



Jubilee 2025



Jubilee of Priests and Bishops

28 – 29 June 2025

This weekend, we celebrate the Jubilee of Priests and Bishops, giving thanks for the devoted men who have answered God's call to serve His people with faith, love, and dedication. We honour our priests for their tireless ministry of the Word, the sacraments, and pastoral care, and for the example they set in living out the Gospel. We also give thanks for our Bishop, John Adams, whose leadership, wisdom, and unwavering commitment continue to guide our diocese with grace and compassion.

Both our priests and our bishop are called to be servants of Christ, leading us closer to God through their example and prayers. May they continue to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, as they bring God's love, healing, and hope to all they serve.

Prayers

Example prayers of the faithful

For all the priests of our diocese: That they might be renewed in faith and continue to be good shepherds of the people of God with truth, charity, and joy. **E te Ariki ...**

For the bishops of the Church: That they may be filled with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as they lead the people of God. May their words and actions reflect the love and truth of Christ, and may they be ever faithful stewards of His Word. **E te Ariki ...**

For the vocations to the priesthood: That many young men may hear God's call to serve His Church. May they respond with courage and generosity, and may the Church be strengthened through their dedication. **E te Ariki ...**

Other prayers for Priests and Bishops

A Prayer for our Bishop John Adams

Heavenly Father, we lift up Bishop John Adams to You in gratitude for his dedicated service as the shepherd of the Palmerston North Diocese. May Your Holy Spirit continue to guide him in wisdom and grace as he leads the faithful. Strengthen him in his role, that he may be a true witness of Your love, preaching the Gospel with courage and compassion. Grant him the grace





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to continue shepherding Your flock with joy, humility, and a deep commitment to holiness. May he be a beacon of hope and light to all those entrusted to his care. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for our Priests

Loving God and Father of us all, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ chose men to serve his flock by imitating him as the Good Shepherd.

Through Word and sacrament men are called to continue this ministry as bishops, priests and deacons in the Church today.

Graciously send the Holy Spirit to guide these ministers in their duties and strengthen them in their commitment.

May they understand what they do and imitate what they celebrate.

Grant us a new Pentecost where the preaching and example of your servants brings forth much fruit for your Kingdom.

In your mercy call forth more pastors for your flock so that they may never be deprived of the Holy Eucharist and the sacraments.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Written by Fr Marcus Francis

Prayer of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

O Jesus, I pray for your faithful and fervent priests;
for your unfaithful and tepid priests;
for your priests labouring at home or abroad in distant mission fields;
for your tempted priests;
for your lonely and desolate priests;
for your young priests;
for your dying priests;
for the souls of your priests in purgatory.

But above all, I recommend to you the priests dearest to me:
the priest who baptised me;
the priests who absolved me from my sins;





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the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me your Body and Blood in Holy Communion;

the priests who taught and instructed me;

all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way (especially ...).

O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart,
and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity.

Amen.

From STACCharlotte.com

Prayer by Pope Benedict XVI

Lord Jesus Christ, eternal High Priest,
you offered yourself to the Father on the altar of the cross
and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit
gave your priestly people a share in your redeeming sacrifice.
Hear our prayer for the sanctification of our priests.
Grant that all who are ordained to the ministerial priesthood
may be ever more conformed to you, the Divine Master.
May they preach the Gospel with pure heart and clear conscience.
Let them be shepherds according to your own heart,
single-minded in service to you and to the Church,
and shining examples of a holy, simple, and joyful life.
Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, your Mother and ours,
draw all priests and the flocks entrusted to their care
to the fullness of eternal life where you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

From Zenit.org

Reflection on the Jubilee of Priests and Bishops

Read the following reflection out during Mass/within your faith communities over the weekend of 28 – 29 June 2025, or distribute for personal reflection.





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The Jubilee year has prompted me to think seriously about my first calling to the priesthood many years ago and the incredible journey of faith and life since that first call. During my seminary training, I often wondered why God had chosen me when I saw many other students come and go, many of whom were so gifted and seemed much more suited to the priestly life than me. I eventually came to stop questioning God's plan for me and instead became grateful for it!

After ordination, the real journey began for me because I quickly came to realize that in the diocesan priesthood, the people's journey of faith and life is also the priest's journey, and so it is my journey. The people's ups and downs, joys and sorrows, hopes and aspirations are all the fabric of my life too because I journey with them in all of that. I am so grateful to all those who have encouraged and educated me in the ways of God through their faith-filled lives. They are truly pilgrims of hope!

Suggestions for celebrating this Jubilee in your communities

- **Use the provided prayers of the faithful or write your own**
Craft prayers specifically for priests, focusing on their ministry, spiritual growth, and the strength they need to serve their communities.
- **Use the other prayers during gatherings throughout the week**
Incorporate prayers for priests and bishops in all community events, asking for God's guidance, strength, and wisdom as they serve the Church and their parishioners.
- **Read out the reflection during mass or in your faith communities or have copies of it available for private reflection**
Share a reflection during Mass or other gatherings to honour the vocation of the priesthood, and make printed copies available for personal meditation.
- **Display names or photos of the priests in your communities**
Highlight the priests serving in your community by displaying their names or photos in a place where the parish can easily see them and offer prayers for them.
- **Host a 'meet and greet' with the priests in your communities**
Organise an informal gathering where parishioners can meet and engage with the priests, offering a chance for connection and appreciation.
- **Start a prayer chain praying for the priests in our diocese**
Encourage members of your community to commit to a prayer chain, lifting up the ministry of our priests and bishop in your daily prayers.
- **Invite your local priests to speak about their vocation to the priesthood**
Host a special event or talk where local priests can share their stories of calling, formation, and service to inspire others.

