

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



HATO MERE OTAKI, PUKEKARAKA PANUI

20th week in Ordinary Time - Celebrating the Feast of the Assumption, 16 August 2026.

Our Sunday celebration is at 10 am in the Main church

NB: As there is a renewed wave of COVID and winter colds around, those who wish to receive communion on the tongue, please wait till the end of the communion line to come to communion, as there is a greater risk of transmission of germs via hand-to-mouth contact. Let's keep each other safe. **"If you are feeling unwell, please put others first and keep our community safe. It is very important that you stay home, keep warm and get well."**

Fr Beni's Reflection: Today we celebrate the feast day of the Assumption of Mary; we are reminded to have hope and trust in God, as the Virgin Mary did. As we join the Universal Church to celebrate this great feast, it is important for us to reflect and to contemplate the life of our Blessed Mother Mary and how God rewarded her humility and obedience with such a great reward.

Mary was just an ordinary woman, like any other, but she's outstanding in living out her obedience to God. Her faith and hope in God made God find favour in her. The feast is a huge reward for Mary and also gives us something that gives humanity hope. The feast began to be celebrated in Rome in the middle of the 7th century. It was not until 1 November 1950 that Pope Pius XII proclaimed the Dogma of Mary's assumption of body and soul into heaven.

The Assumption of our Blessed Mother is not simply the end of her earthly life. It is about the destiny God desires for every human person. It is the victory of grace over sin, hope over despair, and life over death. Therefore, the feast is important to us as the people of God. It should encourage us to imitate Mary in living her faith and hope in God. In the Annunciation, the Angel Gabriel revealed Mary as full of grace. Because of this, she is sinless. Even when she was born, Mary was free from original sin from the very first moment of her conception in her mother's womb (Immaculate Conception).

Immediately after the Annunciation, Mary went and visited her cousin Elizabeth. Mary, but this time, she was filled with joy, full of grace, and now reached out to Elizabeth to share the joy and grace she herself received from God. An image of the church as missionary.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, now we see that the feast of the Assumption is also important to us today. God rewarded Mary with a great reward and even desires for us to share in this reward as well. Let us open ourselves to God like Mary. She obeyed God till her last moment on earth. She heard the word of God and kept it. Through the grace of God, Mary is sinless and worthy to be the mother of God's Son. It is through her humility in the sight of God that God lifted her to be honoured among humanity. Let us strengthen our hope and trust in God as Mary did. May this feast empower us and inspire us to imitate our Blessed Mother.
Happy Feast Day to all.

From the Integral Ecology Committee: 'Mary's song, *Magnificat*, strengthens the hope of the humble, the hungry, the faithful servants of God. These are the men and women of the Beatitudes who, even in tribulation, already see the invisible: the mighty cast down from their thrones, the rich sent away empty, the promises of God fulfilled. Such experiences should be found in every Christian community.' – *Pope Leo XIV, Homily, 15 August 2025.*

Pope Leo's prayer intentions for August 2026: For evangelisation in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community. View <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VqbMAITZK4>

Priests & Office Administrator

Fr Simi Volavola Fr Beni Bakatete	Parish Administrator Assistant Priest	pasimi.otaki@gmail.com pabenimsc.otaki@gmail.com
Stephanie Harris-Stevens	Office Administrator	pukekaraka1@gmail.com Ph 021 253 1080

Church Roster

Aug	Proclaimers	Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters	Collectors	Linen for Aug
16th	Mike & Peter	Mike, Donna & Moya	John	Sandra & Noreen	Judy

Church Cleaners

Date	Mother Church	Main Church
10th - 15th Aug	Barbara	Marie & Duncan
24-29th Aug	Tara	Raureti Whanau

Bank Account details for the following:

SAINTS MARY PARISH OF OTAKI in capital letters	The Society of St Vincent de Paul in New Zealand	Caritas
06-0821-0701736-00	03 - 1532 - 0028658 - 000	03 - 0518 - 0211216 - 003

Save the Date - Marriage Seminar: To be held on **Wednesday, 19 August**. Hospitality from 6.30 pm, session will start at 7.00 pm. Venue is at Connolly Hall, 10 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington. 'Happily Married in a Tech-Obsessed World'. Explore how we can be present and nurture a healthy marriage in a world where so much demands our attention. Queries to: marriage@cadw.nz

Weekly Mass & Liturgy Times

Monday & Tuesday 10 am: The Word & Communion.

