

INTERCESSORS AOTEAROA



SEVENTY
TWO

GENERAL ELECTION
HANDBOOK 2026

THE WATCH

A Biblical Guide to Interceding for the
2026 General Election in
Aotearoa New Zealand



72 Hours • 71 Electorates
One Nation Before God

***"I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will
never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give
yourselves no rest."***

Isaiah 62:6 (NIV)

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72/72 Intercessors Aotearoa

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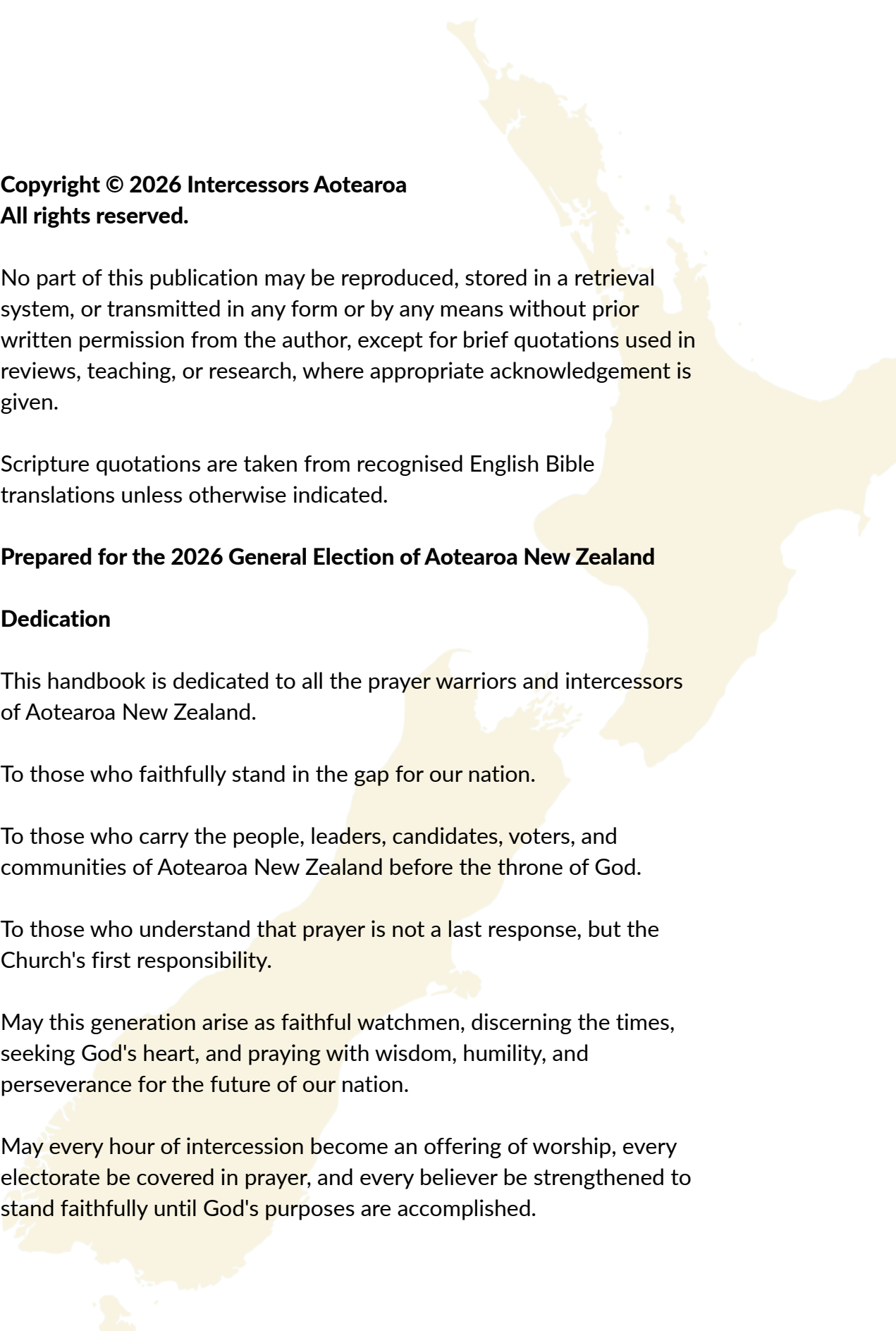
Purpose

This handbook has been prepared to equip believers throughout Aotearoa New Zealand to participate in 72 hours of continuous intercession for the 2026 General Election. During this prayer watch, intercessors will dedicate one hour to each of the nation's 71 electorates, followed by one final hour of prayer for New Zealanders living overseas who are eligible to vote.

Together we seek God's wisdom for every candidate, every voter, every electorate, and the formation of the next Government of Aotearoa New Zealand.

"Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain."

Psalm 127:1



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Scripture quotations are taken from recognised English Bible translations unless otherwise indicated.

Prepared for the 2026 General Election of Aotearoa New Zealand

Dedication

This handbook is dedicated to all the prayer warriors and intercessors of Aotearoa New Zealand.

To those who faithfully stand in the gap for our nation.

To those who carry the people, leaders, candidates, voters, and communities of Aotearoa New Zealand before the throne of God.

To those who understand that prayer is not a last response, but the Church's first responsibility.

May this generation arise as faithful watchmen, discerning the times, seeking God's heart, and praying with wisdom, humility, and perseverance for the future of our nation.

May every hour of intercession become an offering of worship, every electorate be covered in prayer, and every believer be strengthened to stand faithfully until God's purposes are accomplished.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." — Psalm 33:12

Foreword

Throughout history, every nation has experienced defining moments that shape its future. Elections are among those moments, as they determine the leaders entrusted with making decisions that affect families, communities, education, the economy, justice, healthcare, international relationships, and future generations.

As Aotearoa New Zealand prepares for the 2026 General Election, God is calling His people to respond in the most powerful way available to us—through prayer.

72/72 by Intercessors Aotearoa has been established as a united call to 72 hours of continuous intercession, covering the entire nation in prayer before Election Day. During these seventy-two hours, intercessors will dedicate one hour to each of Aotearoa New Zealand's 71 electorates, followed by one final hour of prayer for New Zealanders living overseas who are eligible to vote. Together, every electorate, every community, and every eligible voter will be remembered before God.

The purpose of this handbook is not to promote political parties, endorse candidates, or influence partisan outcomes. Rather, it seeks to equip believers to pray with biblical understanding, spiritual discernment, and confidence in God's sovereign care for the nations.

As intercessors, we pray for every candidate who has accepted the responsibility of seeking public office. We ask God to grant them wisdom, integrity, humility, courage, compassion, and a genuine commitment to serve the people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

We also pray for every eligible voter, asking the Holy Spirit to guide each person as they participate in our democratic process. May voters consider carefully the character, policies, and leadership of those seeking office, and cast their vote according to their informed convictions, conscience, and the values they believe will best serve the future of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Bible instructs believers to pray for those in authority so that society may flourish in peace, justice, and good order. Intercession is not passive; it is a faithful response to God's invitation to seek His wisdom and purposes for our nation. Before we discuss policies, we pray. Before we debate leadership, we seek God's heart. Before we place our confidence in human institutions, we acknowledge the Lord as the One who rules over every nation.

This handbook is designed to be a practical companion throughout the 72-hour prayer watch. Each chapter provides biblical teaching, principles for discernment, and a focused guide for Spirit-led intercession. Rather than prescribing prayers, it encourages believers to listen to the Holy Spirit and pray according to Scripture.

