



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



21 December 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

HOLY FAMILY PARISH and OUR LADY OF THE BAYS PARISH
Mass Times - Please see over page for Holiday Mass changes

Tuesday: Motueka 9.30am, Nelson 12.05pm

Wednesday: Richmond - 9.30, Stoke 9.30am

Thursday: Nelson 12.05pm

Friday: Richmond 9.30am, Stoke 9.30am

Saturday Vigil: Takaka 5pm, (1st & 3rd Saturday), Wakefield 5pm (2nd Saturday), Waimea West 5.00pm (4th 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 1st Thursday, 1pm - Benediction 5.45pm- Mass 6pm

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we have seen His glory" (John 1:14) -As we share the final newsletter of Holy Family and Our Lady of the Bays Parish for 2025, we look back with gratitude and joy. This year has been truly blessed and special for both parishes and for all of us. We began with the Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope, and celebrated many jubilees together. Through these celebrations, we have recognised that we are all God's beloved children, each playing a part as we walk the journey of faith together. Although the Year of Jubilee concludes on 28 December, I am certain that our pilgrimage of hope will continue in the life of our community. In many ways, our journey of amalgamation reflected that same motto—a true pilgrimage of hope. Preparing for the new parish was not easy, but the amalgamation committee received tremendous support, advice, encouragement, and prayers. My heartfelt thanks to all committee and sub-committee members for your time and dedication to shaping the future of our community.

I am deeply grateful to Frs Cirilo, Dyson, and Gerson for their ministry and teamwork. As Fr Cirilo and our seminarian Gerson conclude their service here, we pray for their fruitful ministry in their new assignments. In February 2026, we will welcome Fr Raymond Soriano, a former parish priest of Nelson. His pastoral experience will be a great blessing for our new parish.

Special thanks to Judy and Michele, our administrators, for their generosity and resilience during this challenging year. I also extend my gratitude to the pastoral and financial committees, leadership teams, liturgy committees, school communities, all ministers and volunteers, and every parishioner who supported our parishes with prayer and service. As we approach Christmas, we prepare to welcome our Messiah, who comes in humble human form. Our Filipino community continues the beautiful tradition of Simbang Gabi—nine days of prayerful preparation. Thank you for your devotion and generous fellowship.

Above all, we give thanks to God for His blessings upon each of us and our community. May His name be glorified always. *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Fr Andrew Kim*

Contact details: Ph 027 337 4622, Email addresses: office@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz, office.admin@parish.org.nz
Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Kim 022 301 8828, priest@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz, parish.priest.lob@parish.org.nz
Fr Cirilo Barlis, cbarlis@gmail.com; Fr Dyson Tharakan, dysonexpress@gmail.com (Assistant Priests)

On Mondays, please contact the office unless it's an emergency
priest@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz | office@hollyfamilynelson.org.nz (HFP) | 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

Archivist:: Bernadette King-Turner, 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

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

Recently Deceased: Colin Wishart, Garry Smith.

It is with great sadness that Our Lady of the Bays Richmond acknowledge the passing of Garry Smith, Kiwi Rugby League Legend #448, this past Saturday 13th December 2025. A service will be held for Garry sometime in the New Year.

Mass Intentions: Angela & Alfredo Miccio, Vince Musso 16/12, Hamilton Hawthorn 26/12, Mary Keddie 27/10.

Please pray for our sick: Hugh Campbell, Mien Cornelissen, Eric Davidsen, Maryanne Hall, Stephen McNabb, Kerry Mitchell, Shanny Schipper.
“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

Mass time changes for OLPH this week:

On **Friday 19 December**, due to Simbang Gabi, there will be no 9.30am Mass or liturgy.

