TŪMANAKO
United in Hope • *I te Tūmanako o te Kotahitanga*
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Closing Mass marks end of 2025 Year of Jubilee

The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Palmerston North was filled with parishioners and visitors on February 1 as the Diocese gathered to celebrate the Closing Mass of the 2025 Year of Jubilee.

The Mass began with the official Closing Rite from Rome, marking the conclusion of the Holy Year. Concelebrating clergy included Bishop John Adams, Bishop Peter Cullinane and priests from neighbouring parishes.

During his homily, Bishop John invited the congregation to reflect on the Beatitudes – especially the first: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." He described the Beatitudes as paradoxes – teachings of Christ that appear contradictory but reveal profound truth. The Christian way, he noted, often runs counter to the values of self affirmation and self promotion so common in today's culture.

After the Prayers of the Faithful, all parishioners who had volunteered for ministry roles during the ministry recruitment day in October last year were invited to stand for a commissioning prayer. More than 200 people from the Cathedral and Our Lady of Lourdes had committed to taking on a ministry role, which Bishop John noted was a testament to the sense of parish renewal that is occurring in the Diocese.

After Mass, the celebration continued in the cathedral car park, where families and friends enjoyed food, cultural stalls, face painting and a bouncy castle for children.





UPCOMING Events

SUN FEB 22 — **RITE OF ELECTION & ENROLMENT OF NAMES**

12.30pm, The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

Bishop John invites all members of the Diocese of Palmerston North to this important event.

SAVE THE DATES — **DIOCESAN HUBS**

A new initiative for 2026, Diocesan Hubs are gatherings for prayer, reflection, and conversation. The March Hub will reflect on Sacrosanctum Concilium, the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.

The same gathering will be offered in two locations, and parishioners are warmly invited to attend either location.

Sat Mar 7, 12.30-4.30pm Palmerston North
Sun Mar 8, 12.30-4.30pm Hastings

REGISTER:
https://forms.office.com/r/si6GpNKWz9

New Zealand to host indigenous Catholic gathering

New Zealand will host Church delegations from Australia, Canada and the United States in early March at the second international gathering focused on enhancing ministry to indigenous Catholics.

The first International Conference on Catholic Indigenous was held in the United States in 2023. The initiative was established to allow for dialogue, consultation and collaboration between representatives of Catholic indigenous organisations, bishops and others entrusted with the pastoral care of indigenous people.

Loraine Elliott and Bishop Steve Lowe are co-chairs of the upcoming gathering, which will be held in Auckland. Mrs Elliott said it is a privilege to host the event.

"New Zealand is the smallest of the four member nations, but we are pleased to welcome delegates to a country whose formal Catholic presence is almost 200 years old," she said.

"While we will have a chance to speak to our own history as Māori Catholics and as Catholic Māori, our emphasis is on how the shared experience across our four countries can shape ongoing ministry efforts."

Bishop Lowe pointed to St John Paul II's address to Māori in 1986 as providing a blueprint for indigenous ministry that remains relevant.

The Holy Father said to Māori: "Treasure your culture, let the Gospel of Christ continue to penetrate and permeate it confirming your sense of identity as a unique part of God's household. It is as Māori that the Lord calls you; it is as Māori that you belong to the Church, the one Body of Christ."

"Forty years on, our challenge is how as Church we present the Gospel to Māori and how Katorika Māori can enrich the Church here in our land," Bishop Steve said.



"While we will have a chance to speak to our own history as Māori Catholics and as Catholic Māori, our emphasis is on how the shared experience across our four countries can shape ongoing ministry efforts."

"Sharing our experiences and hearing the experience of indigenous from other countries enriches our journeying together."

Among other aspirations for the fledgling group is to become a voice for matters relevant to the life, needs and contributions of indigenous Catholic communities.

Manuel Beazley, who chairs Te Rōpū Māori, an advisory group to the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, said that voice has been growing within the Church's halls of power.

"I was fortunate to be one of a number of First Nations peoples to participate in the Synod on Synodality assemblies in Rome, which ensured that our unique voice and our unique understanding formed part of the Church's ongoing work to find ways to walk together as the Body of Christ," he said.

"Our ICCI gathering will carry forward those conversations in a focused way and in ways we hope can augment current initiatives to minister well to indigenous Catholics."

About 50 delegates from the four countries are expected to attend the gathering, along with two officials from the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.





Content on this spread provided by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

Religious diversity group launches new book

E tū te mana o te ao: Building a Climate of Hope – Faith and Action Guide was launched at the Palmerston North City Library on February 1. The date was chosen because it marked the first day of World Interfaith Harmony Week, initiated by King Abdullah II of Jordan at the United Nations in 2010 to encourage people everywhere to foster a culture of peace and harmony regardless of faith tradition.

