CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL PARISH
KO TE KARAITI KEI TE PŪ
Christ in the Centre
ŌTAUTAHI - CHRISTCHURCH

JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) – 21st September 2025

Our Lady of Peñafrancia: The Beloved Patroness of Bicol

One of the results of the parish survey released recently was the incredible ethnic diversity of our parish. Different cultures bring with them different devotions, all of which help to weave the rich tapestry of faith in our parish and diocese. One such devotion is to Our Lady of Peñafrancia. Affectionately known as "Ina" (Mother) by devotees, this is one of the most revered Marian titles in the Philippines.

The title "Peñafrancia" comes from *Peña de Francia*, meaning "Rock of France," a mountain in Salamanca, Spain. A Frenchman named Simón Vela was guided by a divine voice to search for an image of the Virgin Mary that had been hidden away from invaders. In 1434, after removing a large rock, he discovered the statue of the Blessed Mother holding the Child Jesus. Miracles of healing followed, and a chapel was built to house the image. Eventually, a larger sanctuary was erected and entrusted to the Dominicans, becoming a pilgrimage site for centuries.

The devotion crossed oceans in the early 18th century, when Miguel Robles de Covarrubias, a seminarian in Manila and native of Peña de Francia, fell gravely ill. Placing the holy card of the Spanish image on the parts of the body where he was sore, he experienced healing and vowed to honour Our Lady. After becoming a priest, he built a small chapel and commissioned a wooden replica of the image. This marked the beginning of the Peñafrancia devotion in the Philippines.

The Solemnity is celebrated on the Sunday after the octave of the Nativity of Mary (on 8th September). The annual Peñafrancia Festival draws millions of pilgrims and tourists. It begins with the *Traslacion*, a solemn procession transferring the image from the Basilica to the Naga Cathedral. The festivities culminate in the Fluvial Procession, where the image is carried down the Naga River on a pagoda adorned with flowers, accompanied by candle-lit boats and fervent prayers.

For the last ten years, devotees of Our Lady of Peñafrancia have replicated these festivities here in the Christchurch Diocese. Over the last nine days there have been a series of novena Masses to Our Lady of Peñafrancia. On Saturday evening at 5pm there will be a Fluvial Procession at Lyttleton Harbour. On Sunday at 11am there will be a Fiesta Mass at the Catholic Cathedral College Hall preceded by a procession. Ina is venerated as the patroness of Bicol, protector of the sick, the poor, and the clergy. Her image, with dark skin and regal attire, reflects both Spanish heritage and Filipino devotion. She embodies maternal compassion, intercession, and unity—qualities that resonate deeply with her devotees.

More than a religious icon, Ina is a symbol of resilience, healing, and hope. From the mountains of Spain to the rivers of Naga and the harbour of Lyttleton, her presence remains a guiding light for those who seek comfort and grace.

Our Lady of Peñafrancia, pray for us!

Father Monty Bamford
Assistant Priest

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS & PRIESTS ON THURSDAYS

As in the past, the diocesan family dedicates Thursdays to pray for priests and vocations to the priesthood. You might like to come to Mass on Thursdays, if possible, but all are invited to pray for this intention using a prayer for vocations written by Pope Francis.

Prayer cards are available in the narthex or online at the Diocesan website. For more information contact the Vocations Coordinator Matt O'Connell on 03 366 9869 or moconnell@cdoc.nz

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH WEBSITE
www.catholiccathedralchch.org.nz

SUNDAY MASS TIMES
Saturday Vigil 5:30pm
Sunday 8:00am, 9:30am,11:00am
4:30pm and 6:00pm
Te Rangimarie Centre
11:00am (Miha Māori)

WEEKDAY MASSES
Monday to Saturday
and Public Holidays: 9:15am
Tuesday to Friday
7:30am 12:05pm

RECONCILIATION
Tuesday to Friday 11:30am
Saturday 9:45am

PRESBYTERY
03 377 5610

BISHOP OF CHRISTCHURCH
Bishop Michael Gielen

CATHEDRAL ADMINISTRATOR
Fr Simon Eccleton
adm@cathedralparish.nz

ASSISTANT PRIESTS
Fr Monty Bamford
frmonty@cathedralparish.nz

Fr Viet Thai
frviet@cathedralparish.nz

PARISH OFFICE
Anna Tamplin
03 379 1068
office@cathedralparish.nz

Office Hours
Tues - Fri: 8:30am – 12:30pm
Closed: Monday & Public Holidays

EA TO THE ADMINISTRATOR & SAFEGUARDING
Kirsten Tester
03 595 1053
ea@cathedralparish.nz

