



**HOLY FAMILY PARISH NELSON-STOKE**  
St Francis of Assisi Church, Songer Street, Stoke  
St Mary's Church, Manuka Street, Nelson



A Catholic Parish of  
The Archdiocese of Wellington  
Te Taura Whiri o Ngā Whāngai Parahi Kaitiaki  
**OUR LADY OF THE BAYS**  
MOTUEKA • RICHMOND • TAKAKA • WAIMEA WEST • WAKEFIELD

## 15 March 2026 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

This week's readings: [click here](#)

### HOLY FAMILY PARISH and OUR LADY OF THE BAYS PARISH

**Tuesday:** Richmond 9.30, Nelson 12.05pm

**Wednesday:** Motueka 9.30am, Stoke 9.30am

**Thursday:** Nelson 12.05pm

**Friday:** Richmond 9.30am, Stoke 9.30am

**Saturday Vigil:** Takaka 5pm, (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday), Wakefield 5pm (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday), Waimea West 5.00pm (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday) and Nelson 6pm

**Sunday:** Stoke 8.30am, Richmond 9am, Nelson 10.30am, Motueka 11am

**Reconciliation: Offered after Mass, Holy Hour or by appointment**

**Adoration & Benediction:** Nelson Friday's 5pm, Richmond 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 1pm - Benediction 5.45pm

**Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41:** Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals Himself as the Son of Man.

**Background to the Gospel reading:** Today's Gospel about the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. The events reflect a prevalent belief of the time; that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is questioned about whose sin caused the man's blindness - his own or his parents'. Jesus, however, gives the question an entirely different dimension- through this man's disability and then healing, God's power is made manifest.

The healing is controversial because it occurs on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authority of the time, believe the law of Moses forbids work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle and question whether the man was really born blind at all. The man challenges the Pharisees about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done, and so he gets expelled. Jesus, however, seeks the man out and reveals to him that He is the Son of Man. The blind man shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus who notes the irony of the experience of many who encounter Him: Those who are blind will see, and those who think they see will be found to be blind.

Like Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The man being washed in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, his blindness is healed, his sight restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind. ✠

**Contact details:** Ph 027 337 4622, Email addresses: [office@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz](mailto:office@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz), [office.admin@parish.org.nz](mailto:office.admin@parish.org.nz)

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Kim 022 301 8828, [priest@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz](mailto:priest@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz), [parish.priest.olob@parish.org.nz](mailto:parish.priest.olob@parish.org.nz);

Fr Dyson Tharakan, [frdysonz@gmail.com](mailto:frdysonz@gmail.com); Fr Raymond Soriano, [rasorsvd@gmail.com](mailto:rasorsvd@gmail.com); (Assistant Priests).

On Mondays, please contact the office unless it is an emergency: [priest@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz](mailto:priest@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz) |

[office@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz](mailto:office@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz) (HFP) | [office.admin@parish.org.nz](mailto:office.admin@parish.org.nz) (OLOB)

Communion to the Sick: St Mary's, Pete Gillin 548 8195; St Francis of Assisi, Shelley Hills 027 437 7851; St Peter Chanel, Elaine Taggart 021 256 2941; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Mary Silcock 021 174 9383.

Archivist:: Bernadette King-Turner, [archivist@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz](mailto:archivist@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz) 021 394 516

**Nelson Hospital:** Sacraments of Healing contact Parish Office or ask for the Hospital Chaplain.

Websites <https://www.hollyfamilynelson.org/> and [www.ourladyofthebays.org](http://www.ourladyofthebays.org)

News Deadline **Wednesday noon:** [ourlady.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ourlady.newsletter@gmail.com) (OLOB), or [office@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz](mailto:office@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz) (HFP)

**Recently Deceased:** Richard Hood,  
Peter Knight.

**Prayers for the sick:** Tom McInerney.

*“Father, we lift up all those who are suffering. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to them. May they experience the healing power of Your love. In Jesus’ name we pray.”*



### DATES TO REMEMBER ACROSS THE REGION

**Temporary Mass Date Changes for Waimea West and Takaka:** Waimea West Vigil Mass this month will occur on the 3rd Saturday (21 March) and the Takaka Vigil Mass will occur on the 4th Saturday (28 March).

