



PUKEKARAKA, OTAKI

HAERE MAI E TE WHĀNAU, TENA KOUTOU KATOĀ, A KIA NOHO TE ARIKI KI A KOUTOU.
WELCOME, FAMILY, GREETINGS TO YOU ALL. MAY THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

The Church of Hāto Mere, established in 1844

26th October 25, 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Our Sunday Miha Celebration is at 10.00 am

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Mike McAsey Phil McIntyre Mary Elizabeth Jill Robinson Paul Bayliss Debbie McAsey	Ohu Whakahaere Ohu Manaaki Ohu Taiki Ohu Arotake Ohu Kura Hine, Marae Contact	Ph 021 503 403 Ph 022 1030 534 Ph 021 595 695 Ph 021 103 2221 Ph 021 463 593 Ph 021 144 3804
Urutakai Cooper	Kura Principal, St Peter Chanel	urutakai@spc.school.nz Ph 06 364 8017.

This Sunday, Fr. Viltor Mujuni will celebrate Mass for us. He is from Tanzania and is studying for his PhD in Physics at Victoria University and living at the Cathedral Parish, where he ministers as well as at Ss Peter & Paul, Lower Hutt.

Fr Simi's Reflection: O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' (Luke 18:13)

The Lord teaches us through the readings of this Sunday that He alone is Judge and that He is a merciful judge, He loves everyone but is particularly attentive to the cry of the poor, the widow, the orphan and the oppressed.

Their pleas pierce the clouds and reaches God in heaven, and He will not delay to respond with His justice. (Sirach 35:21).

When we think of the poor, the widow, the orphan, the oppressed and the lowly, do we think of ourselves as being in that list? In some ways, we are not if we never truly experience extended periods of hunger and thirst, or if we are still with our spouse, or were raised by our parents or if we do not live in fear of tyranny. In some ways, we are truly blessed.

In other words, we can say that we are on that list of the poor, the widow, the orphan and the oppressed. In fact, in a much deeper sense, we can say that we all are poor, widowed, orphaned and oppressed. For as long as we are

separated from God the Father, we are poor in the gifts of the Spirit, widowed from Christ the Bridegroom, orphaned from God the Father and oppressed by sin and unclean spirits.

This is why we must never be convinced of our own righteousness and despise everyone else, (Luke 18:9). We are like everyone else in that we are not yet fully right with our God. The reason why we see ourselves better than others is a result of the separation from God that we still suffer due to sin.

The reason why we are not responsive to the needs of the poor, the orphans, the widow and the oppressed is because we regard ourselves as better off than they are and not connected to them. In fact, we may be worse off than they are if we regard wealth, marriage, children and freedom as all anyone needs.

So, let us not give in to the temptation of tribalism, where we consider ourselves as members of a superior tribe of people that looks down on the other tribes. Let us be attentive to our tendency to despise others because they hold different or and opposing views and values. Let us do away with the labels we insult others with.

We are all sinners whom the Just Judge has come not to condemn but to save. When we come before Him at Mass, we come to Him who is eager to justify us and reconcile us to Himself and one another. Till we see the Father's face in heaven, we pray, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner."

***"Catholic Social Teaching/Pope's Quote:** One cannot pray and offer sacrifice while oppressing the weakest and poorest. From the beginning of Scripture, God's love is vividly demonstrated by his protection of the weak and the poor, to the extent that he can be said to have a particular fondness for them.' Pope Leo XIV, [Dilexi Te](#), 4 October 2025*

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR October 2025: For collaboration between different religious traditions. Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

Next weeks Timetable

NB: All weekday services will take place in the New Church until further notice

- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday - the Word & Communion at 10.00 am in the Main Church. - The rosary is recited Mon - Fri. before the morning service. See Zoe for further details.	- Tuesday, Mass, 10 am in the Main Church - Thursday Mass, 10 am in the Main Church - Sunday Mass at 10 am in the Main Church.
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Exposition takes place on the last Saturday of the month, between 9 am and 11 am, in the main church, organised by the Marist Fathers.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available by appointment by contacting Stephanie, the office administrator at Otaki (021 253 1080) or Bridget at Levin (027 511 2474) or by emailing Fr Simi at administrator.otaki@gmail.com

This Sunday's Roster

	Proclaimers	Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters	Collectors	Linen for October
16th Oct	Kokoro & Peter	Seuga, Jim & Moya	Josie	Bede & Sandra	Stephanie

The Main Church Cleaner this week is Hato Petera Kaniera

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH:

Ohu Arotake: meets this Sunday, 26th October, after Mass, at 11:15, in the Faith Room. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to join us, please come along or contact Jill Robinson on 0211032221

From OHU Whakahere:

Tena koutou / Dear Parishioners,

This weekend, we are asking parishioners to identify and/or refresh their ways of sharing their time and talents to enrich our lives in the parish. We would be most grateful if you could pray about this matter, consider and complete the enclosed survey form, telling us how you want to serve our parish community. Please bring your completed form and hand it in to Stephanie at the table in the foyer. If you have any questions, please feel free to approach any of the Ohu coordinators after Mass - see the Newsletter. Thank you for your generosity of service. Blessings, Ohu Whakahaere"

All Souls' Day Sunday 2nd November: All Souls' Day this year falls on Miha Maori Sunday. You are invited to bring along photos of your loved ones to place around the altar at Mass.

Passionist Family Groups: an invitation to gather with the Levin groups from Paul Traynor National Co-ordinator

Passionist Family Groups have been gathering and growing for over 35 years in New Zealand. We extend a very warm invitation to attend a time of fellowship, faith education and reflection around two topics:

- Belonging,
- Why does community matter?

