

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

19th week in Ordinary Time, 2nd August 2026
This Sunday Fr Beni will celebrate

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 we**

Fr Simi's Reflection: *During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea.*
(Matthew 14:25)

The story of our Lord Jesus walking on the sea has a special meaning for Matthew and the early church community he was writing his gospel for. The early Christian community is very unpopular and persecuted, just like they persecuted our Lord and the apostles who shepherded the very first converts.

All believers of Christ from the apostles until today are represented in this story. They are in the boat that Jesus placed them in to cross over to the other side, and the journey across the sea is life-threatening. They are enveloped in the darkness of the night and tossed about by a severe storm.

This, however, is not what terrifies them: what does is the ghostly figure of our Lord walking towards them on the stormy sea. "When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear." (Matthew 14: 26) At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." (v.27) The only one to be feared is the one who is declaring Himself as God in both word and deed in this event.

In the words, "it is I" Jesus uses the biblical pronoun for God: "I am" By the deed of walking on the sea, Jesus is declaring himself as equal to the breath of God that swept over the sea in the creation story of Genesis 1:2. We are believers in Christ and are all in the same boat that Jesus has placed us in: the Church. We are, for now, surrounded by the darkness of doubts, persecution, mortal sin and death. The One who puts us in this boat is Lord of the darkness and the sea.

Let us not fear those who criticise us, gossip about us, make fun of us or even persecute us and put us to death because of our faith in Jesus. Like Peter and the apostles, we fix our gaze of faith on Him who is walking on the sea and calling out to us: "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." Him alone we should fear and worship. It is Him alone who will get us to the other side.



From the Integral Ecology Committee Today, too, the Church is a communion of people who differ in origin, culture, abilities and responsibilities. Yet all are called to recognize themselves as “one” in Jesus Christ... From the beginning, Jesus called and gathered around himself people who would otherwise never have come to know one another. In this way, he demonstrated that God has no favourites, but instead offers his love freely, especially to the little ones or those cast aside.’ *Pope Leo XIV Angelus 26 July 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 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

Aug	Proclaimers	Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters	Collectors	Linen for Aug
8th Aug	Vyvien & Jill	John, Robyn & Molly	Pat Whittle	Phil & Josie	Judy
16th	Mike & Peter	Mike, Donna & Moya	John	Sandra & Noreen	Judy

Church Cleaners

Date	Mother Church	Main Church
3rd - 8th Aug	Barbara	Hato Petera Kaniera
10th - 15th Aug	Barbara	Marie & Duncan

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

Save the Date - Marriage Seminar: To be held on **Wednesday, 19 August**, hospitality from 6.30pm, session will start 7.00pm. Venue is at Connolly Hall, 10 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington. 'Happily Married in a Tech Obsessed World'. Explore how we can be present and nurture a healthy marriage in a world where so much demands our attention. Queries to: marriage@cadw.nz

Weekly Mass & Liturgy Times 2/8 – 8/8/26

Monday & Tuesday 10 am: The Word & Communion.

Wednesday - Friday 10 am Mass

Mass this Friday is at 11 am for the anointing 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.

=====

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

=====

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.

To sign up for Fathoming the Faith, click on the link <https://ffhttp://sthomingthefaitth.substack.com>

Sunday Readings for this week are:

1st Reading: 1 Kings 19: 9,11-13

Psalm 84

2nd Reading: Romans 9: 1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14: 22-23

Mass and the Sacrament of Anointing. Please note that in the main church this Friday, 7th August, there will be a Mass and the Sacrament of Anointing, followed by a shared lunch at 11 am. 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.

Housing Changes Lives - The home empowers, supports and nurtures people. A public Hui will be held on the 11th August at 5,30 - 7.30 at the Super Rooms, Otaki Memorial Hall, organised by Otaki Public Housing Group.

There will be representatives of the Green, Labour, National, and Opportunity Parties along with Professor Aeron Davis from the University of Victoria who will present their views for the future of affordable and sustainable housing in Kapiti, especially Otaki. Join them for a Kōrero and light refreshments.

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](#)

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.

Sacred Tides choral concert presented by FilCoro (the Wellington Filipino Choir) features liturgical arrangements and songs that evoke the changing seasons of hope. An art exhibition and auction from the Singing at Musika Art Collective will precede the evening. It will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 at the Wesley Methodist Church, 75 Taranaki Street, Te Aro. Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite.

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 to see how we can support you.

Taize meditation service every Tuesday at 7.30 pm, he in the mother church (entry via the back, through the main church). We will take breaks during school holiday. 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 have 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: 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.

Okiki I runga I te rangimarie— We remember those who have died: 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.

Living Wage Election Forum 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm start, **Wednesday, 2 September**, Naenae College, Lower Hutt. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Living Wage Movement election forum to seek tangible commitments from politicians to ensure that thousands of workers across the public sector, schools, and hospitals are paid the Living Wage. *'The Living Wage is the income necessary to provide workers and their families with the basic necessities of life. A living wage enables workers to live with dignity and to participate as active citizens in society.'* Join with Archdiocesan members, the Ecology Justice and Peace Commission, St Joseph's/St Mary of the Angels, and the Ōtari Parish Justice Peace and Development Group. For more information contact: Deirdre Meskill: d.meskill@cadw.nz

