

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

14th week in Ordinary Time, 5th July 2026,

This Sunday is Miha Maori

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: *"Come to me, all who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest."* Today's readings reveal the beautiful image of a God who is close to His people, a God who never distances Himself, but invites all who are weary and burdened to find rest in Him. Jesus' words, "Come to me, all who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest," remind us that the heart of God is a place of peace and renewal. The Prophet Zechariah portrays an image of God who approached his people not with power, force or intimidation, but with humility, gentleness, and love. This image matters to us today, because we are called to imitate Him in our daily lives. Moreover, we often choose what is comfortable, easy, or self-promoting. Pride becomes the way we present ourselves to the world. Yet today's readings challenge that instinct. They remind us that the true Christian path is shaped by humility, gentleness, and love—the very qualities God Himself shows toward us. Following Christ is demanding; it means letting go of pride and choosing humility, practising gentleness, and loving more. In doing so, we reflect the true face of God to others. True greatness is not found in force but in love, in love that chooses humility even when it's not recognised or rewarded. Jesus himself has shown all these throughout his life. He went through life bearing the burdens of our sins; he suffered so that we may live; he forgives those who persecuted him so that we can see the true greatness in humility and love.

So many times, we get caught up in things that blind us to our neighbours' needs. So many times we lock ourselves in our comfort zones, instead of reaching out to the needy of our times. We need to continue to trust in God, despite our weariness and burdens. When we reach beyond ourselves, we discover that God's rest is found not in ease, but in love that moves. Jesus reveals the heart of God as a place for rest for the weary and burdened; he does not promise a life without burdens, but he offers a different way of carrying them by learning from him who is gentle and humble of heart.

Therefore, brothers and sisters in Christ, let us respond to this invitation of our Lord. To learn from Him, to choose humility over pride, to practice gentleness over hatred and to love more, so that we reflect the true face of God to others. Let us approach our God with faith, a faith that demands no reward but begs the grace of God.



From the Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission this week: God's presence offers light and life for all. The city is a new Eden, with its living water offered to the thirsty and its tree of life whose leaves are for the healing of nations. (Rev 22:2). As we await its fulfilment, this vision is set before us as an encouragement – a call to overcome our divisions and to work together – for this is the way of Jesus Christ, yesterday, today and forever.' *Pope XIV Magnifica Humanitas #242*

Action: In what ways is this vision encouraging you to overcome divisions and work with others for healing our common home?

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>

Flashes of Insights is a weekly news source about the Catholic Church. It is worth reading. Click the link <https://flashesinsight.com/>. And there are weekly reflections for you to ponder.

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 June
5th July	Miha Maori	Miha Maori	Pat Whittle	Suzanne & Mike	Judy
12 July	Kokoro & Duncan	Seuga, Molly & Mary Elizabeth	Noreen	Josie & Phil	Judy

Church Cleaners

Date	Mother Church	Main Church
29th June -4th July	Miriam	St Peter Chanel School
6th -11th July	Jill & John	Duncan & Marie

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 10 am: The Word & Communion.

There will be no service on **Tuesday 7 July** owing to electrical work taking place.

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: Zechariah 9: 9-10

Psalm 154

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 9, 11, 13

Gospel: Matthew 11: 25 -30

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.

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**](#)

"I want to thank the entire Saint Mary's community of Pukekaraka marae. You have been angels praying for my healing, and supporting Mary and I. I shall ever be grateful. Thank you so much. Your sister in Christ. Blessings, Ann-Marie Stapp"

We remember: Ellen (Ellie) Mullan Annv 1st July. Ellie worked hard for Kuku Church. She cleaned the church, mowed the lawns, and took Father home to breakfast. All this despite having six small children. She died at a young age; may she know eternal rest.

There is no Service on Tuesday as there will be no power in the church owing to electrical work on the street.

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 Pukekarakā, 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.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Lynda Mc Sorely, Linda De Lorenzo, Fr Peter Fahy, 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, Maurice Chaney 7.6.26, Whatarangi Winiata 3/6/26. *"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 Pukekarakā1@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.

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.