These presentations will each be followed by shared discussion. They encapsulate what Passionist Family Groups are about, and how we can (re)connect with the vibrancy of the early Church by 'being for others' and building a place of welcome and belonging in our local parish communities. It'll be engaging and fun – come join

Presenter: **Paul Traynor, National Coordinator of Passionist Family Group Aotearoa**

Date: **24 November 2025**

Time: **11 am, Cuppa then presentations and Discussion 11.30 - 12.30, followed by lunch**

Venue: **Meeting Room at St Joseph's, Levin**

What to bring: **Something to share for a 'Shared Lunch; Bring a friend - all are welcome!**

NB: Fr Simi has his own email address for his work in Otaki; it is

pasimi.otaki@gmail.com

Safety & Health Notice: Please be aware of your safety when visiting Pukekaraka during the maintenance and repainting of the roof of the Mother Church (old church), **particularly** when scaffolding is in place and while repairs and painting are underway. It will remain for approximately 3 weeks or so, depending on the state of the roof. Care will need to be taken when walking alongside the church. Weekday Mass & liturgy will be in the main church during this time.

2026 Coloumban Calendars are available now, for \$16 from Stephanie.

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

Advent: A Hīkoi for Pilgrims of Hope: Fr. James Lyons has a new Book out called Bringing the World to Life. It is a reflection book on Advent & Christmas 2025/26.

In this new 84-page, pocket-sized book, Fr. James Lyons and other Catholic leaders and writers, including Cardinal John Dew, offer timely reflections for each day of Advent and Christmas season. Connecting Biblical truth with modern-day examples, they provide valuable spiritual nourishment as this Year of Jubilee comes to a close, a new year begins. Cost \$8.00, see the Poster attached.

Catholic Social Services: November is Catholic Social Services' Annual Appeal Month. We live in challenging times – times that are causing many people to lose hope. The poor and vulnerable among us are especially affected. This is why we need your help. Your ongoing support helps us bring hope to those who need it. Supporting this valuable mahi is easy, and there are many ways to do so, including the link: www.catholicsocialservices.org.nz/donate
Prefer to donate via bank transfer? You can use CSS' bank account details to donate directly through your internet banking service.

BANK: BNZ

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 02 0560 0213864 000

PARTICULARS: your surname & initial

REFERENCE: Your phone number

CODE: CSS-HOPE

The Cathedral Saturday Vigil Music Group of Sacred Heart Cathedral has been putting together a concert for **Sunday 2nd of November** at 2.00pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hill Street. It is primarily to honour our leader, Sr Marie Gore, and it is also a fundraiser for the Cathedral. The programme is of classical, operatic, and contemporary music, all performed by the Vigil Mass Group and other Wellington musicians. The entry fee is \$20.00 Adult, \$15.00 Concession, \$40.00 Family (2 Adults & 2 Children). Tickets at the door.

Nostra Aetate – Celebrating 60 Years of the Church's call to dialogue with people of all faiths. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Committee for Interfaith Relations welcomes all who wish to join us as we acknowledge Nostra Aetate, the Vatican II document promulgated on 28 October 1965, and outline contemporary approaches to religious dialogue in Aotearoa New Zealand Today. To be held on: **Tuesday, 28 October 2025** from 7.00 – 8.00pm. Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/NA-NZ-2025>

CALLED & EQUIPPED Formation Programme - Applications for 2026 now open!

Are you looking for an opportunity to dig deeper into your faith, and to learn how to share it with others? Would You like to know more about what it means to be catholic?

Do you want to serve in your parish community, but feel you don't know enough?

JOIN US on an exciting journey that offers personal faith formation and equips you for ministry and service. Applications close on 30th November 2025.

For more information, contact Lucienne Hensel at: l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz / 04 496 1715.

ONGOING INFORMATION FOR THE PUKEKARAKA COMMUNITY

Lending each other a helping hand: At Pukekaraka, we can help if you need assistance with transport to Mass or if you need extra support because you are sick or housebound. Please contact Jill Watson at 021 127 4072 or pldjwatson@gmail.com to see how we may be able to support you.

Talitha Kum Intercessory Prayer Group: When: On the last Sunday of the month at 2 pm-3.45 pm Where: St Pius X Church, Te Pene Avenue, Titahi Bay. Please bring a candle to light for your family. It finishes with a cuppa. Stephen and Judy Bailey phone 0211832445. Everyone is invited - come and pray against Human Trafficking & for our world, etc.... Theme: Saint Josephine Bakhita

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

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



Safeguarding: Is about promoting an environment within our faith community which respects and acknowledges the dignity of everyone, and where people feel valued and safe. 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 get in touch with you and take the necessary action the next day.

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: Mark Bailey, Jill Randall, Tony Upham, Stephen Allport, Matthew Kerr, Ohole Taulanga, Fr David Orange, Winfred Clegg, Mother of Robin Hartendorp, Geraldine Taylor, Kathleen Henry, Maurice Chaney, Rosalie Parsons, Fr David Gledhill and any parishioners who currently have Flu or COVID.

May they feel the love of the Lord and his comfort, and gain strength from him, during this time.



OkiOki I runga I te rangimarie – We remember those who have died:

Those whose anniversary occurs at this time, and those who have passed away recently: Fr Max formerly of the Koupa Monastery, RT Hon Jim Bolger, Fr John Loft SM, Fr Graham Connolly SM, Caterina Seperanza, who was laid to rest at the Otaki Cemetery on Wednesday, Sharon Fairfield from our parish, wife of Peter, Dean Hoddell & Bro Gerard Hogg sm

“We have an everlasting home in heaven” - 2 Corinthians 5:1, May they RIP