Our prayer is that this handbook will strengthen intercessors across Aotearoa New Zealand, inspire unity within the Body of Christ, and encourage intercessors to stand faithfully as watchmen for our nation.

May these seventy-two hours become a united offering of prayer. May every electorate be covered. May every candidate be remembered. May every voter be blessed with wisdom. And may the next Government of New Zealand Aotearoa be formed under the sovereign care of Almighty God.

Intercessors Aotearoa: Founded September 2021
72/72 Birthed: June 2022



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About the 72/72 Movement

Intercessors Aotearoa's 72/72 is a prayer movement committed to mobilising believers throughout Aotearoa New Zealand to stand together in united, Spirit-led intercession for our nation.

Founded in June 2022, the vision of 72/72 is to encourage continuous prayer that seeks God's wisdom, righteousness, and blessing over every sphere of national life. As the 2026 General Election approaches, this vision finds practical expression through 72 hours of continuous prayer, covering the entire nation before Election Day.

The 72/72 Prayer Watch brings together believers from different churches, cultures, and generations with one shared purpose: to seek God's heart for Aotearoa New Zealand. During the prayer watch, intercessors dedicate one hour to each of the nation's 71 electorates, followed by one final hour of intercession for New Zealanders living overseas who are eligible to vote. Together, the whole nation is brought before God in an unbroken chain of prayer.

Our mission is not political. We do not endorse parties or candidates. Instead, we encourage biblical discernment and faithful intercession for every candidate, every voter, every electorate, and the formation of the next Government of Aotearoa New Zealand. We believe that prayer prepares the way for God's purposes to be revealed. As faithful watchmen, we stand in the gap, asking the Lord to raise leaders of integrity, wisdom, humility, justice, courage, and compassion, and to bless our nation with peace, unity, and good governance.

Our Vision

To see leaders covered in continuous prayer and to encourage a culture of faithful intercession that will strengthen the Nation, bless New Zealanders, and honour God.

Our Mission

To inform, equip, mobilise and unite intercessors to pray biblically and strategically for our legislators, Government, communities, and for the future of Aotearoa New Zealand, believing that God hears the prayers of His people and is faithful from generation to generation.

Standing in the Gap • Seeking God's Heart • Blessing Aotearoa New Zealand

What is 72/72?

A National Prayer Watch for the 2026 General Election

Intercessors Aotearoa's 72/72 is a nationwide call to continuous prayer before the 2026 General Election of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The vision is simple yet significant: believers from every region, church tradition, and generation unite to pray continuously for 72 hours, ensuring that every electorate and every eligible voter is brought before God before Election Day.

Throughout Scripture, watchmen were appointed to remain alert, discern the times, and faithfully watch over the people. Their responsibility was not only to identify danger but also to seek God's guidance and declare His purposes. Today, intercessors carry a similar responsibility by standing in prayer for our nation and those entrusted with public leadership.

During this prayer watch, each hour is dedicated to one of Aotearoa New Zealand's 71 parliamentary electorates, beginning in Te Tai Tokerau and concluding with Invercargill. The final hour is devoted to New Zealanders living overseas who are eligible to vote, recognising that they also contribute to the future of our nation.

The purpose of 72/72 is not to promote political parties or endorse candidates. Our purpose is to seek God's wisdom, blessing, and guidance for:

- Every candidate seeking election.
- Every eligible voter.
- Every electorate and local community.
- Election officials and the electoral process.
- The formation of the next Government of Aotearoa New Zealand.

As intercessors, we acknowledge that leadership matters because it affects every part of society. We therefore pray that those elected will govern with wisdom, integrity, humility, justice, courage, compassion, and faithful stewardship for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

Prayer Focus

Pray for:

- Unity among intercessors throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Every candidate who is standing for election.
- Every voter to exercise wisdom and discernment.
- Peace throughout the election period.
- God's purposes to be accomplished in our nation.

The 72-Hour Prayer Assignment

One Nation • One Hour • One Electorate

The 72-Hour Prayer Assignment provides a simple and unified framework that enables intercessors across Aotearoa New Zealand to pray together.

Beginning at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, 16 September 2026, and concluding at 7:00 pm on Saturday, 19 September 2026, each one-hour prayer watch is assigned to a specific parliamentary electorate.

The prayer journey follows the nation geographically—from Te Tai Tokerau in the far north through the North Island and South Island, concluding with Invercargill. The final hour is dedicated to New Zealanders living overseas who are eligible to vote.

For each assigned hour, intercessors are encouraged to pray for:

- The electorate and its communities.
- All candidates standing for election within that electorate.
- Families, schools, businesses, churches, and local organisations.
- Voters to exercise wisdom, discernment, and informed decision-making.
- Election officials to serve with honesty, fairness, and integrity.
- The Member of Parliament who will ultimately represent the electorate.
- The formation of a government that promotes justice, responsible stewardship, and the common good.

The timetable on the following pages provides the complete sequence of electorates, prayer watch times, and space for prayer leaders to be assigned. Whether praying alone, with a local church, or as part of a regional gathering, every participant becomes part of an unbroken chain of intercession covering the whole nation.

Prayer Focus

Pray that every hour of the 72/72 Prayer Watch will strengthen the unity of believers, encourage faithful and Spirit-led intercession, and place every electorate, every candidate, every voter, and the future Government of Aotearoa New Zealand before the throne of God.

72/72 Prayer Watch Timetable

A National Prayer Watch for the 2026 General Election

Wednesday 16 September 2026, 7:00 pm – Saturday 19 September 2026, 7:00 pm

One Hour • One Electorate • One Nation Before God
Prayer Focus Throughout the 72 Hours

WED 16 SEP 7:00 PM	<u>TE TAI TOKERAU</u>	THU 17 SEP 8:00 PM	<u>HAURAKI-WAIKATO</u>
WED 16 SEP 8:00 PM	<u>NORTHLAND</u>	THU 17 SEP 9:00 PM	<u>PAPAKURA</u>
WED 16 SEP 9:00 PM	<u>WHANGĀREI</u>	THU 17 SEP 10:00 PM	<u>PORT WAIKATO</u>
WED 16 SEP 10:00 PM	<u>KAIPARA KI MAHURANGI</u>	THU 17 SEP 11:00 PM	<u>COROMANDEL</u>
WED 16 SEP 11:00 PM	<u>WHANGAPARĀOA</u>	FRI 18 SEP 12:00 AM	<u>WAIKATO</u>
THU 17 SEP 12:00 AM	<u>EAST COAST BAYS</u>	FRI 18 SEP 1:00 AM	<u>HAMILTON WEST</u>
THU 17 SEP 1:00 AM	<u>UPPER HARBOUR</u>	FRI 18 SEP 2:00 AM	<u>HAMILTON EAST</u>
THU 17 SEP 2:00 AM	<u>NORTH SHORE</u>	FRI 18 SEP 3:00 AM	<u>WAIARIKI</u>
THU 17 SEP 3:00 AM	<u>NORTHCOTE</u>	FRI 18 SEP 4:00 AM	<u>TAURANGA</u>
THU 17 SEP 4:00 AM	<u>GLENDENE</u>	FRI 18 SEP 5:00 AM	<u>MT MAUNGANUI</u>
THU 17 SEP 5:00 AM	<u>TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU</u>	FRI 18 SEP 6:00 AM	<u>ROTORUA</u>
THU 17 SEP 6:00 AM	<u>HENDERSON</u>	FRI 18 SEP 7:00 AM	<u>TAUPŌ</u>
THU 17 SEP 7:00 AM	<u>WAITAKERE</u>	FRI 18 SEP 8:00 AM	<u>IKAROA-RAWHITI</u>
THU 17 SEP 8:00 AM	<u>MT ALBERT</u>	FRI 18 SEP 9:00 AM	<u>EAST CAPE</u>
THU 17 SEP 9:00 AM	<u>MT ROSKILL</u>	FRI 18 SEP 10:00 AM	<u>NAPIER</u>
THU 17 SEP 10:00 AM	<u>AUCKLAND CENTRAL</u>	FRI 18 SEP 11:00 AM	<u>TUKITUKI</u>
THU 17 SEP 11:00 AM	<u>EPSOM</u>	FRI 18 SEP 12:00 PM	<u>WAIRARAPA</u>
THU 17 SEP 12:00 PM	<u>TĀMAKI</u>	FRI 18 SEP 1:00 PM	<u>REMUTAKA</u>
THU 17 SEP 1:00 PM	<u>MAUNGAKIEKIE</u>	FRI 18 SEP 2:00 PM	<u>TE TAI HAUĀURU</u>
THU 17 SEP 2:00 PM	<u>PAKURANGA</u>	FRI 18 SEP 3:00 PM	<u>TARANAKI-KING COUNTRY</u>
THU 17 SEP 3:00 PM	<u>BOTANY</u>	FRI 18 SEP 4:00 PM	<u>NEW PLYMOUTH</u>
THU 17 SEP 4:00 PM	<u>ŌTĀHUHU</u>	FRI 18 SEP 5:00 PM	<u>WHANGANUI</u>
THU 17 SEP 5:00 PM	<u>MĀNGERE</u>	FRI 18 SEP 6:00 PM	<u>RANGITIKEI</u>
THU 17 SEP 6:00 PM	<u>MANUREWA</u>	FRI 18 SEP 7:00 PM	<u>PALMERSTON NORTH</u>
THU 17 SEP 7:00 PM	<u>TAKANINI</u>	FRI 18 SEP 8:00 PM	<u>KAPITI</u>

