



# Pope's unprecedented visit to embassy



***“Every war leaves our world worse than it was before. War is a failure of politics and of humanity, a shameful capitulation, a stinging defeat before the forces of evil.” Fratelli tutti (261) - Franciscus***

**Pope Francis' tweet in Russian and English, 24 February 2022**

Pope Francis walks past a Pontifical Swiss Guard as he arrives for the weekly general audience, February 23, 2022.

Photo: Guglielmo Mangiapane/Vatican Media

In an unprecedented departure from diplomatic protocol, Pope Francis went to the Russian embassy to the Vatican on Friday, February 24 to relay his concern over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

He visited Moscow's Ambassador Aleksandr Avdeyev and remained in the embassy building, which is located on the main road leading up to St Peter's Square, for over half an hour.

The Russian ambassador told the RIA Novosti news agency that the meeting lasted about 40 minutes and that the Pope expressed 'great concern' about the humanitarian situation in Ukraine. The ambassador was quoted as saying that the Argentine pontiff

'called for the protection of children, the protection of the sick and suffering, and the protection of people.'

The visit by a Pope to an embassy to talk to an ambassador in a time of conflict is unprecedented in living memory. Foreign envoys are usually summoned by the Vatican's Secretary of State or meet with the Pope in the Apostolic Palace.

In an interview with Reuters before the invasion, Ukraine's ambassador to the Vatican, Andriy Yurash, said Kyiv would be open to a Vatican mediation of the conflict.

Several hours after meeting the Russian ambassador, the Pope telephoned Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, leader of Ukraine's

Eastern-rite Catholics who has vowed not to leave Kyiv and who has opened up his cathedral's basement as a bomb shelter. Shevchuk's Rome office said that the Pope told the archbishop 'I will do everything I can' to help.

In his first public comments after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Pope called for humanitarian corridors to be opened to allow Ukrainians to flee the intense fighting.

'In recent days we have been shaken by something tragic: war. Time and again we have prayed that this road would not be taken. And let us not stop talking; indeed, let us pray to God more intensely,' he said after reciting the Angelus on February 27.

Referring to his appeal to people around the world to pray and fast for peace, the Pope said: 'For this reason, I renew to all the invitation to make March 2, Ash Wednesday, a day of prayer and fasting for peace in Ukraine. A day to be close to the sufferings of the Ukrainian people, to feel that we are all brothers and sisters, and to implore of God the end of the war.'

Sources: Vatican News; Reuters

» 'Pope visit' a beautiful sign, say Russian Catholic bishops, p 6.

## Pope Francis calls for prayer and fasting

Pope Francis has called for a day of prayer and fasting for peace in Ukraine to be observed on Wednesday 2 March – Ash Wednesday.

At his general audience on Wednesday 23 February, Pope Francis called on believers and non-believers to combat the 'diabolical insistence, the diabolical senselessness of violence' with prayer and fasting and said,

'I invite everyone to make March 2, Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting for peace, and I encourage believers in a special way to devote themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace protect the world from the folly of war.'

Writing to parish leaders on Friday 25 February with the above message, Cardinal

John Dew wrote, 'Therefore, as we prepare for the Lenten Season, I ask you to share this information with parishioners this Sunday and invite them, as they prepare for Lent to join in prayer as the Holy Father has asked us to do as we pray for peace in Ukraine.'

**In prayer for the end of the war in Ukraine.**





## Annette Scullion

## Pope Francis says each year

So, persevere. Get vaccinated, get boosted, wear a mask, maintain social distancing and avoid crowded places until the Omicron surge passes. We can get through this.

**+ John A Cardinal Dew**  
**Archbishop of Wellington**  
**Archdiocese**  
**Apostolic Administrator of**  
**Palmerston North Diocese**

Jesus said to his disciples: "To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your

*'Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.'*

Therefore, it was good for me to stop and think about what demands Jesus was asking of me. To love our enemies does not mean we must throw our arms about them every time we meet them – the protesters would not have let me do that anyway! What it meant for me was to try to do everything in my power to rid my mind of any animosity and try to see the good in all the people who are protesting. Not judging and condemning comes under this heading. I realised I need to see in others that they too



Police face Covid-mandate protesters outside the Catholic Centre entrance on Hill St, Wellington, 22 February. Police have since put concrete blocks on the road outside the Catholic Centre, to contain the protest area and prevent vehicle access along Hill St. The occupation of Parliament grounds and surrounding streets and properties has impacted residents, businesses, offices, schools and local iwi. Security personnel are on site at St Mary's College, Sacred Heart primary school, and the Catholic Centre. St Mary's College and the Catholic Centre are requiring students and staff to operate from home.

Photo: Cardinal John Dew

My first thoughts were that what Jesus asks of us is not easy. Loving one's 'enemies' is asking a lot, but these protesters were not my enemies. They were a real nuisance and making a lot of noise, but not my enemies! Blessing them and praying for them might be fine for some, but it seemed to be going too far when our streets were occupied and the nights raucous. Asking for a blow on the second cheek while the first is still twinging with pain was hard to think about. Not to try to take back what was taken from us – our streets, the ability to walk through Parliament's grounds, and enjoying peaceful evenings and nights – seems a very foolish

That Sunday's Gospel made me think very carefully and has helped me to deal with the challenges of these weeks. The last lines of that Gospel are for me to apply to every situation in life.

At the current Red Level of the Covid-19 Protection Framework, gatherings of vaccinated people are limited to 100 people. A Mass registration process is in place to manage numbers attending Masses.

The Cardinal writes that while it is important to prepare for Lent and Holy Week, we have to acknowledge that we may not be able to gather for the Easter ceremonies this year, as happened in 2020.

The Cardinal's letter was accompanied by guidelines for Parish Liturgy Committees preparing for the Easter liturgical celebrations in a Covid environment. Guidelines included a number of adaptations in liturgical practice. These included sprinkling ashes on the head on Ash Wednesday without saying anything, rather than the usual practice of applying ashes to the forehead. On Palm Sunday there are to be no processions. Palms will be blessed in baskets near the altar and collected by the faithful as they depart. There will also be no Washing of the Feet at the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

# WelCom

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## **Sending articles to WelCom**

In its mission to communicate about news and events in the Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses, WelCom publishes information, stories and photos received from readers.

The articles should be no longer than 300 words unless by arrangement with the editor. Please send as a MS Word document attached to an email or pasted into an email message. Please include your name, address and day-time phone number. At the editor's discretion, articles may be edited for length or clarity.

Photos should be in their original format (unedited, uncropped), at least one megabyte (MB) in size and attached to an email as separate photo files - JPEG, TIFF, GIF or bitmap (BMP). Please include names for a caption.

Email to: [welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz)

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# New Catholic Bishop for Auckland



**Bishop Steve Lowe was installed as the 12th Catholic Bishop of Auckland, on 19 February 2022.** Photo: Diocese of Auckland

Bishop Steve Lowe, formerly Bishop of Hamilton, was installed as the 12th Catholic Bishop of Auckland, on Saturday, 19 February 2022.

This follows the retirement of Bishop Pat Dunn who has been Auckland’s Catholic Bishop for 27 years.

The installation of Bishop Lowe was at Auckland’s St Patrick’s Cathedral under the protocols of the red Covid-19 protection framework. While Catholic tradition invites the church to be open to all, the current limitations of 100 people with vaccination passports meant only invited guests and representatives of the diocese were able to attend. The ceremony was livestreamed to enable others across the dioceses to be part the special occasion.


On 18 December last year, Pope Francis announced he had appointed Bishop Steve Lowe to be Bishop of Auckland, New Zealand’s largest diocese with over 180,000 Catholics. This followed

the retirement of Bishop Pat Dunn due to complex eyesight difficulties.

During the ceremony Bishop Dunn led Bishop Lowe to the *Cathedra* (the bishop’s chair). Bishop Pat was wearing the pectoral cross that had belonged to Bishop Jean-Baptiste Pompallier, the first Catholic Bishop of Auckland. He removed this cross and placed it around the neck of Bishop Steve.

Bishop Pat Dunn was given a standing ovation by the congregation in thanks and affirmation for his long years of dedicated service to the people of the Auckland Diocese.

The ceremony was attended by the Anglican Bishop of Auckland, Bishop Ross Bay, along with Catholic bishops from around New Zealand including Cardinal John Dew and Archbishop Paul Martin sm as well as the Papal Nuncio (Ambassador) Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, who read aloud the notice of appointment from Pope Francis.



## St Patrick’s College Wellington

New Zealand’s oldest Catholic boys’ college

The theme for our Academic Mass was ‘Courage through Christ’. Our Manu Taupua/Student leaders for 2022 were commissioned and it is appropriate that this theme should resonate with them and all our students. It is our hope that each and every Manu Taupua are empowered, feel supported to take a risk and step out of his comfort zone knowing that Christ is walking alongside them.

Sectare Fidem – Hold firm to the Faith

# Vinnies aid for Tonga

The New Zealand St Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) has swiftly responded to the devastating volcanic eruption and tsunami in Tonga with two 20-foot containers of urgently needed materials.

The January eruption destroyed the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai volcanic island to the north of the Tongan capital Nuku’alofa. More than four-fifths of the Tongan population has been affected by the subsequent tsunami and falling ash.

SVDP immediately launched an appeal to its members to put together the material aid requested by the Society in Tonga, says Arthur Schultze, the Society’s liaison person with Tonga and Oceania. Under the Society’s ‘twinning’ arrangements, the Society in New Zealand is partnered with Tonga and provides support as a donor country.

Arthur said the biggest challenge initially was dealing with the volcanic ash, which has had a huge impact on the drinking water. ‘They have a deep spring from which they can draw bottled water and that’s being used full-on. Plus emergency water supplies have been brought

in from the Australian and New Zealand Governments.’

A subsequent tropical storm however washed away much of the ash which had blanketed the islands of Tonga, bringing life back to the vegetation.

‘The need in Tonga is very great,’ says Arthur. ‘I am in regular contact with SVDP’s National President in Tonga, Sakapo Lolohea. There are many families who are coming to the main island Tongatapu from the outlying islands which have been worst hit. The Society in Tonga is supporting these displaced people, along with other agencies.’

Arthur Schultze said a real strength of the Society’s aid effort is that it is meeting needs identified by the Society on the ground in Tonga. Aid being provided includes water bottles, water filters, face masks, water blasters, protective eyewear, wheelbarrows, blankets, clothing, chainsaws, hoses, gloves, gumboots, safety boots and batteries. Some of the items being provided are not available in Tonga.

The first 20-ft container was loaded from the Society’s hub in Onehunga and was dispatched from

Auckland direct to Nukualofa in mid-February. A second container-load in planned for mid-March.

‘We have a strong relationship with the Society in Tonga and I’m in regular contact with the Society’s President there,’ says Arthur. ‘They have a great crew on the ground in Tonga and the support being provided will make a real difference. It’s a very targeted approach. People responding to the appeal know exactly what their money is being spent on.’

The New Zealand National President, Terry Jordan, is delighted with the response from SVDP members all around New Zealand.

‘The strength of the Society is really evident in times like these. When the need is there, the Conferences step up and we have such a close relationship with Oceania. The need is right on our doorstep.’

Anyone wanting to donate to the St Vincent de Paul Tonga Tsunami Appeal can deposit their donation in the Society’s Appeals bank account: 02-0528-0208598-027 REF: Tonga Appeal



**Clothing arriving in the Vinnies Hub, Onehunga from Tauranga.** Photo: Supplied

The Catholic community across the Archdioceses of Wellington, the Diocese of Palmerston North and from around the country has also responded very generously to the **Caritas Appeal** to help with the volcanic eruption in Tonga on 15 January and its aftermath.

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand began receiving funds as it worked with Caritas Tonga providing advice and funds for supplies to those in need. By late February, over \$368,000 had been raised through its Pacific Relief Fund, to help vulnerable communities in Tonga.

‘We have been delighted to witness the magnificent generosity of the Catholic community and of all those who have donated to the appeal for Tonga. Real progress is being made with meeting the necessities of life but there is still a real need for ongoing psychosocial support to those who lived through the trauma of the eruption and the tsunami – those who have seen their homes and livelihoods destroyed,’ said Roger Ellis, Engagement Manager for Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand.

Caritas Tonga is working with local communities and leaders including Church leaders in Hihifo and Kanokupolu (Western Tongatapu) as assessments are made about the need for counselling for people in this area and others.

‘Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and Caritas Tonga have been overwhelmed by the generosity shown by our supporters. Mālō ‘aupito! Thank you!’

If you would still like to support Caritas Tonga, please donate to the Pacific Relief Fund online or via our bank account 03-0518-0211216-00. Please include first and last name and put Tonga as the code: [www.caritas.org.nz/donate-online](http://www.caritas.org.nz/donate-online)



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# Pandemic pushing some over the edge - Report

The continuing Covid-19 pandemic made 2021 an extraordinary year which has put greater pressure than ever on struggling families, according to The Salvation Army's *State of the Nation 2022* report.

The report says many whānau are struggling with the rising costs of food, rent and house prices, along with the effects of increased family violence.

Now in its 15th year, the report titled 'Navigating the rapids', draws on existing data to provide a snapshot of our social progress as a nation.

