



HĀERE MAI E TE WHĀNAU, TENA KOUTOU KATOĀ, A KIA
NOHO TE ĀRIKI KI A KOUTOU. WELCOME, FAMILY;
GREETINGS TO YOU ALL. MAY THE LORD BE WITH YOU

HATO MERE OTAKI, PUKEKARAKA PANUI

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time 11.10.26.

Our Sunday Celebration is at 10 am

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. Beni's Reflection: *Brothers and sisters in Christ, last Sunday we reflected on what God is expecting of us. Today we reflect on what we do with the invitation to the wedding feast, and how we can invite those at the crossroads. On this Sunday, we also reflect on the Day of Prayer to support life. Everyone matters to God. You are unique in God's sight, as He created you in His image and likeness. Living Peace is like participating in the Wedding Feast. These readings invite us to reflect on a fundamental Christian conviction: every human person possesses an inherent,*

God-given dignity and is welcomed by God to the banquet of life. The invitation is for everyone, to come together to hold hands to seek Peace instead of War. To respond Yes to the Wedding Feast, so that everyone experiences true Peace, the Peace of God. The First Reading and Gospel are portraying the invitation which includes everyone, ALL PEOPLE. In the First Reading, God said, I will prepare a feast for ALL PEOPLE, while in the Gospel, Go to the crossroads and invite everyone you can find. This same invitation, the Church is inviting ALL PEOPLE, to seek peace, not war. We must know how to respond to the invitation, and we should help others to join the Wedding feast. Brothers and sisters, let us strive to seek peace through dialogue. Let us put on our Wedding garment, a garment of love, hope, and faith. Let us go to the banquet; let us go to the crossroads to help our brothers and sisters get their garment, so that they find true peace in their lives. Helping them to get their garment is to extend our love to them, so that they have hope and faith in God. Do we have these people living at the crossroads in Levin? Definitely yes, we have a lot of them.

As a church, we are to go beyond our comfort zone to bring Christ's Peace to them. To share our time with them, share our love with them. Therefore, as we join the Church in Aotearoa, let us strive to support life. As Catholics, let us live our lives for the service of each other, especially the needy. Let us go out with the garments to the crossroads, to give to all, so that they join the Wedding Feast and feel the True Peace of God. Let us promote Life, God's precious gift to humanity. Let us promote Peace in our way of living, in our family, our society, and especially in our Parish. Living Peace is like participating in the Wedding Feast. F

From the Integral Ecology Committee of the ADW: Please insert the paragraph item below for the Special Collection on Sunday 18 October for World Mission Sunday both for your parish newsletter this week and next week. Can you also please add to the end of that paragraph how your own parish will organise this – ie. "A second basket will be passed round for World Mission Sunday collection" or however you intend to separate this collection. Parishioners will need to be reminded to bring cash. Some of you may still use or provide envelopes for this collection? Many thanks.

Pope Leo's prayer intentions for September 2026: Pope Leo, in his prayer intention for this month, invites us to pray for mental health ministry, so that we may know how to welcome those who suffer in silence, support those who care for them, and learn to integrate mental health care into our community life as a living sign of mercy. You are not alone: by praying, you join millions of people in the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network who, from every corner of the world, pray for the challenges of humanity and the mission of the Church. Take a moment, pray with the Pope. Visit our website to live a profound experience of prayer:
Click the link to view: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rx0liPoyRLY>

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 Oct
11th	Paul & Gerry	Jim, Molly & Mary Elizabeth	Josie	Catherine & Suzanne	Stephanie
18th	Jill & Jacinta	John, Mike & Annette	Noreen	Josie & Phil	

Church Cleaners

Date	Mother Church	Main Church
Week of the 12th	Mary Colman	Hato Petera Kaniera
Week of the 19th	Mary Colman	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

Silence in the Mass – "Christ himself is present in his word, since it is he who speaks when Scripture is read in Church." (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 24). In recognising this, we will be introducing a pause after each of the 1st and 2nd readings to give us the opportunity to reflect on what Christ is saying to us in an idea, word, or phrase that caught our attention. The organist and choir will continue to sing the Psalm and Alleluia that follow the readings, so be aware that the silence is part of the plan.

Support Life Sunday, 11th October - reminds us not only of the dignity of all life from conception to the grave, but this year has the theme of "Living Peace." It reminds us that peace is at the heart of the Gospel and highlights the consequences of war on the dignity of God's creation, including the deaths of innocent people; the displacement of communities and separation of families; and the destruction of the earth and ecosystems. It also highlights the rapid development of AI and its impact on the nature of conflict. A greater understanding of this issue can be found in the Bishop's statement - Te Kahu o te Ora, A Consistent Ethic of Life -

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uhCZyClAGHS8DZJ7Rlq72YhLqBQGSCpP>

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 is available 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."*

NB: A Requiem Mass will replace the usual Mass/Word & Communion of the day.

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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Fr Simi will be taking annual leave from 28 Sept to 26 October. Pa Peter and Pa Phil will be taking care of all the Sunday Masses in Otaki for October, while Pa Beni will do the same in Levin. Weekday Mass will be Wed & Thurs.

Sunday Readings for this week are:

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a

Psalm: 23

2nd Reading: Philippians 4: 12.14 & 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22: 1 - 14

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.

EXALT: CHRIST THE KING 2026. You are warmly invited to **EXALT: Christ the King**, a National Worship Event to be held in Wellington on **Saturday, 21 November 2026**, from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm at Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Hill Street, Wellington. This special day will bring together people from across New Zealand for worship, Holy Mass, prayer, and fellowship as we honour Christ our King and pray for our nation. Please keep the date free and join us for this special national gathering of worship and prayer for New Zealand. The Mass Presider will be Archbishop Paul Martin. Registration is not required. For more information, contact Lislie on Ph. 0273476327 or email: currentofgracewellington@gmail.com (Supported by CHARIS NZ). Please refer to the poster attached or displayed on your parish noticeboard.

God's Word 2027, daily readings, If you wish to purchase a copy, please let Stephanie know as soon as possible please as I wish to place an order as soon as possible. They are selling for \$29.99 and + cost of courier, shared among those who order.

The Columban Calendars are here and will be available on Sunday; Cost is \$15 Passionist **Passi**

Passionist Family Group Members are invited to join the Groups from Levin for a formation time after Sunday Mass and Morning Tea on the 1st November here at Pukekaraka. Everyone is welcome.

An interview with Fr. Ronald Rohlheiser 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-a-ging-and-letting-go/>

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.

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 everyone's dignity, 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.

Vincentian Foundation for the Elderly can give assistance with hearing aids. For more details, click below:
<https://www.vinnies-wellington.org.nz/vincentian-foundation>

Welcome Link for September 2026, just click the link.
<https://cadw.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/WelCom-Issue-14-September-2026.pdf>

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Irene Mackle, Joy Andersen, Tom Ryan, 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.

Okioki I runga I te rangimarie— We remember those who have died: Richard Gibbs, Cecilia Gotama, Stephen Kerr, Peter Hakaraia, Paul McLeod, Peter Rawnsley, *"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*

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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 safety & health, bring them to our attention. Contact Stephanie at 021 253 1080, or email her.

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