FRI 18 SEP 9:00 PM KENEPURU
FRI 18 SEP 10:00 PM TE TAI TONGA
FRI 18 SEP 11:00 PM HUTT SOUTH
SAT 19 SEP 12:00 AM WELLINGTON NORTH
SAT 19 SEP 1:00 AM WELLINGTON BAYS
SAT 19 SEP 2:00 AM NELSON
SAT 19 SEP 3:00 AM WEST COAST-TASMAN
SAT 19 SEP 4:00 AM KAIKŌURA
SAT 19 SEP 5:00 AM WAIMAKARIRI
SAT 19 SEP 6:00 AM ILAM
SAT 19 SEP 7:00 AM CHRISTCHURCH CENTRAL

SAT 19 SEP 8:00 AM WIGRAM
SAT 19 SEP 9:00 AM CHRISTCHURCH EAST
SAT 19 SEP 10:00 AM BANKS PENINSULA
SAT 19 SEP 11:00 AM SELWYN
SAT 19 SEP 12:00 PM RANGITATA
SAT 19 SEP 1:00 PM WAITAKI
SAT 19 SEP 2:00 PM SOUTHLAND
SAT 19 SEP 3:00 PM DUNEDIN
SAT 19 SEP 4:00 PM TAIERI
SAT 19 SEP 5:00 PM INVERCARGILL
SAT 19 SEP 6:00 PM OVERSEAS VOTERS

For each prayer watch, pray for:

- The electorate and its communities.
- All candidates standing for election.
- Voters to exercise wisdom and discernment.
- Election officials to conduct the election with fairness and integrity.
- The Member of Parliament who will be elected.
- The formation of a government that promotes justice, responsible stewardship, and the common good.

YOU CAN REGISTER AT
www.intercessorsaotearoa.nz/7272prayer
TO RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK & FURTHER INFO

The Call of the Watch

"I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest."

Isaiah 62:6

Throughout history, God has called His people to recognise significant moments and respond through faithful prayer. Elections are among those moments because they influence the direction of a nation and the wellbeing of future generations.

The 2026 General Election of Aotearoa New Zealand is more than a political event. It is an opportunity for believers to stand together in unity, seeking God's wisdom and blessing over every electorate, every candidate, every voter, and those entrusted with public leadership.

The call of the watch is not driven by fear or political preference. It is a call to faithful intercession. Before opinions are expressed, God's people seek His heart. Before votes are cast, we ask the Lord to grant wisdom, discernment, and integrity to all who participate in the democratic process.

The 72/72 Prayer Watch unites believers across Aotearoa New Zealand in seventy-two hours of continuous prayer. Each hour is dedicated to one parliamentary electorate, with the final hour devoted to New Zealanders living overseas who are eligible to vote. Together, we place our nation before God, believing that He hears the prayers of His people and continues to guide the nations according to His purposes.

As watchmen, our responsibility is to remain spiritually alert, persevere in prayer, and faithfully seek God's will for our nation. We pray not only for today's decisions but also for the generations that will inherit the future shaped by them.

Prayer Focus

Pray for:

- Unity among intercessors throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Every electorate to be faithfully covered in prayer.
- Candidates lead with integrity and humility.
- Voters to exercise wisdom and discernment.
- God's purposes to be accomplished through the election.

Understanding the Role of the Intercessor

"...he always lives to make intercession for them."

— Hebrews 7:25

Jesus Christ is the supreme example of an intercessor. Having offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin. He now reigns at the right hand of the Father, where He continually intercedes for His people.

This kind of intercession goes beyond our natural understanding. It requires us to be spiritually attuned, to persevere in prayer, and to depend completely upon the Holy Spirit. There are moments when prayer becomes deep, earnest, and Spirit-led as we stand in the gap for others before the throne of God.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that our intercession is not directed against people or political ideologies, but against the unseen spiritual realities that influence the affairs of this world.

"...we do not wrestle against flesh and blood... but against the spiritual forces of evil..."

— Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)

Therefore, our prayers seek God's Kingdom, His righteousness, His truth, and His peace to prevail over deception, injustice, and spiritual darkness.

We do not stand in this calling alone. The Holy Spirit strengthens and guides us, especially when we are unable to find the words to pray.

"...the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

— Romans 8:26

Even when we cannot fully express what is on our hearts, the Holy Spirit faithfully intercedes for us according to the will of God.

"...the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

— Romans 8:27

As Intercessors Aotearoa, we therefore approach this assignment with confidence—not in our own ability, but in the finished work of Christ and the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. We partner with the ongoing ministry of Christ's intercession, standing in the gap for Aotearoa New Zealand and praying that God's wisdom, justice, mercy, and righteousness will be established throughout the nation.

Prayer Focus

Lord Jesus, thank You that You continually intercede for Your people. Teach us to pray with Your heart and according to Your will. Fill us afresh with the Holy Spirit, giving us discernment, perseverance, and compassion as we stand in the gap for Aotearoa New Zealand. Strengthen us to remain faithful in prayer, confident that You are at work accomplishing Your purposes for our nation.

Amen.

The Biblical Mandate to Intercede for Leaders

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions..."
— 1 Timothy 2:1–2a

Interceding for those in authority is not merely a good practice—it is a biblical mandate. The Apostle Paul urges the Church to make petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings for all people, especially for those entrusted with governing. Our prayers are not dependent upon whether we agree with political leaders or their policies; they are an act of obedience to God and an expression of His love for every nation.

As intercessors, we do not place our confidence in political parties or human leadership alone. Our confidence is in the sovereignty of God, who rules over the nations and raises up leaders according to His purposes. Through prayer, God works in ways beyond human understanding. He softens hearts, grants wisdom, exposes deception, restrains evil, and gives His people spiritual discernment to make wise and righteous decisions.

