

## Father Walter McDonald

Father Walter McDonald arrived in Auckland as a Deacon in 1855 with Bishop Pompallier.



Father was born in County Kilkenny on 14 December 1830. He undertook his theological training at All Hallows in Dublin.

Initially he was responsible for the Bay of Islands and the North Shore before being appointed Private Secretary to Bishop Pompallier, a position he held until 1869.

In 1871 he was appointed Administrator of St Patrick's Cathedral, Auckland effectively becoming Parish Priest of Auckland. This position allowed his persona to develop and his talents and sympathetic understanding of people had the opportunity to develop.



In 1886 he was transferred to the eastern seaboard including Panmure and Howick. Living in Panmure, he travelled widely, administering to the scattered Catholic families and whoever was in need of support. His reputation as the much loved Father Walter increased enormously.

Even fifty years after his death in December 1899, memorial articles were still being written about his achievements, his integrity and compassion.