'A lot of families were already living on the edge when Covid-19 hit our country,' says Lt-Colonel Hutson, director of The Salvation Army's Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit. 'The pandemic not only pushed some of them over the edge, but also increased the vulnerability of others, pulling them closer to desperation.'

The report finds that the number of households relying on welfare benefits has increased and children in these families are the most likely to live in poverty. Although government financial assistance has increased, the continued pandemic and rising living costs contribute to increasing uncertainty around lifting the most vulnerable children out of poverty. Also worryingly, the number of children identified as victims of abuse, including sexual abuse, has increased.

The news is better in the area of work and income. Unemployment has hit record lows, and core



The continuing Covid-19 pandemic has had an ongoing impact on the lives of the most vulnerable in New Zealand, says the Salvation Army's *State of the Nation 2022* report.

Photo: Salvation Army

welfare benefits and the minimum wage have increased. By contrast, marginalised groups, including younger people and Māori, continue to struggle to find employment.

On the housing front, the report shows that 'it's more than a crisis, it's a catastrophe'. House prices and rents have continued to soar, while at the same time, the waiting list for social housing has ballooned to more than 25,000. However, it does say 'there is clear progress with the increase in the number of houses being built, including social housing for those people who desperately require affordable housing.'

Another key finding is there is a pattern of unfair and inequitable

outcomes for Māori that is visible across most of the available data and underpins findings across all other sections of the report.

It also says that in the area of crime and punishment, family violence reports continue to increase, with police investigating family harm every three minutes on average.

On the positive side, the report says: 'we have seen limited but steady progress in reducing child poverty by some measures, albeit starting from an unacceptably high starting point.'

The full report can be found at: [salvationarmy.org.nz/sotn2022](https://salvationarmy.org.nz/sotn2022)

## Child poverty: slight improvement

As many as 21,900 fewer children are living in material hardship, while 66,500 children have been lifted out of poverty since 2018, according to the latest child poverty statistics, released by Stats NZ, 24 February 2022.

The data was collected up to June 2021 using a sample of 16,000 households.

'Despite Covid-19 causing the greatest global economic downturn since the Great Depression, the Government has delivered reductions in child poverty across all nine measures,' Prime Minister Ardern, the minister for child poverty reduction, said in a statement.

But Child Poverty Action Group spokesperson Professor Emeritus Innes Asher said the progress wasn't fast enough. Meanwhile, Māori and Pacific children feature highly on all poverty measures.

'Given the lag in this data, what's happening today for our children is not sufficiently captured. Rents

and household costs have gone up significantly in the past year and foodbank demand demonstrates that the Government is failing in its duty to children,' she said.

The nine key measures – of which three are considered primary measures – give a broad outlook on child poverty in New Zealand.

In reporting on one of the primary measures, the Report says that in the year ended June 2020, about 1 in 7 New Zealand children (157,800) lived in households with less than 50 per cent of the median equivalised disposable household income before deducting housing costs. This was slightly down from the 1 in 6 children (183,400) reported in the year ended June 2018.

A child is considered to be living in material hardship if it is in a household that goes without 6 of 17 essential items because of the cost, such as regularly eating fresh fruit and vegetables, or putting up with feeling cold.

## Caritas calls for local solutions

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has urged Parliament's Finance and Expenditure Committee to listen to the most-affected communities to tackle ongoing crises in housing, climate change and accelerating inequality that worsen outcomes for the poor.

In its submission on the Budget Policy Statement, Caritas said inequality had increased under the Covid-19 crisis, and short-term and long-term measures were required to deal with this and the housing crisis. More particular and localised approaches were required and participation of the people most directly affected was essential.

Caritas' Advocacy Adviser on social issues Joanna Viernes said,

'We need more initiatives, public and private to build more affordable homes of different types to suit different needs, and measures to ensure good use of existing stock.'

Caritas said increased climate funding signalled by the Government to address the climate emergency needed to be accountable to taxpayers and communities most in need.

'Assessment of impact needs to be based on criteria relevant to local communities,' said Martin de Jong, Caritas' Advocacy Adviser on the environment. 'A similar approach is required for allocating funds at home and abroad, and ensuring participation of local communities in identifying needs, and planning and implementing solutions.'



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- Covid-19 vaccination certificate.

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Applications close at 3pm Wednesday 16 March 2022.

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# The challenges of a major restoration

Annette Scullion

When Jane Kelly moved to Thorndon, she was delighted to join Sacred Heart Cathedral parish just around the corner on Hill St. She was married in the cathedral in 2004 and loves the building. Little did Jane imagine that 17 years later she would be leading the cathedral's major restoration and refurbishment work as project architect. WelCom talks with Jane about the project journey.

‘When I arrived in the parish, I loved the community here and got involved in the liturgy. The parish committee discovered I was an architect and said, “Ok, you need to come onto our Resource committee”. That was in 2007.

By 2011 the building exterior required significant maintenance and repair work. For example, the Oamaru stone on the outside of the building doesn't like Wellington's wind and rain, especially the north-west wind going around the building wearing the stone away. The paint on the outside and inside walls traps the moisture, which doesn't allow the stone to breathe.

‘On the committee I talked about getting heritage Architects to look at the building. We selected Salmon Reed Architects in Auckland, as they had done the previous round of restoration work. My first involvement as a committee member was liaising with the Architects.

‘Salmon Reed prepared documentation for the work involved but when this was tendered the work cost more than we had anticipated, so our initial plans for the much-needed maintenance work were stymied,’ says Jane. ‘But by 2016, the repair work required was becoming very obvious, so the committee decided to proceed with the work, estimated at \$1m.’

Before work began, the committee wanted to check for earthquake strengthening needs. They approached structural and design engineers Dunning Thornton in Wellington. Their report and subsequent investigations concluded the cathedral was under 33% of the NBS, making it an earthquake-prone building.



1. Jane Kelly, project architect. 2, 3 & 4. Cathedral interior and exterior. 5. Tony Gormley of LT McGuinness onsite with Wellington Mayor, Andy Foster. 6. Embossed tin tile from ceiling area. Photos: Annette Scullion

The parish committee make the tough call to close the cathedral building immediately and establish an alternative location for parishioners.

The committee prioritised getting the repairs and building strengthening underway. Jane started

working with the Engineers as they developed a strengthening solution. What had started out as some major repair and maintenance work became a serious structural project. The committee knew they had to get a professional Architect involved.

Brick and stone was not Jane's specialty. For most of her 30-year career she had worked in timber, concrete and steel, and smaller types of buildings, but she was keen to get involved professionally as the Project Architect. ‘I was keen as it's a beautiful building which I love. I regularly work in collaboration with other Architects around the country and knew I could call on the expertise of others, particularly

for knowledge on the repairs to the heritage stonework.’

Jane put a proposal to the parish that she would step off the committee and work as the Project Architect with her practice, Team Architects. ‘I worked with Dunning Thornton to develop the solution to restore the building's heritage elements and still give us the strength the building needed.’

The work, to be done in stages, would be mainly structural with some elements of architecture. It would involve major strengthening of the roof, repairs and paint removal from the exterior and interior stone walls, restored copper cladding, repainting the interior walls and ceiling with

lighter colours to enhance the natural light, and installing new carpets, lighting and fixtures.

‘Once the structural work is completed, the building will be 50% of NBS,’ Jane says.

In late 2018, the first step temporary bracing was put in place. Blue straps were installed down the side of the building so the newer adjacent building, with the foyer and chapel, could be used while the long-term work on the cathedral building was carried out.

In early 2020, with the plan ready, work began. During lockdown, the government's shovel-ready project came into place, which provided a further \$8m for the project. The Wellington City Council also came on board with \$120k.

‘This allowed us to complete the strengthening work and begin the exterior restoration, which stone masons are working on now. And it would allow us to do base isolation in the longer term.

‘Because the main cathedral building is connected to the chapel and foyer building, the costs for doing the base isolation work – \$13m – are prohibitive right now. However, the preliminary design for this body of work is completed and can be picked up when the budget is available, say in 5, 10, or 15 years.’

Fundraising during the Covid environment has been difficult ‘so we have to work within the funding available’ Jane says. ‘Covid has also meant delays in getting materials. It's been very challenging.

‘The funds raised have allowed us to commit to repair and restore the south and east faces but not the west and north faces at this stage. But we can open the restored cathedral while work is being completed on the outside.’

Jane says her role has been that of facilitator and finding the right people to find the right solutions. ‘My job is to bring them in and let them do their work. It's been a real team project. From Dunning Thornton, through to LT McGuinness with all their subcontractors, everyone is giving 100 per cent and more to get the cathedral restoration completed.

‘Our engineers Dunning Thornton have done a great job on the structural work. The external repair work has involved Paul Cummack, a local specialist Conservation Architect with plenty of Oamaru-stone experience. Paul is giving us wonderful advice and guiding us well.

‘Structurally, the work is almost completed. Right now, we are doing the interior refurbishment, removing the heavy pink paint, installing new lighting, new grey and gold carpet, and we'll be putting lighter paint on some walls and fixtures, such as original ornate tin tiles on the ceilings.

‘This building interior is about light but some of the previous colours have been too dark to let you appreciate that light and once the work is completed it will feel so different.’

The cathedral interior work is expected to be completed later this year and opened for parishioners to return while the exterior work continues.


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MODELS OF FAITH

Two celebrations leap out from the Catholic calendar this month: St Patrick (17th) and St Joseph (19th). These great models of faith and courage speak across the centuries to every heart open to ponder the mystery of life. They offer humour and wisdom and the comfort of companionship to every traveller for every step of the way.

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# ‘Pope visit’ a beautiful sign, say Russian Catholic bishops

On Friday 25 February, Pope Francis made a rare breach of protocol by leaving the Vatican and visiting the Russian Embassy to the Holy See located on the *Via della Conciliazione*, the main street leading up to St Peter’s Square. He spent around half an hour in conversation with Russian Ambassador to the Holy See, Alexander Avdeev, to ‘convey his concern for the war’.

the Archbishop of Moscow and president of the Russian Catholic Bishops Conference, Paolo Pezzi, called the pope’s visit ‘a beautiful sign’.

Pezzi said the Catholic bishops of Russia have sent a letter out to their faithful warning that what is unfolding ‘can make us throw in the towel, can put us in disagreement,’ insisting that instead, ‘this is precisely the moment in which

faithful that ‘we, like all of you, are deeply shocked that, despite enormous efforts at reconciliation, the political conflict between Russia and Ukraine has turned into armed confrontation.’

This confrontation, ‘brings death and destruction and threatens the security of the entire world,’ they said, saying the two countries are united not only by a shared history, but ‘also a great common suffering



Smoke and flame rise near a military building after an apparent Russian strike in Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday, 24 February, 2022. Photo: Efreem Lukatsky/AP

The Russian military invaded Ukraine early Thursday morning, 24 February, launching bomb and missile attacks throughout the country, including near Kiev. By Friday night, 25 February, reports indicated that shelling and artillery blasts could be heard on the outskirts of Kiev as Russian troops advance toward the city.

Since the Russian invasion began, prayer vigils and marches for peace have been held throughout the world, including in Russia.

Speaking to Italian news organisation SIR, the official news agency of the Italian bishops,

it is necessary to intensify prayer and fasting’.

‘It is necessary not to think that we cannot do anything. We can do much, and this much is prayer and fasting,’ he said.

Pezzi stressed the need for reconciliation, saying one of the biggest risks at the moment, along with discouragement, is that ‘a certain tendency to cynicism wins, and instead, Christ has already won for us’.

‘This is our Christian hope, this is what the pope invites us to do,’ he said.

In the letter, the bishops told

that has fallen upon us in the past due to the madness of war’.

‘Our peoples deserve peace, not only as the absence of war, but as a peace that consists in a firm determination to respect other peoples, other countries, and their dignity,’ the bishops said.

Those who are responsible for the military escalation, they said, ‘will have to strictly account for the military actions they have undertaken. After all, the course of future centuries largely depends on their current decisions.’

Source: *Crux*

# Inspirational women offer hope



St Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179), also known as the Sibyl of the Rhine, was a German Benedictine abbess and polymath active as a writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, visionary and as a medical writer and practitioner. Image: Vatican News

An international Catholic congress this month shines a light on the relevance of Women Doctors of the Church in today’s world.

The congress scheduled for 7–9 March, coinciding with International Women’s Day 8 March, is titled ‘Female Doctors of the Church and Patron Saints of Europe in Dialogue with Today’s World’.

Therese of Lisieux, Hildegard of Bingen, Teresa of Ávila, Edith Stein, Bridget of Sweden and Catherine of Siena are just some of the women chosen by the Church to offer hope and inspiration in times of daunting challenges and fear.

Catholic academics believe these remarkable women are beacons of light who can provide hope and help restore momentum as humanity searches for the best way forward.

The inter-university congress is organised by the Pontifical Urbaniana University, the Institute for Advanced Studies on Women of the Pontifical University Regina Apostolorum, and the Catholic University of Ávila, Spain.

Conference media spokespeople announcing the congress said the relevance of these saints is far-reaching and their example can inspire the pastoral work of the entire Church in the near future.

Professor Anita Cadavid, Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies on Women of the Pontifical University Regina

Apostolorum, said that one trait women theologians and saints have in common, is the belief that Christian life must ‘give life,’ it must be generative.