Friday 19 December

† Last Newsletter for the 2025

Monday 15-19 December

† 7pm, Simbang Gabi, OLPH Church

Saturday 20 December

† 6pm, Simbang Gabi, St Mary’s Church

Sunday 21-23 December

† 7pm, Simbang Gabi, OLPH Church

Wednesday 24 December

† Christmas Special Collection for Clergy Trust Fund

† Parish Christmas Party after the Christmas Vigil Mass in St Joseph’s Sch Hall

Friday 26 December

† No Friday Mass today

Weekday Mass Time changes:

21 Jan, Richmond - Liturgy

22 Jan, Nelson - Liturgy

23 Jan, Stoke - Liturgy

27 Jan, Nelson - Liturgy

28 Jan, Richmond - Liturgy

30 Jan, Stoke - Liturgy

Holiday Office hours: Closed from midday

23 December, re-opens 26 January.

First newsletter 30 January 2026.

Farewell Fr Cirilo: As we reach the end of 2025, the Our Lady of the Bays and Holy Family parish communities wish to extend a heartfelt farewell to Fr. Cirilo as he prepares to depart later in January. We thank you dearly for your spiritual guidance and for the very deep commitment.



(Gio Vinluan—photographer)

Candidate for Holy Orders: Archbishop Paul Martin formally accepted Gerson Clemeña Badayos’ intention to become a candidate for Holy Orders during the Rite of Admission to Candidacy at St Mary’s Vigil Mass last weekend. Congratulations Gerson and thank you and bless you for all the love you have shared across our parishes! Safe travels on 28 December and bless you on the final two years of priestly preparation.



What a wonderful turn out this week with parishioners from both the Holy Family and Our Lady of the Bays Parishes coming together for the Filipino Simbang Gabi. Monday was the first of nine night time Novena Masses in honour of our Blessed Virgin Mary and a joyous preparation for Christmas. All are welcome. Mass times & locations: 15 -19 December, 21-23 December: 7pm, OLPH, Richmond,

A **malgamation Update - Our Journey Together - Amalgamation newsletter #3 (Link).** Copies are also available in our churches. As we continue this journey, we invite you to keep praying the **Amalgamation Prayer**, trusting in the faith, history, and hope that unite us as one community.

20 December, 6pm, St Mary's Church, Nelson

Volunteer your time, talent and treasure

† Music/choir - Justin 022 598 2440

† Reader/liturgy - Camille 021 127 0401

† Sponsor light meal - Cindy 021 0258 6413

† Wear traditional garments or your Sunday best for the last on the nine Masses!



Welcome: Our combined parishes warmly welcome Charlotte (left) and Aria who were baptised at St Mary's last Saturday.

Sacramental Programme

2026: Registration details will be posted at the start of the school year.



Baptism: Each school will be preparing children for Baptism prior to the commencement of the Sacramental Programme.

Confirmation:

Session 1: Sunday 3 May

Session 2: Sunday 10 May

Session 3: Sunday 17 May

Session 4: Sunday 24 May

Practice: Saturday 6 June

Confirmation Ceremony: Sunday 7 June

Reconciliation:

Session 1: 26 July

Session 2: 2 August

Session 3: 9 August

Practise: 15 August

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 16 August

Communion:

Session 1: 1 November

Session 2: 8 November

Session 3: 15 November

Practise: 21 November

Communion: 22 November

Thanks! Many thanks for the support with goods on the SFA sales table for the Takaka Church rebuild.

Approximately \$600 was raised, a good effort!

Anyone who would still like to buy goods please txt

Joan on 027 274 0109 to arrange a time to view.



What talent! Christmas Carols and Nativity scene characters from our Holy Family Parish community well and truly brought the festive season to Nelson's city streets last weekend.

Cemetery Visit by St Joseph's School:



Thank you St Joseph's Year 7/8 school students who tidied and put flowers on the Mission Sisters' graves at Wakapuaka Cemetery this week.

Become a Seasons for Growth

Companion: Help children and young people navigate change, loss, and grief. Seasons for Growth is a peer support programme for ages 6 -18, designed to assist with life events such as separation, bereavement, or moving schools. **Upcoming Training Dates: 15–16 January 2026 (In-person); 23–24 March (Online).** This training is ideal for teachers, pastoral staff, counsellors, and anyone working with children and young people who want to deliver Seasons for Growth in their school. Contact Jess Ferroni at **021 374 405** or visit [Seasons for Growth](#) to register.