Throughout Scripture, God raised men and women whose lives reflected His wisdom and purposes in positions of influence and leadership.

- **Joseph** demonstrated faithful stewardship, wisdom, and integrity in governing during a time of national crisis.
- **Moses** led with humility and dependence upon God while guiding an entire nation.
- **Deborah** exercised righteous leadership with courage, wisdom, and discernment.
- **Samuel** faithfully spoke God's word and provided spiritual leadership to Israel.
- **Nehemiah** combined prayer, strategic leadership, and perseverance to rebuild what had been broken.
- **Daniel** remained uncompromising in his devotion to God while serving with wisdom and excellence under secular governments.
- **Esther** courageously stood in the gap for her people at a decisive moment in history.

These biblical role models reveal God's blueprint for effective leadership. Their lives inspire us to pray that those who seek public office—and those entrusted with governing New Zealand Aotearoa—will grow in wisdom, integrity, humility, courage, justice, and a heart to serve the common good.

Prayer Focus

Pray that God will raise up leaders who reflect His righteous character. Ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate wisdom, humility, integrity, courage, justice, and servant-hearted leadership in every person elected to public office. Pray that the Church will remain faithful in interceding for those whom God has entrusted with governing our nation.

Government Matters to God

**"...there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God."
— Romans 13:1**

Government is not merely a human institution; it is part of God's order for society. Throughout Scripture, we see that God establishes authority to promote justice, restrain evil, preserve peace, and encourage the flourishing of communities. While governments are led by imperfect people and are accountable for their decisions, the institution of government itself reflects God's concern for righteousness, order, and the wellbeing of every nation.

The Bible teaches that those entrusted with public office carry a significant responsibility. They are called to exercise authority with wisdom, integrity, justice, and humility, recognising that they are ultimately accountable to God for the way they govern. As intercessors, we pray because leadership matters to God. Our prayers invite His wisdom into the decisions of those who govern, asking Him to guide their hearts, grant discernment, uphold justice, and protect the nation from corruption, deception, and injustice.

The prophet Jeremiah encouraged God's people, even while living in exile, to seek the good of the nation in which they lived.

**"...seek the welfare of the city... and pray to the LORD on its behalf..."
— Jeremiah 29:7 (ESV)**

Likewise, we are called to pray for Aotearoa New Zealand, seeking God's blessing, peace, and prosperity for our nation. As we faithfully intercede, we demonstrate our trust that God is sovereign over the affairs of nations and actively works through the prayers of His people.

Our confidence is not in political systems, parties, or personalities, but in the Lord, who rules over all kingdoms and whose purposes will ultimately prevail.

Prayer Focus

Pray that those entrusted with governing Aotearoa New Zealand will recognise the weight of their responsibility and lead with wisdom, justice, integrity, and humility. Ask the Lord to guide Parliament, strengthen righteous leadership, restrain corruption, and establish policies that promote the wellbeing, peace, and flourishing of every community. May God's purposes be accomplished throughout our nation as His people faithfully seek Him in prayer.

The Government Sphere

"...the government shall be upon his shoulder..."

— Isaiah 9:6

The Bible reveals that government is one of the primary spheres through which order, justice, and public wellbeing are established within a nation. The biblical principle is clear: leadership and government matter to God.

Government influences every citizen through laws, public policy, education, healthcare, justice, economic stewardship, national security, and international relationships. Decisions made by those in authority shape the future of families, communities, churches, businesses, and generations to come.

As intercessors, we recognise that government is more than politics. It is a place where leaders are called to exercise wisdom, justice, integrity, and servant-hearted leadership for the common good. Our responsibility is not to place our hope in political systems but to seek God's Kingdom purposes through faithful and persistent prayer.

Jesus Christ remains the ultimate ruler over every nation.

"...the government shall be upon his shoulder..."

— Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)

No parliament, political party, or human authority is greater than His eternal Kingdom. Earthly governments are temporary, but Christ's reign is everlasting. As we pray, we acknowledge His sovereign authority over Aotearoa New Zealand and ask that His righteousness, justice, mercy, and truth would be reflected in those who govern.

Prayer Focus

Pray that God's Kingdom values will influence every level of government in Aotearoa New Zealand. Ask the Lord to raise leaders who govern with wisdom, integrity, justice, humility, and compassion, always seeking the wellbeing of the people they serve.

Praying for Government

"...the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will..."

— Daniel 4:17

Every election reminds us that leadership ultimately rests under God's sovereign authority. While citizens exercise the privilege of voting, Scripture declares that the Lord remains sovereign over the nations and works through history to accomplish His purposes.

Intercession for government is therefore an act of faith. We pray for every sphere of public leadership, asking God to guide those entrusted with making decisions that affect the life of the nation.

Pray for:

- Members of Parliament to lead with wisdom, integrity, and humility.
- Ministers of the Crown to steward their responsibilities faithfully.
- The Prime Minister and Cabinet to govern with justice and discernment.
- The Leader of the Opposition and all political parties to contribute responsibly to the democratic process.
- Local government leaders as they serve their communities.
- Public servants, advisers, and officials who support the work of government.
- Judges and the justice system to uphold righteousness, fairness, and impartiality.
- Every decision affecting families, children, education, healthcare, the economy, public safety, and the future of Aotearoa New Zealand.

As intercessors, we do not pray from fear or anxiety. We pray with confidence, knowing that God hears the prayers of His people and is able to guide leaders, restrain evil, reveal truth, and establish His purposes according to His perfect will.

Prayer Focus

Lord, establish Your wisdom over every sphere of government. Give our leaders understanding, integrity, humility, and courage. Protect Aotearoa New Zealand from corruption, deception, and injustice. May every decision made by those in authority promote righteousness, peace, and the flourishing of our nation, to the glory of Your name.

Biblical Models of Government Leadership I

"...who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"
— Esther 4:14

Throughout Scripture, God raised men and women to serve in positions of influence during critical moments in history. They were not perfect, yet they demonstrated faith, courage, wisdom, and obedience while serving God's purposes.

Joseph — A Faithful Steward

Joseph rose from slavery and imprisonment to become governor over Egypt. Through wisdom, integrity, and faithful stewardship, God used him to preserve countless lives during a time of famine.

Leadership Lesson:

Pray for leaders who exercise wisdom, manage resources responsibly, and place the wellbeing of people above personal ambition.

Moses — A Humble Leader

Moses led Israel through one of the greatest transitions in biblical history. His leadership was marked by humility, dependence upon God, and perseverance despite continual challenges.

Leadership Lesson:

Pray for leaders who seek God's wisdom, listen well, and lead with humility and courage.

Prayer Focus

Lord, raise up leaders who will steward responsibility faithfully, lead with humility, and seek Your wisdom in every decision.

Biblical Models of Government Leadership II

"...the people of Israel had peace..."
— Judges 5:31

Deborah — Courage and Discernment

Deborah judged Israel with wisdom, courage, and spiritual discernment. She encouraged others to fulfil their calling and trusted the Lord to bring victory.

Leadership Lesson:

Pray for leaders who possess courage, discernment, and a commitment to justice.

Nehemiah — Vision and Perseverance

Nehemiah combined prayer with practical leadership. Before rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, he sought God's guidance. His leadership demonstrated planning, perseverance, and unwavering commitment.

Leadership Lesson:

Pray for leaders who rebuild what has been broken, unite communities, and remain faithful despite opposition.

