

*What's the  
Difference?'*

A Simple Explanation

First Edition 2018  
Typeset: Lora Medium

© 2024

Te Hāhi Katorika Tawhito  
*The Reformed Old Catholic Church in New  
Zealand* All rights reserved

# CONTENTS

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Who Are You?         | 5  |
| Membership           | 9  |
| Communities          | 12 |
| What Do You Do?      | 14 |
| Rites and Ceremonies | 18 |
| Finances             | 22 |
| Attire and Vestments | 25 |
| Glossary             | 27 |
| Contact              | 32 |



Dear Pilgrim:

Jesus gave the commission to His followers to 'go into all the world and teach...' (Mt 28:19-20). This has been the exercise of many Christians throughout the two-millennia since His mortal ministry.

As a bishop of the Church, the task of fulfilling that commission becomes my responsibility at this time and in this part of the world. To the many who have asked me: 'What's the Difference?' Both here in New Zealand and abroad, this is written with you in mind.

Most Reverend Rima Tamaiparea-Puki  
**BISHOP**

# WHO ARE YOU?

## ***Reformed... Old... Catholic Church...***

*'What's in a name?'* Some have names that are easily mispronounced or are just too long and unless an explanation is given, they remain a peculiarity. Often names are generational and connect to a parent or grandparent or an extended member of the family, perhaps even commemorating an event, a Christian Martyr or Saint.

Whatever the reason, there is always a meaning that comes with a name. Likewise, the Church has a peculiar and lengthy name, but for us, the name explains an identity of who we are, our connection to the universal Church and more importantly our relationship to the Founder of Christianity—Jesus Christ.

## ***Do you call yourselves Catholic or Christian?***

Yes! We are both. The best way to look at it is from the perspective of a family. In this light, we consider ourselves as members of the Catholic (meaning: *Universal*) and Christ-following family.

## ***Can you explain the name?***

We identify as a Catholic Church—a community of believers, a people of faith—who adhere to the teachings of Jesus Christ, as received from His Apostles and their successors the bishops, through the written word and in sacred traditions. (II Thes 2:15)

The Old Catholic Church has its roots in Utrecht, Holland which legally separated from the Roman Catholic Church in the latter part of the 1800's.

The use of the word ‘Reformed’ further identifies us from the Roman Catholics and the Old Catholics whilst still acknowledging our family connection with these sister Churches.

Te Hāhi Katorika Tawhito—*The Reformed Old Catholic Church* is the name of the Church in New Zealand.

### ***Do you have a Pope?***

No. The various leaders of the Christian denominations do not doubt that the Pope (currently Francis) leads the largest of the Churches in Christendom. All Roman Catholic bishops make their allegiance to him as it is by his authority they head the various dioceses throughout the world. He is titled Supreme Pontiff which is wholly unique to the Roman Catholic Church.

We hold the position that whilst some bishops have more jurisdictional roles and are distinguished with titles such as: *archbishop*, *metropolitan*, or *primate*, each ranks equally.

## ***Do you have an international representative?***

Yes. Every mission territory or diocese is headed by a bishop (in some cases by an Ordinary who is a priest). When the bishops of the Church gather, they elect from among themselves one to be *primus inter pares* or first among equals. The Primate essentially becomes the elder sibling of the bishops.

It is similar to that of the archbishop of Canterbury for the Anglican Communion or the patriarch of Constantinople who chairs the pan Orthodox Synod having neither oversight or jurisdiction outside their province.

The Primate for the Church is Most Reverend Andrew Hall, archbishop of Scotland.



# MEMBERSHIP

## ***How do I become a Catholic?***

If a person is baptised at *such and such* a church, the mistake is that they are of that so-called denomination. Christ when commissioning the apostles said ‘*baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...*’ (Mt. 28:19) thus, it qualifies a person to become a Catholic—or a member of the body of Christ, which is the Church.

However, this Sacrament is incomplete without receiving the Holy Spirit, Who confirms the individual as a full and participating member of the Church. It’s just a matter of talking with a priest and asking. The priest will get your details and introduce you to people who will take the responsibility of mentoring you. *Refer to page 18 on Confirmation.*

## ***What are the Church's views on other religions?***

Within Christianity is an array of various denominations. Our members are encouraged to fully participate—where appropriate—in the liturgical celebrations and worship services of these denominations—according to one's conscience.

We believe that God is the Source of all good. No one person or society can selfishly lay claim alone to that which is good.

We encourage our people to cast aside prejudices and to find the common ground within other faith communities. Likewise we invite those not of our faith and tradition to participate with us—no one person should be left without.

## ***Can women fully participate in the Church?***

Yes! There is nothing in the Church a man can do, that a woman can't and vice-versa. Just to make it clearer, if a woman has a vocation to holy orders, she may choose to undergo the discernment process, like any other candidate.