‘These were all women,’ Professor Cadavid said, ‘who “were in the world”. They were in touch with people’s feelings, sufferings, struggles’.

In the High Middle Ages, Hildegard of Bingen studied medicine – no easy feat for a woman – and was deeply committed to her belief that her sister nuns had a right and a duty to pursue education. This, she said, ‘was really, really, present in her life and in her ministry’.

And Edith Stein was a teacher who struggled in a world that was full of discrimination. With her own life, Cadavid continued, ‘she was able to show us that our lives as Christians are meant to “be generative”’.

These two women are amongst others, she explained, who show us that ‘to be in the world, to be in touch with others, is something we must learn for today’.

The message of the protagonists of this congress, Professor Cadavid explained, is an important one for the development of a feminism with Christian values and it helps women today in their quest to live according to deep principles.

Source: *Vatican News*

## Catholic population on the rise

The number of Catholics worldwide increased by an estimated 16 million in 2020 to 1.36 billion, according to statistics released by the Vatican. 2020 is the most recent year when numbers are available.

The rise was in line with global population growth in the year that the coronavirus pandemic swept the planet, reported Vatican News. Catholics continued to account for 17.7 per cent of the total world population. The figures are compiled by the Vatican’s Central Office of Church Statistics.

The Church grew most rapidly

in Asia (1.8 per cent) and Africa (2.1 per cent) and most modestly in Europe (0.3 per cent). Almost half (48 per cent) of the world’s Catholics live in the Americas, with 28 per cent located in South America.


At the end of 2020, there were a total of 410,219 priests, a decrease of 4,117 compared with 2019. Although there was a fall in the number of priests in North America and Europe, there was a ‘significant increase’ in Africa and Asia, reported Vatican News.

The number of male religious

who are not priests grew worldwide from 50,295 in 2019 to 50,569 in 2020. The number of women religious fell globally from 630,099 in 2019 to 619,546 in 2020, a drop of -1.7 per cent.

There were 111,855 seminarians in 2020, compared with 114,058 in 2019. There were notable decreases in Europe (-4.3 per cent), the Americas (-4.2 per cent), and Asia (-3.5 per cent) but a rise of 2.8 per cent (from 32,721 to 33,628) in Africa.

Source: *CNA News*



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# ‘Epic failure’ of human rights



Church leaders take turns in ‘The Freedom Cage’, to protest the detention of asylum-seekers in the Park Hotel, Melbourne.

Photo: The Freedom Cage

A group of Christian leaders took turns to be locked in a cage outside a hotel in Melbourne to demonstrate their solidarity with around 32 refugees and asylum-seekers detained there.

Sr Brigid Arthur csb, coordinator of the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project, Baptist minister Rev Tim Costello and Uniting Church minister Rev Alexandra Sangster joined others for a peaceful protest outside the Park Hotel, Carlton, calling for the release of the men who have been held in detention by the Australian Government for almost nine years.

Their action is part of ‘The Freedom Cage’ campaign, a grassroots movement protesting the indefinite detention of refugees.

Sr Brigid offered an apology to the detainees for the mistreatment they have received.

‘You came to our country asking only for protection, and to our shame we locked you up and we’re still punishing you. We are sorry,’ Sr Brigid said.

Rev Sangster spoke of the situation of the men in the Park Hotel as an ‘epic failure’ of human rights. ‘We wish that our actions could stop this insane abuse of power,’ she said.

Nine years on from the harsh policy changes that saw more than 3,100 asylum seekers sent by Australia to offshore detention in Nauru and Manus Island in Papua New Guinea, there are still 219 held in offshore detention and around 70 held in Australian detention centres, after being transferred to Australia for medical treatment not available in Nauru and PNG.

Advocacy groups intend to continue to hold prayer vigils and rallies opposite the Park Hotel to show support and solidarity for the men inside.

## More help for Afghan refugees

Faith, veteran and Afghanistan-Australian community representatives met with federal MPs in Canberra to urge the Morrison Government to do more to provide safety for those fleeing the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan.

Dr Tim McKenna, advisory group member of the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) said: ‘CAPSA reiterates its call on the Australian Government to announce a special intake of at least 20,000 humanitarian visas for vulnerable people from Afghanistan additional to our annual humanitarian intake. Catholic Church agencies, parishes, schools, and community groups are already assisting Afghan refugees. We stand ready to do our part in a more ambitious, compassionate response.’

## PNG abolishes death penalty

Papua New Guinea has abolished the death penalty for a second time, saying it is ineffective in deterring crimes. Since its reintroduction in 1991, many have been sentenced to death in the poverty-stricken nation but none have been executed. The authorities have accepted the death penalty is cruel, inhumane and violates people’s right to life as prescribed in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The government and parliament both said the death penalty is against Christian values and there was no point in retaining it.

## Catholic nun turns 118

Sister Andre Randon, a French nun, celebrated her 118th birthday on February 11, 2022 making her the second-oldest living person in the world and the oldest living person in Europe, according to the Gerontology Research Group. Born Lucile Randon, she converted to Catholicism at 19 years of age. She served young children and the elderly at a French hospital until she became a nun at the age of 40. She joined the Daughters of Charity, founded by St Vincent de Paul, in 1944. She tested positive for Covid-19 in 2021. She was isolated from the other residents but displayed no symptoms.

# 2025 a ‘Holy Year of Hope’

Pope Francis has announced that hope will be the central theme for the 2025 Jubilee Year, voicing his desire for the year to foster a greater sense of global brotherhood and solidarity with the poor, as well as care for the environment.

After two years marked by the coronavirus pandemic and the crisis left in its wake, ‘We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an

open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision,’ the Pope said in his letter announcing the special year.

The coming Jubilee ‘can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire,’ he said. ‘That is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, *Pilgrims of Hope*.’

The first-ever ‘Holy Year’ was instituted by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300 and was initially celebrated every 100 years. Then, following biblical tradition, it was marked every 50 years, and it was finally decided by Pope Paul II in 1490 to observe the jubilee year every 25 years, so that each person could experience one in his or her lifetime.

Jubilees, designed to be a time of conversion and increased emphasis on God’s mercy and forgiveness of sins, are marked by the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter’s Basilica. The Holy Doors, present in each of the four papal basilicas in Rome, are destination points for pilgrims who travel to Rome during the Jubilee and who pass through seeking special graces and outpourings of God’s mercy. The last Ordinary Jubilee was the *Great Jubilee of 2000*, celebrated by Pope John Paul II.

The Jubilee of Mercy Pope Francis called from December 8, 2015–November 20, 2016, was an Extraordinary Jubilee. The designation ‘Extraordinary Jubilee’ set it apart from the ordinary cycle of jubilees, or holy years, called every 25 years in the Catholic Church. When calling for a holy year outside of the normal cycle, a particular event or theme is emphasised. For example, Pope Francis called this particular Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy to direct attention and actions ‘on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s actions in our lives...a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective’ (MV, 3).



Pope Francis arrives to attend his weekly general audience in the Paul VI Hall at the Vatican, on January 26, 2022.

Photo: Alessandra Tarantino/AP

Source: *Crux*

## Pope Benedict XVI asks for forgiveness

Former Pope Benedict XVI has acknowledged errors in his handling of sexual abuse cases when he was Archbishop of Munich and asked for forgiveness.

A letter by Benedict and a three-page legal addendum was issued by the Vatican after a report on abuse in the Munich archdiocese from 1945 to 2019 included the alleged failure by then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger to take action in four cases when he was archbishop between 1977 and 1982.

The report was carried out by a German law firm, Westfahl Spilker Wastl, and was commissioned by the Catholic Church.

In responding to the report Pope Benedict wrote: ‘I have had great responsibilities in the Catholic Church. All the greater is my pain for the abuses and the errors that occurred in those different places during the time of my mandate.’

Noting that he had asked for forgiveness for the Church in his meetings with abuse survivors, Benedict, 94, wrote: ‘I have come to understand that we ourselves are drawn into this grievous fault whenever we neglect it or fail to confront it with the necessary decisiveness and responsibility, as too often happened and continues to happen...once

again I can only express to all the victims of sexual abuse my profound shame, my deep sorrow and my heartfelt request for forgiveness.’

A separate analysis by four legal experts he commissioned, however, disputed the specific allegations against the former pope, and said Pope Benedict was not directly to blame. They said investigators had mischaracterised actions and ignored facts.

Victims have lamented a lost opportunity for healing as former Pope Benedict has acknowledged errors in his handling of sexual abuse and asked for forgiveness but his lawyers argued he was not directly to blame.

The organisation Eckiger Tisch (Square Table), which represents people affected by sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, expressed disappointment, saying Pope Benedict’s words didn’t go far enough.

‘Wrongdoing and mistakes took place, but no one takes concrete responsibility,’ the group said in a statement.

Sources: *Crux*, *The Guardian*

## Calls for optional celibacy

Two high ranking churchmen in Germany have expressed support for optional celibacy for priests.

Cardinal Reinhard Marx of Munich, one of Pope Francis’ most trusted aides, has spoken out in favour of banning mandatory clerical celibacy. He also supports allowing Catholic priests the option of marrying.

Four days earlier, Archbishop Heiner Koch of Berlin made the same recommendation in an interview with Der Tagesspiegel, a Berlin-based daily newspaper.

‘It would be better for everyone to create the possibility of having both celibate and married priests,’ Cardinal Marx said.

‘For some priests, it would be better if they were married. Not just for sexual reasons, but because it would be better for their lives and they wouldn’t be so lonely,’ the cardinal said. ‘I think that things as they are cannot continue like this,’ he added.

Cardinal Marx commissioned the ‘Munich Report’ on clergy sexual abuse in his Archdiocese of Munich and Freising. The report severely assesses sexual abuse perpetrated between 1945–2019 in one of Germany’s largest dioceses. It alleges that at least 235 priests sexually abused ‘497 known



Archbishop Heiner Koch (left); Cardinal Reinhard Marx (right).

victims,’ pointing out the numbers are likely even higher.

Archbishop Koch said although celibacy is a ‘strong testimony of faith,’ it does not have to ‘be the exclusive route to priestly ministry.’

The 67-year-old Koch said he knows ‘how strong the faith and preaching power of many married people is.’

‘I always say this to young priests: living alone is not so easy,’ said Cardinal Marx. ‘And if some say: without the obligation of celibacy, they will all get married! My answer is: so what! If they all marry, it would at least be a sign that things are not currently working.’

Source: *La Croix International*



# St Mary of the Angels Church centenary 25 March

*St Mary of the Angels Church on Boulcott St Wellington was to be celebrating 100 years on 25 March with a weekend of festivities. However, following the move to the Covid-19 red traffic light protection framework, the parish has decided not to celebrate the church's centenary this month as planned. Parish priest Brian Wysocki sm said, 'Given the restrictions in place it would not be possible to truly celebrate the history of the church, especially its musical and liturgical traditions. A date for the celebrations will be decided once the move to the orange light framework has been announced. Hopefully they will take place later this year.'*

## Brian Wysocki sm

March 2022 marks 100 years since the church of St Mary of the Angels was blessed and opened by Archbishop Redwood. However, a church has stood on this site since 1843. The first Catholic settlers of Wellington constructed a wooden church that served the community for almost 40 years. The growing Catholic population necessitated a building of a larger structure – also made of wood. This church catered for the local Catholic population until 1912 when a devastating fire destroyed it.

Marists had worked in the parish since 1875, at first under the colourful and charismatic leadership of the Irish Capuchin, Fr Jeremiah O'Reily. Three years later, Archbishop Redwood appointed Fr Patrick Kerrigan as the first Marist parish priest. The Society of Mary has administered the parish ever since.

In 1917, Fr Stan Mahony became parish priest and was tasked to supervise the building of the new church. Everyone assumes he was

Irish, however, he was born in London and his family emigrated to New Zealand when he was a child.

The construction of the church took place at a difficult time. The First World War was raging and there was a shortage of manpower and money. Fr Mahony and his friend Martin Maloney were the Clerks of Works. Sometimes workmen were not paid until Monday and Fr Mahony would be hoping the Sunday collection would make up for any shortfall in funds.

Once the exterior was completed, Fr Mahony turned his attention to the beautification of the interior. He had seen and was inspired by some of the great churches of Europe. Although German industry was in chaos following World War I, Fr Mahony purchased windows from the famous Munich stained-glass foundry of Zettler. An Italian marble altar was added, which serves the church to this day.

The sole memorial to Fr Mahony is a stained-glass window depicting his patron, St Stanislaus Koska.

The total cost of the project was less

than thirty-two thousand pounds. Ninety years later the church was refurbished and earthquake strengthened while Fr Barry Scannell was parish priest. The bill was in excess of eight million dollars.

St Mary of the Angels is located in the city centre. Many people who worship here frequently are not parishioners. They take advantage of the three Masses offered daily during the week – 7.30am, 12.05pm and 5.15pm. On Sundays they worship in their own parish churches in nearby suburbs or cities.

The church has always been the focus of liturgical and civic celebrations. In the days prior to the Archdiocese of Wellington having a cathedral, many important events were hosted in the church, including the funeral of Cardinal Peter McKeefry and the consecration of Fr Tom Williams as the Archbishop of Wellington.

