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.

This Sunday's liturgy unfolds before us like a magnificent vision of God's generosity, a vision that speaks deeply to the Church's missionary identity. At the centre of the Word of God stands a powerful and recurring image: a banquet prepared by God Himself. This is not accidental. The Scriptures use the language of the feast to describe salvation, communion, joy, and fulfilment.

In the first reading from Isaiah, we hear one of the most consoling promises in the Bible. This is not merely poetic imagery; it is theological revelation. God's plan is universal. The feast is prepared not for a select few, not for the perfect, not for the privileged, but for all peoples. Here we encounter the deepest foundation of mission. The Church does not create her missionary vocation; she receives it from the very heart of God, who desires that all humanity be gathered into His life.

Saint Paul, writing to the Philippians, reveals the interior freedom of the missionary disciple. Paul's secret is not personal strength but Christ-centred confidence. Missionary life inevitably passes through hardship and consolation, scarcity and abundance. Yet when Christ becomes the true treasure, circumstances lose their tyranny.

In the Gospel, Jesus presents the parable of the wedding banquet. Once again, the image of the feast. But now we encounter a dramatic tension: those who are invited refuse to come. The tragedy is not hostility but indifference. They are distracted, preoccupied, absorbed in their own concerns.

Yet the king does not cancel the feast. He widens the invitation. This is mission in its purest form. The Gospel moves outward. Boundaries dissolve. Unexpected guests are welcomed. Here we see the Church's missionary mandate: the invitation of God must reach all, especially those who never imagined they were included.

But the parable ends with a sobering reminder: the guest without the wedding garment. This is not about external propriety but interior transformation. God's mercy is universal, but it is never superficial. To accept the invitation is to accept conversion. Mission is not merely inclusion; it is participation in a life reshaped by grace.

Both Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV emphasize this essential balance. The Church proclaims boundless mercy and calls to genuine discipleship. The Gospel consoles, but it also transforms. Divine love welcomes us as we are, yet it never leaves us unchanged.

These readings speak directly to our lives. We are invited to the banquet. The Eucharist we celebrate is already the foretaste of Isaiah's feast. Here Christ gathers His people. Here heaven touches earth. Here gratitude becomes mission. Each Mass ends with a sending, reminding us that faith must move outward into witness. Isaiah's words become our prayer: "This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad" (Is 25:9). Mission is ultimately this rejoicing shared.

Adapted from "One in Christ, United in Mission": Meditations on the Biblical Readings of the Holy Mass for the Missionary Month October 2026.

11 OCTOBER 2026
28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
Readings: Isaiah 25: 6-10; Philippians 4:12-14.19-20; Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

41 Britannia Street, Petone, Lower Hutt 5012 Telephone: (04) 971.7885
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This Parish is administered by the Divine Word Missionaries, SVD

Responsorial Psalm

I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Mass has been offered for

OUR RECENTLY DECEASED
May they rest in God's eternal peace.

ANNIVERSARIES
Martin Holden, Derek Daken, Nive Fa'amao, Joseph Krummenacher (Snr), Rex Gibson, Margaret Elstone, Kevin Bryant, William Tom Cassidy, Bernard Sua.
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

SUPPORT LIFE SUNDAY 2026: LIVING PEACE
Each year, on the second Sunday of October, the Church in New Zealand celebrates Support Life Sunday. As the New Zealand bishops reminded us in the 2023 document, Te Kahu o te Ora: ***"We do not need to look far to recognise that our world requires a lot of healing. All around us, we experience divisions that are the result of human behaviours and institutions."***

Support Life Sunday 2026 is a time to focus on how we can better support a culture of love and life through prayer and action, with a particular emphasis this year on the need for peace in our world.

OCTOBER – MONTH OF THE ROSARY:
In observance of October as the Month of the Rosary, on **Saturday 17, 24 & 31 October,** parishioners are encouraged to pray the rosary together at Sacred Heart Church, Petone at 2:30pm.

REMINDER – CHURCH BOOKINGS:
Please be reminded that a **booking is required** (ring the office at 971 7885) for those who wish to use the Church for any reason. This is important for security reasons.