Samuel — Integrity and Spiritual Leadership

Samuel faithfully served as prophet and judge, speaking God's truth without compromise and leading the nation with integrity.

Leadership Lesson:

Pray for leaders who value truth, act with integrity, and remain accountable to God.

Prayer Focus

Father, grant our leaders courage to do what is right, wisdom to make sound decisions, and perseverance to serve faithfully for the good of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Biblical Models of Government Leadership III

"...an excellent spirit was in him..."
— Daniel 6:3

Daniel — Excellence in Public Service

Daniel faithfully served under several foreign kings while remaining devoted to God. His life demonstrated integrity, wisdom, excellence, and unwavering faith even under pressure.

Leadership Lesson:

Pray for leaders who refuse corruption, act with integrity, and remain steadfast in doing what is right.

Esther — Courage for the Common Good

Queen Esther courageously used her position to protect her people during a national crisis. She sought God's guidance and acted with wisdom at the right time.

Leadership Lesson:

Pray for leaders who have the courage to make difficult decisions for the benefit of others, even at personal cost.

Prayer Focus

Lord, raise leaders who serve with excellence, courage, integrity, and wisdom. May they place truth, justice, and the wellbeing of the people above personal gain.

God's Blueprint for Leadership

"...whoever would be great among you must be your servant..."
— Matthew 20:26

The leaders highlighted throughout Scripture point us toward a common pattern. Although they served in different generations and circumstances, they reflected qualities that honour God and bless the people they served.

As intercessors, we ask the Holy Spirit to cultivate these same qualities in those who seek public office and in those entrusted with governing Aotearoa New Zealand.

Pray that our leaders will demonstrate:

- Wisdom in decision-making.
- Integrity in public life.
- Humility in leadership.
- Courage to stand for what is right.
- Justice for every community.
- Compassion for the vulnerable.
- Faithful stewardship of public resources.
- Servant-hearted leadership.
- Accountability and transparency.
- A commitment to peace, unity, and the common good.

These qualities are not political strategies—they are biblical principles that reflect God's heart for leadership. As we pray, we ask the Lord to raise men and women whose lives display these virtues and whose decisions contribute to the flourishing of our nation.

Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, establish leaders whose character reflects wisdom, integrity, humility, justice, compassion, and faithful stewardship. May those who govern Aotearoa New Zealand lead with servant hearts, honour the trust placed in them, and seek the welfare of every community.

Biblical Leadership

Qualities for Public Office

"...whoever would be great
among you must be your
servant..."
— Matthew 20:26

Leadership is more than holding a position of authority. From a biblical perspective, leadership is a sacred trust that calls men and women to serve with humility, integrity, wisdom, and accountability. Public office is not merely an opportunity to exercise power but a responsibility to seek the common good and steward the confidence placed in them by the people.

As intercessors, we pray that those who seek public office will cultivate character before influence. Skills, experience, and knowledge are important, but enduring leadership is built upon integrity and a willingness to serve others.

Pray that every candidate and elected representative will demonstrate:

- Wisdom in decision-making.
- Integrity in public and private life.
- Humility to receive wise counsel.
- Courage to uphold justice.
- Compassion for the vulnerable.
- Faithfulness in keeping commitments.
- Accountability in the use of authority.
- A servant's heart in every responsibility.

Godly leadership is not defined by popularity but by faithfulness. Leaders who honour truth, pursue justice, and seek the welfare of the people contribute to the flourishing of the nation.

Prayer Focus

Pray that God will raise leaders whose character reflects wisdom, humility, integrity, and servant-hearted leadership. Ask the Holy Spirit to shape the hearts of those seeking public office so they will govern with justice and compassion.

Praying for Candidates and Elected Leaders

"...if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God..."
— James 1:5 (ESV)

Election campaigns place significant demands upon candidates and political leaders. They face public scrutiny, difficult decisions, competing priorities, and increasing pressure. Whether serving in Government or Opposition, every elected representative benefits from the faithful prayers of God's people.

Our responsibility is not only to pray before the election but to continue praying throughout the parliamentary term.

Pray that leaders will:

- Seek wisdom before making important decisions.
- Exercise authority with humility and integrity.
- Honour the trust placed in them by the people.
- Listen carefully to diverse communities.
- Promote justice, peace, and responsible governance.
- Resist corruption, pride, and selfish ambition.
- Serve with diligence and perseverance.

Intercession reminds us that leadership is ultimately accountable to God. As we pray, we ask the Lord to strengthen those entrusted with governing and to guide them in decisions that will bless future generations.

Prayer Focus

Lord, grant wisdom to every candidate and elected representative. Strengthen them to lead with integrity, humility, and courage. May they seek justice, steward their responsibilities faithfully, and serve the people of Aotearoa New Zealand with honour.



Stewardship and Economic Leadership

"...it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."

— 1 Corinthians 4:2

The stewardship of a nation's resources is one of the greatest responsibilities entrusted to government. Economic decisions affect employment, housing, education, healthcare, business, infrastructure, and the wellbeing of families throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Bible teaches that faithful stewardship is marked by honesty, diligence, accountability, and wise management. Public resources are to be used responsibly for the benefit of the people rather than for personal gain or short-term advantage.

As intercessors, we pray that those responsible for economic leadership will exercise sound judgement, encourage opportunity, steward public finances wisely, and seek policies that strengthen communities while caring for those most in need.

Wise stewardship reflects God's heart for justice, generosity, responsibility, and long-term flourishing.

Prayer Focus

Pray for wisdom in economic leadership. Ask God to grant those responsible for public finances discernment, honesty, and faithful stewardship so that Aotearoa New Zealand may prosper with justice, opportunity, and compassion.



Stewardship That Serves the Common Good

"...seek the welfare of the city..."
— Jeremiah 29:7

Biblical stewardship extends beyond financial management. It includes the responsible care of people, communities, natural resources, and the opportunities entrusted to a nation.

Good government seeks the wellbeing of all its people. It encourages responsible economic growth while caring for the vulnerable, supports families, invests in future generations, and creates conditions where communities can flourish.

As Christians, we recognise that prosperity is not measured solely by economic success. True flourishing includes justice, peace, integrity, compassion, and the freedom for people and communities to thrive.

Our prayers therefore seek God's blessing upon every area of national life, asking Him to grant leaders wisdom to balance competing priorities with fairness and discernment.

Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, teach our leaders to steward wisely all that has been entrusted to them. May they promote policies that encourage responsibility, strengthen families, support communities, and contribute to the peace and flourishing of Aotearoa New Zealand. Grant them wisdom to govern for the common good and with a heart of service.

Applying Biblical Principles in Today's Parliament

"...learn to do good; seek
justice, correct oppression..."
— Isaiah 1:17

As followers of Jesus Christ, our ultimate allegiance is to the Kingdom of God. While no political party or human government perfectly reflects God's Kingdom, Scripture provides enduring principles that help us pray, exercise discernment, and participate responsibly in public life.

The Bible calls believers to value truth, justice, righteousness, compassion, faithful stewardship, and the dignity of every person created in the image of God. These principles should shape both our prayers and our engagement with the democratic process.

As intercessors, we pray that Parliament will uphold laws and policies that:

- Protect the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.
- Strengthen marriage and family as God's design for society.
- Defend freedom of religion, freedom of conscience, and freedom of expression.
- Promote justice, honesty, and integrity in public life.
- Steward public resources wisely and responsibly.
- Protect the vulnerable and uphold the dignity of every person.
- Encourage personal responsibility while showing compassion to those in need.