PASTORAL WORKERS
Kirsten Challies
kchallies@cathedralparish.nz

Clare Bell
cbell@cathedralparish.nz

Cathie Hurdle
churdle@cathedralparish.nz

YOUTH COORDINATOR
Emily Irvine
cathedralyouthchch@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Michael Collins
musicdirector@cathedralparish.nz

Readings for Today

Amos 8: 4-7; Timothy 2: 1-8
Gospel: Luke 16: 1-13

Psalm Response

Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

Masses offered for Tony Hill, Melchor Baltazar Pena, Lia Reitveld, Pauline Brosnan, (recent) Special Intention (4)

Sickness For those who are sick, please know that you are caring for your fellow parishioners by staying home and getting well. For those worried about Sunday obligations, Canon 1248 of Cannon Law states "A person who is sick or has a serious reason is not obliged to participate in the Mass." Please do help provide a safe environment at Mass for those who are vulnerable to catching bugs.

Cathedral Parish Survey Results This is the final week to view the results of our Parish Survey (February 2025).

- A summary is on the noticeboards in the narthex.
- Hardcopy brochures are also available there.
- Parishioners on the email list will have received an electronic version.

These results help guide our Parish Team and Senior Leadership Team in setting direction and priorities. If you'd like to share feedback, please email office@cathedralparish.nz with the subject *Survey Feedback*. Don't miss your chance—take a look this week and pick up a brochure.

Get Behind Our Young Men In January, seven of our young men will be attending the **Life Teen Camp** in Rotorua. They went last year, and it was a life-changing experience for each of them. In the narthex you'll find short blurbs about these young men, and we'd love your support to help them return this year. We're running the *"We Have Your Back"* fundraiser: donate $20 and have your name or business printed on the back of one of their parish t-shirts. Donate more and your name will appear on multiple shirts. To donate, please message Clare at cbell@cathedralparish.nz or fill in a form in the narthex. Next year we hope to take an even larger group to Life Teen Camp, and our goal is to make it a regular event on the parish calendar, as it has been so life-changing for our young people. For this fundraiser, we are looking for 160 sponsors. Donations can be made to **Catholic Cathedral Parish CHC**, account number **03 1592 0207236 20**, using *Life Teen* as the reference.

Life Teen Camp – One Spot Left We have one space available for a young man to attend Life Teen Camp in Rotorua from 10–14th January. If you are between 14 & 18 and would like to join the group, please contact Clare as soon as possible at cbell@cathedralparish.nz

Enrolments at Our Catholic Primary Schools If you want your pre-school child to attend St Mary's or St Francis of Assisi, enrol soon as both schools are near full capacity. Early enrolment helps with planning. Visit the schools' websites for more information.

Marriage Preparation with Cathedral Parish If you are planning to marry in 2026, contact us soon for marriage preparation. Our five Mentor Couples are currently full, and preparation must be completed at least six months before your wedding. Newly engaged couples should first choose their priest and then register with the parish.

Summer Work for Students Some of our parish young people are looking for work over the summer. If you have a business with potential jobs for high school or university students, please contact Clare at cbell@cathedralparish.nz and she will connect you with them.

SVDP Cathedral Parish Conference Our food store is very low on all essential stocks. We need food times that come in a tin please, plus, essentials for new mothers, nappies, formula, baby food, wipes etc. Thank you for your support.

Young Adults (10–35 years) – Pizza and Saints Join us this Thursday, 25th September at 6pm in the Assisi Lounge for pizza and a chance to learn about some of our most recent saints. It's a great opportunity to share food, faith, and fellowship. Any questions, please speak to Fr Viet or contact Clare at cbell@cathedralparish.nz

Cathedral Brotherhood Join the men's social group of St Mary's for an evening of fun, fellowship, and games on Thursday 9th October. Enjoy Pool, Snooker, and Darts while relaxing with a drink and good conversation. This is a great way to connect with others in the parish and share faith together. More details to follow.

Save The Date

2nd of November at 3pm - All Saints Party and Mini Hope Pilgrimage.
7th of November 7:30-8:30pm - Woman's Event- Sisters in Spirit... More information to follow.

Rosary Meditation Group Join us for friendship, faith, and good conversation while praying the Rosary. Meetings are every other Thursday at 10.30am or 6pm. See the narthex poster or text 021 2636 195 for more info.

New Book by Msgr Brendan Daly Msgr Brendan has published *Penal Issues in Canon Law*. The book explores key topics such as preliminary investigations, extrajudicial processes, rights of victims, mandatory reporting, the role of the Promotor of Justice, diocesan responsibilities, and handling spiritual abuse. Order here: Pleroma Christian Supplies

Diocese Weekly Notices To view see website below: is https://cdoc.nz/news-events/weekly-notices-21-sep-25