Music has always been a strong feature at St Mary of the Angels. During the 1950s, Maxwell Fernie brought the choir to a standard that has been maintained over subsequent years. He was also responsible for the design and installation of the current



St Mary of the Angels Church Wellington, centenary, 25 March 2022.

Photo: WelCom

organ. The choir's well-established fame continues to extend beyond Wellington.

A church building is given life by the people who worship and visit it. There is plenty of life here as this church enters its second century.

## Archdiocese donates historic items to Turnbull Library

Three items from the Archdiocese of Wellington Archives have been donated to the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington. Last December, Cardinal John Dew handed the items to Anthony



Anthony Tedeschi of Alexander Turnbull Library, with one of the donated items from the archdiocese archives.

Tedeschi, Curator Rare Books and Fine Printing.

- The items are:
- Original **Papal Bull** of Urban VIII c.1631, on vellum, with lead seal. Content untranslated.
  - **Rationale Divinorum Officiorum** [Rationale of the Divine Office] – Guilielmus Durandus – Vincenza 1480. This is an early printed book in Latin with some hand-illumination, purchased in 1970 by Archbishop McKeefry. One of the first titles printed, this is a later edition than the original.
  - **Summa Theologiae** – Thomas Aquinas – Antwerp 1626. This is inscribed as a gift from Fr JJ O'Reily to Fr Petit-Jean (1811-1876) – two of the earliest Catholic clergy in Wellington. Fr O'Reily's book collection is already part of Alexander Turnbull Library holdings.

Peter Holm, Archivist for the archdiocese archives said, "The three items have been donated because it was felt they were best placed in New Zealand's national collection, where they will be cared for by people with expertise in preservation of rare and ancient works, and to be known and available to scholars."

## Nostalgic visit for Brigidines



Viewing the Chancel College heritage corridor (l-r): Claire Hills, teacher; Sr Frances; Sr Trish; Sr Patsy; Myra Coley, principal; Sr Cyprian; Sr Anne Phibbs, Brigidines' Congregational leader in New Zealand.

Photos: Supplied

A group of Brigidine Sisters attended a Memorial Mass for Sr Monica Landy cbs in Masterton on 1 February – the feast day of St Brigid.

Sr Monica was last Brigidine Sister to serve in Masterton. She died last September during lockdown, so community recognition of her life had been delayed.

The Brigidine Sisters were named after St Brigid of Kildare, Ireland. The Congregation arrived in New Zealand in 1898 and settled in Masterton to serve the community in Catholic education.

During their February visit the Sisters also visited Chancel College. The college was formed 42 years ago after St Brigid's College and St Joseph's College amalgamated in 1978. The Sisters had taught at St Brigid's.

"The Sisters hadn't previously seen the newly-blessed heritage corridor at Chancel, which has a special section dedicated to the Brigidines," said teacher and 'tour guide' Claire Hills.

Claire was one of the first two lay teachers at St Brigid's College, starting there in 1968. Her recently created heritage corridor includes sections of photographs to remember the Brigidine Order and the Marist Brothers who taught at St Brigid's and St Joseph's.

The Sisters also visited Chancel Chapel, which has beautiful stained-glass windows they had donated from the St Brigid's College Chapel. It was the first visit to the chapel for some of the Sisters.

Their visit was also an



Sr Helena Fouhy csb, born in 1923, is now aged 99 and lives in Palmerston North. The Fouhy family were prominent farmers in the Pahiatua area. Sr Helena entered the convent in Masterton aged 19 and was a teacher for many years. She was chosen to write the history of the Brigidine Congregation in New Zealand, *One Love, Many Faces: Brigidines in New Zealand, 1898–1998*, to celebrate the centenary of their arrival in Masterton.

opportunity to meet and share experiences with Chancel College's new principal, Myra Coley.

» Chancel College leadership change, p 13.

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# Fond farewell to parishes' priests

## Diocese thanks much-loved priest

Sue Seconi

Sadness, appreciation and gratitude to God were felt when Immaculate Conception's Stratford parishioners gathered to celebrate with their parish priest Fr Adonis Rancho – affectionately known as Fr Dondon – at his last Mass on Sunday 30 January 2022, before heading home to the Philippines.

The parishioners had arranged a slide show to play at the end of Mass that captured many occasions during Fr Dondon's three years as pastor. As he walked down the centre aisle for the last time, he was given a standing ovation and guard of honour.

'I have mixed emotions,' he said. 'Sad to leave New Zealand where I've served for 12 years, yet happy to be going back to my roots in the Philippines. My bishop in my home diocese of Tagum has asked me to return and I will be closer to my parents.'

Fr Adonis came to the Palmerston North Diocese in October 2009 and served in St Patrick's Napier, St Mary's Taradale, as well as in Waipukurau, New Plymouth, Marton and Whanganui before being appointed to Stratford in 2019. He quickly gained a popular



After serving as a priest in Palmerston North Diocese parishes for 12 years Fr Adonis (Dondon) Rancho returns to his homeland in the Philippines.

Photo: Sue Seconi

reputation and is well remembered for his personal warmth, melodious voice singing of the Eucharistic Prayer, encouraging lay ministry and his simple and effective homilies.

A friend to all, he will take many memories away with him – especially the wonderful occasions with his fellow priests, the ups and downs of serving in a different culture and the beautiful scenery.

'Most of all it's the parishioners who moulded and shaped me to be a better servant of God,' said Fr Dondon.

## 'Paalam' Fr Marlon Tebelin

Jane Langham

Fr Rico de la Torre, parish priest, and Fr Marlon Tebelin have been serving Our Lady of Hope Parish in Tawa and Titahi Bay for the last four years, both here on a five-year loan from the Philippines. Fr Marlon has now been appointed as parish priest of Holy Family Parish for Nelson/Stoke.

A parish farewell afternoon tea and presentation planned for late January had to be cancelled because of Covid-19 Red Traffic Light number restrictions.

Instead, a smaller event was held after Mass on 28 January for Fr Marlon where he was presented with a financial gift from the parishioners. Having been chaplain to the Filipino community in the archdiocese, as well as assisting in the parish, he will be greatly missed.



Fr Marlon, standing centre, with Our Lady of Hope parishioners at his farewell event.

Photo: Ray Lindsay

## Joy Cowley leads reflection day at Kāpiti

Anne Lumb

Parishioners at Our Lady of Kāpiti were delighted to have well-known writer and retreat mediator Joy Cowley leading a day of reflection and meditation during Advent last November.

Supported by the Catholic Women's League, the day's three sessions were based on the Annunciation and how it relates to our own daily lives.

'The call' – Joy discussed Mary's reaction to the Angel who brought a life-changing proposition, her shock at the challenges and consequences of the Annunciation and Joseph's reaction to her pregnancy. Joy invited us reflect on



Joy Cowley.

Photo Supplied

the good and bad points in our own relationships and their challenges.

'Acceptance' – Joy spoke of Mary's childhood and referred to Catholic tradition of Mary being a Temple child. We assessed our responses to our own challenges, identifying what is holding us back and our fears.

The 'birthing of Jesus to the World'

– reminded us God is all around. Joy said every person is like a clay vessel that can be easily broken, containing much, including a spark of God. She recommended reading 'Proto Evangelium' of James the Less, about Christ's early life and his family that she believes shows them as Essenes. The Essenes were another Jewish sect opposed by the Pharisees and Sadducees, like Jesus in the Gospels.

During our meditation we were asked to decide how to overcome our own fears just as Mary had by saying 'yes' to God.

Joy reminded us that God has boundless love for us, is around us in everything, and that we should seek the spark of God in every person.

Abridged

## Rest in Peace Pā Colin Durning

Pā Colin Durning died peacefully in Dunedin on Monday 14 February. Colin lived a rich life and turned 95 in January this year. Last November he celebrated 25 years as a priest.

Pā Colin Durning came to the priesthood as a late vocation after a life of remarkable achievements. Over the years he has not only been father to his eight children but also Fr Colin Durning, Professor Durning, as well as being recognised as a kaumātua by Māori.

Cardinal John Dew said, 'We give thanks for his years of service as a priest of the Archdiocese and in particular to the Māori community. We also offer deep and prayerful sympathy to Colin's family members. May he rest in peace.'


Pā Gerard Burns attended Colin's



Pā Colin Durning (r) with Pā Gerard Burns (l) last November.


funeral in Dunedin to represent the Archdiocese of Wellington and as a long-standing friend of Colin and his whānau.

WelCom will bring reflections about Pā Colin and his life in next month's edition.



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# Catholic College Dux and Special Character

## Archdiocese of Wellington

### Garin College, Richmond, Nelson



**Kellyanne Urquhart**  
Dux 2021



**Alice Knoef**  
Archbishop's Award for Catholic Leadership 2021, Special Character



**Grace Hall**  
Catholic Foundation Scholarship 2021, Special Character



**Savanna Stevens**  
Catholic Foundation Scholarship 2021, Special Character



Student Leaders 2022: (l-r) back: **Ruairi Moorhead**; **Jesse Sherlock**; **Jonte Stevens**; **Lucien Panting**; **Misha Worboys**; front: **Grace Roberts**, **Vianne Wessels**; **Ethan Speers**; **Amy Jukes**; **Annalise Edwards**.

### Chanel College, Masterton



**Nicki Thomson Schulz**  
Dux 2021



**Sunia Kohitolu**  
Proxime Accessit 2021



**Sean Fa'aiuasao**  
Special Character Award 2021



Student Leaders 2022 (l-r) back: **Charlotte Murray**; **Natalie Childs**; **Jonty Livingstone**; **Takumi McKelvey**, Head Boy; front: **Mackenzie Murray**; **Charlotte Clark**; **Alyssa Mende**. Absent: **Emily Paku**.

### St Mary's College, Wellington



**Nicole Marquez**  
Joint Dux 2021



**Yashka Rabichand**  
Joint Dux 2021



**Alex Crampton**  
Head Girl 2022



**Marisa Raymond**  
Deputy Head Girl-Special Character 2022



Student Leadership Team 2022 (l-r): **Marisa Raymond**, Deputy Head Girl; **Unique Edmonds**; **Amelia Feaunati**; **Kyla Dey**; **Alex Crampton**, Head Girl; **Paris Tuimaseve-Fox**; **Bianca Diaz**; **Isabella Samaniego**.

### St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie



**Angelica Silva**  
Dux 2021



**Aria Roe-Jones**  
Proxime Accessit 2021



**Kimberly Rubi**  
Mercy Medallion for Outstanding Leadership and Commitment to the Mercy Spirit 2021



**Mariana Sola**  
Head Student 2022



**Francesca Sigal**  
Deputy Head Student 2022

### St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt



**Callum Coyne**  
Dux 2021



**Angelo Cabauatan**  
Hugh Graham Memorial Trophy for Special Character 2021

**Wung Pan**  
Proxime Accessit to Dux 2021  
(Wung was unavailable for photo.)



Student Leaders 2022 (l-r): **Junior Fa'asoa**, Deputy Head Boy; **Justin Aylor**, Head Boy; **Ieti Ah**, Young Deputy Head Boy.

### St Patrick's College, Silverstream



**Sebastian Watson**  
Dux 2021  
Archbishop's Award for Catholic Leadership 2021



**Guntas Ahluwalia**  
Proxime Accessit 2021



**Seyjay Harawira**  
Head Boy 2022



**Rishi Sahrawat**  
Deputy Head Boy 2022



**Josh Todd**  
Deputy Head Boy 2022



**Harrison Owers**  
Head Boarder 2022

### Bishop Viard College, Porirua



**Fay Nafatali**  
Dux and Nellie Hunt Spirit of Bishop Viard College Supreme Award 2021



**Siose Lokeni**  
Joint Proxime Accessit 2021



**Oliver Tyrell-Toru**  
Joint Proxime Accessit 2021



**Mannfred Sofara**  
Head Boy 2022



**Lesina Taulai**  
Head Girl 2022

### St Patrick's College, Wellington



**Aaron Emerson**  
Dux 2021



**Alex Ramsay**  
Proxime Accessit 2021



**Xavier Frost**  
Archbishop's Award for Catholic Leadership 2021



Student Leadership Team 2022 (l-r): **Benjamin Brown** (Deputy); **Lucca Mansfield** (Deputy); **Duncan Gempesaw** (Manu Taupua Matua – Head Boy); **Dimitri Economou** (Deputy).

### Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt



**Morgyn Jakob-Berkett**  
Dux 2021



**Samantha Monteclaro**  
Proxime Accessit 2021



**Jade Fernandez**  
Archbishop's Award for Catholic Leadership 2021




Student Leaders 2022 (l-r), **Victoria Stowers** (Head of Sport); **Rebecca Sa'u** (Deputy Head Girl); **Gabriella Serpa** (Head Girl); **Elizabeth Leitch** (Head of Special Character); **Sanaya Warusapperuma** (Head of Culture); **Ruby Robinson** (Head of Performing Arts).




# er Awards 2021 and Student Leaders 2022

## Diocese of Palmerston North

### Sacred Heart College, Napier



**Sarah Alawneh**  
Dux 2021



**Eva Deihl**  
Proxime Accessit 2021;  
Pat Faulkner Memorial Cup  
for Special Character 2021; and  
prestigious Blue Ribbon Award 2021



Student Leaders 2022 (l-r): **Charlotte Clayton**, Deputy Head Girl; **Taila Reardon-Crichton**, Head Girl; **Rylee Fergus**, Deputy Head Girl.

### Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth



**Ann-Mariya Tomy**  
Dux 2021



**Eve Hagenson**  
Proxime Accessit and Centennial Cup (Special Character) 2021



Head Girl Team 2022 (l-r): **Ella Barrett**, Deputy Head Girl, Special Character; **Briar Dravitzki**, Head Girl; **Maria Christina Passmore**, Deputy Head Girl, Student Council.

### Francis Douglas Memorial College, New Plymouth



**Heath Waayer**  
Dux 2021



**Flynn Barrett**  
Proxime Accessit 2021 joint winners



**Caleb Megchelse**  
Proxime Accessit 2021 joint winners



**Jackson Powell**  
Special Character 2021



Student Leaders 2022 (l-r): **George Bish**, Lasallian Student Captain; **Samuel Lewis**, Head Boy; **Noah Iash**, Deputy Head Boy.

### Hato Pāora College, Feilding



**Manuhuia Bennett**  
Dux 2021



**Emery McGill**  
Head Boy 2022



Student Leadership Team 2022 (l-r) back: **Jackson Warbrick**; **Waaka Poutu**; **Autahi Nikau-Tootell**; front: **Indy Ratana**; **Ihaka Komene**; **Rawiri Stretch-Ioane**.

### St John's College, Hastings



**Kyle Groner**  
Dux 2021



**Jonty Unwin**  
Proxime Accessit 2021



**James Barr**  
St John's College Doctrine Eagle Award (Special Character) 2021



**Noah Kaio**  
Head Boy 2022



**Dylan Homan**  
Deputy Head Boy 2022



**Conor Frith**  
Deputy Head Boy 2022



St John's College Prefects 2022 (l-r) back: **Manaia Rangihuna**; **Reid McGrath**; **Angus Ross**; **Seth Howes**; **Cameron Stevens**; **William Brown**; **Noah Boyd**; **Caleb Halbert**; **Noel Daly**; **Rajveer Singh**; **Jason Smith**; front: **Conor Frith**, Deputy Head Boy; **Noah Kaio**, Head Boy; **Dylan Homan**, Deputy Head Boy.

### Cullinane College, Whanganui



**Jordan Solomona**  
Dux 2021



**Aigalelei Leo**  
Proxime Accessit 2021



**Faith Solomona**  
Head Girl 2022



**Nathaniel Daley**  
Head Boy 2022

### St Peter's College, Palmerston North



**Matt Marlow**  
Dux 2021



**Anneliese Leamy-King**  
Proxime Accessit 2021



**Alby Abhilash**  
Special Character 2021, with Margaret Leamy, Principal



**Tupou Siu and Ian Wulf**  
Head Students 2022




**Shakariyah Waiwai and Flynn Wilson**  
Junior Head Students 2022



Student Leaders 2022, Special Character Committee (l-r): **Honey-Grace Hancock**; **Helana Higgs**; **Kasileta Seko**; **Veronica Cabasag**; **Manaia Greening**; **John P Lasaca**; **Jack Tankersley**; **Chloe Acampado**; **Darcy Donaghy**; **Kyle Limlengco**; **Tupou Siu**; **Joshua Mckenzie**; **Joyth James**; **Ian Wulf**; **Tyler Hodson**.

### St Joseph Māori Girls' College, Napier



**Horiana Smallman**  
(Ngāti Kahungunu)  
Dux 2021



# Young Catholics

## Chanel College leadership change



Chanel College retiring principal Debi Marshall-Lobb (l) with new principal Myra Coley (r).

Photo: Angela Gregory/Chanel College staff

A very warm and supportive transition took place at Chanel College, Masterton between the outgoing principal Debi Marshall-Lobb and the arrival of the new principal Myra Coley (*Ngāpuhi*).

Retiring after a 40-year career in education, Debi Marshall-Lobb has taught at St Dominic's School for the Deaf, she has been a lecturer at Massey University, and has served as principal at a kura kaupapa in Palmerston North, Hato Pāora College in Feilding, Chanel College

in Masterton, and as kuia for her people.

New principal Myra Coley has previously taught at Chanel College. Prior to her new appointment at Chanel, Myra was assistant principal then deputy principal at Makura College in Masterton. She has taught overseas in China, she holds a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and has experience as a business entrepreneur. Myra is also the mother of five children.

## Navigating the new year in a Covid setting

**Mariana Sola, Head Girl and Jasmine Chung, Media Captain**

Mā te Atua e manaaki.

At St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie we began our new year with a mihi whakatau and felt the breath of the spirit in the intimate outdoor gathering between our senior students and our new enrolments. They were welcomed along with new staff and this year's Student Leadership Team as we met together to start the new school year.

We were all filled with excitement and eagerness to begin 2022. Masks could not hide the smiles and warmth we felt being together again. The day continued with our peer-support programme in which each new student has a Tuakana – supporting senior student – and we enjoyed getting to know one another in the informal setting.

The year has already provided us with several special events. We enjoyed our Year 13 leadership overnight retreat at Magnificat Retreat Centre in Featherston. We held our whole-school athletics day with great participation and more glorious sunshine. And we have celebrated our Academic Liturgy led by our senior students.



New students, staff and the 2022 Student Leadership Team were welcomed with prayer at St Catherine's College to begin the school year with a relaxed, informal and non-uniform 'getting-to-know-each-other' summer's day outside.

Photo: Supplied

The loss of not celebrating Mass together has saddened us, although this has provided us an opportunity to lead prayer and adapt to student-led liturgies. It has also enabled new leadership opportunities and strengthened our school spirit. Our Mercy Crew met last month and a school-wide focus is how to be compassionate people of Mercy, living our lives as Catherine McAuley did.

Students and staff have adapted quickly to mask-wearing – we do not like it, but we remain grateful it has kept us safe until now. We

feel communication has improved as we are trying to get the most out of every day while we are not isolating. We are learning to expect the unexpected and learning to be more efficient with our time – not putting off what can be done today until tomorrow.

Meanwhile we are keeping in our prayers the people of Tonga who have lost so much, as well as peers in other colleges who are also navigating these uncertain times. May God's presence give them comfort.

Kia kaha Aotearoa!

## Young people with HOPE in God

**Faakialele Tuanaki**  
Hastings Youth Minister

Scripture tells us to put our HOPE in God. HOPE was the theme at this year's Hastings Youth Group summer camp and the lead up to it. Initially scheduled at El Rancho, Waikanae in mid-2021, the Covid-19 lockdown and restrictions meant cancellation of both the camp and our weekly youth gatherings for the rest of the year.

However, we were able to re-arrange our weekend retreat in January at the Tukituki Christian Camp just 20 minutes from our church in Hastings. Within a short timeframe parishioners and families helped organise activities and gather resources and supplies to make the camp happen.

The camp was a wonderful



Hasting Youth group summer campers – with Hope in God.

Photo: Supplied

opportunity for leaders and participants to strengthen their faith and relationships with each other, learn from one another, and to experience Jesus Christ as HOPE in everything we do. Our weekend

retreat began with Mass attended by 30 teenagers and 20 young adults. The activities included a 'Hopeful Warrior' challenge, which put Hope in God while completing an 11km walk. We also joined the

Filipino community celebrating 500 years of Christianity in their country, with Fr Bernard Espiritu svd, MISSIO-NZ National Director, who celebrated Mass.

Our retreat concluded with

Sunday Mass and lunch, joined by some of the parents.

We offer our sincere thanks to all who supported us with prayers, fundraising, planning, activities, resources, transportation, sponsorship and more. Our heartfelt thanks also to Fr Trung and the youth team. And our thanks for the opportunity to live out Fr Bernard's homily message as being 'Gifted To Give'.

Covid restrictions and government guidelines posed many obstacles. But we believed in and relied on the Holy Spirit, and that faith made things happen for us all. May we all continue to live out the theme of HOPE this year and keep sharing our gifts with our parish.

*Abridged*

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# Rangatahi Katorika

## ‘Getting messy’ to kick off 2022

Lorraine (Rain) Forest

What better way to start the year than shaving foam, slime, and colour powder? Illumin8 Youth from the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth played a range of games designed to get their clothes covered in mess but leave their hearts full of joy. It was a fantastic

way to start youth group for the year and we’re looking forward to heaps more fun and faith together in our youth community in coming months. Check out our Instagram *Illumin8youthnp* or email *youth@catholicparishnp.nz* to find out more or to get involved.

In these difficult Covid-related times, we ensure mask-wearing is enforced amongst our young people

– 12 to 18 years – at indoor venues and in places of worship. Masks are exempt while undertaking physical activities, eating while seated, and are encouraged but not compulsory outdoors.

Rain Forest is Youth Minister, Catholic Parish of New Plymouth.



Illumin8 Youth ‘getting messy’ at their outdoor Summer get-together last month.

Photo: Supplied

## The Catholic Couch – Access Radio Taranaki

Lorraine (Rain) Forest

In this tricky era of Covid, here in New Plymouth we’re thinking outside the box to try new ways of doing, reaching and connecting young people in youth ministry. The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth Youth Group are super excited to be launching ‘The Catholic Couch’ – our new youth radio show on Access Radio Taranaki, 4.30pm Mondays.

Have you ever grabbed some friends piled onto an old, worn, youth-group couch – the kind you sink into and lose your phone

between the cushions – and where someone will likely come squeeze next to you or on top of you? And you just have good chats. That’s the



The Catholic Couch – a photoshopped montage onto a couch of some of our youth during activities. Image: Supplied

feel of our radio show. Our youth will have the opportunity to talk about anything and everything beautiful, good, difficult, messy, young, and Catholic. We will also be showcasing young people in our community with musical talent. Each week will have a different theme and the youth will take turns co-hosting.

It’s a live show but also is recorded as a podcast that you can check out on the Access Radio Taranaki website, Spotify or Apple podcast. We’d love you to tune in and let us know what you think. Please email us at *youth@catholicparishnp.nz* for more information.

## Making the world a better place



Ana Ayora addresses Parliament’s Finance and Expenditure Select Committee online. Photo: Supplied

St Mary’s College Year 13 student Ana Ayora wants to make a difference – and her voice is being heard by decision makers in Parliament.

Ana has just been appointed a member of the Archdiocese of Wellington Ecology, Justice and Peace (EJP) Commission, after serving two years on the its poverty committee.

Last month she led the commission’s oral presentation to the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee on the Budget Policy Statement. In early January she worked with fellow poverty committee members Fr Tom Rouse and John Kennedy-Good to read and reflect on the government’s economic statement in light of Catholic social teaching. Their oral submission was online by Zoom.

Ana told the select committee the commission supported the prioritisation on climate change in the Budget statement. ‘My generation knows anything not addressed now means more hardship for us in the future and for millions of people throughout the world.’

Ana first formally encountered

the work of the EJP Commission in Year 9, when she was the youngest member of a St Mary’s College delegation, which visited Cardinal John Dew to explain their reasons for supporting the March 2019 Student Strike for Climate.

She is now one of two Social Action Leaders at St Mary’s College, encouraging support for the Enviro-club, Caritas and Young Vinnies. She also regularly volunteers at a bi-annual summer camp for children from refugee backgrounds, run in Hamilton during the term 2 break and summer holidays. She is active in her parish of St Theresa’s, Plimmerton, and she is participating in activities around the Synod for a Synodal Church.

Ana says the opportunity to address the Select Committee was a wonderful experience. ‘I’ve participated in a part of government that people don’t know so much about. It’s great knowing my voice is heard, and giving my opinion.’

Following her final year at college this year, Ana intends to study law and environmental science. ‘I’m passionate about making the world a better place for everyone.’

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## MEN'S MEETING

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an Anglican and Catholic social service supporting families in the community

Education convention deferred a year

The National Catholic Education Convention scheduled for June 2022, has been postponed until June 2023. New Zealand Catholic Education Office (NZCEO) chief executive Dr Kevin Shore said the Board made the decision after consideration of the health and safety and associated financial risks of trying to run a convention within the environment of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The National Catholic Education Convention is usually held every three years and brings together Catholic educators, bishops, priests, school trustees and a range of others associated with the national Catholic education system. It offers participants the opportunity to be strengthened by a sense of community and renewed in a sense of mission. This year's convention theme was to have been: *Tūhono Whakapono*: Together, one faith community.

New Zealand Catholic schools make up 8.1 per cent of the total schooling provision for New Zealand children, educating some 66,900 students.



# Living out *Laudato si'* during Lent

Lisa Beech


A new platform and programme had been developed by the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development to help Catholic households, families, parishes, schools, religious communities, dioceses and other groups to transform care for our common home into practical actions. As we enter the Season of Lent, it is an opportunity to reflect on what changes we can make towards caring for creation through our own actions.

The Archdiocese Ecology, Justice and Peace (EJP) Commission is one of several New Zealand groups following the new *Laudato si'* action platform. The EJP Commission's Integral Ecology Committee has formed a working group which is enrolling with the action platform. The process includes self-assessment, reflection, and planning.

Lent is a traditional time for Catholics to commit to making small sacrifices and changes of habits that work for the good of others, says Estelle Henrys, the Integral Ecology Committee convenor.

a car. Making changes to "habits of convenience" takes effort that isn't always easy.

