



# Archbishop of Wellington

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

04 September 2020

Dear Fathers, Lay Pastoral Leaders, Principals, Directors and Chaplains

Greetings and all good wishes.

As you will have heard at the Prime Ministers Press Conference at 1pm today, she has again asked the country to be careful and to be cautious. The announcement was also made that the Auckland region would remain at Alert Level 2.5 with the rest of the country remaining at Alert Level 2.

This means that until at least Sunday 13 September **we do not make** any changes to the current practices we are making to protect one another and keep people safe. The results of the next review will be announced on Monday 14 September. We continue **not** to have Sunday Masses in the meantime. Week-day Masses must be kept to under 100 with social distancing, tracking and tracing and sanitizing continuing to be provided. Funerals can be held, if the numbers are kept under 100 with all infection control measures being strictly observed. I know that the restrictions are difficult for all, but I stress again that this is to keep us all safe.

Please do all you can to ensure that we are all doing our very best to protect one another and stay safe.

The final word is from Pope Francis:

*"If the virus were to intensify again in a world that is unjust to the poor and vulnerable, then we must change this world... We must act now, to heal the epidemics caused by small, invisible viruses, and to heal those caused by the great and visible social injustices. I propose that this be done by starting from the love of God, placing the peripheries at the centre and the last in first place. Do not forget that protocol by which we will be judged, Matthew, chapter 25. Let us put it into practice in this recovery from the epidemic.*

*And starting from this tangible love – as the Gospel says, there – anchored in hope and founded in faith, a healthier world will be possible. Otherwise, we will come out of the crisis worse. May the Lord help us, and give us the strength to come out of it better, responding to the needs of today's world.”*

With all good wishes and every blessing.

Yours sincerely in the Lord

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John A. Cardinal Dew". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John A Cardinal Dew  
Archbishop of Wellington