Scripture reminds us that these values are not merely political preferences; they reflect God's heart for human flourishing and righteous living.

"...haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood..."
— Proverbs 6:17

As intercessors, we pray that truth will prevail over deception, justice over injustice, and life over every form of violence and oppression. We ask God to give our leaders wisdom to govern according to principles that honour Him and serve the common good.

Prayer Focus

Pray that Parliament will pursue justice, uphold truth, protect life, strengthen families, preserve religious freedom, and govern with integrity. Ask the Lord to establish policies that promote righteousness, peace, and the flourishing of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Applying Biblical Principles with Wisdom and Grace

"...if any of you lacks wisdom,
let him ask God..."
— James 1:5

Applying biblical principles in public life requires both conviction and humility. Christians may agree on the authority of Scripture while reaching different conclusions about the best policy solutions. For this reason, intercessors must seek the wisdom of God rather than relying solely on personal opinion or political rhetoric.

Biblical discernment calls us to examine issues prayerfully, evaluate them in the light of God's Word, and ask the Holy Spirit for understanding. Our goal is not simply to defend personal preferences but to seek outcomes that reflect God's righteousness, justice, mercy, and truth.

As we prepare to vote and pray for our nation, let us ask:

- Does this honour the sanctity and dignity of human life?
- Does it strengthen families and communities?
- Does it uphold truth, justice, and integrity?
- Does it protect freedom of conscience and religious liberty?
- Does it encourage faithful stewardship of the nation's resources?
- Does it promote the wellbeing and flourishing of all people?

These questions help us move beyond personalities and campaign promises, directing our attention to biblical principles that endure across every generation.

Prayer Focus

Lord, grant us wisdom and discernment. Guard our hearts from fear, pride, and partiality. Help us to evaluate every issue through the truth of Your Word, to pray faithfully for our leaders, and to participate responsibly in the democratic process with grace, humility, and conviction.

Discerning the Heart of God

When Intercession Seeks God's Will Rather Than Human Opinion

**"He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding."
- Daniel 2:21**

One of the greatest questions an intercessor can ask is:
"Am I praying what God is saying, or am I asking God to bless what I already believe?"

This question lies at the heart of prophetic intercession. The Holy Spirit does not call us to pray from personal opinions, political preferences, or human emotions. He calls us to seek the mind of Christ and to align our prayers with the purposes of God.

God sees what we cannot see. He understands the beginning from the end. While we often see only the circumstances before us, He sees every heart, every motive, every consequence, and every generation yet to come. Like a master chess player, God is always several moves ahead. At times He allows circumstances to appear uncertain because He is accomplishing a greater purpose that has not yet been revealed.

The intercessor's responsibility is not to predict outcomes or influence events through human effort. Our responsibility is to seek the Lord until our prayers reflect His heart rather than our own.

During the inaugural 72/72 Prayer Event in June 2022, a number of intercessors assigned to pray for the Speaker's electorate sensed a growing conviction from the Holy Spirit concerning the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Rather than responding immediately, we recognised the importance of testing what we believed we were hearing. We refused to pray from political opinion, personal preference, or natural reasoning.

Instead, we sought the Lord together.

As we waited on Him, the Holy Spirit brought our attention to Daniel 2:21:
"He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings..."

The Scripture reminded us that God alone establishes and removes those who hold positions of authority.

With humility, we prayed:

"Lord, You alone appoint and remove those who govern. If it is Your will for a change in this office, let Your purposes be established according to Your perfect wisdom and timing. Guard our hearts from personal agendas, and teach us to pray only what You are saying."

Our prayer was never directed against an individual. It was an act of surrender to the sovereignty of God.

Two days later, it was publicly announced that the Speaker of the House, Trevor Mallard, would step down to accept a diplomatic appointment.

Once again, we resisted the temptation to rely on our own understanding.

Instead of assuming the outcome, we returned to prayer and asked the Lord whom we should pray for as the next Speaker. As we sought Him, the name that came repeatedly before us was Adrian Rurawhe.

We prayed that, if this reflected God's purpose, He would establish His will.

In August 2022, Adrian Rurawhe was appointed Speaker of the House.

His appointment also carried significant historical significance. He is the grandson of Members of Parliament Matiu and Iriaka Rātana and the great-grandson of Tahupōtiki Wiremu Rātana, founder of the Rātana Church. Adrian Rurawhe has spoken publicly of his Christian faith and recalled how his great-grandfather would visit Parliament, sit in the Speaker's chair, and pray that each Speaker would be blessed with wisdom in their decisions.

For those who participated in this prayer assignment, the testimony was not about celebrating a political transition. It was a reminder that God remains sovereign over the affairs of nations and that faithful intercessors are called to seek His heart above every personal opinion.

This experience deepened our conviction that the role of an intercessor is not to control outcomes but to faithfully discern, pray, and trust the Lord to accomplish His purposes in His way and in His time.

Prayer Focus

Father, teach us to hear Your voice above every other voice. Deliver us from praying out of personal opinion, political preference, or human understanding. Fill us with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit so that our prayers may reflect Your heart and accomplish Your purposes. May we be faithful watchmen who discern the times, trust Your sovereignty, and pray with humility, obedience, and unwavering faith.

Understanding the Political Landscape

"...the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will..."
— Daniel 4:17

As intercessors, we are called to pray with both spiritual discernment and practical understanding. While our confidence rests in God's sovereignty, we also recognise the importance of understanding the democratic process through which leaders are elected.

Aotearoa New Zealand is a parliamentary democracy governed under the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) electoral system. Citizens elect Members of Parliament to represent their electorates and political parties to represent their values and priorities. In most elections, no single party wins enough seats to govern alone, making cooperation and coalition-building an important part of forming a stable government.

For intercessors, understanding this process helps us pray more specifically. We can pray not only for individual candidates but also for political parties, coalition negotiations, Members of Parliament, and the decisions that shape the future of our nation.

Above every election and every parliamentary process stands the sovereign rule of God. While governments change, His Kingdom remains unshaken, and His purposes continue throughout every generation.

Prayer Focus

Pray that the 2026 General Election will be conducted with honesty, fairness, and peace. Ask the Lord to guide voters, candidates, election officials, and every stage of the democratic process. Pray that His purposes will prevail for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Praying for the Democratic Process

"...let all things be done
decently and in order."
— 1 Corinthians 14:40 (ESV)

Healthy democracy depends upon truth, integrity, accountability, and public trust. Elections are not only about choosing representatives; they are also about preserving confidence in the institutions that serve the nation.

As intercessors, we pray for every aspect of the electoral process. We ask God to guard against deception, corruption, intimidation, misinformation, and division. We pray that truth will prevail and that every vote will be counted with fairness and integrity.

Pray for:

- The Electoral Commission and election officials.
- Candidates and political parties.
- Voters throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Peaceful public discussion and respectful debate.
- Honest communication during election campaigns.
- Fair and transparent election administration.
- Wisdom during coalition discussions following the election.

Our prayers help cultivate an atmosphere where justice, peace, and integrity can flourish. Regardless of the election outcome, we continue to pray faithfully for those entrusted with governing our nation.

Prayer Focus

Lord, watch over every stage of the democratic process. Preserve honesty, transparency, and public confidence. Guide those responsible for administering the election and grant wisdom to political leaders as they seek to form a stable government for the good of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Understanding Political Parties Through a Biblical Lens

**"...test everything; hold fast what is good."
— 1 Thessalonians 5:21 (ESV)**

Christians are called to participate thoughtfully and prayerfully in public life. While no political party perfectly reflects the Kingdom of God, every party advances particular values, priorities, and policy approaches that can be considered in the light of biblical principles.

