

Our Lady Star of the Sea  
Parish and School  
Howick, Auckland

1848 - 2023



Souvenir Booklet

## Howick Parish Prayer

Come Holy Spirit  
enter our hearts and our lives.  
Guide us as we journey forward in faith  
to meet the challenges of our times.  
Grant us the strength to respond faithfully  
to the call of the Gospel  
through the witness of our lives.  
Inspire within us the commitment  
to shape a better world.  
Lead us to form a community of faith  
here at this Parish of  
Our Lady Star of the Sea,  
celebrating Gods presence among us  
and the saving act of  
Christ's sacrifice on the Cross.  
Set alight in us the fire of Your love.  
This we ask in the name of  
Jesus our Lord  
Amen.

**Kevin Saunders 2000**



## Catholic Diocese of Auckland



Dear Parishioners of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish,

This year, both the Diocese and your parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, are celebrating their 175<sup>th</sup> anniversaries.

As such, your parish is one of the oldest parishes in the Diocese and certainly the first new parish of the new Diocese of Auckland.

Before there was a parish, however, there were people. Howick has a rich history going back some 800 years to the arrival of the Tainui canoe that took advantage of the sheltered coastal lands with a strategic outlook across the Hauraki Gulf. These first tangata whenua landed at Whakakaiwhara (in the area now known as the Duder Regional Park).

Last year the Howick community celebrated the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Fencible settlement.

Now you celebrate the founding of your parish on the site chosen by Bishop Pompallier your founding Parish Priest, Father Antoine Marie Garin SM, who built a school house which doubled as a Church on Sundays. From this humble beginning your parish has had a 175-year history.

A parish is much more than places and buildings. A parish is the pilgrim people of God in a particular place. In the heart of the parish and its various ways of outreach to the Catholic and wider community, it touches and shapes lives and becomes a hub for the encounter with the risen Christ who journeys with us in our communities of faith.

In this wonderful jubilee booklet, I hope you will enjoy discovering the riches of your parish's history. There are many things to be grateful for, but, as in any human story, there are aspects of your parish story that we regret.

But overall what we find in your 175 years as a parish is a legacy of loving faithful service under the protecting gaze of Our Lady, Star of the Sea! It is telling that this beautiful parish Church faces both the Hauraki Gulf (and the varied "storms of life") and also faces openly outward onto Picton Street and the community of Howick: a welcoming open inclusive Church on mission facing, loving and serving this world which God loves so much. Here the Mass has been celebrated daily for 148 years.

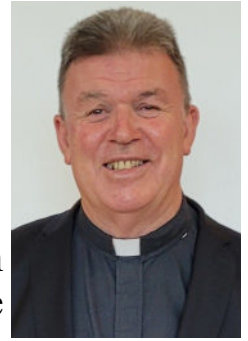
Drawing on Saint Pope John Paul II's words at the start of the new millennium, may your jubilee be an opportunity *to remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence.*

It will be my joy as the successor of Bishop Pompallier to join you in giving thanks to God and his holy Mother Mary for all the graces you have received.

+ Steve Lowe

**Bishop of Auckland**

## A Message from our Parish Priest



I am very aware that as the 14th Parish Priest of Howick I am standing on the shoulders of all those priests who have gone before me beginning with our first (Father Antoine Marie Garin SM) who was our founder in 1848, having been appointed by our first Bishop – Jean Baptiste Pompallier. This Diocese of Auckland was also established in 1848 and our Parish of Howick was one of its newest parishes.

We are all of us beneficiaries of the sacrifices of those who have gone before us. This is true of our own families, of our nation, and of our parish family. Those loyalties lie deep in the soil of lives lived generously and faithfully in this place under the tender gaze of Our Lady Star of the Sea. Among the many titles given to the Mother of Jesus, I think this is one of the most beautiful: as the Bishop notes in his Message our Church both faces out towards the Hauraki Gulf (and the calm and storms of life) and equally faces outward to Picton Street and the community of Howick it serves: at the heart of our Parish Church along with the Blessed Sacrament is the Chapel of Mother Mary with its lovely Statue of Our Lady of Peace. When I open the Church early every morning, I firstly light a candle in front of Mother Mary and commit to her all of you and your needs throughout this day. I am always moved at the end of the day as darkness falls when I come to close the Church and I see the many candles of prayer that have been lit in the Chapel throughout the day: each candle holds its own story - of joy, of sorrow, of struggle, of need, of thanksgiving, of hopeful prayer. Our open Parish Church is truly an oasis of peace and prayer for everyone: all are welcome.