## ***And what about Gays and Lesbians?***

Identifying as Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender and any other letter on that spectrum is not a barrier for membership in the Church or to ministry.

# COMMUNITIES

## *Do you have a 'Friar Tuck' following?*

We sure do! The Church has always had people who have felt a calling to serve God in a variety of ways. It isn't limited to married people and unmarried people. Some have a calling to be both married and a member of the clergy; whilst others may wish to serve in a community of brothers or sisters or just be simple attendees at church.

The Church currently has three Religious Orders. The Order of St Francis of the Stigmata OSFS; The Brothers and Sisters of St Benedict Camoldese OSBC and The Community of Mary and Martha.

The Order of St Francis of the Stigmata (Franciscans) are what we would deem the 'Friar Tuck' Order. They are identified by their brown habits. In New Zealand the Superior is

Fr Allister Kelley OSFS based at the Oratory of Ss Francis and Clare in Kimbolton.

The Brothers and Sisters of St Benedict Camoldese OSBC (Benedictines) are a congregation that live in seclusion and who are called to serve in praying for the world and specifically for the priests of the Church.

The Community of Mary and Martha is a group of people tasked with the responsibility of supporting the ministries of a parish.

Mary was focused on the words of the Lord and Martha was concerned with the duties of the house. She pleaded with the Lord to have Mary do her duties and not sit around.

Not everyone is called to service at the altar but there are some with talents to repair carpet, pews or make items for the sanctuary or cook delicious foods, prepare flowers for the house of God or launder the linens of the altar. Learning these particular ministries is a skill.

# WHAT DO YOU DO?

## *What will I learn?*

A Christian's vocation is to live a life of holiness. Every experience with the Divine transforms how we interact in our ordinary lives.

Worship leads us to fulfil our promise to put God above all else and by doing so, God honours our efforts and imparts a grace in our works. We learn respect for others, for creation, for life and even for death. The encounter with the Holy helps us to see the sacredness about the work we do, the life we live, and the people with whom we interact. When we acknowledge this, we affirm our witness of the Divine, Who is the Fountain of all-holiness.

## ***What happens at Mass?***

For Catholics, the Mass is the pinnacle of worship and more importantly the reception of Christ in Holy Communion.

Participation can be quite involved with certain postures like kneeling, genuflecting, bowing, standing and sitting at particular moments. The Mass is like a steady rhythm, easy to pick up after a few times. If you choose to attend, do so with an open mind; don't be too hasty to make rash judgements and be truly present in the moment.

## **What makes you different from other Churches?**

*'A kumara never speaks of its own sweetness...'* If you were to ask about our similarities then I could possibly answer the above. Either speak with one of our clergy or meet with us. Details are on the back of this booklet.

## **What are the similarities between the Reformed Old Catholics and other Christian Communities?**

The Apostle Paul encouraged the Faithful to seek after those things which are good. (Acts 14:22; I Cor 13:7)

We encourage our people to love God; to pray daily and frequently; to live lives of holiness finding God in the midst of their ordinary existence; to see Christ in our efforts; to read from good books; to develop talents; to have a healthy and honest work ethic; to be people of substance; to be happy with our circumstances and to praise God in all things!



The Church teaches its people to reflect the goodness of God with humility, with no judgement toward others, embracing the uniqueness that each individual possesses.

Some Christians find fulfilment in reading from the bible, or meeting often with other members of their church to discuss service activities, or acts of charity that could be performed to members in their communities. We too, would share in these like minded efforts with other Christians.

The list of things to do is endless and if it is uplifting, encouraging and inspirational these virtues should be counted among our activities!

# rites and Ceremonies

## What are the Rites?

The Church teaches that Christ instituted seven Sacraments, necessary for salvation.

- **Baptism** – is the ceremony of initiation into the Church, being ‘*born of water*’ (Jn 3:5) as was Jesus by John the Baptist in the river Jordan.
- **Confirmation** – is a continuation of the ceremony of initiation where the newly made Christian is then born ‘*of the Spirit*’ (Jn 3:5) and confirmed a full and participating member of the Church, thereby enabling the neophyte for mission. The bishop traditionally anoints the candidates head with the oil of Chrism and with a light but firm smack on the candidates left cheek, affirms them of their being a soldier in Christ’s army.

