

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

Sunday, 8th February 2026, the 5th Sunday in
Ordinary Time Cycle A

Fr Simi's reflection: *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden."*
(Matthew 5:14)

Having begun to teach us from the mountain top the ways of attaining the blessedness of the kingdom of heaven, our Lord Jesus proceeds to proclaim His disciples as salt of the earth and light of the world. We who come to Him on the mountain top of the Altar at every Mass are those disciples. With Peter and the apostles and all the saints, we are the salt of the earth and light of the world.

Today, our Lord Jesus wants us to know that we can lose our saltiness and hide our light. He warns us against the temptation to replace the blessedness of the kingdom of heaven with values of the world, which can seem right and attractive at first sight but are designed to slowly lead us away from the kingdom of God.

These values of the world will resemble the values of poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, mercy, hunger and thirst for justice, peacemaking, purity and persecution, but they will not be for Jesus and His kingdom, but for self-aggrandisement and worldly honour.

These are the values that our Lord says in today's gospel that must be thrown out and trampled underfoot (Matthew 5:13). How then do we guard against the temptations of worldly values that masquerade as values of the Kingdom of Heaven? St. Paul answers that question for us in today's second reading: "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and he was crucified, (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Let us seek to know and receive in ourselves faithfully, the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Crucified Lord through Whom and with Whom we are salt of the earth and light of the world. He alone has conquered sin and death in the world. He alone can save the world.

Let us seek to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. It is through the Sacraments that He reveals Himself. Let us faithfully seek Him there.

Pope Leo's prayer intentions for February 2026:

For children with incurable diseases, let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Priests, Office Administrator & Team Leaders

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Urutakai Cooper	Kura Principal, St Peter Chanel	urutakai@spc.school.nz Ph 06 364 8017.

This Sunday's Roster

8st Feb 2006	Proclaimers	Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters	Collectors	Linen for February
	Kokoro Peter	Seuga, Josie & Phil	Pat Whittle	Duncan & Marie	Stephanie

The Main Church Cleaner this week is Faye Hanna
The Mother Church - John & Jill

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
6-0821-0701736-00	03 - 1532 - 0028658 - 000	03 - 0518 - 0211216 - 003

Mass & Liturgy Times

Monday & Tuesday, 10 am: Liturgy & Communion.

Wednesday - Friday 10 am Mass

Miha Maori on the first Sunday of the month

Reconciliation by appointment, contact email Fr Simi or Beni, or Stephanie 021 253 1080 or Adam, office administrator in Levin 027 511 2474

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

Barbara Upham's Requiem Mass is at 11am

Monday 9th February

Our Website

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

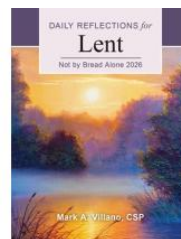
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Local News

Morning Tea this Sunday to celebrate Pa Simi's 25th Jubilee of Priesthood. Please bring finger food to share.

Ashes for Ash Wednesday - if you have last year's palm to be burnt please return it to the kete in the foyer on either of the next 2 Sundays. Thank you.

Ash Wednesday is 18th of February



Daily Reflections for Lent, Not by Bread Alone 2026, written by Fr Mark Villano, a Paulist priest from the States. It is an opportunity to Journey with Jesus in Lent. It is an easy read offering, scripture, a reflection, meditation & prayer each day. It will be available at Mass this week, and I will take orders if anyone is interested. Cost will be \$9.90 **please order by Monday the 9th Feb**

Pope Leo's Quote: *'These Beatitudes remain a paradox only for those who believe that God is other than how Christ reveals him. Those who expect the arrogant to always rule the earth are surprised by the Lord's words. Those who are accustomed to thinking that happiness belongs to the rich may believe that Jesus is deluded. However, the delusion lies precisely in the lack of faith in Christ. He is the poor man who shares his life with everyone, the meek man who perseveres in suffering, the peacemaker persecuted to death on the cross.'*

- Pope Leo XIV, [Angelus](#), 1 Feb 2026.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND THOSE

WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY

Please Pray for the Sick: Cathy Tia,, Leonie Christian, 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, gaining strength from him, during this time.



Okioki I runga I te rangimarie – We remember those who have died:

Barbara Upham

Rex Begley 21.1.26

Fr Tony Pitt, MSM 20.1.26

Bernard Story, 16.1.26

Bro Doug Darwick 12.1.25

"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 RJP

ON GOING INFORMATION

Talitha Kum Intercessory Prayer Group meets on the last Sunday of each month at St Pius X Church, 64 Te Pene Avenue, Titahi Bay.

Refreshments provided.

Stephen and Judy Bailey (0211832445)

Safety & Health

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 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. 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

Lending each other a helping hand: At Pukekaraka, 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.

Meeting 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.