The Palmerston North Interfaith Group hosted the event, with members from the Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh faith traditions all present to celebrate the launch.

Presentations were given by Mary Eastham, one of the authors of the guide, and Harminder Gill, newly-appointed trustee of the Religious Diversity Centre Aotearoa.

Bishop John Adams blessed the launch, thanking the authors from the RDC Climate Action Group for creating *E tū te mana o te ao: Building a Climate of Hope – Faith and Action Guide*, and challenging everyone present to live out its message of faith, action and hope.



L-R: Councillor Kaydee Zabelin, Jaspreet Singh, Deputy Mayor Debi Marshall-Lobb, Dr Paul Blaschke, convener of the Climate Action Group and one of the authors of the Climate Action Guide, Dr Mary Eastham, Trustee of the Religious Diversity Centre Aotearoa and one of the authors of the Climate Action Guide, Councillor Lorna Johnson.

Photo supplied by Mary Eastham.

"Everyone is here. It's wonderful"

by Wiga Autet, Faith Formation Coordinator for Northland

Like the many strands made of a humble flax can become an amazing kete (basket), people of all ages and cultures, from near and far, lay and ordained, young and old, those physically present and those there in spirit, the living and those who passed, gathered on a hot and summery day at Totara Point as the one "holy kete", which is our Church.

More than 250 people travelled to the shores of the Hokianga on January 11 to mark and celebrate the 188th anniversary of Bishop Jean Baptiste Pompallier's first Mass in Aotearoa, New Zealand. We came to honour the past, to affirm the present and to look into the future.

Bishop Steve Lowe, celebrating the Mass – pointing to a kete that was just gifted to him in Rotorua – had led the reflection on how we are all humble yet essential "strands" of Jesus' Church.

First there is Jesus – the main strand and yet the humble Servant. We are being called to be humble like Him, to weave ourselves together as we journey on the great hikoi to heaven. God calls us to be woven as one.





Other strands that had gone before us, yet are still present in the kete, include Bishop Pompallier; the Marist Fathers and Brothers who came with him; Mother Suzanne Aubert, whose death was 100 years ago this year; the katekita; deacons; and a new strand – recently-arrived Missionary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus priests from Vietnam.

"The final strand," said Bishop Steve, "is you and I". The kete would not be complete without our active presence and mahi that we carry out in the Church.

"Our mission has just started, regardless of how old or young we are. Each one of us has this task of weaving together the great work which is the Christ – weaving us together in his hahi, his Church, his whanau. In love, we become his living presence for the world."

A walk up the hill to the newly arranged space where the centennial plinth stands and the taking of group photos was followed by the traditional Maori hospitality and fellowship, completing that beautiful day.

"Everyone was there. It was wonderful!"



Photo: Taila Burton

Life Teen Summer Camp 2026 – an encounter of faith

by Nick Wilson

From January 10-14, youth from New Plymouth, Whanganui, Palmerston North, Napier and Hastings attended Life Teen Summer Camp at Camp Keswick in beautiful Rotorua.

This is the largest single Catholic youth event in Aotearoa New Zealand, drawing nearly 300 people. A mix of prayer, small group work, sessions on sisterhood and brotherhood, daily Mass, Adoration, Messy Games and mountains of fun made the week an incredible encounter with faith for our young people. Praise and worship rang out across the city.

We were blessed by a surprise visit from Bishop John, who celebrated one of the camp Masses. Bishop John serves as the bishops' representative on the NZCBC National Council for Young People.

Faith truly came alive for these young people, demonstrating that when we invest in their spiritual lives, they thrive. Due to increasing demand, there will be two Life Teen camps in 2027.

Young Catholic Leader programme forms students

by Nick Wilson

Leaders from the Catholic colleges of the Palmerston North Diocese recently gathered at Highland Home Christian Camp for a week of servant leadership formation. The Young Catholic Leader (YCL) programme was led by committed young adult leaders from across our Diocese.

Throughout the week, students focused on 11 keys of leadership in the way of Jesus, designed to guide their attitudes, values and behaviours in their leadership roles within our kura tuarua (secondary schools). Sacramental experiences, prayer, physical challenges, group work, wellness reflections and personal growth opportunities were just some of the elements that shaped the week.

Our rangatahi shared that the experience was transformative:

- "I am out of my comfort zone and ready for this year of leadership."
- "I learned a whole lot about real leadership skills."
- "A life changing experience which has changed my perspective."

A huge thanks to Catholic Charities for their support and to all the leaders who facilitated the programme.



Photo: Grace Carran

TE ROHE PĪHOPA O TE PAPAIOEA
DIOCESE OF PALMERSTON NORTH

pndiocese.org.nz
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