So, at this Anniversary we look back and say THANK YOU to God for the living waters of life and love that continue to flow in this place. And we look forward and say YES to the daily call of God for us to be generous in welcome and patient with human frailty. May we ever more become what we seek to be: *A Christ centred community fostering belonging (whanaungatanga) and outreach through selfless giving (manaakitanga) in Mary's way.*



## “KNOWING OUR STORY”

### Paparoa, Waipaparoa, Ōwairoa Howick

Over 800 years ago descendants from the Tainui canoe took advantage of the sheltered coastal lands with a strategic outlook across the Hauraki Gulf. They landed at Whakakaiwhara (in the area now known as Duder Regional Park). A karaka tree was planted there and further along the coast at Mangemangeroa, an important stone anchor was left.

The tangata whenua of the Howick area are Ngāi Tai of Tainui descent, who lived in the area at least 300-years before European settlement.

Over the years several names have been associated to the area within the vicinity of what we know as Howick today. Paparoa (flat ground) was a Pā (village) occupied by Ngāi Tai, on the high ground above the coast that forms the present-day Howick. Waipaparoa (the “Waters of the long flat ground”) refers to the present-day Howick Beach below Paparoa Pā. The contractions of Waipapa and/or Paparoa are also sometimes used. Another name, Ōwairoa meaning “the place of the long river” refers to the swampy inland areas reclaimed for what is now the Howick Domain. The name Ōwairoa has also been suggested to represent the view towards Waiheke Island from Stockade Hill as being like a “long river.”

In 1847 Governor Grey replaced the Māori names for the area with the English name, Howick, after Henry Grey, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl Grey and known as Viscount Howick. Earl Grey, as Secretary of State for war and the colonies, had approved the fencible settlement scheme. His residence was at Howick Hall in Northumberland. The “fencibles” were brought to Auckland by Governor Grey to defend Auckland, then the capital city of New Zealand from Māori attacks.



As a result of being renamed Howick, the name “Hāwaki” – a simple transliteration of the English name began to be used for a time. Many people continued to use the Māori names for the coastal area until the European name Howick was officially adopted by the town council in 1923.

On 7 Nov 2015, Ngāi Tai ki Tamaki received a Treaty of Waitangi settlement and 16 cultural sites returned to them. The Deed of Settlement includes a commitment to make 13 place name changes. Among those to be made in the area:

Howick Beach to Waipaparoa/Howick Beach  
Point View Pā to Puke-i-Āki-Rangi  
Musick Point to Musick Point/Te Naupata

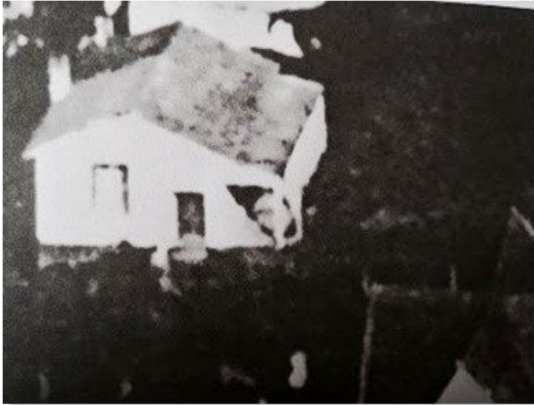
In 1848 the Howick-Panmure parish was established. The Marist pioneer missionary Father Antoine Marie Garin was the first Parish Priest. On the site chosen by Bishop Pompallier, Father Garin built a schoolhouse. He was greatly assisted in this endeavour by Ngāti Tai (Ngāi Tai) and the Fencible families.

Under the leadership of Father Henry Fynes construction was started on the first church in 1852 and it was completed in 1854. It was blessed by Bishop Pompallier in the same year. In 1959 after 105 years of active use, the first church was demolished to make way for the current church opened in December 1960 at its Picton Street site. 2023 marks 175<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish.

**(Thank you to Manuel Beazley, Vicar for Maori in the Diocese of Auckland)**



## IN THE BEGINNING...



From **1904** to **1925** the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions took over the teaching in the Schoolroom and tended the Sacraments and the Church. During this time up to **1949** there was no Parish Priest resident in Howick, and the parish was administered from Otahuhu and Ellerslie.