Estelle suggests one way to increase consciousness of daily practices and habits is to begin to measure and reduce personal carbon footprint, such as through using the Toitū carbon trackers (free at [toitu.co.nz/calculators](http://toitu.co.nz/calculators)).



### Toitū emissions calculators

**Household Calculator** – allows you to calculate emissions for your household and transport activities.

**Travel Calculator** – allows travellers to calculate emissions for their domestic or overseas travel and also emissions associated with a range of New Zealand-specific accommodation.

**Offset Emissions Calculator** – allows you to directly purchase carbon offsets if you have already worked out your footprint in kgs or tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e.



Laudato Si' Action Platform

Pope Francis' 2015 *Laudato si'* encyclical acknowledges the urgency of the environmental crisis in our world, and encourages Catholics to undergo 'ecological conversion' to make lasting changes to care for our planet and all the people and creatures that live here. Pope Francis has instituted the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September, and has added 'care for creation' as an eighth work of mercy.

However, while many of us may want to make changes at both a personal and a structural level, it is often difficult to break habits of a lifetime and to see how to do things differently.

The *Laudato si'* Action Platform – [laudatosi.actionplatform.org](http://laudatosi.actionplatform.org) – offers a process and resources to help set goals and make changes in seven areas:

- Response to the cry of the earth
- Response to the cry of the poor
- Ecological economics
- Adoption of sustainable lifestyles
- Ecological education
- Ecological spirituality
- Community resilience and empowerment

'Lent is a time when we can intentionally change our ways and renew our relationship with God. We can make a conscious goal to change a habit to by better caring for creation.'

Estelle says while people are aware of the impact of daily activities on the planet, it can be hard to change longstanding practices. 'For example, it's easier to take your lunch to work in a throwaway plastic bag, rather than taking it in a container or re-usable foodbag, which requires conscious effort and commitment. Or, to walk to a nearby destination takes more time and effort than jumping into

Estelle says she and her husband Stuart began tracking their carbon use in early 2020. 'It gives you an idea of what you are doing, and helps you to change.'

The Integral Ecology Committee is offering an online seminar in Lent to assist individuals and families who would like to make using a carbon tracker and reducing their carbon footprint part of their Lenten practice. All are welcome.

## Living *Laudato si'* in Lent 2022 online seminar

**When:** Thursday 10 March, 7.30pm–8.30pm  
**Presenters:** Estelle Henrys and Stuart Henrys  
**How:** online – please email [l.beech@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:l.beech@wn.catholic.org.nz) for seminar details. These details will also be available on the archdiocese *Laudato si'* website page: [wn.catholic.org.nz/about/commission-for-ecology/laudato-si-in-the-archdiocese/](http://wn.catholic.org.nz/about/commission-for-ecology/laudato-si-in-the-archdiocese/)



# Creating a culture of relational and spiritual safety



Sr Catherine Jones smsm.  
Photo: Supplied

## Sr Catherine Jones smsm

I am grateful to the parishes and safeguarding administrators for welcoming me on my visits late in 2021 as I began my service as Safeguarding Adviser for the archdiocese. I look forward to continuing these visits once Covid-19 restrictions permit.

Meanwhile, to reflect, let's ask: 'What is Safeguarding?'

Safeguarding has been defined among some parishioners as:

- 'looking out for the safety of our children and elders';
- 'to avoid, limit, prevent relationships that are damaging or exploitative';
- 'commitment to a code of conduct in our ministries'.

These reflections indicate safeguarding is understood and being implemented in our parishes.

Exploring Samoan concepts of

*tulou* and *va* is also deepening the understanding of the dignity of the human person in society.

Another safeguarding definition is from the Ateneo de Manila [Jesuit university in Quezon City, Philippines]: '...to create a culture of relational safety in persons and institutions...[becoming]...an intentional part of the daily life of every Catholic'.

To create a culture of relational safety – this is a priority in the work of safeguarding in our archdiocese this year, through parish visits, workshops and formation.

An intentional part of the daily life of every Catholic – we are called to live gospel values of dignity, justice and love in all our relationships; this is built on a living relationship with Jesus Christ. Thus, we can say 'safeguarding is a spirituality before it is a strategy'.

## Formation

Te Kupenga Catholic Institute offers a course on safeguarding. Several parish administrators and others involved in archdiocesan ministries with family, children and vulnerable adults have enrolled for this course, and registration is still open. Contact Te Kupenga Catholic Institute at [office@ctc.ac.nz](mailto:office@ctc.ac.nz) for further information and registration.

Sr Catherine Jones smsm, Safeguarding Adviser, Archdiocese of Wellington, can be contacted at: [c.jones@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:c.jones@wn.catholic.org.nz)

## Tumuaki – Chief Executive

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The Board anticipates that the Chief Executive will be based in Auckland.

Applications, including cover letter, CV and candidate information form should be submitted to the Board selection committee through Gerald Scanlan at [gerald@careeroptions.co.nz](mailto:gerald@careeroptions.co.nz) by 28 March 2022. The position description and candidate information form can be found at [www.tekupenga.ac.nz](http://www.tekupenga.ac.nz)

For a confidential discussion about the role, contact Gerald Scanlan (General Manager, Career Options) on 027 232 2386.

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# Three Waters Reform Programme: a Catholic Social Justice perspective

The government is proposing legislation to amalgamate the water services of 67 councils into four regional water entities.  
**Jim McAloon**, chair of the Wellington Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology, Justice and Peace, considers the controversial ‘Three Waters’ legislation in the light of Catholic social justice principles.



The government’s Three Waters proposals are intended to reform and reorganise the management of drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater (that is, sewerage). Currently these are the responsibility of city and district councils. In many areas the water infrastructure is inadequate or run down and there are problems with flooding; numbers of people become sick from unsafe drinking water, and sometimes sewerage overflows and pollutes. The stress on stormwater systems is likely to increase as severe weather events become more frequent. The anticipated cost of bringing the infrastructure up to date in the next decades is very large. The government’s proposal is to create four larger entities to control and manage – but not own – the water infrastructure. These entities would be collectively owned by the councils and their boards would consist of council representatives and representatives of mana whenua, in equal numbers.

The proposals have attracted much criticism. Some councils say that the proposals amount to seizure of their assets – or of ‘ratepayers’ assets’; some take the view that they have managed their water infrastructure responsibly and well and should be allowed to continue. There are concerns that the new entities will be remote and unresponsive to local concerns. Some critics object to involving mana whenua, claiming that this is of its nature undemocratic because Māori are a minority. On the other hand, some mayors say that there’s no way their councils could afford to do what needs to be done on their own resources, and so welcome the proposals.

What can the Church’s social teaching contribute to this debate? Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have both observed in their encyclicals that ‘access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights’ (*Laudato si’*, para 30), and that ‘food and access to water as universal rights of all human beings, without distinction or discrimination’ (*Caritas in Veritate*, 27). Water is not just another commodity.

These are outlined on the Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand website ([caritas.org.nz](http://caritas.org.nz)). Subsidiarity is important; it ‘means ensuring decision making happens at the most appropriate level so all those affected can contribute’ and is about empowering communities. In any situation, ‘the most appropriate level’ is a matter for judgement, in this case involving questions of the cost of water infrastructure and how best to fund it, as well as meeting the needs of communities.

Together with subsidiarity, solidarity and distributive justice invite us to consider what structures might best ensure the right of all

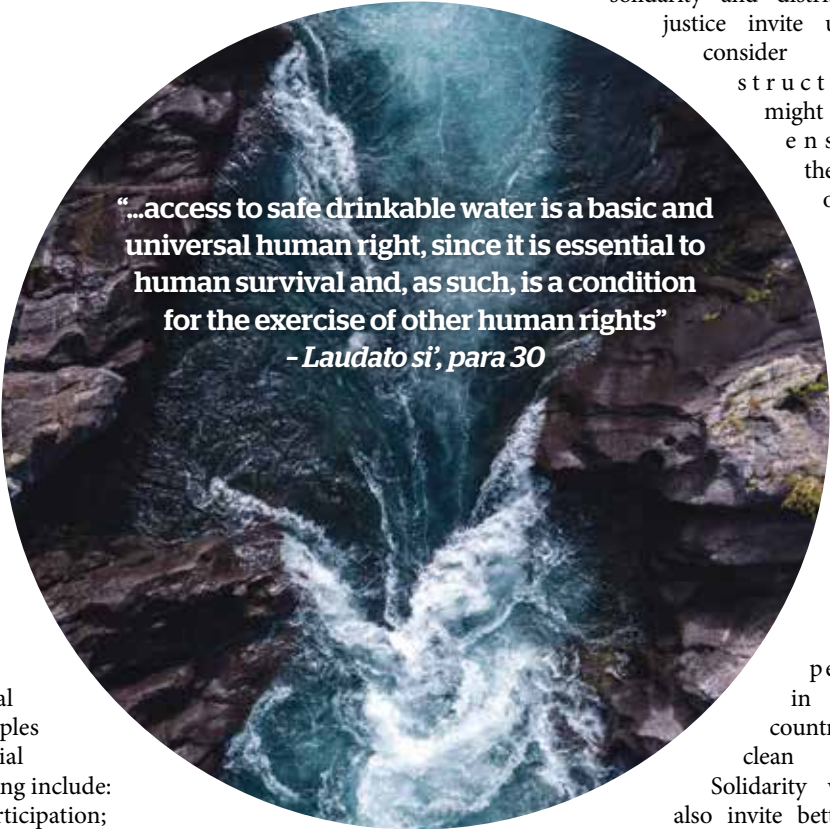
generations as well as the present. Put like this, therefore, a debate which emphasises the ‘rights’ of ‘ratepayers’ doesn’t cover the whole issue. Indeed, as Benedict noted, rights and duties balance each other (CV 43).

The Church’s social teaching has, also, become increasingly aware of the rights of indigenous peoples. Pope Francis writes, ‘it is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. They are not merely one minority among others, but should be the principal dialogue partners, especially when large projects affecting their land are proposed. For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values. When they remain on their land, they themselves care for it best (LS 146)’.

As for land, so for water. In this country, churches were present at the signing of te Tiriti o Waitangi, and Catholic bishops recognised it in 1995 as ‘the covenant entered into by the Crown and Māori, on which this nation is founded.’ No matter how much some might desire it, Te Tiriti o Waitangi cannot be wished away; it guaranteed to iwi and hapū certain rights. As law and policy have evolved, these rights are sometimes expressed in terms of partnership.

There is plenty of room for discussion over how best to ensure the rights of all to clean water are guaranteed. The Church’s social teaching does not offer a simple instruction as to whether Three Waters should be supported or opposed, but it does offer some principles to aid reflection.

*Jim McAloon is a professor of History at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations.*



Some more general principles in social teaching include:

- Participation;
- the Common Good;
- Distributive Justice;
- Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable;
- Human Dignity; Stewardship; Solidarity;
- Subsidiarity; Promotion of Peace.

people in this country to clean water. Solidarity would also invite better-off communities to consider whether some loss of autonomy, in order to ensure that the less well off, can also meet their needs might be justified. Stewardship, also, reminds us that the gifts of creation belong to everyone, to future

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# Catholics Thinking

## Five spiritual tips to help you avoid pandemic despair



Fr James Martin sj. Photo: America Magazine

James Martin sj

Everyone is sick of the pandemic and tired of hearing about Covid. When I turn on the radio in the morning to National Public Radio (which I now think of as National Pandemic Radio), the first word that I hear is always ‘Covid’, ‘coronavirus’ or ‘pandemic’.

It is hard to escape. So I am going to keep this short.

I am also not going to try to sugarcoat anything or talk too much about ‘silver linings’. The pandemic is a terrible reality that we must all face, and one that does not seem to be going away any time soon. It is by turns frightening, maddening, annoying, depressing and angering. In addition to

the obvious health challenges it poses—especially to the immunocompromised and to frontline workers—it is emotionally brutal.

But it is not hopeless. I have found in my own life, and in counselling others, a few tips drawn from Christian spirituality that has helped me avoid despair.

Here are five.

### 1. Be smart

The most important tip may not sound especially spiritual, but it is: get vaccinated and boosted if you are able to. Wear a mask. Maintain social distances when you need to. Avoid large indoor gatherings especially when there are spikes and, if you are infected with Covid-19, by all means stay home.

**“There is nothing wrong with asking for help. People do it in the Gospels all the time.”**

As I said, this sounds like practical advice but, at heart, it is spiritual advice. (Spiritual and practical usually go hand in hand). It is not only about caring for yourself and your own health, but also about caring for others. It’s about reverencing them. As Pope Francis has said, getting vaccinated is an ‘act of love’. To be blunter than the pope: life is not just about you. We have to begin with this tip because it will help you (and others) survive.

Caring for yourself might also mean speaking with a therapist, a spiritual director or a trusted friend to help you navigate your way through the pandemic. There is nothing wrong with asking for help. People do it in the Gospels all the time.

### 2. Be hopeful

St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, often talked about the ‘good spirit’ and the ‘evil spirit’, which we can define broadly as the impulses that move us toward God, and those that move us away from God. And for those trying to lead good lives, says St Ignatius, the good spirit will encourage us, console us and uplift us. The spirit that is not coming from God, by contrast, will cast us down, discourage us and cause ‘gnawing anxiety’. (Is there a better phrase for what we have all been feeling during the last two years?)