- **Eucharist** – or Holy Communion is the pinnacle of Catholic worship. Christ instituted this Sacrament with His Apostles on the night before He died. Christ teaches the Church that He is present in the Eucharist (Jn 6:53-56) and that we should participate wholly in this ceremony known as the Mass.
- **Confession** – is about reconnecting with the Divine and seeking clarity on personal issues that may be a hindrance in one's Christian progress. It's about being vulnerable to God, taking advantage of the opportunity to receive God's gift of forgiveness and healing. In the person of the priest, Christ embraces the penitent soul. (Mt 11:27-30; 16:19; Jn 20:21-23).
- **Extreme Unction** – this Sacrament is about God the Holy Spirit being the Comforter and preparing the penitent soul for death. The Faithful may call on the priest to anoint them at such times. (Mk 6:13; Jas 5:14-15).

- **Marriage** – is the uniting of two people before God. To bring up and raise children. (Mt 19:1-12; Eph 5:31-32).
- **Holy Orders** – refers to people who are called to leadership in the Church. Christ instituted the office of bishop, priest and deacon; the Church instituted subdeacon, acolyte, lector, exorcist and porter. (Acts 6:3- 6; 13:2-3; I Tim 3:1; 3:8-9; 4:14; 4:16; 5:17-19; 5:22)

Various ceremonies or services are performed by the sacred ministers away from the church proper such as: the blessing of a home, school, work place, women after child-birth, animals, vehicles. Pastoral visits to local hospitals, hospices, retirement villages etc...

In extreme and rare circumstances that warrant the specific consent of the *Bishop*, after examinations by mental health professionals have been conducted, a priest may perform a service of exorcism. Requests may not always be granted.

## ***What are some of your practices?***

The first action any Christian will be taught is the *Sign of the Cross*. In this simple act we invoke the three Persons of the Blessed *Trinity* of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

We try to make use of resources that will enhance our spirituality like the Rosary, various forms of contemplation or meditation. We use holy water at church and in our homes, candles and oil lamps, icons, statues, the crucifix, prayer books, incense, reading of holy scripture or *Lectio Divina*. Meditation books from the Saints and leaders who have written on such practices and fasting at certain periods.

Whilst these sacramentals or aids can satisfy the superficial by providing a tangible resource, their deeper significance teaches *The Faithful* of the relationship between humankind and the Divine.

# FINANCES

## ***Is tithing mandatory for membership?***

No. This is left to individual conscience. Some members who choose to adhere to this teaching, and contribute whether it be money, produce or time is at the discretion of the individual.

Like any organisation, the Church needs money to pay its bills, to supply its ceremonies, even to support the community events. Every bit helps and we hope it's used according to the purposes for which it was solicited.

A priest-friend would ask '*does your car run on holy water?*' Be generous knowing that finances are going toward a holy cause.

## ***So how does the Church function financially?***

An offering is taken at every Sunday Mass which is then collected and tallied with information to be passed to the parish council who then decide how that money should be used.

If the church is not in possession of its own building then rent will be deducted; a donation is given to the organist, the preacher and celebrant for their preparation and travel; incense, coals, altar wine and bread, candles, vestments, printing of pew sheets, postage stamps are all deducted from the offerings given at Mass.

When clergy are called upon to perform the liturgies of the Church, a blessing of a home, pastoral visits and the like, the priest may be given an envelope with an offering.

***In their will, do members have to leave money or a proportion of their estate to the Church?***

Like tithing, bequeathing property or money to the care of the Church is at the discretion of the parishioner. The expectation is that if property or money is bequeathed then specific instructions should be left for its proper disbursement.



# ATTIRE AND VESTMENTS

## ***What is the usual attire to services?***

It differs from season to season from person to person. What a person wears reflects their own creativity. Is it warm? Comfortable? Does it speak of your own individuality? Don't let your attire be anything to overwhelm or prevent you from attending your church. Keep this in mind: wear something that is respectful to you, to those around you and for the occasion.

On one occasion a family attended Mass attired in *korowai*, or *piupiu* draped over their shoulders which are traditional Māori clothing worn at very rare and special occasions. They deemed it appropriate to be dressed this way for Christ – present in the Eucharist.

For clergy who are visiting with us, they are invited to fully participate at any of our liturgies or prayer services in their respective clerical attire—if they so desire. Often visiting clergy will be invited to be seated in the sanctuary, deliver a reading, prepare a brief sermon or assist in the distribution of Holy Communion.

### *Do you wear vestments?*

Yes. The Church is rich in symbolism and we have retained many of the classical vestments that are identified with the western Church.

Only those of the sacred ministers who have a role to play will be vested—unless otherwise directed.

It should be noted that the vestments only pertain to those garments worn at liturgical rites like the stole and cope, chasuble, mitre, pallium etc and should not be confused with the cassock which is for everyday attire.

# GLOSSARY

## *Can you explain some of the terms used in this booklet?*

**Archbishop** – 1. There are three archbishops in the Church. The Primate; the Archbishop of the Northern Hemisphere and the Archbishop of Oceania. 2. Upon retirement emeritus status may be granted. 3. The Synod may recommend to the *Primate* that a bishop be awarded this title personally.

