

Launch Out Letter (LOL)

October 2019



Our Mission

In 2017, at the end of our Synod, John Dew sent each of us out into our communities to meet the needs of the church in the Wellington Archdiocese. This isn't the first time we have been sent into our communities to show our neighbour that Christ is alive and well in our society today. Having been nourished with food for our journey

at the Eucharistic feast, at the end of every Mass we are instructed to go - to love and to serve the Lord, "sent to take Christ with us and to gift him to the world" (John Cardinal Dew 2017).

But none of this is new.

"Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognise that you are my disciples — when they see the love you have for each other." (John 13:35)

Pope Francis, in an article appearing on the American Magazine website said, "our mission is to give pure and fresh air to those immersed in the pollution of our world; to bring to earth that peace which fills us with joy whenever we meet Jesus on the mountain in prayer; to show by our lives, and perhaps even by our words, that God loves everyone and never tires of anyone."

To be this missionary person we can sometimes be overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of the amount of work that our broken world needs.

But remember, we are forever on mission – the cooking, the cleaning, the paid work, the running the children off to their schools and extra-curricular activities, and all those other day to day needs of a modern family. For some of us our mission is to do these acts. Our journey has led us to this place, and these are the tasks we must perform lovingly.

For others there is time in our busy schedules allocated to other mission roles. Assisting the elderly, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and the imprisoned, working within our church community in various other ministries. Seeing the needs around us, judging how best to assist, and acting on that judgement.

We are all pilgrims on a journey, and no journey is the same.

Our mission is simple. "He has told you what he wants, and this is all it is: to be fair, just, merciful, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). But our mission will not always be 'comfortable'. If we just allow the Holy Spirit to work through us to be the hands and feet of Jesus, showing His love and His care, for both the people who cross our paths and for this planet beautifully created, then our mission is God-grounded.

It is by our love, by our humility, by our actions, and by our

words that people will know who we are, who has sent us, and who is very much alive and present in our world today.



-Jude, Oct 2019



Happy Birthday!

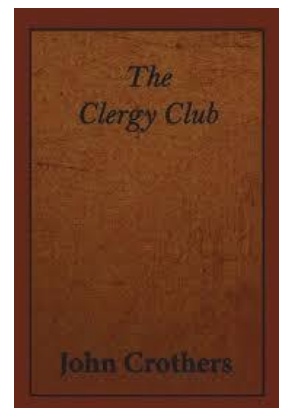
Greetings and blessings to **Jude McKee** who will be celebrating her birthday on **10 November 2019**

Wisdom from our Lay Pastoral Leaders

This issue we are fortunate to have **Joe Green** write a book review on the “Clergy Club” by John Crothers (2018), who is a retired priest in Sydney, Australia. Its’ blurb in Google Books states that it looks at the disconnection between the clergy and the laity. A controversial topic in our line of work. I hope we can have more of our LPLs contributing to LOL in the future.

In this very easy to read book retired Australian priest John Crothers explores what we have come to call ‘clericalism’, and what he refers to as ‘the clergy club’ (after a priest welcomed him ‘to the club’ at his ordination). Crothers draws on the description of clericalism posited by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe (2008):

“...let me say at once that in my mind clericalism has little or nothing to do with what priests wear or what they ask people to call them. It has to do with an attitude of superiority or aloofness which conveys the impression that priests are better than others, holier than others, somehow or other removed from others, precisely because priests deal with things of God, sacred things, as opposed to the laity, who deal with worldly or secular things. And from this attitude flows the expectation that priests should be treated with special deference, with a special privilege, with a level of respect that others don't really deserve.”



From this simple summary, Crother explores what he terms the ‘clergy club mentality’. He explores the origins of this mentality in Catholic theology of priesthood – developed in the middle ages and still in current Church teaching. A theology that sees the priest as ontologically changed by ordination, changed in his very being, such that he is more closely aligned to Christ, and thereby different. Crother suggests that this, while ‘clearly very hard to support on philosophical grounds’, ‘lies at the very heart of the whole concept of the clergy club’.

