

PUKEKARAKA, OTAKI

The Church of Hāto Mere, established in 1844

23rd February 2025, 7th 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 24TH FEBRUARY - 1ST MARCH

Monday - Friday the Word & Communion at 10 am in the Old Church	Fr Alan is away for a couple of weeks.
---	--

Gospel Commentary for Sunday 23rd February 2025 - Love Your Enemy:

We can never reflect on this commandment enough. The prophets of non-violence like Mahatma Gandhi and Te Whiti o Rongomai took the time to reflect long and hard on this commandment. They understood it as something of a summary statement of Christianity. They understood it to be among the most searching and radical statements Jesus made. In this command, Jesus invites us to reach beyond ourselves and embrace everyone and everything as kin and kin. The human community fails with this command at nearly every turn. International relations are based on revenge and fear. Nations never stop arming and defending themselves.

The bigger the nation, the bigger the stockpile of weapons of war. Enemies are named and demonized in the pursuit of military power. Inordinate amounts of money are spent on devising ever more potent technologies of death and destruction. Why do we fail so badly at this commandment? Why do we fall short in believing in God's full and complete love for each of us? Why are we so stingy with love when God is so generous in lavishing love on all of us? How can I disarm my heart and open it to God and all that God has made?

The American prophet of peace, Fr. John Dear speaks of the need for a disarmed heart when he writes, "The life of peace is both an inner journey toward a disarmed heart and a public journey toward a disarmed world. This difficult and beautiful journey gives infinite meaning and fulfilment to life itself because our lives become a gift for the whole human race. With peace as the beginning, middle and end of life, life makes sense."

Fr Peter



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.

Scripture Reflection Group - a small group meets weekly on Wednesdays at 10:30 am to reflect and share on the Gospel for the coming Sunday. It is an opportunity to nourish our faith, build community and create a place of welcome for new parishioners and those new to the Catholic faith. Please contact Mary-Elizabeth, at 021 595 695 if you are interested or have any questions.

Funeral Preparation Information Session: Have you ever wondered what to do when a member of your whānau passes away? Are you concerned that when you pass away, your whānau may not know how to prepare a funeral that includes our Catholic traditions? Have you got questions about funerals, costs, legal requirements or who in the parish can help?. To answer these or other questions, the Bereavement Ministry has prepared an information session to help answer your questions. You are all welcome to come along.

When: **Sunday the 23rd February**

Where: **In the Church**

Time: **11.15 following Mass**

Year of Jubilee Logo: The symbolism of the logo on our Jubilee banner is rich in meaning. It shows four stylized human figures from the four corners of the earth. embracing each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front holds onto the cross, a sign of the faith and hope, which can never be abandoned especially in our moments of greatest need as shown by the rough sea. The lower part of the cross in the shape of an anchor becomes a symbol of hope, which is let down into the waves. The image also illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal. The cross is dynamic as it bends down towards humanity, not leaving us alone, but stretching out to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year: *Te Runga Hikoi i roto i te Tumanako* (Pilgrims in Hope).

'Scripture Reflection Groups - an invitation is given to all to join/form a small group to meet weekly to pray through and share the Scriptures for the coming Sunday. If you are interested please see Mary Elizabeth.

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 Feb
21st Feb	Vyvien & Gerry	Molly Mary Elizabeth Annette	Tess Barry	Duncan Marie	Stephanie

Cleaning for the Main Church - Marie & Duncan

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.

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



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 May They Rest in Peace.

Please Pray for Matthew White, who will be ordained to the priesthood this Saturday in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart at 11 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.