### First School and Church Site

Fr Antoine **GARIN** answered Bishop Pompallier's call to leave France as a missionary Marist priest, ministering first to Maori in Northland and then Auckland.

In **1848** he formed the Howick parish and school for the pioneer Fencible families and local Ngai Tai Maori. Pupils were taught by lay teachers.

**1848** A Chapel/Schoolroom was built with timber gifted from Chief Tara Te Irirangi. The site was in open fields to the southeast of our current Church, and was used for all Catholic services until **1854** and as a school until **1925**. Fr Garin departed in **1850**.



*The old church minus its steeple after a lightning strike in the 1920's.*

Fr Henry **FYNES** Parish Priest from **1852** to **1873**. In his fruitful 21 years in Howick he reorganised the parish schools in Howick, Panmure and Otahuhu and also supervised the building of the first Catholic Church in Howick which stood for over 100 years. He later became Vicar General and then Administrator of the Diocese.

## THE GROWING PARISH



The old church gives way to a new church building.

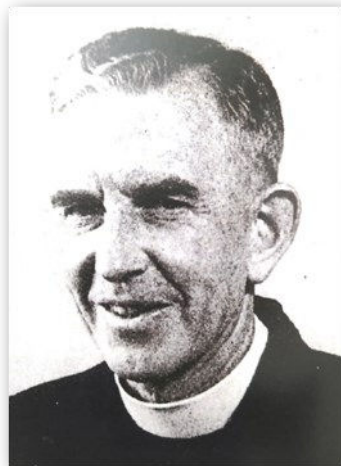
It was sad to see the old Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, which had stood proudly for 105 years, being demolished in 1959. The rotting timber meant the time had come, and with the start of a planned giving scheme, Father William Flynn was able to raise funds for the running of a growing Parish.



*Bishop Michael Liston blessed the new church on 11th December 1960.*

*The sweeping church entrance provided parishioner access and space for motor vehicles right to the church door for weddings and funerals. The nave faced the Altar and Crucifix.*

**Father Flynn** was farewelled on 19th January 1975 at a garden party attended by 400 parishioners and friends. Under his leadership the Parish had grown with strong support from the parishioners.





## ENLARGING THE CHURCH

Under the guidance of a special committee of parishioners, led by Father Peter Prendergast who had arrived in **1984**, plans for enlarging the church building and revising the internal layout to conform to requirements of the reformed Liturgy, were formulated. The sale of the Bucklands Beach de-sanctified church in **1991** together with some land, raised \$275,000 enabling work to proceed.



*Father Peter  
Prendergast  
1984 to 2000*



The top illustration shows the Church undergoing enlargement which included the entrance way being converted to a Foyer where parishioners could gather before and after Mass. The alterations were completed and blessed by Bishop Browne on 23rd February 1993.

## MAKING OUR CHURCH AND GROUNDS BEAUTIFUL



It was during Father Peter's time that the wonderful stained glass windows were designed and erected throughout the church. These represent many aspects of our Faith such as the seven Sacraments.

Improvements to the Church have progressed over the years, always with the guidance from the Parish Priest.



*Refurbished pews through parishioners' sponsorship with memorial plaques.*



*New cremation plots*



The congregation now appreciates, new lighting, improved sound and finally lovely heating!

## “OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA - PRAY FOR US”

**When the Tabernacle was moved to behind the altar in 2015  
the Blessed Sacrament Chapel became the Lady Chapel**

In **2020** a beautifully carved and hand-painted statue of Our Lady of Peace imported from Italy was gifted to the parish by an anonymous family. It was blessed and commissioned by Bishop Michael Gielen in July **2020** and then installed in the Lady Chapel. The original statue of Our Lady keeps watch over our departed loved ones in a specially built Grotto in the Church cemetery.



*Bishop Gielen blessing the new statue of Our Lady of Peace before it's placement in the Lady Chapel in the church*



*Blessing of the **Cemetery** and **Grotto** marking the 60th anniversary of the opening of the current church in 1960.*



*The white statue of Our Lady Star of the Sea with the Rosary Anchor which graces our foyer was gifted by Eileen O'Reilly in the 1960's.*

# THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

## Our Lady Star of the Sea Youth Group

We are blessed to have a dynamic Youth Group in our Parish in **2023**. Over the years volunteer parents and teenagers have stepped up to lead young people helping them to nurture their faith through fellowship and sharing. Francesca Adams is our Youth Minister.

