



PUKEKARAKA, OTAKI

HAERE MAI E TE WHĀNAU, 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

23rd November 2025, 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Our Sunday Miha Celebration is at 10.00 am

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**Fr. Simi will lead us in our celebration this Sunday,
Congratulations to Eddie Dunn on making his first Communion this Sunday**

Fr Simi's Reflection *I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."* (Luke 23:43)

We conclude another liturgical year with the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The whole year ends with our Lord and King hanging on the Cross to portray His rule and dominion over sin and death from the throne of the Cross.

The whole universe, with all of humanity, was groaning to be set free from the tyranny of sin and death, from which no human being nor any creature could set itself free.

The two thieves on the Cross on either side of the King represent all of humanity, who are guilty of having stolen the sovereignty of God to rule over us, choosing to rule over our own lives, only to be made prisoners and slaves to sin and death.

We celebrate today how the King of the Universe has chosen to descend to our own sinful existence and be subject to the consequences

our own human autonomy. We see how He willingly enters into His passion, to suffer our sufferings, to endure our self-inflicted pain and to undergo our well-deserved deaths.

He embraces the whole universe with His arms stretched out and nailed to the Cross. He pours out on the whole world His precious blood, to wash away our selfishness and pride. He enters the tombs of our decay to seek every single soul that has ever died and to radiate the divine light of the resurrection in the darkest recesses of the netherworld.

This is the King taking back His Universe from the grip of Satan and his minions, and claiming for Himself every human soul that had rejected His will and died. All shall be raised from death and judged by Him according to their deeds.

Saved is the thief that repents and prays to the King, even with his last breath, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.” Let us always pray these words with every breath till our last. Let us not tire in repenting.

Let us always hope in our merciful King who came to save us to say to us, “Amen, I say to you. Today you will be with me in Paradise.” Paradise is only for the repentant. Let us never remove our gaze from the Crucified King of the Universe.

Catholic Social Teaching/Pope’s Quote: ‘Today, scenarios of war, unfortunately present in various regions of the world, seem especially to confirm that we are in a state of helplessness. Yet the globalisation of helplessness arises from a lie, from believing that history has always been this way and cannot change. The Gospel, on the other hand, reminds us that it is precisely in the upheavals of history that the Lord comes to save us. And today, as a Christian community, together with the poor, we must become a living sign of this salvation.’ Pope Leo XIV, [Homily](#), 15 November 25

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
23rd Nov	Kokoro & Edith	Seuga, Kamau & Robyn	Vyvien	Catherine & Suzanne	Judy

The Main Church Cleaner this week is Faye

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH:

Mauri, Fr. Ben, welcome back to Aotearoa Otaki, we are all looking forward to getting to know you

Thank you from the Hartendorps, regarding Robin's mother, Winifred Clegg. Grateful thanks for the prayers and condolences offered for our mother during her journey to God. Winifred died peacefully as the song "When You Come to the End of a Perfect Day" was playing. Nga mihi nui Robin and Shona Hartendorp

Advent is Coming: This Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King marks the last Sunday of this liturgical year. Sunday, 30th November, will be the 1st of the 4 Sundays of Advent leading into Christmas. Our scripture readings change to Cycle A for Sundays and Year 2 for weekdays and In accordance with the Roman Missal, we will return to saying the Apostles Creed for Advent and during January when we do not have PowerPoints.

Children's Books: There have been some beautiful children's books made available to the Community by Michele Ness, who is the author. They would make great stocking fillers for Christmas. Suitable for children from 7 years up. A Koha to St Vincent de Paul would be appreciated. They will be at church this Sunday. See Gerry

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.

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!**

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

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>

CATHOLIC KIWI PODCAST: This week's podcast is with the Archbishop of Wellington. Search "Catholic Kiwi Podcast" on YouTube or Spotify.

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:

Saints 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: Bryan Harold, Katrina Whittle, Jocelyn Bryant, Mark Bailey, Jill Randall, Tony Upham, Stephen Allport, Matthew Kerr, Ohole Taulanga, Fr David Orange, 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:

Winfred Clegg

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