

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

17th week in Ordinary Time, 26th 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: " *The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*" (Matthew 13:44)

While it is the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, today is also the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly as the church remembers and celebrates on 26 July each year the memorial of Joachim and Ann, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandparents of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Second Person of the Holy Trinity shared in our humanity when He was conceived in the immaculate womb of His mother, Mary. The Holy Trinity chose the elderly and childless couple, Joachim and Ann, to conceive, bear and raise the baby girl who will become the mother of God. Joachim and Ann lived with the pain and the shame of being barren. Tradition has it that the temple in Jerusalem refused to accept the offerings of Joachim because they deemed him and Ann as cursed and punished by God to have no children.

This is a central part of the great mystery of God's saving love for humanity. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity chooses from all eternity Joachim and Ann to be His grandparents. He chose an elderly couple who cried to Him with their pain of being barren to bear for Him His mother.

It is in the womb of Ann that God purified from original sin the baby girl who will be full of grace and whose love for God will be pure. Joachim and Ann will raise a sinless girl to become the mother of the Saviour of the world. Their pain turns to joy and their shame to honour. In the weakness of old age, Joachim and Ann brought forth into a sinful world the sinless girl who will become the Mother of God.

This is the joy and thanksgiving with which we celebrate all the elderly and grandparents of the world. From God's own love for Joachim and Ann comes our love and care for our elderly and grandparents.



From the Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission this week: “If you truly want to encounter the Risen Lord, then listen to his word, which is the Gospel of salvation. Reflect on your way of living, and seek justice in order to build a more humane world.’

Pope Leo XIV Prayer Vigil with Young People 2 August 2025

Pope Leo’s prayer intentions for July 2026: Human life is a sacred gift that merits being 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, persist 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>

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 July
26 July	Paul & Gerry	Donna, Mike Mary Elizabeth	John	Suzanne & Mike	Judy
2nd Aug	Miha Maori	To Advise	To advise	To advise	Judy

Church Cleaners

Date	Mother Church	Main Church
20 - 15 July	Mary	Donna
27 - 1st Aug	Mary	Faye

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 CHANEL BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ANZ 01-0731-0239955-01

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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://sthomingtonthefaith.substack.com>

Sunday Readings for this week are:

1st Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

Psalm 118

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52

Mass and the Sacrament of Anointing. Please note that **this will now be held in the main church on Friday, 7th August and will be followed by a shared lunch.** (Fr Simii and Fr Beni are in Wellington for a clergy gathering on Friday 31st July). The Mass and Anointing will be at 11 am and therefore replaces the usual 10 am Mass. All are welcome. If you know of anyone who might need transport, please let Stephanie know - 021 253 1080 or MarMary-Elizabeth - 021 595 695.

6th World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly is celebrated worldwide this Sunday. The theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV is "I will never forget you" (Is 49:15) to remind us that God's unwavering love is the ultimate answer to the isolation and neglect often experienced by the elderly. It brings comfort and hope, assuring us that the Lord knows each of us personally, forgets no one, and loves us unconditionally, even through the frailties of old age. A message from the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life, "invites the elderly to celebrate the *Day* in the joy of feeling like children loved by God, and emphasises that "rediscovering oneself as a child at every age is a call for all the elderly to deepen their vocation and to feel—in every season of life—that they are living members of the Christian community and co-responsible for its mission".

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.

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, 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.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: 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 and whose anniversary occurs at this time: 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.

