



PUKEKARAKA, OTAKI

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.

The Church of Hāto Mere, established in 1844

7th December 2025, 2nd Sunday in Advent Time, Cycle A

Our Sunday Miha Celebration is at 10.00 am

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Miha Maori lead by the Marist Priests

Fr Simi's Reflection: *Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. Mathew 3:8*

We saw last Sunday, how our Lord told us to be always prepared for His coming for
We don't know the hour. This Sunday, our Lord sends us St. John the Baptist to remind us
how to prepare.

John the Baptist knew that the Lord is the Judge to whom all people will give an
account. John knew that the Messiah whose coming He was preparing the people for is
the sinless One against whom all our lives are measured.

Indeed, all of creation will be subject to the glory and majesty of His divine life and
the whole cosmos will be transformed by Him into a new heaven and a new earth, free
from all corruption and decay. This is the coming wrath John knows that the Messiah's
coming will subject all of us to.

The Lord's second coming is God's wrath against sin and death. He despises sin
and death because it separates us from Him. Sin and death will come to an end because it
offends the heart of an all loving Father. He does not want to lose any of His children.

It therefore is very urgent for us to also despise sin and death. We must always
seek to be reconciled to the Father and stay reconciled with Him through His Son in the
Spirit. This is the spirit with which John the Baptist is vehemently preaching today.

We therefore must never ever try to rationalise or justify any sin that we may be committing and therefore say, "God loves me and He will always forgive me, therefore it is ok if I delay my repentance and conversion."

This attitude is dangerous for our souls because it only reinforces the addiction we have to sin and diminish our love for God. When we do this, we are saying that God is not all that important to me; my pleasure in this or that sin is.

Let us therefore strive to produce good fruit as evidence of our repentance. Let us make the necessary changes in our choices and lifestyle to show that our love for God is more important than any other sinful pleasures that we may be making excuses to keep. Let us ask our Lord to shine His light on our own consciences and make us see the sinful pleasures that we may be unwilling to let go of. Let us ask Him to show us how we can love Him more and to love Him above all things.

Catholic Social Teaching/Pope's Quote: 'It is only by returning to the heart that a true ecological conversion can take place. We must shift from collecting data to caring; and from environmental discourse to an ecological conversion that transforms both personal and communal lifestyles. For believers, this conversion is in fact no different to the one that orients us towards the living God. We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures. Nor can we call ourselves disciples of Jesus Christ without participating in his outlook on creation and his care for all that is fragile and wounded.'

Pope Leo XIV, ["Raising Hope" Conference on the Tenth Anniversary of the Encyclical Laudato Si'](#)
1 Oct 2025

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR December 2025: In December let us pray with Pope Leo for Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, to be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Next weeks Timetable

NB: All weekday services will take place in the New Church until further notice

- Monday and Tuesday - The Word & Communion at 10:00 am in the Main Church. - The rosary is recited Mon - Fri. before the morning service. See Zoe for further details.	Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Mass, 10 am in the Main Church
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Exposition takes place on the last Saturday of the month, between 9 am and 11 am, in the main church, organised by the Marist Fathers.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available by appointment by contacting Stephanie, the office administrator at Otaki (021 253 1080) or Bridget at Levin (027 511 2474) or by emailing Fr Simi at pasimi.otaki@gmail.com

This Sunday's Roster

	Proclaimers	Eucharistic Ministers	Greeters	Collectors	Linen for December
30th Nov	Miha Maori	Miha Maori	John Craven	Donna & Duncan	Robyn

The Main Church Cleaner this week is the Raureti Whanau

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH:

St Vinnes de Paul Christmas Cards are available, see Stephanie \$5 for a Pkt of 5 cards.

Combined Churches Carol Service A

At Rangiātea, 33 Te Rauparaha Street, Ōtaki

On Sunday, 14 Dec 2025

Time 4-5.20pm.

Children's Books: There have been some beautiful children's books made available to the Community by Michele Ness, who is the author. They would make great stocking fillers for Christmas. Suitable for children from 7 years up. A Koha to St Vincent de Paul would be appreciated. They will be at church this Sunday. See Gerry

Safety & Health Notice: Please be aware of your safety when visiting Pukekaraka during the maintenance and repainting of the roof of the Mother Church (old church), **particularly** when scaffolding is in place and while repairs and painting are underway. It will remain for approximately 3 weeks or so, depending on the state of the roof. Care will need to be taken when walking alongside the church. Weekday Mass & liturgy will be in the main church during this time.

2026 Coloumban Calendars: there are just a few left now, for \$16 from Stephanie.

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

Action for Advent: When you buy gifts or prepare for celebrations, choose only what is truly needed. Prioritise local and fair trade, and choose what is made with respect for both people and the Earth.

Find more inspiration and action at Laudato Si' Movement Advent resources:

<https://laudatosimovement.org/advent-2025>

CATHOLIC KIWI PODCAST: This week's podcast is with the Archbishop of Wellington. Search "Catholic Kiwi Podcast" on YouTube or Spotify.

Voice for Life: There is an opportunity to celebrate our families and champion life on **Saturday, 6th December, 2025**, at 12 pm at Parliament.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS THIS ADVENT: You are invited to prepare for Sunday Mass by reading and reflecting on the Scripture we will hear that weekend. Marist priest Fr Frank Bird has for several years been helping people make those preparations through his Living the Word project. As the name suggests, Living the Word is an invitation for Catholics and others to allow the Word of God to shape their lives. You can download the resources and access other rich content at www.livingtheword.org.nz/pray **Highly recommended.**

Save the Date - St Valentine's Day Mass 2026: Saturday, 14 February 2026, Mass at 5.30pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hill Street - a special celebration for married couples.

ONGOING INFORMATION FOR THE PUKEKARAKA COMMUNITY

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.

Notices for the newsletter: Please send to Pukekaraka1@gmail.com before Thursday at 9 am each week to meet the deadline for Friday's newsletter. Thank you.

Bank Account details for the following:

SAINTS MARY PARISH OF OTAKI in capital letters	St Vincent de Paul	Caritas
06-0821-0701736-00	03 - 1532 - 0028658 - 000	03 - 0518 - 0211216 - 003

Meetings 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.

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.

Safety & Health Matters

Please 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 pukekaraka1@gmail.com

Please Pray for the Sick: 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, and gain strength from him, during this time.



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

Those whose anniversary occurs at this time, and those who have passed away recently:

Winfred Clegg, Mia Kneepkins, whose 1st anniversary occurs this Sunday the 7th Dec

“We have an everlasting home in heaven” - 2 Corinthians 5:1, May they RIP