

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

15th week in Ordinary Time, 12th July 2026,
This Sunday will be celebrated by Fr Simi

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 well."**

Fr Simi's Reflection: "Whoever has ears ought to hear." (Matthew 13:9)

Last Sunday we reflected on how our Lord has received all authority in heaven and on earth from His Father to reveal His Father to those whom He chooses. We saw how He has chosen to share this authority with His apostles to reveal Him as the only way to the Father. It is with the Father and the Son that we will find the happiness every human soul seeks.

This Sunday He speaks to us as recipients of the proclamation of His words that reveal Him and the Father to us. Our hearing is also essential. His authority to reveal the Father must be received freely with our hearing of that revelation. He emphasises this with a simple phrase: "Whoever has ears ought to hear." Our Lord highlights for us that the revelation of His Father comes through Him and His apostles, and we must be careful not to reject His authority that comes to us through His bishops in communion with the Holy Father, the successor of Peter.

We cannot undermine our hearing and discernment and acceptance of their teachings about our Lord with any of our own concerns and worries. We do not reject the bishops and the Pope because we feel we know better and want to take matters into our own hands. To do this is to eject ourselves from the only One who has the authority and power to save us and the world. Let us persevere in our listening and obeying our Holy Father, and his brother bishops whom the Son has chosen to reveal Him. Let us continue to sow the seeds of Christ's teaching in communion with them and never apart from them. Let us pray for the grace of Jesus' own meekness and humility. He is the perfect listener and obedient Son of the Father.



From the Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission this week: A rather unusual sower goes out to sow, but does not care where the seed falls... God is confident and hopes that sooner or later the seed will blossom. This is how he loves us: he does not wait for us to become the best soil, but he always generously gives us his word. Perhaps by seeing that he trusts us, the desire to be better soil will be kindled in us. This is hope, founded on the rock of God's generosity and mercy.'

Pope Leo XIV General Audience, 21 May 2025

Pope Leo's prayer intentions for July 2026: Human life is a sacred gift that merits to be welcomed, protected and cared for in all its stages. Nevertheless, indifference, exclusion and violence threatening the dignity of the person, especially those who are particularly vulnerable, persists in many parts of the world. When respect for life diminishes, the throwaway culture grows, leaving many without the care, support and recognition they need. Click on the link below to watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMPPrZdo95Us>

Flashes of Insights is a weekly news source about the Catholic Church. It is worth reading. Click the link <https://flashesinsight.com/>. And there are weekly reflections for you to ponder.

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

	Proclaimers	Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters	Collectors	Linen for June
12 July	Kokoro & Duncan	Seuga, Molly & Mary Elizabeth	Noreen	Josie & Phil	Judy
19 July	Jill & Zac	Moya, Jim & Robin	Josie	Bede & Donna	

Church Cleaners

Date	Mother Church	Main Church
6th -11th July	Jill & John	Duncan & Marie
13th - 18th July	Jill & John	Raureti Family

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

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 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.

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Our Website

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

Click on the link above to go there

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Te Kura o Hato Petera Kaniera

Principal: Urutakai Cooper

Website: <https://www.spc.school.nz/>

The school bank account name & number is:
ST PETER CANNEL BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANZ
01-0731-0239955-01

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For the Daily Readings of the Church,
click the link below

<https://universalis.com/nz/1200/mass.htm>

Click on the dates on the right side of the page for
The day you want.

Sunday Readings for this week are:

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalm 64:1 -14

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 18-23

Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-23

Taize meditation service; every Tuesday at 7.30 pm, held in the mother church (entry through the back via the main church). We will take breaks during school holidays. All are welcome to join.

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**](#)

Pat McCarthy, former editor of NZ Catholic newspaper, has just launched an online publication looking at Catholic beliefs and practices. Ever wondered how the Last Supper evolved into today's Mass? Or the purpose of church music? Is there an algorithm for a successful marriage? Does spirituality without religion make sense? Should we take the Bible literally? Go to <https://fathomingthefaitth.substack.com> (it's FREE).

Can you help? Helen & Chris Gerretzen are looking for a new home to rent. After 21 years, the owner wishes to sell the house they have been living in. They are looking for a 1 -2 bedroom home, either in Otaki or Levin. Contact Helen if you can help; on 022 3925118 -

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.

Lending each other a helping hand: At Pukekaraka, we can help if you need transport to Mass or extra support 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.

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 - Key Quote from Pope Leo XIV on Safeguarding: A Church-wide "culture of safeguarding"
"[The Commission] promotes and accompanies with dedication the growth of the whole Church in the culture of protection." *Message supporting the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, 2025.*
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.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: 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 and whose anniversary occurs at this time: Jocelyn Bryant 22.6.26, Maurice Chaney 7.6.26, Whatarangi Winiata 3/6/26. *"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.

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.

