

25 September 2018

Dear Parish Priests, Lay Pastoral Leaders, Chairs Pastoral Councils, Liturgy Committees,

One of Cardinal John's dreams is for our diocese to be a Stewardship Archdiocese, and to this end Cardinal John and the Archdiocesan Stewardship Team have been facilitating Stewardship Days in parishes over the last year or two. The essence of Stewardship is that we are all called to a life of holiness, that our Baptism calls us into a life with Christ and that daily we are encouraged to reflect on what it means to be Christ's disciple.



In 2015 Cardinal John made the decision that each October, as a diocese, we would reflect on a Stewardship theme.

The theme of the Archdiocesan October Stewardship Month this year is 'Our Call to Holiness' and focuses in particular on Pope Francis' exhortation, "Gaudete et Exsultate" – Rejoice and be Glad! Pope Francis tells us that holiness is for everybody and that it is not impossible. He says, "We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. This is not the case. We are called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves." The Stewardship Committee has put together resources which focus on 'Gaudete et Exsultate' for you and your parish for this month. These can be found on the Archdiocesan Website under Stewardship. We hope you will be able to participate in some way.

As well, we are offering a Retreat Day for all Stewardship Day attendees, and parishioners at the end of October- as part of Stewardship Month. A poster for the day can be found on the Archdiocesan Website as part of the October Month resources, mentioned above.

The theme of the day is '**What do you want me to do for you?**', taken from the Gospel of the day, and the story of the blind man, Bartimaeus. It is a chance to spend some time in guided prayer and reflection with Cardinal John and the Stewardship team.

Date: 27 October 2018, from 9.30am – 3.45pm

Venue: Sacred Heart Church, 41 Britannia St, Petone

We would love to see you and your parishioners there. Please let Ann Williams know before the 23rd October by emailing your RSVP to a.williams@wn.catholic.org.nz or phone 04 496 5182. Please bring your own lunch; we will have coffee and tea available for you throughout the day.

Every blessing,

Lorraine McArthur

Chair, Archdiocesan Stewardship Committee