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.

CHURCH PARKING:
Please remember to park legally and considerately.

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

WEEKLY COLLECTION:
4 October 2026 - $1,460.60 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.

PARISH LITURGY TEAMS: Please note that a Meeting in preparation for our Parish Mass will be on Thursday, 29 October, 7:00pm, in Sacred Heart Church Foyer.

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION AND BAPTISM:
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. Number is limited per session.
Next Baptism Preparation is Thursday 5 November 2026.

Baptism dates: 24 October/ 8 and 22 November - Baptisms are held every second and fourth Saturday of the month at Sacred Heart Church, at 11:00am.

SPECIAL COLLECTION ON SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER:
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - We have a Special Collection coming up next **Sunday, 18 October**. **World Mission Sunday** is an annual global celebration set aside by the Catholic Church for prayer, solidarity, and financial support of missionary activities worldwide. Please support this important work, if you are able, by donating at Mass.
A second basket will be passed round for World Mission Sunday collection. If you are a member of planned giving in the parish you will have an envelope in your pack for Mission Sunday, or pick up an envelope available in all four parish communities.

PARISH NEWSLETTER:
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**

BACK TO SCHOOL:
As Term 4 of the school year begins this week we ask for God's blessings of guidance, protection, and love on the principals, teachers, staff, students and the families, of our 3 parish schools. May this term be a time of growth, kindness and joy for all.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:

October

12 Gal 4: 22-24, 26-27, 31 – 5:1

13 Gal 5: 1-6; Lk 11: 37-41

14 Gal 5: 18-25; Lk 11: 42-46

15 Eph 1: 1-10; Lk 11: 47-54

16 Eph 1: 11-14; Lk 12: 1-7

17 Eph 1: 1523; Lk 12: 8-12

NEXT WEEK: 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1.4-6

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Second Reading: Thessalonians 1: 1-5

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-21 *Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.*

Archdiocesan Notices

BISHOPS' ELECTION STATEMENT: The New Zealand bishops have published their statement for the 2026 General Election. Titled *Discerning our nation's future through a Gospel lens*, the document encourages Catholics and people of good will to consider voting as a moral and civic responsibility, not just a matter of personal preference. The bishops invite people to consider how they will cast their votes by reviewing candidates' and parties' positions across a range of key issues, and they also encourage people to pray for the country. Access the election statement at: **https://bit.ly/NZCBCElection26**

MASS TO MARK THE START OF THE CARITAS OCEANIA FORUM IN WELLINGTON: Please mark your diaries: **Sunday, 18 October** - **Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart,** Hill Street, Wellington at **7.00pm.** Join Archbishop Paul Martin SM and the Caritas Oceania representatives including Cardinal Soane Mafi of Tonga, Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Fiji, and Archbishop Mosese Vitolio Tui of Samoa, along with other overseas visitors, including the Caritas Internationalis Secretary-General.

HANDS AROUND THE BEEHIVE:- A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR HEALTH - WEDNESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2026: The Archdiocesan Ecology for Justice and Peace is supporting Hands Around the Beehive's gathering to remember those who have struggled to receive the healthcare they needed, to acknowledge the people who work within our health system, and to stand together in solidarity and hope for a healthier Aotearoa. Everyone is invited to attend to mark the minute of silence. In Wellington: 1.15pm - Gather at Parliament 1.30pm - Speakers 2.00pm - National Minute of Silence
At 2.00pm, people across the Motu are invited to stop wherever they are - in churches, hospitals, workplaces, parks, community spaces or at home with their friends and whānau - and share a National Minute of Silence. Further information is available at: **www.ucanforhealth.co.nz**

ADW YOUNG CHURCH NETWORK GATHERING: Calling all youth leaders, coordinators and all those involved with Catholic youth from across Wellington! Come join us for an afternoon of fellowship, discussion and reflection surrounding our young people on **Saturday 31st October** from 12noon – 4.00pm at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria. We will provide afternoon tea and refreshments throughout the afternoon, but please bring your own lunch for the start. See you there!

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.