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.

REFLECTION

A scholar of the law approaches Jesus in today's Gospel with a question that asks about the single most important thing we must do in life. "Teacher," he queries, "which commandment in the law is the greatest?" This was not an easy question, since there are 613 precepts in the Old Testament. Jesus' answer, however, is clear and synthetic: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Then he adds two things. "The second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself." And: "The whole law and the prophets," in other words all that God commands, "depend on these two commandments." Everything in the Christian life flows from love of God and love of neighbour, not as two separate realities, but one interrelated movement. Jesus doesn't tell us, "Love me as I have loved you," but "love one another as I have loved you." Our love for Jesus will be shown in our love for our neighbour, who he calls us to love with unrationed mind, heart and soul.

The first reading from the Book of Exodus makes this very concrete. God speaks with urgency about the treatment of the vulnerable: the stranger, the widow, the orphan, and the poor. Our care for them reveals our love for God. It shows whether our relationship with God is real. Jesus would make this abundantly clear later when he would say that the way we treat the hungry, thirsty, naked, stranger, ill or imprisoned is the way we treat him (Mt 25:31-46).

If sharing God's love of our neighbour is so essential to the Christian life, why is it sometimes so difficult? The answer is found in the second reading, when St. Paul reminds the Christians in Thessalonika how their faith began: not simply as a teaching they received, but as an encounter that changed them. We cannot really love as Jesus commands unless we have first encountered his love for us. We are loved first, and from that love, we learn how to love. This is the foundation of the Church's missionary activity. Jesus in today's Gospel makes it plain that loving God and neighbour – or in St. Therese's word's, "loving him and making him loved" – is the single most important thing we need to do. Everything else the Church does hinges on this two-fold command, which flows from the experience of Jesus' having loved us enough to give his life for us and then to become our very food in the Sacrament of Love – the efficacious sign of divine love – on the altar. Let us receive that love anew, be transformed by it even more, and then let that love overflow for the evangelization and transformation of the world.

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

25 OCTOBER 2026
30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
Readings: Exodus 22:20-26; 1Thessalonians 1:5-10; Gospel Matthew 22:34-40

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

I love you, Lord, my strength

Mass has been offered for

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

ANNIVERSARIES
Mary Delahunty, Andrew Allardyce, Margaret Harle, Myra Stenhouse, Ann Watt.
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

OCIA:
Our parish community formally welcomes Craig, a new catechumen, into the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) with the Rite of Acceptance during Holy Mass at Sacred Heart Petone. He will continue to prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion - at Easter.
Please make him feel welcome.

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.
Those attending are requested if they can bring some finger food to share before/ after the meeting.

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

BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION & 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 & 22 November - baptisms are held every second and fourth Saturday of the month at Sacred Heart Church,

WEEKLY COLLECTION:
18 October 2026 - $1,565.40 This amount does not include Automatic Payments.
Automatic Payments total for last month (September) **$13,876.00**
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 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**

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.

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

NOW AVAILABLE AT THE PARISH OFFICE:
2027 Columban Calendars at $15.00 each. Please phone 971 7885 and we will allocate one for you.

ST VINNIES CHRISTMAS CARDS NOW AVAILABLE:
St Vincent De Paul Waiwhetu, Eastbourne and Petone will be selling packs of Vinnies Christmas Cards after the weekend Masses, beginning next weekend. Packs will be $5 for 5 beautiful, Christian themed cards -keeping Christ in Christmas! Cash or online payment available. Thank you for your support.

If you or someone you know could do with a hand up at the moment, please get in touch with the Vinnies by emailing **vinnieswaiwhetu@gmail.com**, or texting/calling on **027 3297840**

ANOINTING MASS: Will be celebrated at St Patrick's Church, Wainuiomata on Friday, 30th October at 10:00am. Everyone welcome.

WELCOM: The newsletter of the Archdiocese of Wellington, October issue #15 is available this weekend. Pick up your 'free' copy. Plenty of interesting reading. If you are visiting someone unable to attend Mass please take them a copy of Welcom. Those on our email list will receive a copy with the newsletter.

CHURCH PARKING
Please remember to park legally and considerately.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK:
October

26 Eph 4: 32 – 5: 8; Lk 13: 10-17
27 Eph 5: 21-33; Lk 13: 18-21
28 Eph 2: 19-22; Lk 6: 12-19
29 Eph 6: 10-20; Lk 13: 31-35
30 Phil 1: 1-11; Lk 14: 1-6
31 Phil 1: 18-26; Lk 14: 1, 7-11

NEXT WEEK:

First Reading: Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14
I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.
Second Reading: John 3: 1-3
We shall see God as he really is.
Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Other Notices

REGISTER TO VOTE! Recently our Bishops issued a reflection in advance of the **7 November General Election**. You can read it at: **https://bit.ly/NZCBCElection26.** Our Catholic social teaching tradition values the right of all to participate in political affairs. To vote in this year's election people must be enrolled by **25 October.** You can check that you are enrolled, or change your address, or enrol for the first time at: **https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online**

ELECTION WEBINAR – **Wednesday, 28 October**: The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference is hosting a webinar to unpack the bishops' 2026 election statement, *Discerning Our Nation's Future Through a Gospel Lens*.
Join Wellington Archbishop Paul Martin SM, Catholic Family Support Services Hamilton Manager Renee Rewi and Trinity Catholic College Principal Kate Nicholson live at 7.00pm on **Wednesday, 28 October**. The conversation will examine how faith can inform participation in public life and help shape a society that upholds human dignity, promotes justice and serves the common good. Learn more and register at**: https://bit.ly/NZCBCElection**

Young Church Network Gathering 2026 - REIMAGINE - Dream Together - Shape Tomorrow - ADW Young Church invites youth leaders, coordinators, priests, teachers, parents, and anyone invested in youth ministry to unite and reimagine the future of our young church! Share your hopes, dreams, and ideas for our young people across the Archdiocese. Your voice is powerful, and together we can create change **Saturday, 31 October 2026** 12.00pm - 4.00pm St Joseph's Church Hall, Mt Victoria BYO Lunch! We'll provide afternoon tea, so please fill out the RSVP form by email at: **s.kentjana@cadw.nz** to help us prepare. Come with an open heart and your ideas, and let's shape tomorrow together!

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY is looking for quality furniture and homeware for its Petone store. To arrange collection call 568 6408 or email svdpshopmanagerpetone@xtra.co.nz.
Items can also be dropped into the store at 316 Jackson Street Petone.