





When St John the Evangelist Catholic church was built in 1959, Ōtara was one of the fastest growing suburbs in the country.

The early times of the suburb have been described by Aupito William Sio as "Anyone who grew up in Ōtara, has grown up like a phoenix out of the ashes,". The Churches in the area have continued to provide support to the huge Pasifika population in the early times which has been crucial.

Today, the members of the parish community of St John the Evangelist Catholic church are still mostly of Māori and Pasifika origin.

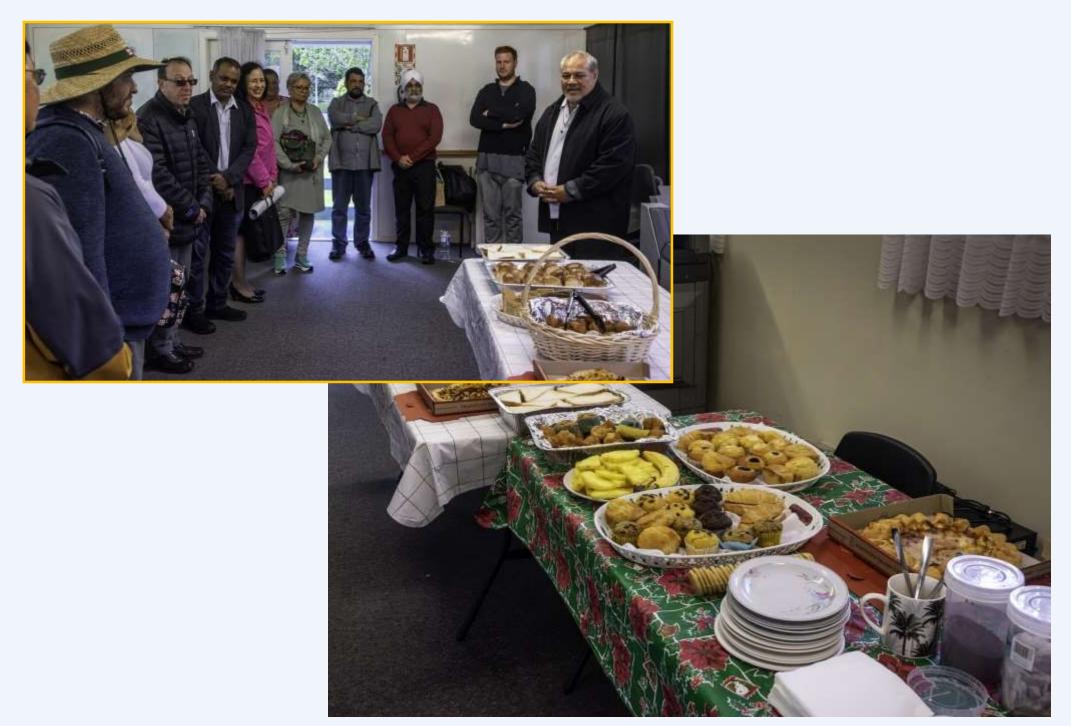
The church and surrounding marae are sacred spaces as well as a home away from home.



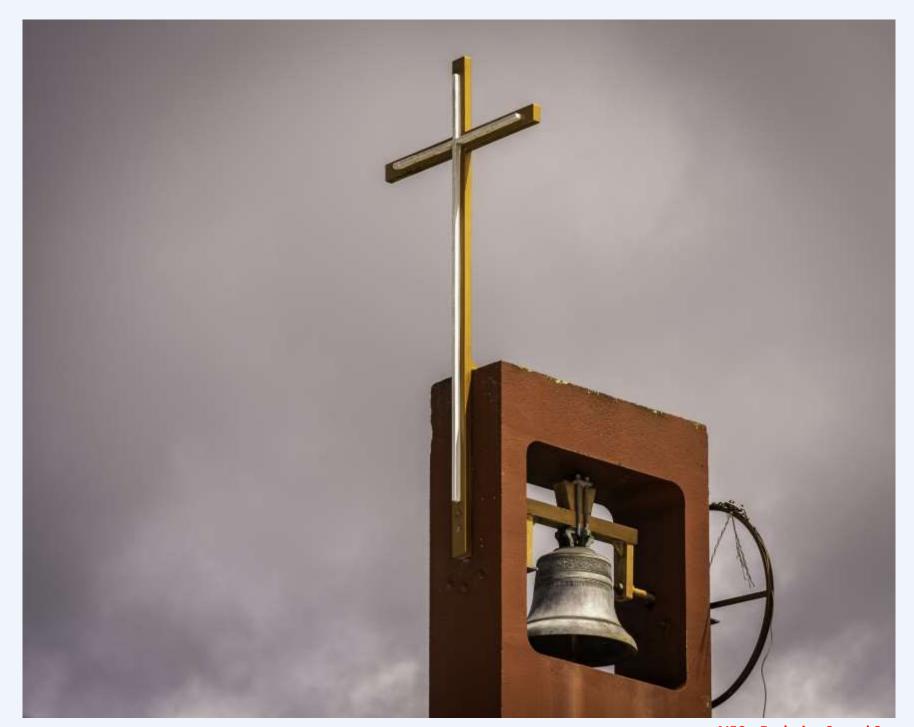
Some information about the Catholic Church:

- 4 official languages in Aotearoa New Zealand (Latin, English, Māori, Sign Language)
- The liturgical year determines the colour of the altar cloth and the priest's robe (green = "Ordinary Time"). On the biggest feast days, Easter and Christmas, the altar cloth and the priest's robe are white.





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