

EVANGELII GAUDIUM

“Only the beauty of God can attract”

Pope Francis uses the word:

JOY 45 times

BEAUTIFUL 26 times

ATTRACT 25 times

He clearly wants the Church and we Christians to present a beautiful and positive face.

“It is very rare that I direct parishes to take a certain action so this indicates the seriousness of what I am asking of you.”

▶ WHY?

▶ The 2017 Archdiocesan Synod vote for new priorities which must be addressed, they cannot be simply “add-ons” to what we already do.

▶ Pope Francis has asked us to radically rethink how we are to be “the people of God” - *Evangelii Gaudium* (will share more with you).

▶ We are ALL called to be “MISSIONARY DISCIPLES”

▶ We are called to be “INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES”

EVANGELII GAUDIUM

“I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the centre and which then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures (E G 49).”

100 years ago Letter of Pope Benedict XV -
to give new impetus to the Missionary task of
proclaiming the Gospel.

Every baptised Catholic has a duty to respond to
Jesus' command to "Go into the whole world and
proclaim the Gospel to every creature" Mark 16:15

2nd Vatican Council 1966

The “Essential Task” of the Church is to be
“Missionary by Nature.”

“We must all walk the same path Christ walked. A path of poverty and obedience of service and self sacrifice ... we will then be imbued with love, sincerity and a peaceful spirit.”

EVANGELII GUADIUM

“The most missionary and thoroughly Christian thing we can do is to look redeemed and happy.”

The great theologian Teilhard de Chardin once said
“joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God.”

MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Although Pope Francis has come up with the term “missionary disciples” in *Evangelii Gaudium*, it isn’t necessarily a new idea although it is important that we be reminded of it. For we are called not only to follow Jesus, but also to change the world, to proclaim the good news, to bring about the kingdom. A “missionary disciple” is both a disciple and a missionary - disciple being a follower of Jesus Christ and a missionary being one who goes out into the world on a mission.

STEWARDSHIP IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

All people are called to make a decision every day to respond as a disciple of Jesus in everything we say and do.

All are called to see that everything is God's that all is gift and God is the Giver behind the Gift.

Letter to Parishes, 16-17 February

Challenges facing the Archdiocese

1. Earthquake resilience issues
2. Too many buildings for our Mass count
3. Reduced number of priests

CLERGY STATISTICS

Retired: 22 aged 76 - 93

In Parishes:

8 70-90

16 50 - 69

10 30 -49 (7 of these on loan)

Therefore I have asked all parishes to follow a review process for their discernment.....

- ▶ Demographic trends and projected changes
- ▶ Current and predicted mass counts
- ▶ Capacity of existing Churches
- ▶ Parish school roll numbers and trends
- ▶ Realistic assessment of what ministry can be provided by reduced number of priests
- ▶ Earthquake strengthening Issues
- ▶ Consultation with neighbouring parishes

Parishes are to identify

- ▶ The amount needed annually to sustain a 10-year maintenance plan and insurance costs
- ▶ Operating costs for the parish for one year
- ▶ What is needed from parishioners to ensure the parish does not run at an annual loss

The review is to identify

- ▶ How many Churches the parish needs for its Mass count
- ▶ What provision needs to be made for accommodation of priests, what form it is to take and best location
- ▶ What steps the parish needs to take in relation to its churches and priest accommodation.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

- ▶ “Once the review is complete parishes should revisit their pastoral plan to determine whether there are changes needed as a result of the review. As part of this the parish should identify the skills and resources which can be called upon for mission. And the financial giving needed to sustain the life of the parish.”
- ▶ Memorandum to Pastoral Teams, Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Committees, 13th February

Another important message

- ▶ “The review is to result in proposals regarding the parish’s churches and presbyteries, to be sent to the Archbishops Office by 30 October 2019. If a parish wishes to act on a property matter prior to 30 October 2019, the completed review must accompany the documentation provided to the Board of Administration.”
- ▶ Memorandum to Pastoral Teams, Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Committees, 13th February

A Third Important Message

- ▶ You need to be prepared to be radical in your thinking and discernment.
- ▶ The theme of parish amalgamation was “A Future Full of Hope.” This hope-filled future will only start to take shape when we honestly and courageously engage with and answer the many question about our buildings.”
- ▶ Pastoral Letter to Archdiocese 15th February 2019



Pastoral Areas of the Archdiocese of Wellington



TOTAL	
Parishes	Schools
32	46

Horowhenua Kapiti

2 3

Wairarapa

Nth Hutt Valley

Porirua

Wellington North

Hutt Valley

Kahurangi

Marlborough

Inangahua

Wellington Central

Wellington East

Wellington South

Final Prayer

- ▶ God, whose power is at its best in weakness:
You have entrusted us in our frailty,
with the awesome privilege
of being your presence in the world.
You say to each of us: *Go you are sent.*

in naming and sending,
you honour our ability to serve.
Yet we know our need of you,
even as we travel in the
echo of your voice: *Go you are sent.*

▶ Bless our Archdiocese of Wellington as we set out
and, as you have done for so many,
strengthen our weariness; steady our trembling.
May we never forget that you are with us
and joyfully answer your call: *Go you are sent.*

We go, gifting your mercy, proclaiming your truth,
and celebrating your goodness:

our words and actions

revealing your face

to all we meet.

Blessed are you, God of the journey. Amen.