Many older parishioners recall film and games nights in the old church hall with an occasional beach picnic or barbecue; from these humble beginnings in the **1960's** has grown the vibrant Catholic youth movement not only in our Parish but across New Zealand today.



*Left:* Kelly Mascarenhas, Anna George, and Bridgette Carne are joining thousands of young people from around the world to participate in World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal in August 2023 along with Pope Francis.

***In a message from Pope Francis for World Youth Day 2023 he urges young people to follow in the footsteps of Our Lady going in haste to others and dedicating their lives to Jesus.***



**Francesca Adams our Youth Minister in Howick reports on some of the events for 2023:**

“In January we took a group of thirteen of our youth with three adult chaperones to the Life Teen Summer Camp in Cambridge. This was a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth and bonding among young Catholics. We have recruited new youth and parents to our core group to accommodate growing numbers. Along with social nights we also have monthly Adoration evenings followed by reflections and kai. We participate in youth Masses in the Parish and continue our online presence via the youth Instagram page.” Instagram : @olsos\_youth



# THE PARISH FAMILY

## Parishioners contribute to our Liturgy and Pastoral Care

In the Parish there are many opportunities for parishioners to become involved in different ministries, whether you like singing, cleaning or mowing the grass, there's something for everyone.

*The Parish Choir is led by Jennifer Maybee with organist Laurie Kubiak, just below - the choir in full voice.*



*CROSSyngs, Heartstrings, Ray and Nathan Viegas, Belen Shum and other musicians uplift our Sunday Masses.*

*The Children's choir*

## MINISTRIES



*St Vincent de Paul meeting the needs of families in need of support coordinated by Libby Giddey.*



*Flowers for the altar prepared by a team led by Jeanette Wyllie.*



*Pat and Penny Hudson the coordinators since 1993*

**PASSIONIST  
FAMILY GROUP  
MOVEMENT**



*The Passionist Family Group celebrated their 30 years in the Parish in 2022 and has been co-ordinated by Pat and Penny Hudson.*



*Three of the Parish Altar Servers*

*Ministers to the Sick are a vital part of our out reach and a generous team attend to those who are housebound.*

## PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME



*First Communion and Confirmation 2022*



Each year in the parish around 70 children prepare to become full members of the Catholic Church by receiving Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Eucharist. The children are prepared by a team of parents who lead small groups over a period of nine weeks. The parents also attend nine sessions to help develop their understanding of the sacraments.

On the Friday night of the Sacramental Weekend the Bishop Confirms each of the candidates during a Liturgy at the Church.

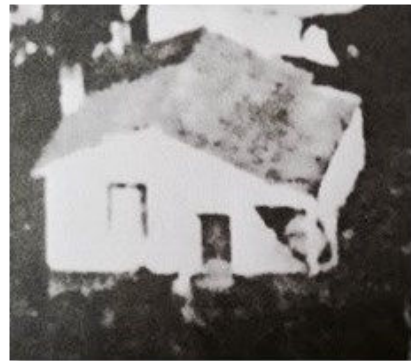




# OUR PARISH SCHOOL



It is with pride that we celebrate this year, commemorating 175 years since Our Lady Star of the Sea School began its legacy of service within the Parish and East Auckland area. One of the oldest schools in New Zealand, the school has had three locations. Firstly, the little chapel school room 1848 to 1925 on the site of our Parish Church. Followed by the convent in Granger Road 1925 to 1929, which was destroyed by fire and replaced by a new convent orphanage and Parish school from 1929 to 1996. Pressure on the school roll saw the school move to its current location in 1996, a larger site in Oakridge Way Northpark.





## Standing on the Shoulders of Giants.

Our Lady Star of the Sea School continues to go from strength to strength, looking back with love and respect to those who have gone before and looking ahead sharing and growing love, service, justice, hospitality, high expectations, excellence in education and the embodiment of Jesus Christ in our world today.

*Louise Campbell  
Principal  
2018 - present*



Teaching Staff



Father John blessing the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA)



*Principal  
Kevin  
Saunders  
1979 - 1999*

*Moving Day to Oakridge Way*



*Principal  
Ken McKay  
1999 - 2014*



The school foyer contains several taonga (gifts) special to our school. The stained glass windows originally commissioned in 1931 by Bishop Cleary's siblings and installed in the Chapel of the old school site in Granger road. *Whetu Moana*, a sculpture commissioned by the school and blessed by Bishop Pat.



