



PUKEKARAKA, OTAKI

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.

The Church of Hāto Mere, established in 1844

30th November 2025, 1st Sunday in Advent Time, Cycle A

Our Sunday Miha Celebration is at 10.00 am

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**Fr. Beni will lead us in our celebration this Sunday,
We welcome him to our Sunday celebrations!**

Fr Simi's Reflection *"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."* (Matthew 24:44)

We begin today another new liturgical year. The message from our Lord is that we be prepared at all times for His coming, His advent. We look forward expectantly to Christ's coming at four major ways: His coming at His birth, His coming to us at the altar at every Mass, His coming to us at the moment of our death, and His coming in glory at the end of time.

These four weeks of Advent are meant to heighten our expectation of Him. It takes consistent effort to long for him with greater intensity. To carry on with life the way we always have, without any new effort to seek Him more intently, is to miss the joy of being intimate with Him. Let us then take the time to pray to our Lord to seek Him more and to love Him more.

Spending time in silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, where our Lord is already present, is definitely one way to increase our longing for

Him. As the refrain of the adoration hymn teaches us: “Sweet sacrament we thee adore, O make us love thee more and more.”

Confession is another sacrament where we can already increase our intimacy with our Lord. It is very humbling to bear our hearts to Him and to confess with great sorrow to Him how we have taken Him for granted and not kept His commandments to love the Father like He loves the Father, and to Love others like He loves others.

The Lord whose birth we are preparing to celebrate and whose coming In glory, what we are looking forward to is the Word of God, which speaks to us already now through Sacred Scriptures, especially at Mass. The Word who made the universe continue to recreate us by the power of His breath: the Holy Spirit.

Let us then at this season of Advent, make a special effort to spend time with our Lord through prayerful reading and reflection of the Sacred Scriptures before the Masses of this liturgical season.

Let us be mindful this Advent of the presence of our Lord in each other.

Let us be considerate of each other’s lives, joys and sorrows, hopes and fears, struggles and crosses. Everyone is carrying their cross and following Jesus, their Lord, as His disciple. Let us support one another with our prayers, kind words, gestures and a helping hand.

These are some of the ways we can be vigilant of our Lord’s presence with us now, especially at Mass. Let us make this Advent a special season of attentiveness to Him, so that when He comes we will not be caught unprepared.

Catholic Social Teaching/Pope’s Quote: ‘We share the same faith in the one and only God, the Father of all people; we confess together the one Lord and true Son of God, Jesus Christ, and the one Holy Spirit, who inspires us and impels us towards full unity and the common witness to the Gospel. Truly, what unites us is much greater than what divides us! In a world that is divided and torn apart by many conflicts, the one universal Christian community can be a sign of peace and an instrument of reconciliation, playing a decisive role in the global commitment to peace.’ Pope Leo XIV, [Apostolic Letter](#) on the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, 2025.

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, Tuesday - 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.	Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Mass, 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
30th Nov	Jill & Anni	John, Donna & Molly	Josie	Josie & Phil	Judy

The Main Church Cleaner this week is Hato Petera Kaniera Kura

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH:

Advent is Coming: 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.

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: there are just a few left 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.

Evangelii Nuntiandi – 50 years of Proclaiming the Gospel – Webinar on **Tuesday, 2 December 2025** at 7.00pm. In December 1975, St Paul VI published his landmark apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*. It identified evangelisation as the task of all Christian people, not just clergy and religious, and noted that it required both word and authentic witness. Join Bishop John Adams of Palmerston North, Catholic Enquiry Centre director Carly Mulqueen and Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College director Dr John Evangelista as they share their insights on the wisdom of the document and how it can be lived out in today's context. The event is live at 7pm on Tuesday, December 2. Look out for the information poster. Register at: <https://bit.ly/december2webinar>

Voice for Life: There is an opportunity to celebrate our families and champion life on **Saturday, 6th December, 2025**, at 12 pm at Parliament.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS THIS ADVENT: You are invited to prepare for Sunday Mass by reading and reflecting on the Scripture we will hear that weekend. Marist priest Fr Frank Bird has for several years been helping people make those preparations through his Living the Word project. As the name suggests, Living the Word is an invitation for Catholics and others to allow the Word of God to shape their lives. You can download the resources and access other rich content at www.livingtheword.org.nz/pray

ONGOING INFORMATION FOR THE PUKEKARAKA COMMUNITY

Lending each other a helping hand: At Pukekarakā, 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: Irene Mackle, Bryan Harold, Katrina Whittle, Jocelyn Bryant, Mark Bailey, Jill Randall, Tony Upham, Stephen Allport, Matthew Kerr, Ohole Taulanga, Fr David Orange, 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