

CHAPEL REBUILD

CARMELITE MONASTERY ~ CHRISTCHURCH ~ NEW ZEALAND

Easter Sunday, 2026

Dear Friends and Supporters,

May the joy of the Risen Christ be with you!



Easter Sunday Mass at Carmel - April 5, 2026

We have been on the verge of having Chapel news for so long that we thought it was time for an update. The architectural phase we're in has seemed so unending that we must admit to having fallen, like the Israelites in the desert, into grumbling and impatience. Nay, we nuns have gone so far as to think that our own ideas could help get the professionals moving along a little more quickly! But then it happens that we are copied into an email between the mechanical or structural or fire engineer and architect and see the technical details and extraordinary jargon involved and then we think,

'Um, maybe not. Let's just stick to our prayers!' Without further ado, our sixth Chapel update:

The first 'on the verge' news is that all the documentation from every engineer imaginable is finally on our architect's desk and we are very near to filing for council consent. After 16 months of waiting, it is an exciting moment to say the least! Obtaining council consent won't mean the beginning of the Chapel construction just yet, but it will bring certain benefits, like enabling us to apply for grants, finalize exact measurements for the sacred art, and will put us in good stead for beginning construction as soon as we reach our fundraising goal.

The other 'on the verge' news is that the interior design, which has been impacted by engineering adjustments along the way, is also now very close to being finished. We hope to be able to share these images of a beautiful and sacred interior with you very soon.

On the fundraising front, St Patrick and St Joseph were really on the job in the second half of March and we received some very generous donations, bringing us to a total of \$739,542 from 219 donors! That's nearly a quarter (24.65%) of our goal! Now the first million of our three-million-dollar fundraising campaign already seems in sight! We cannot tell you how grateful we are to all those who have supported our Chapel Rebuild campaign thus far and made this milestone possible.

As we begin these fifty joyful days of celebrating the Lord's Resurrection, please know of our continued and grateful prayers for you and the intentions you have shared with us.

Your loving Sisters in Christchurch Carmel.