#### Thursday 19 March

† 10.30am, Mothers’ Prayers, OLPH hall

#### Sunday 29 March

† 12noon, Faith & Light, SFA meeting room

#### Tuesday 31 March

† 12pm, Chrism Mass, St Mary’s, Nelson

#### Sunday 5 April

† Daylight Saving Ends

#### Sunday 19 April

† 11am, Amalgamation Mass, Garin College

#### Anointing Masses, Richmond:

11am, 19 March, Summerset Ranges

#### Reconciliation for Lent

**Rite I:** After each weekday Mass 6pm, following Adoration, St Mary’s, Nelson

**Rite II:** SFA, Nelson, 4pm, Sunday 15 March  
St Peter Chanel, Motueka, 7pm,  
Wednesday 18 March

### Holy Week & Easter Schedule Nelson & Tasman

#### Sacred Heart Takaka Mass Schedule

### AMALGAMATION MASS - 19 APRIL

**Garin College**  
11am - Archbishop Paul presiding. A BYO food BBQ and picnic will follow to celebrate our formation as St John Paul II Parish.



#### Amalgamation Newsletter #4 (Click this Link)

Our Journey Together - please keep praying the Amalgamation Prayer, trusting in the faith, history, and hope that unite us.

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS AROUND THE REGION**

**Fridays during Lent, 7pm** - Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Richmond; St Joseph’s, Wakefield; St Peter Chanel, Motueka.

**Friday 13 March, 6pm refreshments, 7pm Stations of the Cross** - St Francis of Assisi, Stoke, hosted by the Persico Passionist Family Group.

**Friday 20 March, 7pm Stations of the Cross** - St Mary’s, Nelson, hosted by the Children’s Music Group supported by the Knights of the Southern Cross.

**Friday 27 March, 7pm Stations of the Cross** - St Francis of Assisi, Stoke, hosted by our Syro Malabar Community.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help:** We invite anyone, individual or group, to take a turn to lead each Friday Stations of the Cross at OLPH. Contact Judith Ashley Thank you. [judenz13@gmail.com](mailto:judenz13@gmail.com)

#### **Relics of Pope St John Paul II:**

St Peter Chanel Church in Motueka is blessed to have the altar at which Pope St John Paul II celebrated Mass when on his Papal visit to Christchurch in 1986. If that isn’t exciting enough, there is also a relic of Pope St John Paul II sent to us from the Liturgical Office of the Vicariate of Rome. It is secured into the underside of the altar along with a relic of St Peter Chanel! A booklet, researched and compiled by Motueka parishioner Kevin Courtney, is now available for purchase at a small cost. Copies of the Booklet are already in the Archdiocese of Krakow; with Cardinal Driansz, Pope John Paul II Secretary at the time of the Papal visit to Christchurch; in the Liturgical Office of the Vicariate of Rome; in the Wellington Archdiocese Archives. If you would like a copy email the parish office at [office@holyfamilynelson.org.nz](mailto:office@holyfamilynelson.org.nz).



Fridays **TERM ONE** Lifeteen are joining the Stations of the Cross at 7pm, OLPH before refreshments and activities in the hall until 8.30pm. LifeTeen is open to all youth from Yr 7 -13. Paula: [lifeteentasman@gmail.com](mailto:lifeteentasman@gmail.com).

**Lent Series:** Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion.

Screened at Holy Family Parish Mtg Rm, Nelson

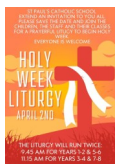
on 16, 23, 30 March from 7pm-8.30pm. No Greater Love is a five-part video series, which, along with the companion full-length book by best-selling author Edward Sri, guides you through the last hours of Christ's life in this biblical pilgrimage.



**House Group Biblical Study:** An afternoon study group on the Lent Series above will take place on Tuesdays 17 and 24, 31 March, 1.30pm, 2 Commodore Place, Nelson. Contact Tony: 027 4433 455.

**Planned Giving:** Planned giving envelopes for next year are now available for collection at Nelson, Stoke, Richmond & Motueka. You may have a new planned giving number for the new amalgamated parish due to the large number of parishoners using the same numbers in both Holy Family and Our Lady of the Bays parishes. Check your new number and start using it from 1 April (including for the Easter special collections).

**All Invited!** St Paul's Catholic School extend an invitation to our parish communities to join the children, staff and their classes for a prayerful Liturgy to begin Holy Week. The Liturgy will run twice: 9.45am for years 1-2 & 5-6 and 11.15am for years 3-4 and 7-8.



**Decorate your own candle with Gertrud Weiss:** 7-8.30pm, Thursday 26 March, St Francis Hall, Stoke. This is a popular annual workshop. \$14 candle plus decorating. \$4 if you bring your own candle. For registrations txt Karen: 027 2457 800.

**YOUTH AND FAMILY MASS**  
SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH AT 9.00AM

You are invited to celebrate Mass led by our Youth and Families, followed by morning tea in the Parish Centre.

Where: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church-35 William Street

Please bring something to share for morning tea- this can be dropped off at the Parish Centre before mass.

