

WelCom

NauMai

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‘Peace be with you’

Annette Scullion

Congratulations to Fr Alfred Tong who was ordained to the priesthood at St Joseph’s Church, Upper Hutt on Saturday, 24 September. Cardinal John Dew presided the Rite of Ordination and Mass.

Alfred’s family was among the hundreds of parishioners and friends gathered in support. Alfred’s parents Antony (Moon Chi Tong) and Willma (Wai Ming Chan), his sister Anita (Tong) and brother-in-law William (Lu) and nephews Jacob (Lu) and Ryan (Lu) all live in Upper Hutt or in Trentham/Heretaunga and are parishioners of St Joseph’s and Our Lady of the Valleys parishes.

Cardinal John said in his homily, ‘Alfred, never forget the words of today’s Psalm, The Lord is My Shepherd. “My head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.” Today your hands will be anointed for sacred ministry, live that anointing every day.’

Following the Prayer after Communion, Alfred spoke about his journey to the priesthood. Earlier in his life the multi-talented Alfred wanted to be a concert pianist, chess master and a famous scientist, but he struggled to find what he wanted to do with his life. After tertiary studies gaining several science qualifications, his quest led him to enter the seminary. There,

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Fr Alfred Tong beams with joy and happiness as he exchanges a sign of peace with Cardinal John Dew at his ordination Mass at St Joseph’s Church, Upper Hutt. With them is Deacon Joseph Long Nguyen.

Photo: Annette Scullion



Young Vinnies run a super-affordable canteen service at Sacred Heart College, Napier.

Photo: Supplied

Young Vinnies step up for canteen service

Michael Fitzsimons

When the school canteen lady retired, Sacred Heart College in Napier surveyed its options. The students asked for an online lunch delivery service but at more than \$10 a pop, it was an expensive option. The school principal turned to the Young Vinnies at the school and asked if they could help.

‘Oh yeah, what days can we have,’ said Vinnies Youth Coordinator for Hawke’s Bay, Paola Minehan. Paola is often around the school and always looking for ways to help out.

The Young Vinnies at the school took the opportunity and began running the canteen on a Monday and Tuesday. They split into two teams, each having one day a week. A free cereal breakfast is offered each day and lunch is available

from between \$2 and \$4.50. Just one lunch is offered each day, ranging from soup to nachos to mac cheese.

‘The work is frantic, with students lined up as soon as the bell goes waiting to purchase whatever is being sold that day,’ says Paola. ‘The most popular lunch sold so far has been nachos. Ninety-nine per cent of the time, the meals are sold out.’

‘Food is prepared by the Food Tech teacher Sarah Coram-O’Kane. We couldn’t run the project without her.’

Paola says the students come from different backgrounds and the need varies greatly.

‘It’s a mixed bag. There are some well-off families and some families for whom Monday is a hard day because there is nothing to eat in the cupboard. It’s a nice school, everyone helps out.’

The costs of running the canteen are

met in several ways. The food prep and the running of the canteen are done by volunteers, some food comes from Hawke’s Bay food rescue and the local Vinnies Conference and Area Council make a small donation to help buy ingredients each week.

Everyone benefits from the project, says Paola.

‘It gives everyone the chance to go to the canteen and buy lunch at a very reasonable cost. And it’s very interesting for the Young Vinnies too. They are learning customer service, cash and food-handling skills. And if someone is in need, we just give them the lunch. Young Vinnies make those judgement calls.’

As well as the canteen outreach, some families are provided with food parcels as well through Vinnies, says Paola.

From the editor

Annette Scullion

It is almost one month since Buckingham Place announced to the world that HM Queen Elizabeth II had died at Balmoral, on 8 September. Numerous tributes followed with many recognising the service, duty and faith values the Queen lived by during her commitment to her reign as the UK's and the Commonwealth's longest serving monarch for 70 years. The New Zealand Catholic bishops' tributes to her strength of faith and her servant leadership in Christ are on pp 2 and 3.