Wednesday - Friday 10 am Mass

Sunday Mass - 10 am in the Main Church,

Miha Maori is on the 1st Sunday of the month

Reconciliation on Thursday after Mass or by appointment; contact Fr Simi or Beni via email

Exposition held on the last Saturday of month, 9 am - 11 am, organised with the priest Frs.

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Our Website

<http://www.pukekaraka.com/>

Click on the link above to go there

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Te Kura o Hato Petera Kaniera

Principal: Urutakai Cooper

Website: <https://www.spc.school.nz/>

The school bank account name & number is: ST PETER CHANEL BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ANZ 01-0731-0239955-01

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Sunday Readings for this week are:

1st Reading: Revelation 11: 19, 12: 1- 6, 10
Psalm: 44 (45) 10-12, 16
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26
Gospel: Luke 1: 39-56

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated this coming Sunday, 16 August 2026. This is the Patronal Feast of New Zealand, so it has been transferred from August 15th by the NZ bishops.

SVDP Collection this Sunday 16.8.26

Money will go towards the Food Sharing Group that meets at Hatfield's Hall. Over 40 people turn up each week for food.

An interview with Fr Ronald Riesterer on Spirituality and Letting Go is based on his new book *Insane for the Light*. Click the link below to view, and scroll down: [A Spirituality of Ageing and Letting Go | Franciscan Media](#)

Flashes of Insight: <http://flashesinsight.com/> **Press the link above.** It offers short-form, theologically grounded analysis and commentary — rooted in pastoral theology. Its reflections grow from the events, challenges, and questions that shape both the Church and the wider world. Its mission is to engage with people around the English-speaking world, offering commentary and analysis on local events with global implications. It is a good read.

For the Daily Readings of the Church,
click the link below

<https://readings.livingwithchrist.ca/>

Click on the arrow on the right side of the page for the day you want.

To sign up for Fathoming the Faith, click on the link <http://ffhttp://sthomingthefaith.substack.com>

Talitha Kum Intercessory Prayer Group meets on the last Sunday of each month, 2 pm - 3.45 pm at St Pius X Church, 64 Te Pene Avenue, Titahi Bay. Refreshments provided. Contact Stephen and Judy Bailey (021183244) for more information.

Meeting in the Faith Room: Please book your meetings by placing them on the calendar on the Notice board, then text or email Stephanie so we don't double up and she knows who is coming into the office. Thank you.

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.

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

Taize meditation service every Tuesday at 7.30 pm, held in the mother church (entry via the back, through the main church). We will take breaks during school holidays. All are welcome to join.

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.

St Thomas More Church, Wilton Events: The church is to close permanently on Sunday, 30th August 2026. The organising Committee have some events planned for that weekend to mark this farewell and would like to invite any ex parishioners or people associated with the Church to join them. The events are on **Saturday, 29th August** and the Farewell Mass on **Sunday, 30th August**.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Janet Marino, Jo-Ani Robinson, Marian George, Lynda Mc Soriley, Linda De Lorenzo, David Wootton, Cathy Tia, Bryan Harold, Katrina Whittle, Mark Bailey, Stephen Allport, Ohole Taulanga, Ann- Marie Stapp, Fr David Orange, Geraldine Taylor, Kathleen Henry, Rosalie Parsons, Fr David Gledhill and any parishioners who currently have the flu or COVID.

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

Okioki I runga I te rangimarie— We remember those who have died: Norma Pitt-Palmer, mother of Wawata, Valerie Tippet, sister of Adi, Matt Squire, Catherine O'Connor *"I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am, you may be too."* John 4. May they rest in peace

If you wish for information to go in the Newsletter, it must be sent by 8.30 am to Pukekaraka1@gmail.com by Thursday Morning.

Cath News: Stay informed about news from the Catholic Church and stories relevant to Catholics every Tuesday and Friday at 8 am. Sign up for the free digital newsletter and read the latest stories at cathnewsnz.com Click on the website above, which is linked to sign up.

Safety & Health Message:" Any concerns you have about the safety & health, bring them to our attention. Contact Stephanie at 021 253 1080, or email her.