The purpose of the following comparison is not to endorse or oppose any political party. Rather, it is intended to help intercessors understand the different approaches represented within New Zealand's political landscape and to encourage prayerful, biblically informed discernment.

As you review the comparison tables, remember these guiding principles:

- Begin with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit for wisdom.
- Evaluate policies in the light of Scripture.
- Consider both biblical convictions and biblical responsibilities.
- Pray for every political party and every candidate.
- Honour those in authority, even where you may disagree.
- Place your ultimate hope in Jesus Christ rather than in any political movement.

The pages that follow provide a comparative overview of the principal political parties represented in Aotearoa New Zealand. They are offered as a resource to encourage informed prayer, thoughtful reflection, and responsible participation in the democratic process.

Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, grant us wisdom as we consider the issues facing our nation. Help us to think biblically, pray faithfully, and act with integrity. May every decision we make reflect our allegiance to Your Kingdom and our desire to see Aotearoa New Zealand flourish under Your sovereign care.

Comparing Party Priorities

The following overview is designed to assist intercessors in understanding the broad priorities and policy directions of New Zealand's principal political parties. It is not an endorsement of any political party or candidate. Rather, it is a resource to encourage informed prayer, biblical discernment, and responsible participation in the democratic process.

As Christians, we evaluate every policy and political philosophy through the authority of Scripture, recognising that no political party fully reflects the Kingdom of God. Every party demonstrates strengths in some areas and limitations in others.

Area	National	Labour	ACT	NZ First	Greens	Te Pāti Māori
Political Position	Centre-right	Centre-left	Right / Libertarian	Centre-right / Populist	Left	Left
General Emphasis	Economy, enterprise, responsibility	Social services, equity	Individual freedom, limited government	National identity, sovereignty	Environment, climate, social justice	Māori development, Treaty partnership
Religious Freedom	Strong	Moderate	Very Strong	Strong	Moderate	Moderate
Law & Order	Strong	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong	Less emphasis	Less emphasis
Economic Policy	Business growth	Fairness and workers	Free markets	Protect NZ industries	Sustainable economy	Māori economic development
Education	Academic achievement	Inclusion and wellbeing	Parent choice	Literacy and practical learning	Diversity and wellbeing	Māori language and identity
Health	Strengthen public health with mixed delivery	Strong public healthcare	Greater choice and efficiency	Improve access for New Zealanders	Public healthcare with equity focus	Reduce Māori health inequities
Treaty of Waitangi	Balanced interpretation	Strong partnership emphasis	Reduce Treaty-based governance	Historical recognition with limited constitutional expansion	Strong emphasis on Treaty partnership	Central to constitutional and national development

Biblical Principles for Prayer and Discernment

"...test everything; hold fast
what is good."
— 1 Thessalonians 5:21

Rather than beginning with political parties, Christians begin with Scripture. God's Word provides enduring principles that help us evaluate public life with wisdom, humility, and discernment.

As you pray for political leaders and consider party policies, reflect on questions such as:

- Does this uphold the dignity and value of every human life?
- Does it encourage truth, honesty, and integrity?
- Does it strengthen families and healthy communities?
- Does it protect freedom of religion and freedom of conscience?
- Does it promote justice for all people?
- Does it encourage faithful stewardship of public resources?
- Does it care for those who are vulnerable while encouraging personal responsibility?
- Does it contribute to peace, order, and the common good?

These questions are not intended to produce identical conclusions for every Christian. Rather, they encourage believers to prayerfully examine issues through a biblical worldview and seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

Our ultimate allegiance is to Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. Political parties may reflect aspects of biblical values, but none fully embodies the righteousness and perfection of God's Kingdom.

Prayer Focus

Pray that Christians throughout Aotearoa New Zealand will seek God's wisdom above political preference, exercising discernment with humility, grace, and faithfulness to His Word.

Praying for Every Political Party

"...I urge that... prayers,
intercessions... be made... for kings
and all who are in high positions..."
— 1 Timothy 2:1-2

The call to intercession extends to every person seeking public office, regardless of political affiliation. Scripture instructs believers to pray for those in authority because leadership carries significant responsibility before God.

As intercessors, we commit to praying for every political party represented in Parliament and for every candidate standing for election. We ask God to:

- Grant wisdom to party leaders.
- Raise candidates of integrity and humility.
- Expose deception and establish truth.
- Guide policy discussions toward justice and the common good.
- Protect the democratic process from corruption and division.
- Encourage respectful debate and responsible leadership.
- Lead those elected to govern with wisdom, courage, and compassion.

While Christians may hold different political convictions, we are united in our calling to pray faithfully for our nation and those entrusted with its leadership.

Our hope is never placed in political parties, personalities, or governments alone. Our confidence rests in the Lord, who rules over the nations and whose Kingdom is everlasting.

Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, bless every political leader and every candidate with wisdom, integrity, humility, and courage. Guide the parties represented in Aotearoa New Zealand to seek the welfare of the nation above personal ambition. May Your righteousness, justice, mercy, and truth shape the future of our country, and may Your Kingdom purposes prevail through every generation.

A Call to Prayer and Fasting

"...consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly..."
— Joel 2:15

Throughout Scripture, God's people gathered in times of prayer and fasting whenever the nation faced significant moments of decision, repentance, or transition. Prayer and fasting were acts of humility, dependence, and surrender, acknowledging that true wisdom and lasting transformation come from the Lord alone.

As Aotearoa New Zealand approaches the General Election, we are invited to seek God's face with renewed commitment. Our confidence is not in political campaigns, public opinion, or human strategies, but in the sovereign God who rules over the nations.

Prayer prepares our hearts to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. Fasting reminds us that our deepest dependence is upon God. Together they cultivate humility, sharpen spiritual discernment, and align our hearts with His purposes.

As 72/72 Intercessors Aotearoa, we commit ourselves to watchfulness, perseverance, and faithful prayer, believing that God hears the cries of His people and works according to His perfect will.

Prayer Focus

Pray that churches throughout Aotearoa Zealand will unite in prayer and fasting. Ask the Lord to awaken His people, deepen spiritual hunger, and prepare the nation for His purposes during this significant election season.

Prophetic Intercession for the 2026 General Election

"Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool..."

— Isaiah 66:1

"The Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands... 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.'"

— Acts 7:48-49

"...seek the welfare of the city... and pray to the LORD on its behalf..."

— Jeremiah 29:7

Heavenly Father,

We come before Your throne with reverence and thanksgiving, acknowledging that You alone are the Sovereign Lord over heaven and earth. Heaven is Your throne and the earth is Your footstool. Every nation, every government, and every authority remains under Your sovereign rule.

Today we seek the welfare of Aotearoa New Zealand, believing that as Your people pray, You are able to guide, protect, and bless our nation according to Your perfect will.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we call forth those whom You have prepared to serve in Parliament. Raise up men and women of wisdom, integrity, humility, courage, and servant-hearted leadership. Strengthen those You have called to govern with righteousness, justice, and compassion for every community.

We pray that every candidate seeking public office will walk in honesty, humility, and accountability. Expose deception, restrain corruption, silence every counsel rooted in injustice, and establish truth within our nation.

Grant wisdom to every voter, peace throughout the election process, and integrity in every decision made before, during, and after Election Day.

We pray for the formation of the next Government. May coalition discussions be marked by honesty, respect, wisdom, and timely agreement. Grant every negotiating party discernment to know where compromise serves the common good and where conviction must remain steadfast. Protect every leader from sacrificing righteousness, integrity, or the values entrusted to them for the sake of political advantage.

