

Maori Pastoral Care Annual Appeal

The Maori Pastoral Care Appeal happens on the weekend of 27-28 August but envelopes can be handed in or put in collection plates in the following weeks.

Keeping a Promise

They say humans are the only animals that can make promises. I think that's true: promises to keep a secret, marriage vows, religious vows, baptismal promises, legal contracts, and so on. The Marist family has just been celebrating 200 years since a small group in Lyon made a great promise to found a religious project taking on the way of being of Mary the mother of Jesus as a way of spreading the Gospel.

When that project got papal approval many of the early members of that group were sent to New Zealand to carry out their promise. Here with Bishop Pompallier their first promise was to work among Māori. Religious sisters and lay people also took on that promise. The mission has been carried out in various ways by many dedicated people across Aotearoa in parishes, schools, marae, home, hospital and prison visits. Māori themselves have taken up the work.

In the Archdiocese of Wellington each year we have a collection to help fund the work of the pastoral care of Māori, specifically the work done by the Vicar for Maori, (Mons Gerard Burns) and the Turanga Māori office. This collection is a way of funding some of the fulfilment of the promise. Specific ways of doing that are:

- Assisting parishes, schools and communities with their knowledge of things Māori, use of te reo Māori in liturgies.
- Helping with sacramental and leadership programmes for children and young people.
- Providing opportunities for Mass in Māori.
- Assisting participation in Archdiocesan events, liturgies and celebrations.

The Māori Pastoral Care Collection will take place on the last weekend of August (27–28). Your parish may have an envelope through which to make a contribution, but there will be special envelopes available for each parish to use as well. Some parishes have a special second collection for this purpose. Thank you for helping the Church to keep its commitment to Māori, to the Treaty of Waitangi – Tiriti o *Waitangi* – and to the Gospel.

Monsignor Gerard Burns