*Principal  
Carmel Platt  
2015 - 2018*



We remember and celebrate our school history in many ways, bringing the story of our journey as a school to life through our house patrons.

**GARIN House:** acknowledges Antoine Garin the French Marist Priest, fluent in Te Reo, who was Howick's first Parish Priest under the direction of Bishop Pompallier. He worked with the Fencible families and the local iwi to build a Church / school room back in 1848 for Fencible children and local Maori alike with timber gifted by Chief Tara Te Irirangi. A truly inclusive community from the onset.



**McAULEY House:** brings to our mind Catherine McAuley the founder of the Mercy Sisters. The Sisters of Mercy took over education at Our Lady Star of the Sea in 1926. The Mercy Sisters were known as the walking sisters as they moved around to bring the word of God far and wide. The spirit of hospitality that is still strong in our school community today is inspired by the Mercy Sisters.

**BARBIER House:** reminds us of Euphrasie Barbier the founder of the Mission Sisters. The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions were the first religious order to teach at our parish school. Between 1904 and 1924 over 20 Mission Sisters taught at our school.



**MAHER House:** reminds us of Cecilia Maher the founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy in Auckland. Mother Maher and 7 other sisters came to New Zealand under the invitation of Bishop Pompallier. The Mercy Sisters remained at our school from 1926 to 1980.

During this time, under Bishop Cleary's direction they established and operated an orphanage (1926-1977) and school at Granger Road.

## THE BEACHLANDS NOMADIC PARISHIONERS



### Reflections from long time Beachlands parishioners Kevin and Brenda Saunders

**1955:** A small section at Beachlands, with an eye for future growth, was sold to fund alterations to the Howick Church.

**1972:** A group of around 16 or so souls gathered in the **Beachlands Community Centre Hall** on Wakelin Road. Mass was often held only monthly depending on the availability of priests.

**1980's:** The community moved to a hall at the back of **St Hilda's Anglican Church**. Members of the Coast community would set up the hall for Mass, using donated equipment and a celebrant would arrive from Howick.

**2009:** After 30 years the community moved back to the **Beachlands Community Centre Hall** to accommodate its growing congregation.

**2017:** The management of the hall changed, and it became clear that there were competing demands for the hall on Saturday evenings. So the community shifted to a function room at **Te Puru Community Centre** on the Whitford-Maraetai Road.

**2020:** The community found itself on the move again due to the function room no longer being available. the community moved this time to familiar surroundings in **St Hilda's Church** on Wakelin Road, where it remains today.



**Father Terry Montgomery with some of the Beachlands Parishioners  
in St. Hilda's Church 2023**

## THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

The Church in Aotearoa New Zealand has amongst its congregations members from all over the globe and Howick is no exception. Many ancient traditions brought from other Catholic countries add colour and beauty to our modern worshipping communities. Along with new parishioners we also welcome missionary priests who have answered the call to leave their homelands and come to minister to the Church in New Zealand.



# THE PARISH LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE



## The Parish Leadership Committee 2023

First Row: left to right - Parish Priest Father John Fitzmaurice, Father Terry Montgomery, Linda McQuade, Delta Fairweather,

Middle Row: left to right - Linda Lehrke, Edel Roughton, Diran Arthur, Bryan Mills

Bottom Row: left to right - Terexa Chan Mow, Raoul Mascarenhas, Henry Elliott, Luke McEnteer.



## The Parish Office

*Left:* Linda Van Heerden, Parish Secretary

*Right:* Diana Mascarenhas, Parish Finances



## PARISH PRIESTS 1848-2023

Father Antoine Marie GARIN 1848 - 1850

Father Henry FYNES 1852 -1873

Father Walter McDONALD 1886 - 1899

No Resident Parish Priest 1902 - 1925

Father John DOWNEY 1927 - 1941

Father James O'CONNOR 1941 - 1952

Father William FLYNN 1952 - 1975

Monsignor Leo DOWNEY 1975 - 1978

Father Nicholas ALLEMAN 1978 - 1984

Father Peter PRENDERGAST 1984 - 2000

Father Patrick BRADY 2001 - 2008

Father Terry MONTGOMERY 2008 - 2012  
(Now Priest in Residence from 2015)

