

Go, you are sent... as members of the one Body of Christ

“In the one Spirit, we were all baptised...”

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13

The Archdiocese of Wellington has always been ethnically diverse, but in the last ten years this trend has accelerated. There is a danger that we will become a Church of ethnic silos, where people of different cultures worship and act separately and there is little interaction between the silos. Our challenge is to come to know one another, make room for one another and appreciate and use the many gifts people bring to the Archdiocese.

When considering the diverse peoples in the Archdiocese of Wellington we need to be aware of the overall trends in the country, as shown in these Statistics New Zealand projections:

- While Māori, Asian, and Pacific populations will increase in nearly all regions and territorial authorities between 2013 and 2038, those identifying as “European or Other” (including New Zealander) will represent a decreasing share of people.
- Nationally, the Māori population will make up nearly 20 per cent of the total population by 2038 (16 per cent in 2013).

- The Asian population will increase from 12 per cent in 2013 to 21 per cent in 2038.
- The Pacific population will increase, from 8 per cent in 2013 to 11 per cent in 2038.
- The ‘European or Other’ population will drop from 75 per cent in 2013 to 66 per cent in 2038.

Despite the increases in diversity, ethnic populations in all areas are set to experience declining rates of population growth as their populations gradually age.

1. **What would help new immigrants feel at home in the parish and encourage them to participate in shaping the parish’s identity?**

2. **What should be the role of ethnic chaplaincies in the Archdiocese?**





“At this moment in human history, marked by great movements of migration, identity is not a secondary issue. Those who migrate are forced to change some of their most distinctive characteristics and, whether they like or not, even those who welcome them are also forced to change. How can we experience these changes not as obstacles to genuine development, rather as opportunities for genuine human, social and spiritual growth, a growth which respects and promotes those values which make us ever more humane and help us to live a balanced relationship with God, others and creation?”

POPE FRANCIS, MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2016

“A spirituality of communion also means an ability to think of our brothers and sisters in faith within the profound unity of the Mystical Body, and therefore as ‘those who are a part of me’. This makes us able to share their joys and sufferings, to sense their desires and attend to their needs, to offer them deep and genuine friendship. A spirituality of communion implies also the ability to see what is positive in others, to welcome it and prize it as a gift from God: not only as a gift for the brother or sister who has received it directly, but also as a ‘gift for me’. A spirituality of communion means, finally, to know how to ‘make room’ for our brothers and sisters, bearing ‘each other’s burdens’ (Gal 6:2) and resisting the selfish temptations which constantly beset us and provoke competition, careerism, distrust and jealousy...”

NOVO MILLENIO INEUNTE 43

“This aspect of mercy, inclusion, is manifested in opening one’s arms wide to receive without excluding, without classifying others on the basis of their social condition, language, race, culture or religion: before us there is only a person to be loved as God loves him or her.”

POPE FRANCIS, JUBILEE OF MERCY AUDIENCE NOV 2016