**“Hope is coming from God; despair is not.”**

This is the piece of advice I have used most frequently—for myself or in offering it to others—during the pandemic: Hope is coming from God; despair is not. Any time you hear within yourself (or hear from other people) voices saying, ‘This is hopeless’, ‘I’m doomed’ or ‘I can’t handle this’, know that it is not coming from God. (At one point during the pandemic a friend said, ‘This will kill us all’, which I told him was definitely not coming from God). Conversely, listen to the voices that say, ‘There is always hope’, ‘I’m not alone’ and ‘I can handle this.’ Follow the hope, not the despair.

### 3. Be loving

Over the last two years, I have been quarantined several times in my Jesuit community as a result of some Covid-positive community members. It is not a surprise in a house of 12 men! So I have often felt, like many people, powerless to help others. But there is always something we can do to help lighten someone’s emotional load, if not their viral load.

**“Remember that Jesus did not heal or console everyone in Galilee or Judea.**

**He dealt with the one person in front of him.”**

If your cell phone or computer is working, you can always contact someone who is more frightened or lonely than you are. You would be surprised how much a phone call, email, text or—heaven forbid—a snail mail note or card can help someone feel more hopeful. (Flowers are nice too). You do not need a lot of money (or an advanced degree or special training) to help someone. Just getting someone to laugh can be an act of love.

You cannot help everyone, but you can help that one person. Remember that Jesus did not heal or console everyone in Galilee or Judea. He dealt with the one person in front of him. Be like Jesus.

### 4. Be monastic

Every day I wake up and, since I’m no longer going into the office, I look at the same four walls in my relatively small room. And the view out my window is not any great shakes either. My window looks onto an alleyway and the brick-faced sides of several buildings. I can see about three inches of sky. And of course I’m not traveling anywhere these days, like most people. Early on, I said to a therapist, ‘Am I going to go crazy if I never leave New York City?’ She laughed and said, ‘You won’t even go crazy if you never leave your room.’

**“One day I woke up, stared out my window and realized, Wait a minute.**

**Monks have done this for centuries. And if they can do it, so can I.”**

One day I woke up, stared out my window and realized, *Wait a minute. Monks have done this for centuries. And if they can do it, so can I.* Admittedly, few of us live in beautiful monasteries in sylvan settings (neither do I), but we all can try to find God in the everyday tasks, even if they seem, on the surface, boring. A great deal of this is noticing, and appreciating, even the smallest moments of grace.

A few years ago I saw the film *‘Into Great Silence’*, about the quiet lives of the monks in La Grande Chartreuse, the Carthusian monastery in France, who did the same tasks every single day. For decades. In one scene, a monk simply ate a piece of fruit as he stared out the door of his cell. To some extent, *we’re all monks now.* And all of us, especially now, are called to try to find God even in the mundane. I think about that guy eating fruit a lot these days.

### 5. Be prayerful


At the very beginning of the pandemic, an elderly Jesuit in our community said to us during his homily, ‘Well, we’re always hoping for more time to pray, and now we’ve got it!’ I know that this reality is far different for some people—say, families with young children, where many parents feel that they have *less* time and a more constricted space, with the kids at home.

**“So pray. Do the Examen every night.”**

But for many people, the lack of a commute, a pause in social gatherings and almost no travel, means that they have more free time at home. As my Jesuit friend said, in the ‘before times’ we often said, ‘If only I had more time for prayer and spiritual reading.’ Now many of us do.

So pray. Do the *Examen* every night. Try out more contemplative prayer before your day starts; imagine yourself with Jesus and tell him how you feel about the pandemic. (I certainly have, so he probably won’t be surprised when you do.) And read or reread some spiritual books that will help you find God more easily.

You can handle this. You will get through it. God is with you. See you on the other side of all this.



### The Examen

The *Examen* is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It’s actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day. Here it is in a nutshell:

- 1. Ask God for light.**  
*I want to look at my day with God’s eyes, not merely my own.*
- 2. Give thanks.**  
*The day I have just lived is a gift from God. Be grateful for it.*
- 3. Review the day.**  
*I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.*
- 4. Face your shortcomings.**  
*I face up to what is wrong—in my life and in me.*
- 5. Look toward the day to come.**  
*I ask where I need God in the day to come.*

Version of the Examen from *A Simple, Life-Changing Prayer* by Jim Manney © Loyola Press.

Source: [www.ignatianspirituality.com](http://www.ignatianspirituality.com)

James Martin sj is a Jesuit priest, author and editor at large at America.

This article was published, 27 January 2022, in America Magazine, a national weekly magazine published by the Jesuits of the United States.



# Don't mask your gaze!

## Kanohi ki te kanohi

James B Lyons

'We exist through the gaze others give us.'

This comment by English Dominican priest, Timothy Radcliffe, summed up his experience in hospital last year following major surgery.

Anchored by tubes and constantly monitored, he was powerless to help himself – 'I couldn't even wipe my bottom!' – but he was given marvellous care.

He knew the quality of this care through the gentleness and respect of the nursing staff. But it was especially the look they gave him that told him he mattered, that they were there for him.

'We exist through the gaze others give us,' the well-known writer and scholar concluded.

I find this expression particularly relevant in this Covid-Omicron age, when mask-wearing is considered the norm, and in many cases compulsory.

Inter-personal relationships are best nurtured 'face to face' – *kanohi ki te kanohi*. Facial expressions are crucial indicators of both mood and need.

A mask limits the ability to message accurately. In fact, pretence is often described as 'masking' one's true intentions.

Just as the pandemic is reminding us how connected we are to one another and calling us to respect our home, Earth, more than ever, perhaps it is also inviting us to check on how we look at one another.

Masked against infection, our eyes come to play their role with greater urgency. Maybe we haven't realised just how much our eyes convey. Poetically they are described as 'the windows of the soul', not only helping us to see and to take in sights, but also to give and convey how we feel.

What do my eyes tell others about themselves?

Do they feel they exist through my gaze?

The expression, *If looks could kill...*, says a lot about the power that is contained in a 'look'. That's on the negative side, but consider the look that encourages, warms the heart, shows understanding and empathy. This is surely the look of love. This is the gaze to be cultivated above all.

It is only the 'look of love' that tells people they matter, that makes room for them, that binds their wounds and heals.

Our Judeo-Christian scriptures open with the beginning of life and we learn that, when the creation of each 'day' was finished, God looked (gazed) on what was made and found it very good. [Genesis 1]

It is the 'goodness' God sees that must be conveyed to every person for life to flourish. God's gaze held the look of love. Our eyes must do the same.

Thank you, Timothy Radcliffe, for spelling it out for us: We exist through the gaze others give us.

Let the eyes have it!!



Image: Public Domain

GOSPEL READING: SUNDAY 6 MARCH 2022  
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**Verse Before the Gospel**  
**Mt 4:4b**  
*'One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'*

**Luke 4:1-13**  
*'Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.'*

*Jesus answered him, 'It is written, One does not live on bread alone.'*

*Then the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, 'I shall give to you all this power*

*and glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me.'*

*Jesus said to him in reply, 'It is written You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve.'*

*Then he led him to Jerusalem, made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written: He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you, and: With their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'*

*Jesus said to him in reply, 'It also says, You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'*

*When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time.*

## Power play

### A Lenten reflection on Luke 4:1-13

Dr Elizabeth Julian rsm

And so begins our 40-day preparation period for the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter, the highpoint of our liturgical year. How quickly Lent has come around!

The gospel for the first Sunday of Lent indicates that Lent is a period of testing. It tells us Jesus experienced the same temptations as we do: to abuse our relationship with the natural world, with people and with God. Luke places the temptation account immediately after the accounts of Jesus' baptism and genealogy where Jesus is assured that he is God's son and just before the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit and led by that same Spirit into the desert where the devil tests his loyalty to and trust in a loving God. Twice the devil says, 'If you are the

Son of God...'. He wants Jesus to:

1. abuse his power and turn a stone into bread. Pope Francis reminds us everything gives glory to God by being just what it was created to be;
2. worship the devil in return for power over the whole world and everything in it – abuse his relationship with people and with creation;
3. jump from the Temple – abuse his relationship with God by demanding a saving intervention.

We all experience temptations in a variety of ways. But little practices of self-discipline, for example, refraining from/refusing/reducing screen time, chocolate, coffee or alcohol intake or other favourite comfort food, and so on, help to build up our resistance to bigger temptations whatever they may be. For example, to exploit employers/

employees, put profit above all else, engage in dishonest or harmful environmental/business/work/family practices. Or, we may be tempted to abuse the power that comes with our particular role, etc.

Importantly, over time, saying 'no' can become a habit, but of course, our motivation and strength to do so comes from God. It's only through God's grace that we can say, 'no'. It's nothing we can do by ourselves.

Interestingly, although Luke depicts angels at Jesus' birth and at his agony in the garden, he does not include the ministering angels of Matthew's and Mark's temptation accounts. Instead, he tells us that the devil departs for a time – he will return three times in the passion narrative in Chapter 22. Luke ends his account in the Temple where he begins and ends his gospel. What does this suggest for you this Lent?



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# Cathedral Corner: Going live with online, fundraising art auction



**8am Saturday 19 March-7pm Saturday 26 March**  
*Metropolitan Cathedral of Sacred Heart invites your support*

**Debbie Matheson**  
**Parish Leader/  
Lay Pastoral Leader**

Thanks to the generous support of artists in Wellington and beyond, over 100 works of art can be purchased on an online art auction later this month.

The auction will help to raise funds for the earthquake strengthening and restoration work for the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Wellington.

Originally planned as part of a fundraising dinner, Covid-19 alert level changes meant we’ve moved our auction online. We’re excited as the auction artworks and other items for auction are now available to people beyond Wellington.

Starting at 8am, Saturday 19 March, the auction will be open for bids through to 7pm, Saturday 26 March. Online auctions accept bids during the entire period they are open – that is, all 8 days of our auction. The highest bid for an item at 7pm on 26 March wins the item.

A catalogue will be available online throughout the auction at [galabid.com/art4icon](http://galabid.com/art4icon)

Among the works on offer is the prized painting ‘Wellington Summer’ by Fr David Orange.

As featured in last month’s WelCom two remarkable gifts have also been offered for the auction in support of the Cathedral’s restoration. A painting by New Zealand artist Ralph Hotere is one of his *Window in Spain series* (1978). Donated by former parishioners, the painting shares top billing with a set of Suzanne Aubert’s ‘Herbal Remedies’, gifted for the fund-raising event by the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion.

A collection of non-art items donated by businesses and the community will also be available, so there is something for everyone.

Please support this Cathedral restoration fundraising event by visiting the auction online at: [galabid.com/art4icon](http://galabid.com/art4icon) and invite your friends and families to get involved.



*Wellington Summer, painting by Fr David Orange.*

## Save the dates

- When: **8am, Saturday, 19 March – 7pm, Saturday, 26 March**
- Where: [galabid.com/art4icon](http://galabid.com/art4icon)

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to our fundraising, please email [msh.march22art@gmail.com](mailto:msh.march22art@gmail.com) or contact the parish office at email [cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz) or phone +64 4 496-1700.

» *The challenges of a major restoration, p 5.*

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To Be For Others  
As God is For Us.

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Speaks our world into being  
Now one of us  
The speaker now the spoken  
Dies with us  
Blows our death apart  
From the inside  
Solidarity, no substitute!  
That this Risen Fruit might carry us  
All of us  
Today  
Into the Age to Come  
Into the Heart  
Of the God who is Love.

– Phil McCarthy

*Phil McCarthy is chairman of Challenge 2000 and is currently completing a Diploma in Theology.*

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**DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS OUR USUAL LISTED EVENTS ARE EITHER CANCELLED OR POSTPONED**

# Synod on Synodality



## Archdiocese of Wellington Church Mission Team

Archbishop of Wellington, Cardinal John Dew says, 'I want you to be involved in this Synod process. Your baptism calls you and entitles you to be involved.'

The Synod process invites each of us to read, reflect and respond to questions about the Church's direction and to experience the process of discerning as a group.

## Diocesan phase

We are currently in the 'diocesan phase'. This encourages groups of six to eight people to meet online or in person to prepare responses to the Synod questions. This phase will continue for the archdioceses over

the next two months, and responses will be collected by **30 April 2022**. Everyone in the archdiocese is encouraged to submit a response. If you have not yet done so, please take part in this process over the next few weeks.

## Upcoming events

- The Samoan Chaplaincy held a community gathering at Ss Peter and Paul, Lower Hutt in February and will hold another workshop 12pm–3pm, Sunday 6 March, St Anne's Hall, Newtown.
- St Francis of Assisi has a community meeting for potential Synod facilitators, 7pm–9pm, Tuesday 1 March, Ss Peter and Paul Church, Johnsonville.
- Synod Youth Day, Sunday 13 March, Mercy Centre, Wellington. Please contact Louise at [youth@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:youth@wn.catholic.org.nz) to join in.
- Catholic teachers plan to meet from 4.30pm, 15, 16 and 17 March either by Zoom or at venues to be confirmed.
- The Church Mission Team is arranging a Zoom option for those unable to join a local group, 11–12pm, Monday

21 March, 2pm–3pm, Tuesday  
22 March, and 7pm–8pm, Wednesday 23 March. Please email [l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz) or [c.walkerline@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:c.walkerline@wn.catholic.org.nz) to register.

