



A future full of hope

(cf Jer 29:11)

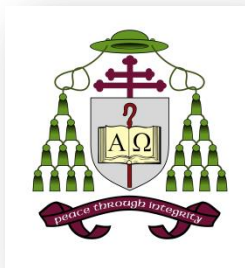
Reimagining the
Archdiocese of Wellington

PROMULGATION
DOCUMENT

October 31 2013



*We, the Catholic People of the
Archdiocese of Wellington,
challenged to follow Christ,
are called to proclaim the Kingdom of God.*



31 October, 2013

“A future full of hope”

Dear Friends

Hundreds of people have taken part in discussions and consultations relating to the document I published in May, “A Future Full of Hope”. The responses bear the results of deep reflection and fervent prayer, for which I am very grateful. It is very clear that the discussions were accompanied by a sense of excitement and with great energy and passion, which are wonderful gifts to bring to the life of the Church.

This is not an easy time for the Archdiocese. We face unprecedented challenges. We could ignore them and refuse to change, but change is in the very nature of things. Not to change is to stagnate and die. What helps us, of course, is that we know God is with us.

On September 24, during morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis explained why God accompanies us:

“Be it in hard times, or in beautiful times, one thing is always certain: the Lord is there. He will never abandon His flock! Because the Lord, on the day of the sin, the first sin, made a decision, He made a choice: to make a History with his People. God, who has no History because He is eternal, desired to make History by walking alongside His people. But even more than that, He decided to become one of us, and as one of us, to walk with us through Jesus.

The Pope then invited the people attending Mass to let God write the history of each person. I invite you to do the same.

Let God write your history, your personal history, and the history of the parish you are proud to call “home.” Don’t be afraid of the change which must happen if our Church is to grow and flourish; don’t be afraid to embrace the opportunities that will create something new and wonderful of our Church in Aotearoa New Zealand.

It is obvious you want the best for our archdiocese; you also sense the hopefulness sparked by the first seven months of Pope Francis. We need to build on that and, too, on the strong foundations on which our local church stands. I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the bishops who have preceded me in leadership among you, and to the priests and people for their commitment to serve since our formation 163 years ago.

Our parishes are always about the mission of the Church, that is what they exist for. Therefore in moving forward it is necessary to focus on our Mission Statement:

***“We the Catholic People of the Archdiocese of Wellington, challenged to follow Christ, are called to proclaim the Kingdom of God, by
Celebrating God in our lives
Sharing our Living Faith
Growing in Community
Working for Justice and Peace.”***

Within that context we can see:

- The challenge this year to reach out to the margins, the frontiers, the edges of society. So, our reshaping will include a commitment to be at the service of the world.

- Our call is to be people of prayer. Individually and as communities, in formal liturgical settings, in families, schools, parish and diocesan committees, in all our organizations, prayer is to be the basis of everything we do.
- We are to be “formed” by the Word of God, allowing this Word to both inspire and disturb us. We must make a particular pastoral commitment to ensure the centrality of the Word of God in the Church’s life and to let “*the Bible inspire all pastoral work.*” (Dei Verbum 24, Verbum Domini 73) Commitment to the Word will encourage communities of hospitality, giving welcome and acceptance to all.
- We are called to “life-long formation” in our faith. Many, many submissions expressed a deep desire for on-going education in faith to assist greater understanding and participation.
- Our parish communities are to be outward looking communities; a source of support and a beacon of hope for those who struggle with life. In this we will remember we have been entrusted with the service of healing and reconciliation. By growing in holiness we will offer a reflection of the face of Christ whose healing touch is our model. (see NMI 7)
- We are to live every day as disciples of Jesus, making stewardship our special focus. Acknowledging that all we have and are comes from God, making us caretakers of wonderful gifts, we will show our gratitude by generously sharing in prayer and action.