May the Government formed following this election govern with stability, humility, wisdom, and a sincere commitment to the wellbeing of all New Zealanders.

Above all, may Your Kingdom come and Your will be done throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, to the glory of Your holy name. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pray for Leaders

"...for kings and all who are in high positions..."

— 1 Timothy 2:2

"...if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God..."

— James 1:5

Scripture consistently calls God's people to pray for those entrusted with leadership. Whether serving in Government or Opposition, every Member of Parliament carries significant responsibility for decisions that affect the nation.

Our prayers should not be limited to election season. Faithful intercession continues throughout the parliamentary term as we ask God to grant wisdom, integrity, courage, humility, and discernment to every leader.

Pray for:

- The Governor-General.
- The Prime Minister.
- Cabinet Ministers.
- Members of Parliament.
- The Leader of the Opposition.
- Political party leaders.
- Local government leaders.
- Public servants and advisers.
- Judges and those serving within the justice system.

Ask the Lord to strengthen every leader who seeks the common good, to correct those who have wandered from truth, and to establish righteousness, justice, mercy, and peace throughout the nation.

Prayer Focus

Lord, bless every person entrusted with governing Aotearoa New Zealand. Grant them wisdom beyond human understanding, integrity in every decision, courage to uphold what is right, and humility to serve the people faithfully. May they recognise their accountability before You and lead our nation with justice, compassion, and truth.

Pray for the Nation

"...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray..."
— 2 Chronicles 7:14

"...seek the welfare of the city... and pray to the LORD on its behalf..."
— Jeremiah 29:7 (ESV)

The Church carries a unique responsibility to pray for the spiritual and moral wellbeing of the nation. While governments make laws and administer justice, only God can transform hearts, revive His people, and bring lasting righteousness.

National prayer begins with God's people. Before we ask the Lord to change our nation, we must first humble ourselves before Him, seek His face, and walk in obedience to His Word. Genuine revival always begins with repentance and renewed devotion to God. As intercessors, we pray for every community throughout Aotearoa New Zealand—for families, schools, churches, businesses, local councils, iwi, cities, and rural communities. We ask that truth will prevail, justice will flourish, peace will increase, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ will continue to transform lives.

Our prayers extend beyond politics. We seek the spiritual flourishing of the nation, believing that God is able to accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine.

Prayer Focus

Pray for a fresh awakening across Aotearoa New Zealand. Ask the Lord to revive His Church, strengthen families, bless every community, and establish righteousness, peace, and justice throughout the nation.



Equipping the Intercessor

"...praying at all times in the Spirit..."

— Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

"...the Spirit himself intercedes for us..."

— Romans 8:26 (ESV)

The ministry of intercession does not end when the election is over. It is a lifelong calling to stand before God on behalf of others, listening to the Holy Spirit and praying according to His will.

An effective intercessor is continually growing in the knowledge of God's Word, sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, and faithfulness in prayer. As we remain rooted in Christ, our prayers become aligned with His heart and His purposes.

Commit yourself to:

- Daily fellowship with God through prayer and Scripture.
- Listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit.
- Praying with perseverance and faith.
- Walking in humility, holiness, and obedience.
- Blessing rather than condemning those in authority.
- Remaining watchful over the spiritual wellbeing of the nation.

Intercession is both a privilege and a responsibility. Through Christ our Great High Priest and by the empowering of the Holy Spirit, we are invited to faithfully stand in the gap for our nation until He comes

Prayer Focus

Lord Jesus, strengthen us to remain faithful watchmen. Fill us afresh with the Holy Spirit and teach us to pray according to Your heart. May our lives reflect humility, holiness, perseverance, and unwavering faith as we continue to intercede for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Continuing to Pray After Election Day

**"...pray without ceasing."
— 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)**

Election Day is not the end of our assignment—it marks the beginning of a new season of prayer.

Once a government has been formed, intercessors continue to pray faithfully for those entrusted with leadership. We ask God to grant wisdom, humility, and discernment as Ministers, Members of Parliament, and coalition partners begin the work of governing.

Pray especially for the formation of a stable government. Ask the Lord to guide coalition discussions with honesty, mutual respect, and integrity. Pray that negotiations will be conducted wisely, without unnecessary delay, and that every agreement will promote responsible government and the wellbeing of the nation.

Where compromise is necessary, pray that it will never come at the expense of righteousness, truth, justice, or integrity. Ask God to give every leader the courage to stand firm on matters of conscience while working together for the common good.

Our responsibility is to continue covering Parliament in prayer throughout its entire term, asking the Lord to guide every decision and to establish His purposes across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Prayer Focus

Father, bless the Government that is formed following the election. Grant unity where it is needed, wisdom in every decision, and integrity in every negotiation. May those entrusted with governing serve faithfully, steward their responsibilities wisely, and seek the welfare of all New Zealanders.

The Parliament of New Zealand

**"For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king;
he will save us."
— Isaiah 33:22 (ESV)**

Parliament is one of the nation's most significant places of public service. It is where laws are debated, decisions are made, and the future direction of Aotearoa New Zealand is shaped.

As Christians, we honour those who serve in Parliament while recognising that every human authority is ultimately accountable to God. Scripture reminds us that the Lord alone is the perfect Judge, the perfect Lawgiver, and the eternal King.

Our prayers therefore rise continually for Parliament—that truth will prevail over deception, justice over injustice, wisdom over confusion, and humility over pride. We ask the Lord to bless every Member of Parliament with discernment, courage, integrity, and a sincere desire to serve the people faithfully.

May Parliament be a place where decisions are made with wisdom, respect, and a commitment to the common good. Above all, may God's righteousness be exalted throughout our nation.

**"The LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is
our king; he will save us."
Isaiah 33:22**

The Historic Parliamentary Prayer

For many decades, the New Zealand Parliament was opened with the following prayer:

**"Almighty God, humbly acknowledging our need for Thy guidance in all things, and laying aside all private and personal interests, we beseech Thee to grant that we may conduct the affairs of this House and of our country to the glory of Thy holy name, the maintenance of true religion and justice, the honour of the Queen, and the public welfare, peace, and tranquillity of New Zealand, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen."**

Amen.

May this historic prayer continue to remind us that the work of government is worthy of faithful intercession and that our ultimate hope rests not in earthly institutions, but in the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Final Commission

"Stand firm. Watch faithfully. Pray continually. Trust completely in the sovereign Lord, whose Kingdom shall never end."

Value Your Vote

The team at Family First have put together a valuable resource for all voters in Aotearoa New Zealand. It is called "Value Your Vote" and, as the name suggests, it encourages us to value the privilege of voting that we all have in a democratic society, and to use those votes wisely by voting for candidates who reflect our Christian values. This website (and they usually have physical books available as well) allows voters to see at a glance who has voted for what in Parliament over recent years. Of course, not all candidates have been in Parliament but it gives us a view of those who have and what beliefs they hold. You can access this resource at:



www.valueyourvote.org.nz



www.intercessorsaotearoa.nz

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Purpose

This handbook has been prepared to equip believers throughout Aotearoa New Zealand to participate in 72 hours of continuous intercession for the 2026 General Election. During this prayer watch, intercessors will dedicate one hour to each of the nation's 71 electorates, followed by one final hour of prayer for New Zealanders living overseas who are eligible to vote.

Together we seek God's wisdom for every candidate, every voter, every electorate, and the formation of the next Government of Aotearoa New Zealand.

"Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain."

Psalms 127:1