



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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 6.9.26. 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 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: *"Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."* (Matthew 18:18)

Happy Father's Day to all our fathers! We pray that God the Father will fill you with every grace so that you may teach, bless, and lead your children with the same love that God the Father has for all of us.

God the Father has sent His Son into the world to bring back to Him all His scattered children. While we have turned away from Him, God's love for us has never ceased.

Through His Son, God the Father has constantly come after us and pleaded with us to turn back to Him. Jesus has included Peter and the apostles and all believers in His ministry of preaching repentance to everyone.

Yet we do not always want to repent, at least not right away. Like Peter, our repentance is often gradual. Some, however, knowingly and freely choose to continue to reject God by clinging to an immoral and self-destructive way of life. They are the focus of our Lord's message today.

God's message of repentance must be preached to them consistently. Their salvation is paramount to our Lord and to us. We must at first try individually and if they do not repent, must try again with the help of two or three others, and if they still do not repent, try again with the help of the church leaders, and if they do not repent still, the church leaders are to excommunicate them.

Excommunication is a medicinal punishment that is meant to awaken the unrepentant sinner to repentance. Excommunication is not the final judgement on any soul. We pray with eager hope for their repentance and their return to God and to His church.

Our hope is in the Crucified Lord who won back the repentant thief crucified next to Him and the centurion who pierced His Most Sacred Heart, and Peter, who repented after denying Him three times. May this hope fill The hearts of all our fathers.

From the Integral Ecology Committee: This week's quote with an action for the first Sunday of the month and the first weekend of the Season of Creation is from the Integral Ecology Committee of the Archdiocesan Ecology Justice and Peace Commission "Attacks on nature have consequences for people's lives. And to express bluntly that this is no longer a secondary or ideological question, but a drama that harms us all, the African Bishops stated that climate change makes manifest 'a tragic and striking example of structural sin'.

Pope Francis Laudate Deum #3.

Action: Given the scripture readings today, where can you, with persistence, call out the attacks on nature in your region?

Pope Leo's prayer intentions for September 2026: Pope Leo XIV invites everyone to **pray** for "the care of water" during **September** as Christians celebrate the Season of Creation. Click the link to view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LhsgE7-AJQ>

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

Sept	Proclaimers	Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters	Collectors	Linen for Sept
6th	Miha Maori	Miha Maori	Pat Whittle	Mary & Mike	Noreen
13th	Paul & Jacinta	Robyn, Jim & Molly	Noreen	Sandra & Donna	

Church Cleaners

Date	Mother Church	Main Church
Week of the 31st	Leasons	Faye Hanna
Week of the 7th	Leasons	Hato Petera Kaniera

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

We remember:

Paula Woods, 28.8.26, Aged 97 yrs. For many years she and Neil participated in our parish activities, and she was always ready to help when work was required.

Fr Wiremu Te Awhitu sm, 29.8.1975. 1st Maori priest who served her 1945-46. He cared for our Mission Station with great Aroha before going back up north for the rest of his pastorate.

Fr James Durning sm, 2.9.1997. Hemi was our Maori Missioner 1935-40; he was a Te Reo Scholar who, even after he left Pukekaraka, often brought manuhiri back to our place, which he revered as most tapu or holy.

Annie Scott, Annv 3.9.2009 - worked hard for the parish. She belonged to the liturgy Committee & the choir, when we numbered some 15 members. She was most generous with flowers from her garden for the altar. She had a fantastic sense of humour and our practices were racked with laughter.

Agnes (Bubs) Broughton, Annv 4.9.2001, a kuia of the district, who remembered and observed the traditions of our church. She and her whanau lived in Te Horo, where we could go for advice.

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

"If you wish to request reconciliation, please approach the priest before or straight after Mass. If you prefer not to approach him personally, you can ask the sacristan to advise the priest you wish to see him."

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

Our Website

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

Click on the link above to go there



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: **Ezekiel 33.7-9**

Psalm: 95

2nd Reading: Romans 13: 8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

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.



Happy Father's Day to all men who have cared for children as fathers, grandfathers, uncles etc, May you all have a wonderful day

A Reflection/ Refresher gathering for Proclaimers will take place after Mass on September 20th. It is an opportunity to reflect on this ministry to which you are called - your experiences as a proclaimer, rewards, or challenges. We will talk about some practical matters and address any questions or concerns. We will have about an hour together and start 15 minutes after Mass finishes.

SEASON OF CREATION EVENT 2026: Te Awa Kairangi Prayer Walk: **Sunday, 20th September**, from Harcourt Park, Upper Hutt (8.00 am), to Pito-one Foreshore (5.45 pm). Join us for any stage, or at any of six gathering points along the way. An annual event for the Season of Creation. More details at: www.facebook.com/groups/riverprayerwalk

Ordination to the Priesthood - Congratulations to Deacon Emilio Capin, who will be ordained this Saturday, 5th September 2026, as a diocesan priest for the Wellington Archdiocese at the Sacred Heart Cathedral at 11am.

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: <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.

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: This is about promoting an environment within our faith community that 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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Debbie Allport, 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.

Okioi I runga I te rangimarie— We remember those who have died: Ray Raureti, 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 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.