It is only when we remember and celebrate who we are before God that our parishes will be true models of Christian living. If you find it difficult to think of new parishes and are challenged by the changes we have to face, please return to the words of Pope John Paul II when he spoke of the wonder of ***the Trinity dwelling in us*** and of ***the light of the Trinity shining***

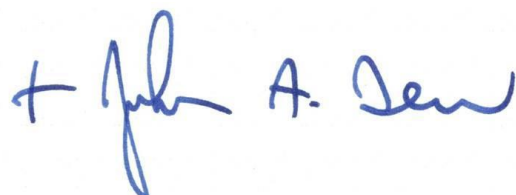
on the faces of our brothers and sisters. (see *Novo Millennio Ineunte – NMI – 43*)

When I published the document “***A Future Full of Hope***” I put forward proposals for you to think about and also said that if you had better ideas to write and tell me. I have now reviewed the hundreds of suggestions. Not all of them focused on the future, not all focused on the common good of the archdiocese but instead on a particular parish. Some simply wanted to retain the status quo. Due to rapidly changing demography and ethnic diversity, a lack of financial and personnel resources, and building code issues, I have to make decisions for the mission of the Church, knowing they will not please everyone. This is a responsibility I cannot avoid. Change is inevitable. Therefore following due process I have consulted the Council of Priests and have made decisions about the parishes after having reviewed and prayed deeply about your input.

Please continue your prayers, individually and in your parish Masses and all other gatherings for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Above all remember that “*God, who has no History because He is eternal, desired to make History by walking alongside His people. But even more than that, He decided to become one of us, and as one of us, to walk with us through Jesus.*” It is now our time to let God take up his pen and write again our personal history and that of our parishes.

With deep personal gratitude, good wishes, every blessing, and my prayers for you all.

Yours sincerely in the Lord



+John A Dew
Archbishop of Wellington

FUTURE PARISHES

AND

PASTORAL AREAS

After consultation throughout the Archdiocese of Wellington with clergy and laity during the months of May, June, July and August 2013, and after consulting the Council of Priests it has been decided that some parishes will merge together in order to create a new parish. As outlined in my proposals in the "Future Full of Hope" Document, parish Churches are to be retained and Parishes will be described as "One Parish – Three Churches." (or whatever the number will be)

I am deeply grateful to all who took part in extensive consultations and who entered into discussions after much prayer and reflection on the best way for the parishes of the Archdiocese to fulfil the mission of the Church.

The plan for parishes in to the future will be:

1. Buller/Inangahua Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart, Reefton and St Canice, Westport are to become one parish with two priests (or a priest and a Lay Pastoral Leader) based in Westport. This will happen when there is no longer a resident priest in Reefton.

"One Parish - Two Churches"

2. Horowhenua/Kapiti Pastoral Area

St Patrick, Paraparaumu and Our Lady of Fatima, Waikanae have already become one parish, the Parish of Our Lady of Kapiti.

"One Parish – Two Churches"

St Joseph, Levin and St Mary, Otaki will become one parish, to be staffed by the priests of the Society of Mary. This is to be effective as from 1st February 2014.

"One Parish – Two Churches"

The parishes will remain as a Pastoral Area.

3. Lower Hutt Valley Pastoral Area

Ss Peter and Paul, Lower Hutt, St Martin de Porres, Avalon, St Bernadette, Naenae and St Michael, Taita are to become one parish.

"One Parish – Four Churches"

This is to be effective from 1st February 2015.

Sacred Heart, Petone, San Antonio, Eastbourne, Our Lady of the Rosary, Waiwhetu, and St Patrick, Wainuiomata are to become one parish.

This is to be effective from 1st February 2015.

"One Parish - Four Churches"

The parishes will remain as a Pastoral Area.

4. Kahurangi Pastoral Area

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Richmond, Sacred Heart, Takaka and St Peter Chanel, Motueka are to become one parish. This is to be effective when there is no longer a resident priest at Motueka.

"One Parish - Three Churches"

St Mary, Nelson and St Francis of Assisi, Stoke parishes are to become one parish at a time when it is no longer possible to have a resident priest in each parish.

