



PUKEKARAKA, OTAKI

The Church of Hāto Mere, established in 1844

19th October 25, 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Our Sunday Miha Celebration is at 10.00 am

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This Sunday, Fr. Simi will celebrate Mass for us.

Fr Simi's Reflection: *"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who calls out to him day and night?" (Luke 18:7)*

We saw last Sunday how the Samaritan leper had the faith to see Jesus as the True Temple and True Priest by whom one must now go to be declared healed and whole again.

This tremendous faith is also given to us who believe in Jesus, who is truly present still in the Eucharist, where He is the Altar, Sacrifice and Priest by whom we are cleansed from sin and reconciled to God and one another as His Body, the Church.

Today, our Lord teaches us that He is the New Moses, whose arms, nailed on the cross, now never ceases to be raised in heaven, interceding for us to the Father for our salvation.

We know that just as Moses secured victory for the Israelites in the first reading (Exodus 17:8-13) by keeping his arms and God's staff raised in prayer, we know that we have an infinitely more powerful Priest who intercedes for us in heaven for our victory over Satan and his lies.

This battle we fight is going to last till the same Crucified Priest returns at the end of time to judge the living and the dead and cast Satan and his demons in the eternal fire along with all who have denied the Crucified Priest. Satan and his demons, till that time, will not rest from trying to deceive us from remaining faithful to Jesus in the Eucharist. The Crucified Priest

continues to intercede for us unceasingly in heaven. He will not be unfaithful to us. Let us not be unfaithful to Him.

It is at every celebration of the Holy Eucharist that we fulfil our duty that St. Paul in today's second reading, charges us to do: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching, (2 Timothy 4:2).

Until the Lord Jesus our Judge returns at the end of time, we are charged to join Him in the Holy Eucharist faithfully, because we will not find the strength anywhere else to overcome the enemy,

We know that our High Priest conquered evil on the wood of the Cross.

We know that even when humanity unknowingly gave more than a black eye to the Judge of the living and the dead, He still prayed to His Father for forgiveness.

Let us not lose faith, therefore, in our Merciful Judge who has not ceased to forgive the repentant sinner. This is a victory we celebrate at the Holy Eucharist till that same Merciful Judge returns.

Catholic Social Teaching/Pope's Quote: 'All the members of the People of God have a duty to make their voices heard, albeit in different ways, in order to point out and denounce such structural issues, even at the cost of appearing foolish or naïve. Unjust structures need to be recognised and eradicated by the force of good, by changing mindsets, but also, with the help of science and technology, by developing effective policies for societal change. It must never be forgotten that the Gospel message has to do not only with an individual's personal relationship with the Lord, but also with something greater: "the Kingdom of God (cf. Lk 4:43)"'
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 stjosephlevin.priest@gmail.com."

This Sunday's Roster

	Proclaimers	Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters	Collectors	Linen for October
19.10.25	Jill & Gerry	John, Mike C & Robyn	Leonie	Marie & Duncan	Stephanie

The Main Church Cleaner this week is Faye

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH:

Safeguarding Workshop at Hato Mere / St Mary's, 19 October

Please mark the date in your calendar. Mr Kevin Plant, Archdiocesan Safeguarding Advisor, will conduct a workshop after Mass on 19 October. It would be great to see as many parishioners there, please, to support this initiative. In particular, those involved in ministry and any others with an interest in these matters. It would be appreciated if you could bring a plate to share at the luncheon after the workshop.

Safety & Health Notice: Please be aware of your safety when visiting Pukekarakā 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

World Mission Sunday: This Sunday is a special day in the Catholic Church and throughout our Archdiocese - World Mission Sunday. World Mission Sunday is a day Catholics celebrate to support the Church's missionary work through prayer and financial contributions. We have a special offertory collection on this day, with the money going towards missionary work. You can put your donation in an envelope marked Mission Sunday. We hope you can support us! Check out this video from Pope Leo for more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEwDtbZxt4c>

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>

CATHOLIC KIWI PODCAST: The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference has launched a new podcast series, sharing stories of faith, ministry and mission of Kiwis and visitors to our shores. The first episodes have been released, with new episodes scheduled as part of Season 1 leading up to Christmas. Search "Catholic Kiwi Podcast" on YouTube or Spotify now.

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: 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 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: 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 Hoddel & Bro Gerard Hogg sm

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