

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

16th week in Ordinary Time, 19th July 2026,
This Sunday will be celebrated by Fr Beni

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: *"Let them grow together until harvest"*

God is the God of all, good people and bad; everyone belongs to God. As we celebrate the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, our readings reveal the God whose mercy endures forever, the God who is patient and always at work through His Spirit. On the same note, the readings invite us to reflect on the mercy and love of God; the power of God is revealed not in a harsh way, but in true strength, as shown by patience. Let them grow together until harvest. We need to reflect on three things, such as; first, God's patience is purposeful; next, Mercy mirrors strength/patience; and then, we are all recipients of second chances.

How often do we give a chance to people who often distract us or disturb us in many ways? How often do we receive chances from our God? Let them grow together until harvest. This reminds us of God's divine patience, and mercy that allows both wheat and weeds to coexist until the time of judgement. It is a powerful image of how God's love embraces all people, regardless of their flaws or failures, giving everyone space and time to grow, change and bear fruit. This reveals that God's patience is purposeful.

To let them grow together until harvest, mercy has to mirror the patience or strength. In other words, true power is not shown in punishment or control, but in restraint and compassion. When we choose mercy over judgement, we reflect God's strength. This invites us to learn from our God. A God who forgives us, a God who is patient with us, a God who embraces us all, regardless of our failures.

At last, we are all recipients of a second chance. This allows us to reflect on ourselves: how can we improve from being weeds to become wheat, so that when harvest comes we will be able to meet our loving God. At the same time, as recipients of God's mercy, God invites us to imitate him, in giving a second chance to others as well. We go to the Sacrament of Confession, believing that God's love is greater than our sins. However, if God forgives us, we are to forgive each other.

We have a few things to learn from today's readings, such as: God wants us to go beyond our way of loving people, even living His words in our way of living. As recipients of a second chance, this reminds us that God's mercy and love are greater than our failures. Let us live our lives to God's will. Let us witness God's love by going beyond our comfort zone to feel the needs of those who do not believe in God. Let us be more patient in treating each other; let us learn from the Master in today's Gospel, who had patience. Let us be more vigilant in sharing the mercy and love of God, so that we also know when to say, "Let them grow together until harvest."



Pope Leo's prayer intentions for July 2026: Human life is a sacred gift that merits to be welcomed, protected and cared for in all its stages. Nevertheless, indifference, exclusion and violence threatening the dignity of the person, especially those who are particularly vulnerable, persists in many parts of the world. When respect for life diminishes, the throwaway culture grows, leaving many without the care, support and recognition they need. Click on the link below to watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMPPrZdo95Us>

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

	Proclaimers	Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters	Collectors	Linen for July
19 July	Jill & Zac	Moya, Jim & Robin	Josie	Bede & Donna	Judy
26 July	Paul & Gerry	Donna, Mike Mary Elizabeth	John	Suzanne & Mike	

Church Cleaners

Date	Mother Church	Main Church
13 -18 July	Jill & John	Raureti Whanau
20 - 15 July	Mary	Donna

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

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 or Stephanie on 021 253 1080, who will contact them and get back to you.

Exposition held on the last Saturday of the month, 9 am - 11 am, organised with the Marist 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 CANNEL BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANZ 01-0731-0239955-01

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

<https://universalis.com/nz/1200/mass.htm>

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

Sunday Readings for this week are:

1st Reading: Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19

Psalms 85(86):5-6,9-10,15-16

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-40

Mass and the Sacrament of Anointing will be held in the main church on **Friday, 31st July at 11 am** and will be followed by a shared lunch. This replaces the usual 10 am Mass. All are welcome. If you know of anyone who might need transport, please let Stephanie know - 021 253 1080 or Mary-Elizabeth - 021 595 695.

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](#)

Pat McCarthy, former editor of NZ Catholic newspaper, has just launched an online publication looking at Catholic beliefs and practices. Ever wondered how the Last Supper evolved into today's Mass? Or the purpose of church music? Is there an algorithm for a successful marriage? Does spirituality without religion make sense? Should we take the Bible literally? Go to <https://fathomingthefaith.substack.com> (it's FREE).

Can you help? Helen & Chris Gerretzen are looking for a new home to rent. After 21 years, the owner wishes to sell the house they have been living in. They are looking for a 1-2 bedroom home, either in Otaki or Levin. Contact Helen if you can help; on 022 0925 118

Flashes of Insight: <https://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.

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.

Lending each other a helping hand: At Pukekaraka, we can help if you need transport to Mass or extra support 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.

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 - Key Quote from Pope Leo XIV on Safeguarding: A Church-wide "culture of safeguarding" "[The Commission] promotes and accompanies with dedication the growth of the whole Church in the culture of protection." *Message supporting the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, 2025.*

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 support 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 through the back via the main church). We will take breaks during school holidays. All are welcome to join.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: 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 and whose anniversary occurs at this time: Jocelyn Bryant 22.6.26,. *"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.

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.

