THE PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Te Wairua Tapu

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.

The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time calls us to deepen our commitment to justice and compassion, reflecting the spirit of our diocese's call to pray for "social justice" and "care for creation" inspired by Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'*, promulgated on June 18, 2015. As followers of Christ, we are entrusted with the mission to build a world where dignity, fairness, and respect for all life flourish. This Sunday's readings inspire us to be vigilant watchmen for one another and stewards of God's creation, fostering communities rooted in love and responsibility.

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation originated from an ancient Eastern Orthodox tradition, first celebrated on September 1, 1989. Then, on June 18, 2015, Pope Francis issued the encyclical "Laudato Si", inviting the whole world to pray for our common home, means the Earth, to protect both humanity and the global environment. This means caring for God's creation. Following this, Pope Francis established the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in August 2015, which is observed each year on September 1, or on the first Sunday of September.

In the first reading from Ezekiel 33:7-9, the prophet is appointed as a watchman for the house of Israel, charged with the vital task of warning the wicked to turn from their ways. This passage reminds us that each of us shares a responsibility for the well-being of our community. If we fail to speak out against injustice or neglect to care for those in need, we become complicit in their downfall. Our faith calls us to courageous honesty and active care, standing as guardians of truth and mercy.

The second reading from Romans 13:8-10 emphasizes love as the fulfilment of the law. Paul teaches that all commandments are summed up in the command to love one another, for love does no harm to a neighbour. This message challenges us to live out our faith through concrete acts of kindness and justice, recognizing that true social harmony comes from loving service. By loving others sincerely, we uphold God's law and contribute to a just and peaceful society.

In the Gospel of Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus instructs us on the importance of reconciliation within the community. He encourages us to approach one another with humility and patience to restore relationships when conflicts arise. This teaching underscores the power of forgiveness and communal prayer in healing divisions and strengthening bonds. As a community, we are called to be instruments of peace, fostering unity through love and mutual support.

Lord, grant us the courage to be watchful and compassionate in our communities. Help us to live in love and unity, caring for one another and all of creation. Amen

Fr John Le, SVD

6 SEPTEMBER 2026
23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
Readings: Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13: 8-10; Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

41 Britannia Street, Petone, Lower Hutt 5012 Telephone: (04) 971.7885
Email:holyspiritparish41@gmail.com Website: www.holyspirit.nz
This Parish is administered by the Divine Word Missionaries, SVD

Responsorial Psalm

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts

Mass has been offered for

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Paula Wood (Waiwhetu), Dorothy Niven (Eastbourne), Palatina Perez (Petone), Edgar "Ed" Gjelstad (Waiwhetu), Gloria Barton (Wainuiomata).

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

ANNIVERSARIES

William Alfred Elstone, Niam Lam Nuan Pau, Phyllis Fitzgerald, Joseph Lowe.

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, Hira Lal, 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

SAN ANTONIO CHURCH EASTBOURNE Community Meeting

Archbishop Paul wishes to arrange a meeting with the San Antonio community at **3.00pm on Saturday 19 September** at **San Antonio Church.**

The meeting will be a chance for the Archbishop to engage with local parishioners following the feedback provided in early July on the proposal to merge two Parishes and potentially close both San Antonio and Our Lady of the Rosary Churches. Clergy, the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee will also be in attendance.

This will be an opportunity to hear directly the reasoning behind the proposal, so all Parishioners are encouraged to attend this meeting.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY CHURCH WAIWHETU Community Meeting.

Archbishop Paul wishes to arrange a meeting with the OLR Community to be held in OLR church. **Two dates have been proposed**: Tuesday 15 September 7pm or Wednesday 16 September 7pm. Fr Akuila returns on Monday 14 September.

The meeting will be a chance for the Archbishop to engage with local parishioners following the feedback provided in early July on the proposal to merge two Parishes and potentially close both San Antonio and Our Lady of the Rosary Churches. Clergy, the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee will be in attendance. This will be an opportunity to hear directly the reasoning behind the proposal, so all Parishioners are encouraged to attend this meeting.

REMINDER - PARISH NEWSLETTER: Please be reminded that Newsletter items **must** be into the parish office by **Wednesday 12 noon** at the latest for Thursday publication. Email: **holyspiritparish41@gmail.**com or phone us on **04 971 7885**

CHURCH PARKING

Please remember to park legally and considerately.

WEEKLY COLLECTION:
30 August 2026 - $2,195.70 This amount does not include Automatic Payments.
Thank you for your support. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

PLANNED GIVING TO THE PARISH:
We need our Parish community to help and support our planned giving programme to meet the challenges for our Church – to continue to provide well maintained buildings and grounds for the use of our schools and communities, provide a budget for Parish programmes and activities and support our Archdiocese.

If you would like to sign up to our Planned Giving Programme please contact the parish office on **971 7885** or email **holyspiritparish41@gmail.com** and Maria or Nilda will be happy to assist you. Any amount large or small donated regularly makes all the difference to the Parish.
Our bank account name and number is: BNZ - Holy Spirit Parish **02 0544 0049224 00**
Please put your name and your PG number as reference. You will be given a PG number when you contact the office.
For those who contribute by cash donation - Have you thought about using the envelope system or setting up an AP? You will receive a rebate of 33% of your giving at the end of the financial year. Please think about it.