**Faith & Light:** Next meeting Sunday 29 March, 12.30pm, St Francis of Assisi Meeting. Please feel free to join us. Margot 027 444 8398.

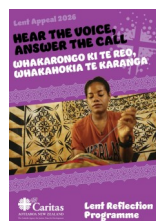


**Has anyone ever said you would make a good priest?** Do you think you might have a vocation? Come to a VOCATIONS WEEKEND for young men discerning priesthood. **27-29 March 2026** with Fr Alan Roberts.



Contact [I.hensel@cadw.nz](mailto:I.hensel@cadw.nz) to register.

**Caritas: "Hear the Voice Answer the Call"**: During Lent we are invited to slow down and listen carefully to scripture, to conscience and to the needs of others. Donations can be made to Caritas via direct debit or credit card through <https://www.caritas.org.nz/ways-to-give>.



Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand bank account number: 03-0518-0211216-000. Use "Lent" as the Code, your first and last name as particulars. Freepost envelopes are available at Mass throughout Lent. For more information Email [caritas@caritas.org.nz](mailto:caritas@caritas.org.nz), call 0800 22 10 22 or visit <https://www.caritas.org.nz>

**Parishes Sacramental Programme 2026 Nelson/Richmond/Motueka:**

Click here to register:

<https://forms.glecFU5vkV9X5c5medB7>



The Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and First Eucharist are for children in year 4 and above.

**Please note: There will be one Sacrament of Confirmation ceremony for the region on Saturday 6 June at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Richmond.**

**School Baptism Programmes:** Each school will prepare children for Baptism prior to the commencement of the Sacramental Programme.

**Baptism registration for school-aged children not attending Catholic Schools.** If your child does not attend a Catholic School and wishes to be baptised and attend the sacramental programme you can contact the parish office to register them.

**Sacramental programme session dates across the region,** visit <https://www.holyfamilynelson.org>.

## OUR LADY OF THE BAYS

**Christian Meditation:** Monday's 7.30 to 8.15pm in OLPH Hall. You are warmly invited to join in this quiet contemplative form of prayer. Karen 027 245 7800 or Marie 027 865 8032.

### Richmond RCIA welcomes

**Catechumens** Sam, Duncan, Tony, Amanda, Natalie and Grace as they journey toward Easter. Please hold them in your hearts and prayers.



### Please pray for St Peter Chanel Catechumens;

Floyd, Dean, Cara, Danielle, Steve, Amy and William (absent) as they journey toward the blessed light of Easter 2026. May the Holy Spirit guide and deepen their faith.



**Book bags OLPH:** This is a new initiative for our children at Mass. Each bag has a book, soft and something to fiddle with. Families can pick one up in the foyer and return after Mass.

**Mothers Prayers:** We are a small group who pray for families especially our own. Our next meeting is Thursday 19 March, 10.30am in Richmond Parish hall. For more information please ph Kath 027 4523948 / 970 6754 or Elizabeth 027 5451818 / 544 5188.

**Contemplative Prayer Morning:** 9.30am-12.30pm, Friday 27 March, St Barnabas, Stoke. Our theme will be 'Remembering -The Lamb of God'- led by Ilene Allan. Registrations to eileengordon.eg@gmail.com.

## HOLY FAMILY PARISH

### Please keep our

**Catechumens** in your prayers as they journey toward the joy of Easter 2026. May the Holy Spirit guide (from rear L-R) Sarah, James, Peter, Abbe, Susheila, Linnia, Rosemary, Hefa and Hayley, deeply into the mystery of Christ and His Church.



**Holy Week:** Planning is well underway for this the most important week in our Faith life. Your participation in these Liturgies makes for a more complete and meaningful expression of our faith, hope and joy. Sign-up sheets are available in both

Church foyers. Please add your name for any liturgy you would like to participate in.



**Welcome!** Holy Family Parish welcomes Alina and Anne who Fr Andrew baptised at St Mary's Church last weekend and Florence and Libby who were baptised at St Francis of Assisi. God bless you and welcome to our parish!

## Prayer Garden Dedication



St Joseph's School children led a beautiful ceremony dedicating this new sacred space to our Mission Sisters and all those who are committed to making St Joseph's School a faith-filled place. Fr Raymond and Principal Chris Bascand were joined by Nelson Mission Sisters Colleen and Maria, and also Sister Merle from Lower Hutt and Sister Anne from Hamilton. The children outlined the school's history, noting that in 1948 one of its first lay teachers was Sr Colleen's mum!



## NEWSLETTERS & CHURCH ROSTERS - LINKS

[St Peter Chanel, Motueka](#)

[Holy Family Parish](#)

[Our Lady of Perpetual Help](#)

[St Peter Chanel School Newsletter](#)

[Garin College Newsletter](#)