Last month, more than 60 Catholic media and communications professionals gathered for the Australasian Catholic Press Association's (ACPA) annual three-day conference. It culminated in Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral with Melbourne Archbishop Peter Comensoli on September 8 followed by an awards dinner at Melbourne's Sheraton Hotel.

The awards, which are held annually, recognise excellence in Catholic magazines, newspapers and digital publications across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

This year was the first conference gathering for ACPA since 2019, following two years of cancellations caused by Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

The 2022 conference theme focused on the words of Pope Francis from his 2021 World Day of Communications message, 'Witnesses of the Truth, to go, to see, to share'.

WelCom was delighted to receive two ACPA awards this year, which are an encouraging recognition of our content, design and direction.

WelCom received the highly commended award for Best Editorial, Column or Blog; and the highly commended award for Best Advertising Feature/Supplement.

The other award-winning Catholic publications from New Zealand were *NZ Catholic*, winner for Best Editorial, Column or Blog; and winner for Best Advertising Feature/Supplement.

Tui Motu, highly commended for best print publication. *Marist Messenger*, highly commended for Best Headline. *Kete Korero* (Hamilton), highly commended for Best Content – Education; highly commended for Best Original artwork; and winner for Most Improved Publication.

Congratulations to these and the other ACPA award recipients and to all our Catholic media colleagues in New Zealand, Australia and the South Pacific who are dedicated and committed to communicating Catholic teachings and the good news of Catholic faith in our part of the world.

Remembering the late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

On 8 September 2022, Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms, and the oldest living and longest-reigning British monarch, died at the age of 96 at Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

The Queen came to the throne in 1952 and witnessed enormous social change. She was succeeded by her eldest child, Charles III. King Charles III said the death of his beloved mother was a 'moment of great sadness' for him and his family and that her loss would be 'deeply felt' around the world.

The Queen lay in state in Westminster Hall from 14 to 19 September, during which time an estimated 250,000 people queued to pay their respects. A state funeral service was held at Westminster Abbey on 19 September, followed by a committal service at St George's Chapel a Windsor Castle. The Queen was interred in the King George VI Memorial Chapel at St George's.

In New Zealand a state memorial service was held to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on Monday 26 September at St Paul's Cathedral in Wellington, as well as a one-off national public holiday.

The following message is from Cardinal John Dew's tribute to Queen Elizabeth, given as a homily at the Chism Mass for the archdiocese on 14 September at St Teresa's Pro Cathedral, Karori. It concludes with Cardinal John's observations as part of the state memorial service.

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

We have heard so much in recent days – and will hear even more – about the life of Queen Elizabeth II. From the time her death was announced a great deal has been said about her life of service and devotion to duty, the fact that as a 21-year-old she said her whole life, long or short, would be devoted to serving her people.

People have spoken about her fortitude and her courage. We have heard about her gruelling travel and work schedule and that she never refused to carry out a duty expected of her. Of all that has been said, two things stand out for me, her constant sense of duty and her devotion to God.

In 2016 Bible Society UK published a wonderful book entitled *The Servant Queen and the King she Serves* as a tribute for Her Majesty's 90th birthday. It was made available in this country by New Zealand Bible Society. I was given a copy at the time and remember thinking, 'one day the Queen will die, I will probably have to say something about her, this book will be very helpful.' It has indeed been very helpful in understanding this extraordinary woman.

Queen Elizabeth knew well that Jesus Christ was the Ruler of the Kings and Queens of the earth. She was Queen of Great Britain, of New Zealand and other countries, but she also knew that she was the Servant Queen and she served Christ the King.

I'm sure over all those decades of

her reign the question has been asked about what the secret was for her remarkable consistency of character and her extraordinary contribution to Britain, the Commonwealth, and the global community. She answered the question herself when she once said: 'I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God...I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel.'

We can draw inspiration from those words...to see each day as a new beginning, to know that the only way to live is to try to do what is right, to give our best in all that the day brings and to put our trust in God.

"Of all that has been said about Queen Elizabeth, two things stand out for me, her constant sense of duty and her devotion to God."

