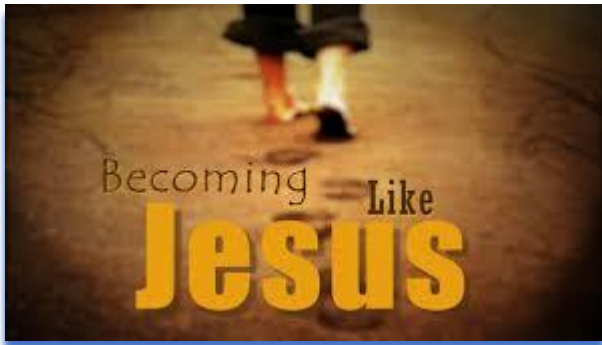


# Launch Out Letter (LOL)

September 2019



Kia ora koutou

My name is Mely. This year is my first year to join the Launch Out formation. What has led me to this point? It is not by my power or strength but by the Spirit of the Lord! I have become increasingly interested in Launch Out when my children were 'big' enough and my husband had also indicated a 'green light' for me to proceed, so here I am Lord!

As a child I had a 'no faith' and 'worldly-oriented' background, but a great deal of 'wandering' and existential questioning led me to a deeper searching. The memory of the time I feel I first fell in love with Jesus 29 years ago, remain fresh in my mind!

Last July, I attended the Eucharistic Convention in Auckland. One of the talks was from Fr Roger Landry and it has deeply encouraged me. So, I got his book titled 'Plan of Life'. This book has touched me in many ways particularly in the ups and downs of my spiritual journey.

In chapter 18 sub-titled 'Christian Attitudes – Become More Like Jesus', Fr Roger explains about the acts of the heart, praying without ceasing and the Christian joy to know Christ and find happiness. He also mentions the secret of Jesus' joy that is his deep awareness of being loved by the Father.

For me, this chapter speaks the most because it stirs my heart to a deeper reflection and conviction on what my thoughts, acts, habits and character are. Do I have peace of soul in times of darkness? Who do I seek in time of troubles? Who is the centre of my life? I am aware that in many occasions I rely on my own strength. I do not seek his love. I try to buy the happiness and joy of the world and of sin. In the end, it is the sadness of the wrong sort of happiness that makes me regretful and exhausted. When I don't centre my life on God, I cannot be joyful, I cannot be 'me'.

Recently, my daughter came to me with big letters on her drawing: 'MUM, I WILL NOT LEAVE HOPE.' It was indeed God's affirmation for me! The passage from Rom 12:12 says "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." This is the strength and consolation which Jesus gives me. He is not only the source of my joy, HE IS my joy and HE IS my hope! So, I re-awaken to the fact that Jesus loves me unconditionally, He cares for me and He always listens to my prayers. He is patiently waiting to forgive me. He sends his Spirit to empower and assist me, so there is no need to fear failure in sharing the gift of joyful communion with Christ. Is there a better way to go through the challenges of everyday life by falling on my knees to humbly ask Jesus' help, his grace and mercy?

In Christ alone, I shall put my trust. It's not about me, it's all about you, Lord, help me to remember this.

*-Mely, Sept 2019*



**Happy Birthday!**

Greetings and blessings to **Lisa Beech** who will be celebrating her birthday on **20 October 2019**

## Updates

- A big clap to **Mely** for having put her hand up to do this month's reflection. We look forward to **Jude's** on October and **Lisa** for November. We will have a workshop at some point on writing theological reflection. We will have a conversation about your writing during our one-on-one sessions. We will also have guest-reflectors every now and then.
- Thank you to **Mary Kay Jackson** for a spirit-filled Prayer Day on 15 September. I still remember the last activity when we blew each other the "breathe of the Spirit". We learnt more about each other, about our backgrounds and the things that move us. We are becoming *a community*, which will be important for our ministry as LPLs someday. I admire the bond of support that is evident among the LO graduates who are now serving as LPLs and leaders in the archdiocese.
- Thank you to **Telesia** for representing us in the last Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (13-14 September 2019). They have another meeting on the 16 – 17th of November but we will let that go for now so you can all concentrate on preparing for your project reports for the 23<sup>rd</sup>. When I get the schedule for next year, we can decide who among you would be free on those dates.
- This October I am hoping to hold wrap up meetings with you and your mentors. The agenda is to discuss how the mentorship went and how best to proceed for the next year.
- All the best on finishing Semester 2 of your TCI papers. If this is your first year, you can assess how many papers you can enrol per Semester. I suggest we keep it at two and no more, so as not to overload yourself. You need to allow time for your Pastoral Formation and Spiritual Formation. This is not a race; the pacing is important in the formation process.
- Our dear **Joan McFetridge** will receive the **Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice** (Latin: For Church and Pope) Medal. It will be on Saturday, 16 November, 5:30 pm at the pro-Cathedral St. Teresa's Karori. I hope we can all be there to wish Joan well and spend some time with her.
- One of the things we may be asked to do is to lead a Liturgy of the Word with Communion, at some point in our ministry. This is among the dots in your skill-checklist, so I would strongly advise that you attend the seminar workshop by Patrick Bridgman on **24 October 2019, 7:00-9:00pm at Ss Peter and Paul Church, Lower Hutt**. (Please register with Ann Williams, [a.williams@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:a.williams@wn.catholic.org.nz))
- Pencil 11 January 2020, 12:00 to whatever, for our New Year's gathering.