"One Parish - Two Churches"

The parishes will remain as a Pastoral Area.

5. Marlborough Pastoral Area

St Mary, Blenheim and St Joseph, Picton are to become one parish, but will be dependent on the availability of a priest at Picton.

Sacred Heart, Kaikoura will remain on its own for the moment, but at the time when there is no longer a resident priest available it will become part of the one parish.

“One Parish - Two/Three Churches”

The parishes will remain as a Pastoral Area until they become one.

6. Northern Hutt Valley

Our Lady of Grace, Heretaunga and St Francis Xavier, Stokes Valley are to become one parish.

“One Parish – Two Churches”

This is to be effective as from 1st February 2015.

St Joseph, Upper Hutt is to remain as a stand-alone parish.

The parishes will remain as a Pastoral Area.

7. Porirua Pastoral Area.

St Pius X, Titahi Bay and Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa are to become one parish.

“One Parish - Two Churches”

This is to be effective from 1st February 2015.

Holy Family, Porirua East and St Theresa, Plimmerton are to remain as stand-alone parishes. Te Ngakau Tapu, a parish personal to Maori, is to remain as a stand-alone parish.

The parishes will remain as a Pastoral Area.

8. Wairarapa Pastoral Area

St Patrick, Masterton, St Mary, Carterton and St Teresa, Featherston are to become one parish.

This is to be effective as from 1st February 2015.

“One Parish - Three Churches” (Masterton, Carterton, Featherston).

9. Wellington East Pastoral Area

St Patrick, Kilbirnie, Holy Cross, Miramar and St Anthony, Seatoun are to become one parish.

This is to be effective as from 1st February 2015.

“One Parish - Three Churches”

10. Wellington North Pastoral Area

Ss Peter and Paul, Johnsonville, St Benedict, Khandallah and St Andrew, Newlands are to become one parish.

This is to be effective as from 1st February 2016.

“One Parish - Three Churches”

11. Wellington South Pastoral Area

St Joseph, Mt Victoria, St Anne, Newtown, St Francis de Sales, Island Bay and St Bernard, Brooklyn are to become one parish.

This is to be effective as from 1st February 2016.

“One Parish – Four Churches”

12. Wellington West Pastoral Area

Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish and St Mary of the Angels are to remain as stand-alone parishes.

St Teresa, Karori and St Thomas More, Wilton are to become one parish, to be known as the Catholic Parish of Otari, to be effective as from 1st April 2014.

“One Parish – Two Churches”

The parishes will remain as a Pastoral Area.

Timeline for Establishment of new Parishes

2014

St Joseph, Levin and St Mary, Otaki become one parish on 1st February 2014.

St Teresa, Karori and St Thomas More, Wilton become one parish on 1st April 2014.

2015

Sacred Heart, Petone, San Antonio, Eastbourne, Our Lady of the Rosary, Waiwhetu and St Patrick, Wainuiomata become one parish on 1st February 2015.

Our Lady of Grace, Heretaunga and St Francis Xavier, Stokes Valley become one parish on 1st February 2015.

St Patrick, Masterton, St Mary, Carterton and St Teresa, Featherston become one parish on 1st February 2015.

St Patrick, Kilbirnie, Holy Cross, Miramar and St Anthony, Seatoun become one parish on 1st February 2015.

St Pius X, Titahi Bay and Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa become one parish on 1st February 2015.

Ss Peter and Paul, Lower Hutt, St Martin de Porres, Avalon, St Bernadette, Naenae and St Michael, Taita become one parish on 1 February 2015.

2016

St Joseph, Mt Victoria, St Anne, Newtown, St Francis de Sales, Island Bay and St Bernard, Brooklyn become one parish on 1st February 2016.

Ss Peter and Paul, Johnsonville, St Benedict, Khandallah and St Andrew, Newlands become one parish on 1st February 2016.

Timing not yet defined (but to be effective no later than 1st February 2016)

Buller-Inangahua

Kahurangi

Marlborough

Pastoral Areas of the Archdiocese of Wellington