Her Majesty's life was not about herself. There is no doubt her trust in Jesus shaped her life and work, and her often quoted words from Scripture give us an insight to a life lived for others. She often spoke of the parable of the Good Samaritan, and once said: 'The story of the Good Samaritan reminds us of our duty to our neighbour. We should try to follow Christ's clear instruction at the end of that story – go and do the same yourself.'

I am sure Queen Elizabeth renewed her commitment to a life of service and dedication to duty over and over again, in many different

circumstances, always anchoring it in Christ. It is the same for all of us; we all have commitments, many lifelong to marriage, priesthood, family, religious life, which require that daily conversion of heart which is part of our lives as followers of Jesus.

In another of her Christmas messages, Queen Elizabeth said: 'Many will have been inspired by Jesus' simple but powerful teaching: love God and love your neighbour as yourself – in other words, treat others as you would like them to treat you. His great emphasis was to give spirituality a practical purpose. His simple message of love has been turning the world upside down ever since. He showed that what people are and what they do, does matter and does make a difference.'

Our anointing in Baptism and Confirmation filled us with the power of the Spirit of Jesus. The Spirit gives spirituality a practical purpose in our lives, enabling us through our love and service to turn the world upside down, knowing that our gospel-centred lives do make a difference whatever our age or state of life.

On Monday 26 September, it was my privilege to be part of the state memorial service for Queen Elizabeth at St Paul's Cathedral. I found being involved in this that the overwhelming sentiment was gratitude for the Queen's long-life of service in her just over 70 years. Many also spoke of her sense of duty and of how that flowed from her faith and the conviction that she was called by God to serve her people. There is no doubt she was greatly admired and that people are so grateful for her life of service to Great Britain, the Commonwealth and especially for us, to New Zealand.

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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

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As part of the global Catholic Church, WelCom sources a range of news, articles and opinions from local, national and international sources. Views and opinions published are those of the author and don't necessarily reflect the policy or position of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Servant Queen and the King she serves

WITH A FOREWORD BY
Her Majesty
QUEEN ELIZABETH II

A tribute for Her Majesty's 90th birthday

A beautifully illustrated book titled *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves*, published in 2016 as a tribute for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday, explores the extent of Queen Elizabeth II's Christian faith. It was published by Bible Society UK (for whom the Queen was Patron), HOPE and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. The Queen had personally written the foreword in which she said, 'I am touched that Bible Society, HOPE and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity have published this book to celebrate my 90th birthday. In my first Christmas broadcast in 1952, I asked the people of the Commonwealth and Empire to pray for me as I prepared to dedicate myself to their service at my Coronation. I have been – and remain – very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for his steadfast love. I have indeed seen his faithfulness.'

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he said, ‘Jesus gave me the nourishment I needed. I realised I too can share the joy of finding Jesus at the well, just like the Samaritan woman. I too can leave my water jar of wants at the well and be courageous enough to go out into the deep.’

Alfred thanked his family for their prayers and sacrifices to allow him to journey on his vocation; the parishes that have nourished him – Our Lady of the Valleys, Our Lady of the Bays, Catholic Parish of Otari, Holy Trinity Parish and St Joseph’s Upper Hutt; and St Pat’s Silverstream and St Joseph’s School Upper Hutt ‘for planting the seed about Jesus.’

Fr Alfred concluded with a dedication to ‘Mary our Mother’ as he beautifully sang *Ka Waiata ki a Maria*.

Supporting Cardinal John were Deacons Suu Nguyen and Joseph Long van Nguyen both recently ordained of Dunedin diocese, Fr Patrick Bridgman, parish priest of Te Awakairangi, archdiocesan priests; and seminarians for the archdiocese Matthew White, Kinh Nguyen, Emilio Capin and Gerson Badoyos as altar servers. Sacred Heart Cathedral music groups directed by Sr Marie Gore rsm led the music, with cantor Bernadette Takacs of Holy Trinity Parish, Wellington.

