



PUKEKARAKA, OTAKI

HAERE MAI E TE WHĀNU, TENA KOUTOU KATOA, 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

18th November 2025, 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Our Sunday Miha Celebration is at 10.00 am

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Stephanie Harris-Stevens	Office Administrator	pukekaraka1@gmail.com Ph 021 253 1080
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. Simi will lead us in our celebration, this Sunday, 16th November.

Fr Simi's Reflection *"You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance, you will secure your lives."*
(Luke 21:17-19)

Just as the temple was a feature of our reflections last Sunday, we continue to ponder on the Temple that Jesus is. We remember from last Sunday, our Lord said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it again," (John 2:19). They did on Good Friday, and He raised it again on Easter Sunday.

This is the mystery we celebrate at every Mass. Our Lord is the Temple and to Him is united all who believe in Him and do his will. Amongst those who believe in Him are those on earth, those in heaven and those in purgatory who are being purified and divinised for heaven. They have also been referred to as the Militant Church on earth, the Suffering Church in purgatory, the Triumphant Church in heaven. In Christ, we who believe in Him and do His will are part of the Temple that He is.

As being part of Christ’s Militant Church on earth, Christ teaches us in today’s gospel that we are to endure suffering now. Just as His Body was destroyed on Good Friday, we too must endure suffering now at the hands of a world that refuses to believe in Him.

These times of suffering are times of witness, of testifying to Christ for the conversion of those same souls who persecute us. He tells us today that He Himself is going to speak with and through us at those moments we are insulted and are even handed over to death.

We are not to disown Jesus at the time of our suffering, nor are we to try to please those who are persecuting us by watering down our faith to relieve us of suffering. Neither are we to leave His Church and follow some other charismatic figure who preaches a gospel that tells us what we prefer to hear a message without suffering.

Let us pray for the grace to endure our suffering and persevere. The Christ we are faithfully suffering with now is the Judge at the time of death of every human being. He will be raising and judging every single soul.

Heaven-bound are those souls who never left the Temple. We may suffer more in purgatory, but only because the Judge is preparing us to see Him and His Father, as they truly are in heaven, in the fullness of their glory and majesty.

Catholic Social Teaching/Pope’s Quote: ‘God’s actions are moved by compassion toward the poverty and weakness of all humanity. Wanting to inaugurate a kingdom of justice, fraternity and solidarity, God has a special place in his heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and he asks us, his Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favour of the weakest. -

Pope Leo XIV, [Dilexi Te](#), 16.

POPE LEO’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR November 2025: Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

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 pasimi.otaki@gmail.com

This Sunday's Roster

	Proclaimers	Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters	Collectors	Linen for November
16th Nov	Anni & Duncan	Mike, Jim & Robyn	Leonie	Mary & Donna	Judy

The Main Church Cleaner this week is Faye

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH:

This Sunday is the World Day of the Poor. St Vincent de Paul invites everyone to bring along a couple of cans of food or other non-perishable items. These donations will go to the SVDP Food Bank in Levin, which supports Otaki & Levin people in need when they need assistance.

Our Remembrance Tree will be set up in the sanctuary during November, and all are invited to write the names of deceased loved ones on a leaf to tie to the tree. These whanau and friends will be remembered in our Masses and weekday liturgies throughout November.

Time & Talent Form: We've received only a few Time and Talent forms so far, and we'd love to hear from everyone! Even if you are not able to volunteer or participate at this time, please tick the box on the form to let us know.

Please note that the form also serves to update your personal information for the parish roll, so it's important that we receive one from each household. **Forms will be available at the table.**

Thank you for taking a few moments to complete and return your form. Your participation helps us stay connected and better serve our parish community. Your response—whether you're able to help now or not—will greatly assist us in our planning and communication.

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

The Ecology Justice and Peace Commission is running a Webinar on 18 November to mark World Day of the Poor. Click on <https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/commission-for-ecology> for more information



World Youth Day 2027: Interested in going to South Korea? Come join us for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul! Please fill out the expression of interest form below and email Regina Fernandes at

r.fernandes@wn.catholic.org.nz for any questions.

St Mary's College will be celebrating the 175th Jubilee on Saturday, 6 December 2025 from 11.00 am – 5.00pm. <https://forms.gle/qC1YmfV7N7Mq7dx27>

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

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. **The November meeting is the last for 2025.** 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:

Saint Mary 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: Katrina Whittle, Jocelyn Bryant, 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,

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