REMINDER – CHURCH AND HALL BOOKINGS:
Please be reminded that a **booking is required** (phone the office at 971 7885) for those who wish to use the **Church and/or Hall** in any of our parish communities **for any reason.** This is important for security purposes.

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.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL, PETONE ENROLMENTS:
Enrolments now open for 2027 across all year levels. Enrolments close on **Monday 7th September.** Please visit the school website for more information or call the school office on 04 5686711.

FEAST OF PEÑAFRANCIA – It's that time of the year again.
On Thursday 10 September, the Filipino Bicolano Peñafrancia Group will start their **9-day Novena/Mass** in honour of their region's Patroness, **Our Lady of Peñafrancia,** here in **Sacred Heart Church Petone at 6:00pm**. There will be a daily Mass that follows the novena during the nine days.
The feast day or fiesta will be celebrated on **Saturday, 19 September, with Mass at 5:00pm at St Patrick's College Silverstream, Upper Hutt. There will be a short** procession within the grounds of the College then followed by the celebration and fellowship. Everyone welcome.
In the Philippines the highlight of this celebration is a fluvial parade with only men allowed to join in the barge/boat that carries the Statue of the Blessed Virgin normally referred to as "INA" meaning Mother. Along the route people shout "Viva la Virgen".

DIVINE MERCY
Every Wednesday at 9.30am there is Mass and Adoration followed by Divine Mercy and Rosary Prayers at Sacred Heart Church, Petone. First Wednesday of the month there is Seniors Mass at 10am. Come and join us.

ADORATION IN CHURCH:
Our Lady of the Rosary will have adoration for half an hour after the 9.30 am Mass on Fridays.

COME AND SEE:
If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning about what Catholics believe please contact Gerard Duignan 027 265 6085

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

September

7 1 Cor 5: 1-8; Lk 6: 6-11
8 Micah 5: 1-4; Mt 1: 1-16, 18-23
9 1 Cor 7: 25-31; Lk 6: 20-26
10 1 Cor 8: 1-7, 11-13; Lk 6: 27-38
11 1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-27; Lk 6: 39-42
12 1 Cor 10: 14-22; Lk 6: 43-49

NEXT WEEK: 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 27: 30 – 28: 7
Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven
Second Reading: Romans 14: 7-9
Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.
Gospel: Matthew 18: 21 - 35
I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Other Notices

TE AWA KAIRANGI PRAYER WALK: Sunday 20 September, from Harcourt Park, Upper Hutt (8am), to Pito-one Foreshore (5.45pm). Join us for any stage, or at any of six gathering points along the way. An annual event for the Season of Creation. More details at: www.facebook.com/groups/riverprayerwalk. See poster on the noticeboard.

NEW LIFE – LIFE IN THE SPIRIT PROGRAMME 2026 ("CHARIS" International Version from Rome) "CHARIS" - Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service - is the new unique service created by the express will of Pope Francis for the current of grace as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal
The **LHSHP Prayer Group (Lower Hutt & Sacred Heart Petone Prayer Group)** warmly invites you to the **New Life – Life in the Spirit Programme 2026**, a free 9-week faith formation programme designed to help you experience a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
Dates: Tuesdays, 22 September – 17 November 2026 Time: 6:30–8:30 pm
Venue: Sacred Heart Church, Petone & Online via Zoom (Hybrid)
Registration closes: 15 September 2026
Registration (Free): https://forms.gle/nQpDgKQKVPvms6eG7
For enquiries: **lhshp.prayergroup@gmail.com**
Everyone is welcome. Please invite your family and friends.

MULTICULTURAL MASS: One Faith, Many Cultures: On Mission Together.
Join us for a vibrant Multicultural Mass at the Cathedral, presided by Archbishop Paul Martin SM on **Sunday, 27 September 2026** at 2.00pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 40 Hill Street, Thorndon. Mass will be followed by a joyful fellowship of songs and shared meals. All are welcome, come and celebrate. See the display poster.

TINDALL FOUNDATION FUNDING – Applications Now Open
Parish groups, Catholic agencies, and related organisations that focus on intergenerational wellbeing are invited to apply for Tindall Foundation funding via the Archdiocesan Allocation Committee. Focus areas include parents, carers and young children, equitable access to life's essential needs, identity and social cohesion, rangatahi empowerment and pathways, and resourced communities. Please ensure your application is submitted by **Friday, 2nd October 2026**. For more information, including funding priorities and exclusions, and to download the application form, please visit: **https://cadw.nz/tindall/**

GREENSTONE DOORS is needing volunteers to meet the growing needs of our community. **Can you help us?** We are looking for Greenstone Aunties. Greenstone Aunties are compassionate volunteers who walk alongside māmā and pēpi staying at Korowai House, our maternal mental health respite home in Naenae. If you are interested in finding out more please contact Jennie at office@greenstonedoors.co.nz or 022 039 5788.