

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

18th week in Ordinary Time, 2nd August 2026

This Sunday will be Miha Maori

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 we**

Fr Beni's Reflection: *GIVE THEM SOME FOOD YOURSELVES*

The readings are inviting us to trust in God's generosity and love. When we feel small or inadequate in the face of life's challenges, we are called, just like the disciples, to present ourselves and our resources to Christ. God's generosity and love should be shown in our lives. Give what you have, give the gift of yourself, and be generous to one another.

God invites us to learn from Him — to place our trust in His providence even when we feel we have little. The Lord does not ask for abundance; He asks for faith. When we give from the heart, even the smallest offering becomes great in His hands. He simply tells us, "Give them some food yourselves."

Furthermore, this reminds us that great things happen when God mixes with us. True faith is not only about hearing His word but living it — allowing His love to shape our actions and transform our hearts. Paul reminds us that no one can separate us from the love of God. He loves us, and He wants us to love one another; that is why he told his disciples, "Give them some food yourselves."

Giving is not about being famous, but witnessing the love and generosity of God. We may not be perfect in providing and giving, but our willingness will determine the fruit of our generosity. Like the disciples, they had little, but through their willingness, the miracles of multiplication of loaves took place. Small gifts they had, but God transformed them into abundance for others. What a beautiful gift, from little to greatness. Let the words of Jesus, "Give them some food yourselves," be alive in ourselves.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us give wholeheartedly, with faith in God. Let us reflect on the word "*them*" — it calls us to widen our circle of love and care, not only to our families, not only to our communities, not only to our fellow Catholics, but to all people.

Let us ponder the word "*some*." It reminds us of our human limitations, yet also of our trust in divine providence. We may not have everything, but we can give *what we have* — and when we do so with faith, the Lord will provide and multiply our offering. Let us give not only what we have, but who we are, our time, our compassion, our presence, and our love. In doing so, we become living witnesses of God's generosity and grace.



From the Integral Ecology Committee of the Archdiocesan Ecology Justice and Peace Commission:
 "...We know that approximately a third of all food produced is discarded, and "whenever food is thrown out it is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor" This week's quote: *Pope Francis, Laudato Si', # 50*
Action: What unnecessary consumption do we minimise - use of AI, energy, water? What extra "good gifts" - "Eucharist", may be gathered up, offered and sent to others, so all can "come and eat" and have life?

Pope Leo's prayer intentions for August 2026: For evangelisation in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

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
2nd Aug	Miha Maori	To Advise	To advise	To advise	Judy
8th Aug	To be advised	As above	As above	As above	Judy

Church Cleaners

Date	Mother Church	Main Church
27 - 1st Aug	Mary	Faye
3rd - 8th Aug	Mary	Hato Petera Kaniera

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

"Sacred Tides" choral concert presented by FilCoro (the Wellington Filipino Choir) features liturgical arrangements and songs that evoke the changing seasons of hope. An art exhibition and auction from the Singing at Musika Art Collective will precede the evening. It will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 at the Wesley Methodist Church, 75 Taranaki Street, Te Aro. Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite.

Weekly Mass & Liturgy Times 2/8 – 8/8/26

Monday & Tuesday 10 am: The Word & Communion.

Wednesday - Friday 10 am Mass

Mass this Friday is at 11 am for the anointing 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://sthomingthefaith.substack.com>

Sunday Readings for this week are:

1st Reading: *Isaiah 55:1-3*

Psalm 144

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 35, 37-39

spel: Matthew 14:13-21

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 Simi 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 Mary-Elizabeth - 021 595 695.

Housing Changes Lives - The home empowers, supports and nurtures people. A public Hui will be held on the 11th August at 5,30 - 7.30 at the Super Rooms, Otaki Memorial Hall, organised by Otaki Public Housing Group. There will be representatives of the Green, Labour, National, and Opportunity Parties along with Professor Aeron Davis from the University of Victoria who will present their views for the future of affordable and sustainable housing in Kapiti, especially Otaki. Join them for a Kōrero and light refreshments.

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.

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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.

Hope for the World International Conference on Life, Faith and Family - Friday 25 to Sunday 27 September. In Christ we can restore a culture where every life is protected from conception to natural death, and where marriage and the family are again seen as truly good for healthy, flourishing individuals and society. Join us in Auckland to hear inspiring local and international speakers.

Find out more and register here:

<https://fli.org.nz/prolifeconference2026/> Register before Thursday 20 August to enter a draw to win a beautiful statue of the Holy Family. Enquiries to Simon Archer: 021 400 729 | simon@fli.org.nz

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.

