



## CALLED, GIFTED, SENT FORTH

*We, the people of God, led and inspired by the Holy Spirit, fed by the Word and the Eucharist, strive to share our faith and live our lives daily as disciples of Christ.*

### REFLECTION

Our Lenten journey begins its 5<sup>th</sup> week. The readings continue to call us to focus on the mystery of our redemption through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the last two Sundays, our attention has focused around two very important themes or symbols. First, *"I am the living water"*, Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman. Second, *"I am the light of the world"*, Jesus' encounter with the man born blind. This Sunday *"I am the resurrection and the life"*, Jesus' encounter with the family of Lazarus.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, through the voice of Ezekiel, God announces a new "exodus" to the people of Judah, exiled in a foreign land, desperate and without a future, a new life. *"I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel"*. God promises a new life for His people. This new life is not only a promise of restoration but also of spiritual renewal, in which God Himself will be the one who will restore and renew the life of His people.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, Paul speaks of the spirit that gives life. As baptized persons we no longer live only for us, but we are linked to the *"body of Christ"*. Life marked by the Spirit is the life of those who have been renewed by Jesus Christ. Those who have chosen Christ and who live in the Spirit belong to God and are part of God's family. They are destined for eternal life, for a full and new life.

John's Gospel presents Jesus as *"the resurrection and the life"* through His encounter with the family of Lazarus who are experiencing profound grief for the illness and death of a loved one. It reminds us that Jesus came to meet us and to offer us a life that will liberate us from the bondage of suffering and death. For those who are willing to embrace this life, Jesus assures them: ***"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die"***.

Fr Akuila

22 MARCH 2026

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

Ezekiel 37: 12-14; Romans 8:8-11; Gospel John 11:1-45

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Email:holyspiritparish41@gmail.com Website: www.holyspirit.nz

***This Parish is administered by the Divine Word Missionaries, SVD***



## Responsorial Psalm

*With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.*

*Mass has been offered for*



### OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

*Tuainekore (Pio) Taae Moeau,*

*Maura Healy née Curran (Éire)*

**May they rest in God's eternal peace.**



### ANNIVERSARIES

*Ken Pettit, Stephen Howard, Anika Stephen-De Sousa, Gerald Haines, Mieczyslaw Piotr Czudaj, Margaret Ann (Rita) O'Donovan, Margaret Barrance.*

**Eternal Rest grant to them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.**

**May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace.**

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

*Saoleititi Joe Taito, Dorothy Niven, Hira Lal, Gerard Mangan, Fr David Orange,*

*Tali Sua, Lidwina Gomez, Cathreen Faaeteete,*

*Fialauia Rose Tamasese, Delia Imperial, Mike Loader.*

**Please remember these and others in the parish who are ill.**

**If you know of anyone confined to their home or who needs a visit with Holy Communion, please contact the office 04 971 7885.**

### Parish Notices

#### PARISH NEWSLETTER:

Newsletter items must be into the parish office by **Wednesday 12 noon** at the latest for Thursday publication. Email: [holyspiritparish41@gmail.com](mailto:holyspiritparish41@gmail.com) or phone us on **04 971 7885**.

#### OCIA:

**We pray for the candidates and Catechumens, especially those in our parish, who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation and entry into the Church this Easter.**

**May Your Holy Spirit guide their hearts and strengthen their faith, and surround them with a community that reflects Your compassion.**

**Help us, as their brothers and sisters in Christ, to support them with prayer, encouragement, and example.**



#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT:

7:00pm – Sacred Heart Church Petone

7:00pm – St Patrick's Church Wainuiomata

7:30pm – Our Lady of the Rosary Waiwhetu

#### LENTEN RECONCILIATION:

**St Patrick's Wainuiomata - Wednesday, 25 March, 6:30pm  
(No Mass)**

**Sacred Heart Petone - Thursday, 26 March, 6:30pm  
(No Mass)**



**BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION** is held every **first Thursday of the month in the Church Foyer, 7:00pm, Sacred Heart Church 41 Britannia St. Petone.**

Parents wishing to have their child baptized are invited to attend. If you wish to attend the session please register by contacting the Parish Office at 971 7885. Numbers are limited per session.

**Please Note: There is NO Baptism Preparation in April due to Holy Week.**



#### **BAPTISM:**

Baptism dates: 12 and 26 April, 10 and 24 May at Sacred Heart Church, Petone usually at 11:30am but will advise if time changes.

#### **EASTER CAKE RAFFLE:**

The Sacred Heart Church Community Petone, Hall Fundraising Easter Cake Raffle on sale after Mass this Sunday 22 March 2026.