From us to you with love: In this our last newsletter of the year we offer our heartfelt thanks for all your support throughout 2025. Michele & Judy.

Historical timeline: Click on the link below to access a historical timeline of the establishment of church communities. [Parish Timeline](#)

RCIA : Are You Interested in Becoming a Catholic? The course will be held in Nelson, Richmond and Motueka. More information please contact : **Nelson** - Katie Rose katiemrose54@gmail.com 0212964155; **Richmond**: Greg & Maryanne Hall, 0276181421 Greg.maryanne@gmail.com or **Motueka** - Margaret Jones 0210474894 marg.t.jones.58@gmail.com

Columban Calendars 2026 are still available from the Parish Office. \$13.00

OUR LADY OF THE BAYS

Richmond Christmas Eve Carols:

Come and join us for a solemn Christmas Carols at 8.30pm before the Christmas Eve Mass at 9pm. Sing and listen with our music groups from different cultures and people.



Service and Ministry

Opportunities OLPH: Whether you are new or have been part of our parish family for years, we value you. Please take a few minutes to consider how you can add value to our community by volunteering for roster duties. Click on this QR Code and open the website to complete an enrolment form. Someone will be in touch to answer any questions.

DIGITAL SIGN UP FORM



Punch bowl please! If anyone has a fruit punch bowl which they would be happy to lend for the wedding of Caleb and Eliana from SPC community on 17 January please contact Angie on 021 0220 3196. Thank you

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

**Holy Family Parish
NATIVITY PLAY
Christmas Eve, at
St Mary's**

24 December, 5.30pm



We are excited to announce our Christmas Eve Nativity Play and would love for you to be part of it! This is a special invitation for children of all ages to join in, and we warmly welcome adult support to help bring the story to life. The last **Rehearsal** will be held on **Sunday 21 December** after the 10.30am Mass at St Mary's Church. We have a simple, beautiful set that will make the play seamless and joyful. Very young children are welcome too—perhaps as little angels or other seated on the altar. If your child (or you) would like to be involved, please contact **Margot** on **027 4448 398**. We'd love to hear from you soon so we can make this a truly memorable celebration together.

Multicultural Christmas Carols & Celebration Gathering:

We warmly invite everyone to join us after the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve in St Joseph's School Hall to celebrate the birth of our Saviour together. Let us lift our voices in joyful Christmas Carols and share in fellowship as one Parish family. We especially encourage carols in English and your native languages - a beautiful way to reflect the diversity of our community in Christ. Please bring some finger food to share and help make this a truly festive occasion! We are also looking for volunteers to help with setup, decorating, and cleanup. If you're able to assist, please contact Przemek and Gerard. For any questions or if you need access to playback or instruments, please reach out to Przemek at 021 564 200. Come, let us adore Him!



Catholic Christmas Mass Times 2025 Nelson and Tasman Area

24 December - Christmas Vigil Mass

Takaka, 94 Commercial St, 4.30pm (4pm Carols)

Richmond, 35 William St, 6.00pm (5.45pm Carols/Nativity)

Nelson, 18 Manuka St, 6.00pm (5.40pm Carols)

Motueka, 423 High St, 7.00pm (6.30pm Carols)

Richmond, 35 William St, 9.00pm (8.30pm Carols)

25 December - Christmas Day Mass

Stoke, 196 Songer St, 8.30am

Richmond, 35 William St, 9.00am

Nelson, 18 Manuka St, 10.30am

1 January - New Year's Day Mass

Nelson, 18 Manuka St, 9.30am

Richmond, 35 William St, 9.30am

Motueka, 423 High St, 9.30am

CHURCH ROSTERS - LINKS
[St Peter Chanel, Motueka](#)
[Holy Family Parish](#)
[Our Lady of Perpetual Help](#)