



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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, 23.8.26

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 until 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 Simi's Reflection:** *"And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church"*  
(Matthew 16:18)

The One who created the heavens and the earth from the chaotic sea over which He hovered (Genesis 1:1-2) was seen by Peter walking on the sea (Matthew 14:25). The same Peter who walked on the chaotic sea with Jesus is in today's gospel, chosen by Jesus to share in a very special way in Jesus' own work of saving all of humanity and the whole cosmos.

Let us consider deeply this vocation to which Peter is called. He is chosen, not by any flesh and blood, not by any creature, but by the Creator Triune God.

Jesus' own Father in heaven, by the divine communication of the Holy Spirit, reveals Jesus to Peter as the Anointed One (Christ or Messiah), the Son of the living God. Jesus Himself confirms this revelation to Peter as His Father's own choice of Peter for a very specific role, indeed, a very godlike role.

Peter, who is now made an active participant in God's own saving work, is himself transformed; his identity changes. He himself is being recreated. He who was Simon, son of Jonah, is today renamed by Jesus. He is Peter: the rock on which the Creator builds His church: an assembly of other newly recreated human beings that God Himself is gathering.

Today, each of us who was renamed and recreated at our baptism by the Holy Trinity is part of that church which we acknowledge and celebrate as God's own church with members called to actively participate in God's own saving works in very specific ways.

It is the will of the Creator Triune God that we follow Peter and his successors, the doorkeepers to the kingdom who possess the keys to open and shut, to prohibit evil (bind) and permit the good (loose). With Jesus, Peter and his successors hold the keys to the pilgrim church on earth, the suffering church in the netherworld and the triumphant church in heaven.

**From the Integral Ecology Committee:** 'As the guardian of a hope that enlightens the path, the Church is also invested with the mission of speaking clearly to reject everything that mortifies life and prevents its development, and to take a position in favour of the poor, the exploited, the victims of violence and war, and all those who suffer in body and in spirit.'

*Pope Leo XIV, General Audience May 2026*

### 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<br>Fr Beni Bakatete | Parish Administrator<br>Assistant Priest | <a href="mailto:pasimi.otaki@gmail.com">pasimi.otaki@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:pabenimsc.otaki@gmail.com">pabenimsc.otaki@gmail.com</a> |
| Stephanie Harris-Stevens             | Office Administrator                     | <a href="mailto:pukekaraka1@gmail.com">pukekaraka1@gmail.com</a><br>Ph 021 253 1080                                                            |

### Church Roster

| Aug  | Proclaimers    | Eucharistic Ministers         | Greeters | Collectors      | Linen for Aug |
|------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------|
| 23rd | Kokoro & Gerry | Seuga, Phil<br>Mary Elizabeth | Josie    | Duncan & Marie  | Judy          |
| 30th | Zach & Duncan  | Jim, Robyn & Josie            | Vyvien   | Catherine & Sue | Judy          |

### Church Cleaners

| Date            | Mother Church | Main Church    |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 24-29th Aug     | Tara          | Raureti Whanau |
| 31st - 5th Sept | Leason Whanau | Faye Hanna     |

### 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 |

**Remembering the Church** and leaving a gift in your will is to make a commitment to future generations that they too may know God through His Church. With a will or bequest, we can make sure our treasures are put to good use to look after Christ's flock and to grow the kingdom here on earth. Every gift, regardless of size, helps strengthen this mission and supports your local parish and the Archdiocese. Leaving a will or bequest can support your local church in many ways. To find out more, go to <https://cadw.nz/wills-and-bequests>, click on the link

## 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 the month, 9 am - 11 am, organised with the Marist Fathers.

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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:

First Reading: Isaiah 22.15, 19-23

Psalm: 138

2nd Reading: Romans 11.33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16.13-20

## SVDP Collection this Sunday 16.8.26

Thank you for your generosity last Sunday. We collected \$170, which we will put towards the Food Sharing that is held at Hatfields Hall each Friday morning.

## 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:

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/podcast/a-spirituality-of-aging-and-letting-go/>

## Flashes of Insight: [//flashesinsight.com/](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.

## 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.

**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](mailto: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 has 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:** Aroha Tiraa, 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:** Fr Pene Patelesio, 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](mailto: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](http://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.**

