joy of offering thanks to the Lord for the goodness he brings to those who follow his ways. In a similar vein, St Paul (Second Reading) encourages the early Christian community in Corinth to persevere in serving the Lord. Paul reminds them – and us – that following the example of Jesus will never be in vain.

In the Gospel, we see Jesus using striking visual images to illustrate his teaching. First, he warns us of the dangers of following others blindly, and then speaks of the danger of judging others while not acknowledging our own failings.

Three of our four readings this week speak of the care and conditions that trees need to produce sound fruit. So, as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year, we pray that we maybe ever mindful of the impact our ways of living can have on the natural environment. We pray that we will make good choices to protect God's creation.

Paul Traynor, National Coordinator of the Passionist Family Groups

Pope Francis said: *With Jesus, we sail the sea of life without fear, without giving in to disappointment when one catches nothing, and without giving up and saying “there is nothing more that can be done”. Always, in personal life as well as in the life of the Church and society, there is something beautiful and courageous that can be done, always. We can always start over — the Lord always invites us to get back on our feet because he opens up new possibilities.*

Pope Francis, [Angelus](#), 6 Feb 2022



Bi-lingual scriptures at Mass. As advised last Sunday members of Ohu Tiaki agreed that these will no longer be shown on the screen apart from at Miha Māori. They were initially included to assist those with hearing difficulties but a number of people have found them a significant distraction and by excluding them we are now in line with the guideline from the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* which states that “ We are called to *listen* attentively ... to God's Word as we would if Christ himself were standing at the ambo, for in fact it *is* God who speaks when the Scriptures are proclaimed.

If it is helpful to have a copy of the scriptures at Mass a leaflet with enlarged print is available for you to collect in the Church foyer otherwise the scriptures are emailed out each week. As the Creed has also been removed from the screen you can collect a copy of the white Hymn booklet from the foyer as it can be found on page 3. There is no Gloria during the penitential season of Lent. Our Masses will continue to be bi-lingual to reflect our community and our commitment to the Kawenata.

Clean Up Saturday is on the 1st of March at 10:00 am onwards at the church for a ‘spring clean.’ Bring your favourite gear and muck in to get the Church looking like new for the World Day of Prayer, Volunteer Sunday, Lent and Easter. Refreshments provided.

Ash Wednesday Service is Wednesday the 5th March in the Main Church at 5.30 pm

World Day of Prayer: An ecumenical service for the World Day of Peace will take place in our main church on the 7th of March at 10 am. Various Churches in Otaki are taking part and this year we will host it. Please join us in this service written by the women of The Cook Island. A plate would be appreciated.

The Scripture Reflection Group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the Faith Room to reflect and share on the Gospel for the following Sunday. If you would like to join us during Lent you are most welcome. If you want more details please contact Mary-Elizabeth, 021 595 695.

Join in a great Prayer for Life this Lent, with Family Life International: Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday - pray for an end to abortion.

Sign up and receive educational resources and daily prayer intentions. Join the peaceful prayer vigil near the abortion place on Wednesdays. Find out more at FLI.org.nz/prayerforlif

Talitha Kum intercessory prayer group meeting: Date: 23rd February 2025, Time: 2 pm to 4:15 pm
Place: St Pius X Church Titahi Bay. Gentle praise and worship, Praying against Human Trafficking, our world etc. All are welcome. Stephen and Judy Bailey Sue Smith and group. 021 183 2445 (Judy)

IF YOU HAVE NOT SEEN SOMEONE IN MASS FOR A WHILE NOW, please be in touch with them. Give them a ring or a visit and see how they are doing. Show we care.

Lending each other a helping hand: At Pukekaraka we can help: if you need assistance with transport to

Mass. if you need extra support because you are sick or housebound. Please contact Jill Watson on 021 127 4072 or pldjwatson@gmail.com to see how we may be able to support you.

Notices for the newsletter: These must be sent to Pukekaraka1@gmail.com before Thursday at 9 am each week to meet the deadline for Friday's newsletter. Thank you.

Sunday Rosters for this Sunday 9th February

Date	Proclaimers	Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters	Collectors	Linen March
2.3.25	Mihi Maori	Mihi Maori	Josie	Mike & Mary C	Sue Carr

Cleaning for the Main Church -

New to the Parish: If you are new to the parish please make yourself known to the **Welcomers** on arriving at Mass on Sundays

Bank Account details for the following:

St Mary's Parish of Otaki	St Vincent de Paul	Caritas
06 - 0821 - 0701736 - 00	03 - 1532 - 0028658 - 000	03 - 0518 - 0211216 - 003

Meetings in the Faith Room: Please book your meetings by placing them on the calendar on the Faith Room door and then text or send an email to Stephanie so we don't double up, and she knows who is coming into the office thank you. email pukekaraka1@gmail.com or text 021 253 1080, nga mihi.

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Safeguarding: Safeguarding is about all of us working together for a safe culture, within our Church at Pukekaraka.. to protect our young children and vulnerable adults. All Safeguarding team members have completed and passed the Te Kupenga National Certificate of Safeguarding. If you have any concerns, please contact a member of the team - Paul Bayliss, Phil McIntyre & Stephanie. More information is on our notice board.

St Vincent De Paul, Established in Otaki in 1910: On a Local Level, Food assistance is available, in the first instance via the Otaki Food Bank and then via SVDP Otaki at 021 0906 2653 by 5 pm daily, leaving your name and phone number. This number will take you to the SVDP Levin answer line, a member will contact us and we will be in touch with you and act the next day accordingly.

Mobile Phones: in consideration to all community members, please put your mobile phone on silent or vibrate when coming into mass or liturgy. Thank you.

Safety & Health Matters

Please bring any concerns you have about the safety & health of the church buildings or property, to our attention. Contact Stephanie at 021 253 1080 or Send an email to pukekaraka1@gmail.com

Please Pray for the Sick: Pope Francis, Stephen Allport, Matthew Kerr, Ohole Taulanga, Meila Davis, great-granddaughter of Janet Merino, Fr David Orange, Winfred Clegg, Mother of Robin Hartendorp, Mark Jacobsen, Ray Mackle; Gabrielle Rikihana, Meila Davis, Geraldine Taylor, Kathleen Henry, Maurice Chaney, Rosalie Parsons, Fr David Gledhill and parishioners who currently have Covid. *May they feel the love of the Lord and his comfort, as they gain strength from him, during this time.*



OkiOki I runga I te rangimarie – we remember those who have died and those whose anniversary occurs at this time, those who have passed away recently are:

Peter Hercock

Wayne Tukapua (at Kawiu, son of late Thompson and Louie Tukapua)

Mons. David Bennett from the Hamilton Dioceses

"Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:19

