

World Day of Prayer for Vocations and Seminary Appeal

Sunday, 26 April 2026

On the **Fourth Sunday of Easter, 26 April 2026**, we are invited to pray especially for those called to the priesthood. This day also marks the beginning of **National Vocations Awareness Week**.

We are greatly blessed by the generosity and enthusiasm of the men who are currently discerning and following God's call to priestly service within our diocese.

Our Seminarians

At present, we have **five seminarians** in formation:

- **Sy Nguyen**, is in his second year and brings a strong passion for youth outreach and community service all of which is nourished daily by his quiet, interior life of prayer.
- **Zecharia Mathew**, is in his second year of formation and has a deep love for the liturgy, along with a strong passion for journeying with youth and young adults.
- **Br Rodney Rebecca**, was a Trappist monk for 20 years and has spent several years at Kopua Monastery. As a priest, he would like to be a good pastor in the way of Christ, who is the Good Shepherd. Practically, his primary concern is the faithful administration of the Church's sacraments. Furthermore, he seeks to make people aware of the surpassing greatness of God's mercy.
- **Hung Nguyen**, first year, who returned to New Zealand last year after completing his IELTS exam, and brings a strong passion for parish life and service.
- **Zung Manh Phan**, fourth year of formation, currently on pastoral placement in Feilding, Taihape, and Ohakune, with a particular interest in pastoral care and parish ministry.

We also ask you to please keep **Lam Van Nguyen and Canh Minh Hoang** in your prayers, as they continue preparing for their English test in Vietnam – an important step in their vocational journey.

Arriving this month is **Lam Phan Van Lam**, originally from Vietnam and currently residing in the United Kingdom. Lam is joining our diocese for a period of discernment, with the hope of potentially entering the seminary next year.

We are further encouraged by a growing interest in vocations, with others expressing a desire to begin seminary formation next year.

Seminary Appeal

The cost of formation is significant – approximately **\$60,000 per seminarian per year**, along with **\$20,000 annually** to meet the fixed costs of running the seminary.

Your support is more important than ever.

We invite you to support our seminarians **both prayerfully and financially**. Any contribution, no matter the amount, makes a real difference.

How to contribute:

- Specially marked envelopes are available in the church foyer.
- Donations can also be made via direct credit to Saint Mary's Parish Account
Bank Account Number 02 0630 0046345 83
- Please use your **name as the payee** and **"Seminary Appeal"** as the reference.

A Word of Encouragement

To our young people: the priesthood is always a beautiful and courageous option for your life. If you are considering it, please speak with any of our diocesan priests.

To parents: if your children express an interest in a vocation to the priesthood, we encourage you to support them with openness, love, and prayer.

Fr Trung is currently preparing a **Vocations Discernment Retreat the weekend of 26 - 28 June 2026**. Please contact him for further information.

For enquiries or support, please contact the **Diocese of Palmerston North Vocations Director, Fr Trung Nguyen** on **022 062 6726** or email vocations@pndiocese.org.nz.

Thank you for your continued generosity, support, and prayers for vocations.