



PUKEKARAKA, OTAKI

The Church of Hāto Mere, established in 1844

12th October 25, 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Our Sunday Miha Celebration is at 10.00 am

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This Sunday, Cardinal John will celebrate Mass for us.

Fr Simi's Reflection: *"Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"
(Luke 17:18)*

Today, our Lord teaches us that thanks and praise must to God alone. Like Naaman the leper in the first reading and the ten lepers in today 's gospel, we have been made unclean by sin.

Lepers in our Lord' s time were quarantined from their families and community. The skin disease meant that boundaries were broken. The skin is a boundary that cannot be breached by what is inside the body nor by anything outside the body.

The breach of boundaries is a sign of disorder, of chaos. This, according to ancient Jewish law, is ungodly, impure, dirty. God, our Creator, has put everything in its proper place, proper order. Disorder is a breach of God' s design. God therefore cannot be approached for His holiness will destroy the impure completely. People without this disease must therefore not come into contact with lepers or they too will be contaminated and cannot come into God's presence.

Leprosy here is symbolic of the sin that has made us unclean and unworthy of His presence. We are outside the walls of the garden of Eden, the walls of the New Jerusalem in heaven. Like the lepers, we are displaced, we are away from our home. Yet Jesus has left heaven and descended into our sinful lives and has come to take away the sins of the world. Only He who has come down from heaven is able to take

away our sins and make us worthy to be in the Father's presence again in heaven.

Forgiveness and healing are ours if only we cry out to Him, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us." This we do at the Holy Eucharist. It is also at the Holy Eucharist that He makes us clean. It is also at the Holy Eucharist that we are already reconciled to the Father.

The Holy Eucharist is our thanksgiving and praise to the Father for having welcomed us back into His House. The Greek word euchariston is a word meaning praise and thanksgiving that is owed to God alone. Luke, in his gospel, reserves this word of thanksgiving, Eucharist, for God alone.

When we come to Mass, we do not become the centre of that liturgy. We do not come to be the recipients of thanksgiving. All our prayers and actions are ordered only to God. We are all lepers who are being cleansed and wish only to give thanks to God, who alone has taken away our sins and welcomed us back into His Home.

Catholic Social Teaching/Pope's Quote: 'Therefore, there is life, a new possibility of life and salvation that comes from faith, because it not only helps us to resist evil and to persevere in doing good, but it transforms our lives so as to make of them an instrument of the salvation that even today God wishes to bring about in the world...

As Saint Paul VI affirmed, "it is our responsibility to proclaim the Gospel in this extraordinary period of human history, a time truly without precedent, in which, at the heights of progress never before reached, there are also accompanying depths of perplexity and desperation equally without precedent"

Pope Leo XIV, [Homily](#), 5 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
12.10.25	Vyvien Paul	Josie & Phil	Noreen	Donna Catherine	Stephanie

The Main Church Cleaner this week is Donna

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH:

Support Life Sunday: This year, as Pilgrims for Hope, we are called to support a culture of love and life through prayer and action that focuses on the infinite dignity of every person: a dignity that is not just violated by premature death but by poverty, war, exploitation, physical and emotional violence, abuse, prejudice and neglect. With God's grace, we are called to build a world of justice, truth, mercy, compassion and love.

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 for a shared luncheon after the workshop.

Safety & Health Notice, please note: Please be aware of your safety when visiting Pukekaraka during the maintenance and repainting of the roof of the Mother Church (old church) when the scaffolding goes up, and while they repair and paint the roof. 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

Information remains much the same as last week, which was attached to last week's newsletter, apart from these two notices:

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. Finish 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: 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