



# Jubilee 2025



## Jubilee of Seminarians

17 – 18 May 2025

This weekend, we celebrate the Jubilee of Seminarians, giving thanks for the young men who are answering the call to a life of service, prayer, and dedication within the Church. We honour their commitment to discerning God's will, their courage in embracing the path of formation, and their desire to serve as shepherds, guiding God's people with faith and humility. As they prepare for their future ministries, we offer our prayers and support, recognising the importance of their vocation in the life of the Church. Today, we give thanks for their willingness to listen to God's call and for the hope they bring to the future of our faith. May they continue to grow in wisdom, grace, and zeal, as they prepare to serve God's people with love and devotion.

### Prayers

#### Example prayer of the faithful

For all seminarians and students who are studying for the priesthood of our Diocese. May the Lord bless them, guide them and those preparing for priesthood. **E te Ariki ...**

We pray for young men in our communities, that they may hear and respond with courage to God's call to the priesthood. May the Holy Spirit inspire them to seek a life of service, devotion, and sacrifice for others in the name of Christ. **E te Ariki ...**

#### Other prayers for Seminarians and their Vocation

Oh God, hear our prayer for the men you have chosen to follow in your Son's footsteps.

Teach them humility and fidelity to unselfishly help others.

May their devotion to Our Blessed Mother, Queen of Vocations increase, enabling them to do your will.

Strengthen their prayer life that they may grow spiritually without worldly distractions.

Give them courage and perseverance in their studies.

May the Holy Spirit lighten their struggles with their vocations, until they know the joy of being a priest.

We ask this through Christ your Son.

Amen.

From <https://olpssulphur.com/prayer-for-seminarians>





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## **Prayer of John Paul II for Vocations**

Lord Jesus, as You once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, let your sweet invitation continue to resound: Come follow Me!

Give young men and women the grace of responding quickly to your voice. Support our bishops, priests and consecrated people in their apostolic labour.

Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are carrying out the ideal of a life totally consecrated to your service.

Awaken in our community a missionary eagerness. Lord, SEND WORKERS TO YOUR HARVEST and do not allow humanity to be lost for the lack of pastors, missionaries and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel.

Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say “yes” to the Lord who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation. Amen.

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## **A Prayer for Vocations through the intercession of St. John Vianney**

O God our Father, You promised “I will appoint shepherds for My sheep who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble: an none shall be missing.” (Jer. 23:4-5). Hear the prayers of Your flock. Through the intercession of Your beloved priest, Saint John Vianney, we beg You to call to the sacramental priesthood generous men who will desire nothing more than to serve You in imitation of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, our High Priest.

And after You call them, we pray that You sustain the doubtful, console the discouraged, and strengthen the weak as they start the long and demanding preparation for the priesthood.

Mary, Mother of priests, and example of faithful, humble, and joyful acceptance of God’s will, help all those who are called to the priesthood to open their ears and hearts to the gentle call of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

From <https://www.pnac.org/support/prayers-for-seminarians/>

## **Reflection on the Jubilee of Seminarians**

*Read the following reflection out during Mass/within your faith communities over the weekend of 17– 18 May 2025, or distribute for personal reflection.*

My experience of belonging to the Diocese of Palmerston North family ...





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At our baptism we are each given a name, drawn into the life of God and his family the Church, and so we receive our deepest sense of belonging.

I believe that the 2025 Pilgrimage of Hope, to which Pope Francis has called the whole world, starts with the sense of belonging. “We must fan the flame of hope... and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision” (Pope Francis). Every member of the Palmerston North Diocese plays an essential role in this “pilgrimage of hope”.

I received the gift of hope from the Palmerston North Diocese. How? I came to New Zealand in 2018 to begin my study for the priesthood. At the end of 2019, I returned to Vietnam for a holiday. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, I was stuck in Vietnam for three years, unable to return to Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland. During this difficult time, I felt deeply frustrated. However, I found comfort in an email from Monsignor Brian Walsh, who wrote, “Many people are asking how you are; you are not forgotten.”

His phrase “you are not forgotten” – so simple yet so powerful – brought me hope. Hope that I would get back to New Zealand, hope that I still belonged in Aotearoa, hope that my journey to priesthood would continue. Eventually, I returned in 2022, and I am now a second-year seminarian.

It is amazing how God transmits hope to us through the simple actions of others which then inspire us to want to be hope-filled members of the various communities of people we encounter throughout our lives. The moment I read “you are not forgotten”, I gained a profound sense of belonging, because I was remembered in the Diocese.

Every time I go to different parishes in the Diocese for pastoral placements, I feel welcomed and loved by the priests and people. Thank you. I have a heartfelt desire to visit the Diocese every semester break and during the holiday periods. I think this is how my calling takes on flesh and blood as these visits deeply bond me to you, to us, the people of Palmerston North Diocese, who make up the Body of Christ.

In this Year of Jubilee, let us remember how vital it is to help people feel they belong: to our parishes, to our iwi whakapono (believing people), to God. A simple sentence, a simple gesture, a word of encouragement is all it takes. Let us remember too, those who have lost their sense of belonging. It is to them that Pope Francis calls us, not to judge, but to go.

*Zung Phan*

*Seminarian of the Palmerston North Diocese*





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## Suggestions for celebrating this Jubilee in your communities

- **Use the provided prayers of the faithful or write your own**  
Craft prayers specifically for seminarians and vocations, focusing on their discernment, formation, and the support they receive from their community.
- **Use other prayers during gatherings throughout the week**  
Incorporate prayers for seminarians in all community gatherings, asking for God's guidance for those discerning the priesthood and the families supporting them.
- **Read out the reflection during mass or in faith communities or have copies of it available for private reflection**  
Share a reflection during Mass or community events to inspire others about the vocation to the priesthood, and provide printed copies for private reflection throughout the week.