**Bishop** – holds the fullness of the priesthood and heads the local *Church* or *Diocese*. Their primary responsibility is to teach, to govern and sanctify *The Faithful* of the *Diocese* and work with the *Clergy* in the jurisdiction.

**Church** – from the Greek *Ecclesia* meaning assembly or gathering of *The Faithful*; distinguished from ‘church’ with a lower-case c referring to a building.

**Crucifix** – an image of Jesus on the Cross.

**Diocese** – a jurisdiction or a portion of the local *Church* headed by a *Bishop*.

**Discernment** – a process where an individual reflects and considers the next major move in their Christian journey. Whether it be marriage, a *Vocation* to priesthood or the religious life...

**Holy Water** – has been blessed by a *Priest* or *Bishop* for use in the church, or the homes of *The Faithful*.

**Liturgy** – another word for ‘service’ pertaining to a service in church for baptism, for the *Mass* etc...

**Martyr** – a person who has died for the causes of the Faith and is revered by the *Church*.

**Mass** – is the pinnacle of Christian worship. It is at the *Mass* that Christ makes Himself present under the auspices of bread and wine.

**Metropolitan** – an *Archbishop* is appointed *Metropolitan* when succeeding to one of the major archdiocese.

**Mission** – is a territory where the Church is not yet fully established. It may be headed by a priest with jurisdictional power given by the *Primate*.

**Neophyte** – a newly baptised person.

**Old Catholic** – refers to the *Church* in Utrecht, Holland.

**Ordination** – a ceremony conducted by the *Bishop* or an *Abbot* setting apart a person to a various office in the Major or Minor Orders.

**Pope** – from the Latin *Papa* meaning father; also the title for head of the Roman Catholic Church.

**Primate** – a *Bishop* chosen to represent the Church on an international level.

**Roman Catholic** – also known as the *Church of Rome* headed by the *Pope*.

**Sacramental** – an item that is blessed or set-apart by the *Church* to increase devotion eg: holy water, rosary, *crucifix*, an image of our Lord or the Saints.

**Saint** – a person who lived a life of holiness and whose virtues are renowned.

**Sign of the Cross** – is a movement of tracing the shape of the cross over oneself.

**Synod** – synonymous with the word *council*; in this respect it refers to the *Synod* of Bishops who meet to discuss the affairs of the entire *Church*. *Synod* may also be conducted at the local level chaired by the *Metropolitan*.

**The Faithful** – a term meaning those believers who are involved in the life of the *Church*.

**Tithing** – a *tithe* literally means a tenth of a person's income donated to the work of the *Church*.

**Trinity** – the doctrine of one God in three Divine persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Vestments** – garments that are worn only for liturgical rites.

**Vocation** – from the Latin *Vocare* meaning to call. A vocation is a calling to lead a life of holiness either in diocesan priesthood or as a member of a religious order.

# CONTACT

## *How can we connect with you?*

### **Diocesan Chancery**

**Email:** rocc.aotearoa@gmail.com

### **Te Parihi o Te Whaea Aroha Noa**

### **Church of Our Lady of Grace**

First Sundays at 8.00AM (Latin) & 10.00AM

Third Saturdays at 5.30PM

10 Daniell Street, Bulls

**Pastor:** Abp. Rima Tamaiparea-Puki

**Email:** rocc.grace@gmail.com

**Mobile:** 0204 101 9748

### **Mōrunga**

### **Oratory of Ss Francis and Clare**

Second Sundays at 2.00PM

356 Rangiwahia Road, Kimbolton

**Prior:** Fr Allister Kelley OSFS

**Email:** FrAllisterKelley@gmail.com

**Mobile:** 021 073 1418



**Oratory of Te Kaiwhakaora**

**Chapel of the Holy Redeemer**

Third and Fourth Sundays at 2.00PM

40 Wings Line, Marton

**Chaplain:** Br. Timothy McRobbie

**Email:** rocc.oceania@gmail.com

**Mobile:** 0204 164 1311

**Oratory of Te Whaiaipo**

**Chapel of St John the Beloved**

Fifth Sundays at 2.00PM

19 Marion Street, Te Aro, Wellington

**Chaplains:** Rev. Andrae Peipi

**Email:** rocc.grace@gmail.com

**Mobile:** 021 201 1203

**Order of St Francis of the Stigmata**

**Chaplain:** Fr Allister Kelley

**Email:** FrAllisterKelley@gmail.com

**Mobile:** 021 073 1418

**Community of Mary and Martha**

**Chaplain:** Br David Haxell

**Email:** rocc.grace@gmail.com

**Mobile:** 021 077 6663