## Student involvement

Synod materials, being sent to all Catholic schools this month, are designed for students to engage with the Synod questions in a fun and creative way, in classrooms and at home. An online submission tool has been created to receive students' submissions by **30 April**. These will be considered as part of the archdiocesan response.

Visit [www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/archdiocesan-synod/synodinschools2022/](http://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/archdiocesan-synod/synodinschools2022/)

## Get involved

If you have questions about how you and your community can get involved, or for resources, the Synod Team are here to help. Contact Chris or Lucienne at [l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz) or [c.walkerline@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:c.walkerline@wn.catholic.org.nz) or ph (04) 496-1706 or (04) 496 1715.

Visit [wn.catholic.org.nz/about/archdiocesan-synod/](http://wn.catholic.org.nz/about/archdiocesan-synod/) for Synod resources.

## ONLINE EVENTS

### Thursday 10 March

Living *Laudato si'* in Lent 2022 seminar, 7.30pm–8.30pm.

**Presenters:** Estelle Henrys and Stuart Henrys. For details please email [l.beech@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:l.beech@wn.catholic.org.nz) or go to [wn.catholic.org.nz/about/commission-for-ecology/laudato-si-in-the-archdiocese/](http://wn.catholic.org.nz/about/commission-for-ecology/laudato-si-in-the-archdiocese/)

### 25-30 April 2022

International Ignatian Ecospiritual – global conference. 'Part of the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Conversion of Ignatius of Loyola' – Australian Jesuit Province, [www.iiec.org.au](http://www.iiec.org.au)

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### March calendar dates

- 2:** Ash Wednesday.
- 3:** UN World Wildlife Day.
- 4:** 1st Friday of Lent – Day of Prayer and Penance for Victims of Abuse.
- 6:** Te Rā of Ngā Tamariki – Children's Day.
- 8:** International Women's Day.
- 13:** Anniversary of election of Pope Francis.
- 15:** Victims of Mosque shootings, Christchurch remembered.
- 19:** Solemnity of St Joseph, husband of Mary.
- 22:** UN World Water Day.
- 25:** Solemnity of the Annunciation; Day of Prayer for Family Life.
- 25:** UN International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

# Synodal and spiritual journeying together

## Sr Catherine Jones, smsm

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held in January in the northern hemisphere, and here in the south during the octave between Ascension and Pentecost.

In January this year, Pope Francis noted the link between the theme: 'We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him' (Matt 2:2) and the synodal process. The Magi journeyed together, each one of them bearing their gift.

This is something we are doing in our synod reflection group in Waikanae on the Kāpiti Coast.

Our group at Bishop Snedden

Village has been blessed to be ecumenical from the beginning with the inclusion of a Methodist couple. We have walked together through the topics suggested in the archdiocesan synod participation booklet:

Journeying Companions in Hope; Listening; Speaking Out; Sharing Responsibility for Mission; Dialogue in Church and Society; With other Christian Denominations... and the journey continues.

We have tried to remain faithful to the synodal process with:

- prayer and silence before we share; then
- entering a second time into silence; and

- listening to the spirit speaking in the others.

This has been a gift, and we have experienced a deepening spiritual friendship as the weeks go by.

We are a living cell of Receptive Ecumenism as pioneered by Paul Murray at the University of Durham, and of Churches Together in England ([cte.org.uk](http://cte.org.uk)).

As we journey towards the unity for which Jesus prayed (John 17:21), we are confident the prayer of Jesus is more powerful than any obstacle we can put in its path.

This begins with small groups seeking where the Spirit is leading.

# Synod activities in Palmerston North Diocese

## Isabella McCafferty

UK priest and theologian, Prof Thomas O'Loughlin suggests a 'meeting point' at an airport can be a basic image we can use in exploring the concept of synodality. He explains this kind of meeting point assumes we are all coming from different places and directions – we have different needs, problems and insights but that we meet on common ground, as equals.

Synodality is about us meeting on common ground as equals. It's about being with one another, really listening to one another and, importantly, to the Holy Spirit. I believe if we can find ways to gather together, leave our own agendas behind and enter in openness to the ill-defined but unfolding reality of synodality right now, then we'll all be better for it. And our Church will be better for it.

On a practical level, during March 2022, that means engaging in the local phase of the synod underway around the world. Beyond that, I hope it means a renewed way of being Church together.

## Getting involved

- Updated resources for 2022 have been published for everyone to be involved in this process. They can be found at [pndiocese.org.nz/synod](http://pndiocese.org.nz/synod)
- Groups of people across the diocese are encouraged to gather locally in some way to take part, either physically or online.
- Resources have been developed for our Catholic schools to involve students, staff and whānau. We also hope to gather staff and student representatives for sessions online. Resources for schools can be found at [pndiocese.org.nz/synodinschools](http://pndiocese.org.nz/synodinschools)

- A series of activities related to the synod have been developed for the young and young at heart and are online at [pndiocese.org.nz/synodactivities](http://pndiocese.org.nz/synodactivities)
- Due to the current Red Traffic Light restrictions, we expect discernment groups to be hosted online towards the end of March 2022. Keep an eye on our website for up-to-date details [tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz/2022/02/synod/](http://tumanako.pndiocese.org.nz/2022/02/synod/)
- The pilgrimage of Te Ara a Maria is taking place around the diocese. Kory Wilson, Kaiwhakarite Māori Apostolate, will be accompanying this taonga and our hope is that synod korero will take place simultaneously.

In the Diocese of Palmerston North, submissions are open until **31 March 2022**, however growing as a synodal church has no end date!

# On the lookout for an angel

## Elizabeth Julian rsm

March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, the feast of Mary's saying 'yes' to God requires a response from us. Like Mary we are called to bring Christ to birth wherever we are. Really? Yes, really. So keep your eyes and ears out for an angel to tell you where and when. It could be as soon as you look up from reading these words, or when you're at work, doing the washing, cooking dinner, in the garden, out for walk, or in the supermarket. Don't worry, the angel will recognise you behind whatever mask you're wearing. Close your eyes, breathe deeply and take a moment to listen to the angel repeatedly reassuring you that you need not be afraid. Hear the angel

remind you God is with you and that nothing is impossible for God. Pause for a moment, say 'yes,' wait for the angel to go and then get on with your birthing experience. You may need to call a midwife.



**'Hear the angel remind you God is with you and that nothing is impossible for God.'**

Image: 'The Blue Angel', Marc Chagall, pastel on paper c. 1937

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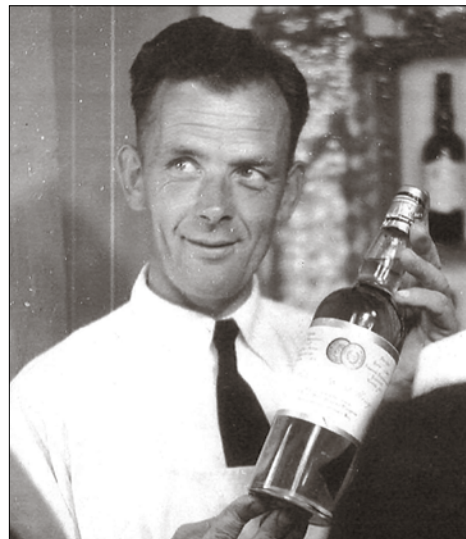
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# The quiet dignity of service

*Brother Stuart Cuttance, formerly known as Brother John, was a pioneering winemaker at Mission Wines, bringing French winemaking techniques to an unsophisticated local industry. Winemaking was however only one chapter in his rich and varied life of service as a Marist Religious.*



**Br Stuart (John) Cuttance sm, 1926–2021, Society of Mary brother who served as a winemaker, teacher and social worker.**

*By Michael Fitzsimons*

He was known as Brother John when I knew him around 50 years ago. He was the winemaker at the Mission, a quiet, hard-working man who I only ever saw in two uniforms – head down in prayer at the back of the chapel in his blue-bordered religious robe or making his way from the cellars in short-sleeved shirt, navy blue boiler suit and gumboots.

A man of few words, the greeting was always friendly and short: ‘Hello brother’.

When Stuart Cuttance died on the 24th of December last year, he was 95 years of age, the oldest living Marist at the time. He came from hardy stock – a pioneer family who settled in the Haast area in a very isolated south-western section of the West Coast. To this day a mountain, a creek, a ridge and two roads in the area bear the name ‘Cuttance’.

with the winemakers of Hawke’s Bay at the time.

‘But there was one exception – Fontanella – a champagne methode bottle-fermented wine. At the time most New Zealand sparkling wine was carbonated – CO2 forced into it at low temperatures as one would make soft drinks. John had learned a lot about methode champagne in France and worked with local engineers to develop the required equipment to make New Zealand’s first methode sparkling wine. It was first released in February 1963, sold for 21 shillings and sixpence a bottle. Orders were limited to two per customer.

‘When it came to Fontanella, he was loathe to share his knowledge. In his own words: ‘I had to work it out the hard way – others will just have to do the same.’

Br Matt remembers Br John as

littered with feathers, wool, hair and other unusual items that he used to create items designed to snare curious trout.’

When Br John left Greenmeadows in 1982, he was not to know he would have nearly 40 more years of fruitful and diverse ministry ahead of him.

From Greenmeadows, he went teaching at St Bede’s, sharing his passion for the outdoors with the boys. This was followed by a five-year stint at Chanel College in Samoa. He came back to New Zealand to Blenheim where he contributed to the Parish outreach. From there, he was appointed to Wellington and gained a SPELD certificate of competence and taught people with dyslexia, autism and other learning disabilities. He was then appointed to Wairoa for 17 years where he continued to help youth with learning difficulties and taught young people to drive so they could more easily gain employment.

His last chapter was back in Taradale where in his 90s he would visit the ‘shut-ins’ who were all younger than him.

‘He was a very humble, prayerful person and very regular with his religious life,’ recalls Br Matt. ‘He had great compassion for others – especially those less fortunate. Wine wasn’t the only passion in his life.’

Fr John Craddock sm had this to say in his eulogy at Br John’s funeral: ‘Holy Brother John of the Mission Vineyards,

*‘He was a very humble, prayerful person and very regular with his religious life’*

When Stuart was five, to escape the rain and the insistent sandflies and isolation, the Cuttance family moved to Southland. In time the family moved to Christchurch, where Stuart attended St Bede’s College. He showed aptitude for sciences and went to Pharmacy School in Wellington when he left college.

With his interest in chemistry, it was not a surprise that when he entered the Society of Mary in 1954, he was appointed to the Mission where he became an understudy in the cellars to Br Basil Newman-Watt. In time, a wonderful opportunity to learn French wine-making techniques arose when the Embassy of France offered him and Br Joseph Lamb scholarships to study Oenology and Viticulture in Bordeaux.

On his return from France, with his Tomes, or ‘The Bible’, 2700 pages of the most erudite treatise on winemaking at the time, (illustrated right) he took over the wine making at the Mission Winery.

Br John’s winemaking knowledge and expertise was exceptional for that time in New Zealand, says current Mission winemaker, Paul Mooney, his understudy for a number of years.

‘He brought back French winemaking textbooks and applied modern winemaking techniques to wine production. He was very innovative. He introduced traditional French techniques such as whole bunch pressing and barrel fermentation, also carbonic maceration and submerged cap red wine fermentation. He first started experiments in 1961 to make a bottle of fermented sparkling wine. The first wine was sold as Fontanella.

‘Both he and Br Joe worked with others in the local industry, sharing the knowledge they gained in France. He was held in great respect by winemakers of the day.’

Br Matt Morris, another understudy at Greenmeadows in the 70s, also recalls Br John’s generosity in sharing his expertise

‘a perfectionist who set very high standards. He was very thorough and could work amid chaos – sometimes created by himself! He was a hard worker and a very physically tough individual’



**The French Oenologists (wine specialists) called these Tomes ‘The Bible’.**

Photos: Courtesy of Mission Vineyards

Paul Mooney worked with Br John for three years from 1979 to 1982, before taking over as Mission winemaker. He was, says Paul, ‘an awesome man and mentor and friend’, and his French approach to winemaking has been carried on to the current day.

‘He oversaw the transition from a cottage industry through to a commercial venture. He was a pivotal man at a critical time for a wine company that has been in continuous operation under the same ownership for around 150 years.’

Fly-fishing was a passion of Br John’s and a favourite way of relaxing.

‘He tied all his own fishing flies,’ says Br Matt, ‘and his bedroom was always

we loved you in life, we thank you for your Catholic Christian witness to Brotherhood. We know of your faithful, daily commitment to Christ in prayer and action for seven decades, in the chapel and in the field, in community and in communication with your loving family.’

And in conclusion: ‘May Mary, who encouraged her son to turn water into wine, be there to offer you a glass of fine, rich wine at the Banquet of Heaven. *Moe mai, e Koro, Ki tou moenga roa ...* this day and forever and ever. Amen.’

Sources: Br Matt Morris sm, Fr John Craddock sm, Paul Mooney

*‘He was held in great respect by winemakers of the day.’*