

YEAR OF JUBILEE

Diocegan Art Trail

ST BRIGID'S CHURCH

27 WAKEMAN STREET, PAHIATUA

OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA – QUEEN OF POLAND

This image of Our Lady of Częstochowa, under the title Queen of Poland, was painted by Polish soldier Sergeant Major Feliks Krzewiński in Loreto, Italy, on 15 August 1944, during the Italian Campaign of World War II.

It was gifted to the children of the Polish Children's Camp in Pahiatua by soldiers of the Third Carpathian Division of the Polish Second Army Corps.

On the 70th anniversary of the beginning of their exile from Poland—marked by the 10 February 1940 deportations to Soviet forced labour camps—the former children entrusted the image to St Brigid's Church, Pahiatua. Their journey included over two years of detention in the USSR, followed by two years as refugees in Iran, before arriving in New Zealand on 31 October 1944.





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The Polish Children's Committee gratefully acknowledges the cooperation and support of the Parish Priest and Parish Council, which enabled the permanent display of the image at St Brigid's Catholic Church from 10 February 2010.

*O Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Częstochowa,
You have journeyed with your children through hardship and exile,
offering comfort in times of sorrow and strength in times of trial.
As you watched over the Polish children in Pahiatua, continue to
watch over all who seek refuge, peace, and belonging.
Through your loving intercession, pray for those who are displaced, for
families separated by war or persecution,
for children longing for safety and home, and for all who carry the
burden of exile.
Intercede for us, dear Mother, that we may live with courage,
compassion, and faith.
Help us to carry the light of Christ into the world, and to honour
the memory of those who came before us with love and humility.
Our Lady of Częstochowa, pray for us.
Amen.*

**May this image continue to inspire reflection and prayer,
reminding us of the strength found in faith and community.**

Everyone is welcome to visit.
If you wish to visit outside of hours, or to learn
more about our Mass times, please contact the
Parish office as they can provide a
photocopied resource to assist you.
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MORE INFORMATION

Visit pndiocese.org.nz/YearofJubilee2025
or scan the QR code