Father Tony DUNN 2012 - 2014

Father Benedict FRANCIS 2015 - 2016

Father John FITZMAURICE 2017 - present



### ASSISTANT PRIESTS

Father Seamus DOYLE 1960 - 1967

Father Denzil MUELI 1968 - 1969

Father Ivan LUNJEVICH 1969 - 1971

Father William DUGGAN 1971 - 1973

Father Peter GRAY 1973 - 1975

Father John DUNN 1978 - 1981

Father Brian WILKINSON 1980's

Father Peter PENNY 1980's

Father Philip HANDFORTH 1989 - 1991

Father Bill FLETCHER 2008 - 2009

Father Sam PULANCO 2009 - 2011

Father Maliu 'OTUTAHA 2011 - 2012

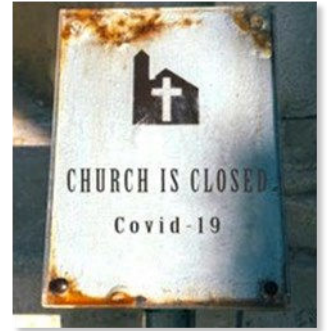
Priests illustrated from top of page:  
Father McDonald, Father Garin,  
Father Flynn, Monsignor Downey,  
Father Alleman, Father Prendergast,  
Father Montgomery, Father Brady,  
Father Fitzmaurice, Father Dunn,  
Father Francis

Parish Assistant  
Sister Genevieve  
O'ROURKE 1985-1997



## THE COVID YEARS - A TIME OF CHALLENGES

In the Howick parish cemetery is a plaque with the names of the 50 local children who lost their lives in the Scarlet Fever epidemic of 1854, and there are also many graves of those who lost their lives in the 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic, which killed around 50 million people globally. In dark times people have always turned to their Church for comfort and strength.



In 2020 the Coronavirus pandemic spread across the globe. During those Covid-19 years people learnt not only to work from home but also to worship from home. The Church rose to the challenge with Digital Masses set up in most parishes, and the Sunday Mass on Shine TV becoming a regular fixture on New Zealand screens, and remains so for house-bound Catholics and others.

The limitations caused by Covid-19 restrictions gave Fr. John the opportunity to hone his emailing skills and now he regularly communicates with hundreds of parishioners about important parish events and news.



Gradually people are making their way back to Mass after the restrictions caused by Covid-19. The parish community has been an important focus for people often living in isolated circumstances.

No one would have predicted that it would be three years, in 2023, before we would finally see some normality again with congregations returning to Mass in numbers.



As a parish we are very grateful to Fr John and Fr Terry for their support and guidance during those challenging years.

## PARISH DIRECTORY 2023



### Our Lady Star of The Sea Catholic Church

**Office & Parish Centre:** 18 Parkhill Road, PO Box 38-276, Howick

**Church:** Corner of Picton & Park Hill Roads

**Phone:** (09) 534 8710

**Website:** [www.howickcatholic.org.nz](http://www.howickcatholic.org.nz)

**Parish Priest:** Fr John Fitzmaurice : [frjohnfitzmaurice@gmail.com](mailto:frjohnfitzmaurice@gmail.com)

**Priest in Residence:** Fr Terry Montgomery : [fathertm2@gmail.com](mailto:fathertm2@gmail.com)

**Parish Secretary:** Linda Van Heerden

**Email:** [office@howickcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@howickcatholic.org.nz)

**Parish Finance:** Diana Mascarenhas

**Email:** [finance@howickcatholic.org.nz](mailto:finance@howickcatholic.org.nz)

**Youth Minister:** Francesca Adams

**Email:** [youthministerhowick@gmail.com](mailto:youthministerhowick@gmail.com)

**Instagram:** @olsos\_youth

### Beachlands Mass Centre:

St. Hilda's Anglican Church

3 Wakelin Road, Beachlands

**Website:** [www.beachlandsc.com](http://www.beachlandsc.com)

### Sacramental Programme

**Co-Ordinator:** Linda Lehrke

**Email:** [sacramental@outlook.co.nz](mailto:sacramental@outlook.co.nz)

### Our Lady Star of the Sea School

14 Oakridge Way

Howick

**Principal:** Louise Campbell

**Phone:** 538 0195 [lcampbell@starofthesea.school.nz](mailto:lcampbell@starofthesea.school.nz)

**Email:** [office@starofthesea.school.nz](mailto:office@starofthesea.school.nz)

**Website:** [www.starofthesea.school.nz](http://www.starofthesea.school.nz)