#### **OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY SCHOOL SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME:**

The Our Lady of the Rosary School Sacramental Programme for 2026 is for children Year 4 and up. If you are not at Our Lady of the Rosary School and your child is already baptised, and would like them to complete the Sacramental Programme, please contact the school office (5663258) or email Sarah Saunders at [sarahs@olr.school.nz](mailto:sarahs@olr.school.nz)

#### **OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY SCHOOL ENROLMENTS:**

**Enrolments for 2027** close on 31st August 2026. If your child is turning 5 years old in 2027 and you are planning to enrol your child at OLRS, please pop in to the school office to collect an enrolment form. If you do not have a child currently attending OLRS and would like to enrol your child for 2027, please contact us to make an appointment on 045663258 or [admin@olr.school.nz](mailto:admin@olr.school.nz)

**WEEKLY COLLECTION: 15 March 2026 - \$1,898.00.** This amount does not include Automatic Payments.

Total Automatic Payments for last month (February) - **\$14,335.50**

**Thank you for your support.**

#### **BISHOPS LENTEN APPEAL:**

The theme for the Lent appeal in 2026 is **Hear the Voice, Answer the Call – Whakarongo ki te reo, Whakahokia te karanga.**

Your generous support enables Caritas to help poor and marginalised communities around the world. Donations can be made directly through the Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand website <https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give>. Freepost envelopes are available in our parish communities throughout Lent. Please take an envelope if you prefer to give this way.

**All funds received by Sunday 29 March 2026 will be processed as part of the 2025/26 tax year. Donations received after this time will be processed as part of the 2026/27 tax year.**

For more information, email: [caritas@caritas.org.nz](mailto:caritas@caritas.org.nz) or call **0800 22 10 22**

#### **EMAIL ADDRESSES:**

The Parish is sending out updates and information on what's happening through emails provided to the parish. Please advise the Parish Office if you would like to provide your email or change your email address. You can unsubscribe at any time. Thank you.

#### **REMINDER – CHURCH BOOKINGS:**

Please be reminded that a **booking is required** (phone the office at 971 7885) for those who wish to use any of our parish churches for any reason. This is important for security reasons.

## ADORATION IN CHURCH:

Our Lady of the Rosary will have adoration for 1/2 an hour after the 9.30 am Mass on Friday.



## CHURCH PARKING:

In **Petone**, it is requested that whoever is the **last** to leave the school parking area on Sundays, to kindly close the school gate before leaving and **Please do not park on the turf at the school. This causes damage.**

We appreciate and are grateful that the school allows us to use their grounds/facilities during weekends.

In **Wainuiomata**, please park only in allocated parking areas and not across our neighbours driveways.

**Also, please do not block other cars already parked.**

Be respectful and considerate of others and the environment in all four parish church communities.

Many thanks.

## Other Notices

**HOLY HOUR for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.** JOIN US for an hour of adoration, reflection and prayer that the Lord may send more workers to the harvest! 7.30-8.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon on **Tuesday, 24th March** and every 4th Tuesday of the month.

**HOLY WEEK REFLECTION** - Take time and space to enter the spirit of Holy Week with a guided day of prayer and reflection. **Saturday, 28 March** 9.00am-3.15pm. Presenters: Neil Vaney SM, Chris Skinner SM and Judith Moroney rsm.

Pā Maria. 78 Hobson St, Thorndon, Wellington 6011

Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. Entry by koha. Maximum of 20 people so please RSVP by Tuesday 24 March to [pamariabookings@gmail.com](mailto:pamariabookings@gmail.com)

**CHRISM MASS:** Wednesday, April 1st 7:30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon.

## HELP US TO HELP OTHERS !

Please donate quality furniture and household items to support the Society of St Vincent de Paul Petone shop which helps the most vulnerable in our community.

Drop off items to the shop at 316 Jackson Street Petone or call (04) 568 6408 for collection.



## READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

### March

**23** Dan 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62;

Jn 8: 1-11

**24** Num 21: 4-9; Jn 8: 21-30

**25** Is 7: 10-14, 8:10; Lk 1: 26-38

**26** Gen 17: 3-9; Jn 8: 51-59

**27** Jer 20: 10-13; Jn 10: 31-42

**28** Ezek 37: 21-28; Jn 11: 45-56

## NEXT WEEK: PALM SUNDAY

### First Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.*

### Second Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11

*He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.*

### Gospel: Matthew 26: 14-27

*The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.*