Crother's writing ranges across the whole spectrum of the clergy/laity/clericalism debate. He concludes with eight simple strategies that he suggests will address clericalism.

A highly recommended read for anyone who wants to gain insight into the issue of clericalism.

A Recommended Reading Material



Joe has also pointed out a must read for all of us in Lay Pastoral Leadership. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference conducted a study on its Lay Pastoral Ministries. It's called “Faithful Stewards of God's Grace: Lay Pastoral Ministries in the Church in Australia”. You can download the document through this link: <https://www.catholic.org.au/fsgg>

Some questions we can ponder upon:

- What is your own understanding of Lay Pastoral Leadership or Ministry in the Aotearoa NZ context?
- What is the role of LPLs in addressing the various challenges the church is facing today?

You may want to write an essay regarding your reflection on this and we can publish it here in LOL.

Calendar of Activities for 2020

Kindly pencil the dates below. I am still finalising the facilitators. What is new for next year is the addition of Professional Development Seminars. These days are meant to enable you to acquire practical knowledge and skills pertaining to the work of an LPL (e.g. pastoral planning, collaborative ministry, parish engagement), which are not covered in your TCI papers. Offhand, our speakers would be the LPLs, LO graduates and for selected topics (and conditional to budget) outside experts. I'll send out the details of these dates near the close of the year.

DATE	ACTIVITY	PROPOSED VENUE
25 January	PD Seminar 1	Catholic Centre
07 March	Prayer Day 1	Pa Marie, Hobson St, Thorndon
01-03 May	Retreat	Magnificat, Featherston
09 August	PD Seminar 2	Catholic Centre
10 October	Prayer Day 2	Pa Marie, Hobson St, Thorndon
21 November	Project Presentation	Catholic Centre
12 December	Christmas Gathering	TBD

Updates

- Thank you, **Jude**, for writing our October reflection. For November, **Lisa** will be our feature writer.
- A reminder of **Joan McFetridge's** Pro **Ecclesia et Pontifice** Medal awarding on 16 November, 5:30 pm at the pro-Cathedral St. Teresa's Karori.
- The National Centre for Religious Studies (NCRS) publishes on its website "[Encountering the Divine](#)". These are short stories of 500 words about your own personal encounters with Jesus. I have published one (*Dado's Cuppa*). I'd like to invite all of you to contribute. If you are interested, send me your piece, then I'll pass it on. Similarly, you can check out Faith Central www.faithjourney.nz where this material is hosted, and see heaps of resources you can use in the parishes. (*I've attached it as a separate document in case you can't open it.*)
- Parishes are on the move to achieve Synod Outcomes. See what the parishes have done so far https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_community/synod-outcomes-flourishing/
- Project Presentation
 - Due to Cardinal John's appointment as Apostolic Administrator of Palmerston North, hence he is busier and more time poor than ever. However, he expressed his deep intention of really wanting to be with us. So, it is safe to assume that he will come in at some time but may not stay for the entire period.
 - Kindly invite your parish priests to the presentations, some of you already did, if you haven't, feel free to tag them along. If they need a special invitation from me, please advise.
 - Below is the revised itinerary of presentation.

Launch Out Pastoral Project Presentation

Presentation Time = 35 minutes

Question and Answer = 10 minutes

TIME	ACTIVITY
8:30-9:00	Welcoming
9:00-9:10	Opening Prayer (c/o Invited LO Graduate)
9:10-9:20	Overview
9:20-10:05	Patricia Lynch
10:05-10:35	Morning Tea
10:35-11:20	Theresa Begley
11:20-12:05	Lisa Beech
12:05-1:00	Lunch
1:00-1:45	Jude McKee
1:45-2:30	Mely Kartawidjaya
2:30-3:15	Telesia Alaimoana
3:15-3:30	Closing Prayer (c/o Maya)
3:30-4:00	Filling in of feedback forms



When he had finished eating, he said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch".

Luke 5: 4