

YEAR OF JUBILEE

Diocesan Art Trail

**CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
197 BROADWAY AVE, PALMERSTON NORTH**



The Cathedral's interior reflects a refined, unadorned Gothic style, marked by soaring arches and a sense of majesty. Fourteen fluted white concrete columns rise to 22 feet, supporting the vast roof structure above. These columns are reinforced with steel from foundation to peak, speaking to the strength and permanence of the design.

The interior spans 175 feet in length and 62 feet in width, with a roof height of 59 feet at its gable. Polished timber panelling and white concrete finishes create a serene, symmetrical space. Side altars echo the main design, offering elegant visual relief.

The sanctuary is spacious and striking, with a polished rimu altar as its centrepiece. Above it sits a gallery for the choir, where the church's excellent acoustics allow music to carry clearly throughout the space. Soft light filters through stained glass windows, enhancing the peaceful and reverent atmosphere within the Cathedral.



The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit houses a stunning collection of stained-glass windows, many of which were originally created for St Patrick's Church and later transferred to the new cathedral.

The first window was gifted by Mr F. Aisher Snr. and family in memory of a son lost in the Great War and the late Mrs Aisher. Crafted by F.X. Zettler of Munich, it depicts the Parable of the Vineyard and was installed in time for St Patrick's opening in 1925.

Additional windows were added in the following years, many commemorating early clergy and benefactors. Monsignor MacManus is thought to have donated three windows honouring family members and priests, including the *Immaculate Conception*, *Meeting of Joachim and Anna*, *Presentation*, and *Esposued*.

Two of the most striking windows—Mary Queen of Heaven (late 1930s) and Christ the King (c.1940)—are by Harry Clarke Studios, Dublin. A Nativity window above the sacristy door was added in 1951.

In 1960, M.J. Garrity donated nine additional windows, also by F.X. Zettler, depicting the parables of Christ. These vibrant windows now line the nave, enriching the cathedral's sacred atmosphere with colour and meaning.



MARY STATUE IN THE LADY CHAPEL

This joyful statue of Mary lifting the child Jesus was gifted to the Cathedral by Professor and Mrs G.B. Harrison.

Carved from centuries-old kauri by John Feldberg of Rongotea, it is based on an image by Meralli (1826–1901).

Placed at floor level to reflect Mary's connection to ordinary people, the statue can be seen clearly from the nave, reminding us that she was one of us.

SILK SCREENS

Designed by Brian Elliot, the two rimu screens feature fabric panels by Elizabeth Auton. Each screen, 3m high by 2.5m long, has four hand-appliquéd chintz panels made with Dupion silks.

Inspired by Isaiah 55:12, Elizabeth's design includes hill ranges, building silhouettes, and intertwining lines symbolising the Holy Spirit.

The delicate pale yellow silks contrast with rich greens, blues, reds, and purples, representing the Holy Spirit. The chintz colours, including nectar, shrimp, apricot, and soft amber, create a gentle gradient across the eight panels.

The panels were mounted by Bessie McMurray and placed on either side of the Day Chapel altar.



MĀORI CARVINGS



The Cathedral features 25 wooden carvings, each representing the spirituality and Christian faith of the Māori people of the diocese.

Gifted during the 1988 renovations, these carvings were created by each of the six tribal groups within the diocese. The carvings are a powerful expression of Māori artistry and Christian beliefs.

Of the 25, one is located in the gathering area, 22 are mounted on the ends of pews lining the main aisle, and two flank the Bishop's Cathedra.

The carvings are numbered for easy identification, with numbers alternating between the sides of the aisle. Notable among them is a carving above the dedication plaque in the entrance area, symbolising Christ and Peter as fishers of people, spreading Christ's life-giving message.

The carvings depict figures from both the Old and New Testaments, including Moses, Solomon, Joshua, and Joseph, as well as the evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.



Some carvings explore profound Christian themes through traditional Māori design, such as "The heart of love in the midst of the wilderness."

These beautiful works of art offer deep insight into the fusion of Māori culture and Christian faith and invite thoughtful reflection.

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THE MACMANUS MEMORIAL ALTAR

Originally built as a tribute to Monsignor James MacManus, this altar serves as a prominent feature in the Cathedral.

Today, it stands as a striking marble structure, with a backdrop that complements the liturgy. The altar's frontal displays a copy of Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper, offering a visual focal point for worshippers.

The marble from the original altar rails was used for the tabernacle, lecterns, and Stations of the Cross, tying the piece to the church's history.



The altar was relocated in 1988 to accommodate the Day Chapel, and while it is no longer used for Mass, it continues to hold significant cultural and spiritual value within the Cathedral.



THE BAPTISMAL FONT

Located at the entrance to the Cathedral, near the main doors, the current Baptismal Font was crafted by local artist Joan McIntosh in 1988.

It replaced the original font from the second St. Patrick's Church, which was used from 1925 until the new design was introduced.

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