Let's get to know  
each other

This time I'd like to introduce you to the people in the Pastoral Leadership Ministry (PLM), where Launch Out is a part of. In other words, Mary-Ann, Chris, Mika, Ann and the Lay Pastoral Leaders are all part of our *whanau*. If you need any support from them, feel free to contact any of them. Below are our brief professional bios:

**Mary-Ann Greaney (Director)**- Mary-Ann has over 40 years' experience working in the local church of Wellington, starting as an active parishioner involved in liturgy, sacramental ministry projects, RCIA, pastoral planning, youth groups and social justice initiatives. She has worked extensively as a Pastoral Area and Justice Peace and Development Advisor, leading up to her present role as the Director of the Pastoral Leadership Ministry. Her professional background is in teaching with a master's in educational leadership from ACU. Alongside her teaching and church work she was the owner and CEO of a computer services company for over 27 years. She is also a qualified Lay Pastoral Leader, having finished both a Diploma in Religious Studies-Theology Stream from The Catholic Institute (TCI) and a Diploma in Pastoral Leadership from Wellington Catholic Education Centre. Mary-Ann is a founder of Titiro

Whakamua teen parent school and early childhood education centre, which has been running for 14 years supporting vulnerable young mothers.

Mary Ann is a long-standing and active member of the Presentation Associates, representing them at the Rio+20 Earth Summit in June 2012. In January 2015 she was appointed by the International Congregational Leadership Team to lead a multi-national core group of 24 Associates and Sisters to take the Presentation Associate movement into the future. For 20 years now, Mary Ann has been encouraging women entrepreneurs in Lima, Peru who were driven out of their lands by cocaine syndicates. She has been invited to be a presenter on Pastoral Leadership in overseas fora such as Australia, Ireland, England and Newfoundland. She has written for Accent Publications, Tui Motu and WelCom.

**Mika Teofilo (Samoan Chaplaincy)** - Mika was born and raised in Upolu, Samoa, in the village of Leauva'a. He also goes by his Matai (Samoan Chief) title name—Salā. Mika was a trained and experienced microbiologist for over 23 years. His journey to New Zealand began when he was given a scholarship by the World Health Organisation to take advance studies in Auckland and Wellington. Eventually, he was offered a job in Auckland Hospital in 1984 in the microbiology laboratory. His family moved down to Wellington where he worked in the medical transfusion laboratory at Wellington Hospital, until May 2010. Soon after he was offered the opportunity to manage the Samoan Chaplaincy of the Archdiocese of Wellington.

Alongside his career as a microbiologist, Mika has always been involved in parish work. He was part of the parish council

**Maya Bernardo (LO Manager and Formator)** – Born in Manila, Philippines, Maya has worked in higher education for over 26 years, as lecturer, researcher and educational manager in the Philippines, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand. Alongside her academic role, she has been tapped as resource and consultant for grassroots and not-for-profit organisations. Within those involvements she has discovered her passion for developing leaders—students, teachers, school leaders, community leaders, and heads of not-for-profit. She has a PhD in educational leadership, MBA,

**Chris Walkerdine (Parish Engagement Officer)** - Chris has been an educator for over 35 years. Her initial career was teaching in primary schools for around 20 years, with a brief stint of teaching English proficiency at Victoria University. Over the next 15 years Chris found herself as an adult educator, teaching English as a second language and working as coordinator and trainer for a not-for-profit organisation that worked with refugees and migrants.

**Ann Williams (Office Assistant)** - Ann has been working with ADW for over 15 years and has extensive institutional knowledge of the Archdiocese. She started as Assistant/Receptionist in Pastoral Services in 2004 following a long career working in public relations. Ann's gifts are in project management and in designing promotional materials. Ann was born in England and came to

with St Mary's Elsdon Parish until it was closed and became part of the Titahi Bay Parish which is now part of the new amalgamated parish of Our Lady of Hope. He also sits as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Holy Family primary school in Porirua. He joined Launch Out in 2003 and finished his Diploma in Pastoral Leadership from The Catholic Institute (TCI) in 2011.

As Samoan chaplain Mika organises and coordinates different activities for the Samoan community such as youth, Sunday schools, and mothers' group among others. He collaborates closely with other agencies within the Catholic sector and units in the ADW to promote inclusion and diversity within the archdiocese.

Bachelor's in Management, Teaching Certificate, Certificate in Online Designing & Delivery, Diploma in Religious Studies (TCI) and currently taking up Masters in Higher Education from Otago University. Maya has published academic articles in the areas of education, leadership and community engagement. She moved to New Zealand in 2012, where she began working with Catholic groups in various capacities. Her most recent role before taking up her present position as LO Manager and Formator was as Distance and Research Coordinator and Lecturer at TCI.

Chris began Launch Out in 2001 where she found her calling in Lay Ministry and completed a Diploma in Pastoral Leadership from The Catholic Institute (TCI). In 2018, Chris accepted the position of Parish Engagement Coordinator where she currently has responsibility for project managing key events for the Pastoral Leadership Ministry Office, as well as working with and supporting parishes.

New Zealand with her parents in the 1950s and attended St Mary's College in Wellington. On leaving school she worked in the American Embassy for 10 years before starting a family. A recipient of the *Benemerenti Papal Medal*, Ann is still very involved in working with Sacred Heart Cathedral parish.

**Lay Pastoral Leaders-** You can view the bios of our LPLs from the ADW website <http://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/parishes-in-the-archdiocese/lay-pastoral-leaders/>

**Sharon Penny**- Catholic Parish of Wairarapa

**Debbie Matheson**- Sacred Heart Cathedral

**Joe Green**- Catholic Parish of Wellington South

**Kitty McKinley**- St Francis of Assisi Parish, Ohariu

**Barbara Rowley**- Te Awakairangi Parish



*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*