Fr Alfred has been appointed assistant priest at Te Awakairangi Parish of Lower Hutt City and suburbs.



Fr Alfred Tong with his parents Antony (Moon Chi Tong) and Willma (Wai Ming Chan) at his ordination to the priesthood, St Joseph’s Church, Upper Hutt.

Photos: Annette Scullion

HM Queen Elizabeth II, a woman of faith

Following the announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022 the New Zealand Catholic bishops issued this tribute.

‘Kua riro te kōtuku rerengatahi ki te pō. E te Kuini o Ingarangi, te ūpoko o te Hāhi Mihingare, pononga a te Atua, haere, e hoki ki to tātou Ariki. The white heron takes flight into the night. Queen Elizabeth, head of the Anglican Church, servant of God, farewell, return to our Lord.

All Catholics in Aotearoa New Zealand will today be mourning Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a remarkable woman who was our official Head of State through seven remarkable decades. She had grace, warmth and commitment in equal measure.

As Pope Francis noted in paying tribute, the Queen led a life of unstinting service, always

showing devotion to duty and a steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and a firm hope in his promises.

When Her Majesty’s reign began in 1952, New Zealand was virtually a monocultural nation which looked to Britain as ‘home’ and where most Māori, though admired, lived on the edges of Pakeha society. On her very first Royal Tour, in 1953, Māori leaders had to struggle to get Waitangi and Tūrangawaewae Marae at Ngāruawāhia, the home of Kingitanga, added to her itinerary.

The Treaty of Waitangi then was regarded as irrelevant. Today it is central to political and public discourse, and the Māori renaissance which began in the 1970s has created extraordinary changes – welcomed by the Queen – in what has now become

one of the most multicultural societies in the world. In 1995, during one of her ten official visits to Aotearoa New Zealand, Her Majesty personally signed the Royal Assent to the historic Waikato-Tainui Treaty Settlement bill passed by Parliament that year.

Most people in Aotearoa New Zealand today have known no other monarch than Queen Elizabeth II. She has been a constant in our country’s remarkable progress. Hers has been an Elizabethan Age the like of which we may never see again.

E te Ariki, hoatu ki ā ia te okiokinga tonutanga. Ā, kia whiti ki ā ia te māramatanga mutunga kore. Kia okioki i runga i te rangimārie. Āmene. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.’

Support Life Sunday

Bishop of Auckland Steve Lowe and Vice President and Secretary of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference says it is estimated 50 to 80 per cent of New Zealanders will experience some form of mental distress, addiction challenges or both in their lifetimes. ‘Mental illness is a major issue which touches every family in some way. And yet we don’t talk about it nearly enough,’ he says. The New Zealand Catholic bishops are urging everyone to reflect on mental illness

and its consequences for individuals, families and communities as they prepare to mark Support Life Sunday 2022 on 9 October.

A statement from Bishop Steve about Support Life Sunday 2022 is on p 19 and online at: catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/sls2022/

The parish and school resources for Support Life Sunday 2022 are online at: catholic.org.nz/resources/sls2022/

Hato Pāora College 75th jubilee



Principal Nathan Matthews is a former student of Hato Pāora College. Photo: Supplied

Hato Pāora College, a Catholic Māori boarding school for boys in Feilding, will be celebrating its 75th Jubilee over Labour Weekend. It’s a milestone for the kura because it’s one of only three Māori boarding schools left in Aotearoa.

Tumuaki (principal) Nathan Matthews, who attended Hato Pāora as a student in the nineties, says Māori boarding schools have played an important role in Aotearoa in the development of Māori society and leadership, particularly through the 20th century.

encourage achievement and success.

As times have changed and no priests remain, the school has worked to keep the special character alive through whānau links. Some staff are former students and some students are the third generation of their family to attend the college.

Matthews is one of the former pupils who benefited from the school’s teachings and returned as principal in 2018.

‘A highlight for me was regularly being exposed to te reo and tikanga Māori, formally and informally. Above all else, was the camaraderie amongst the students and the development of lifelong friendships. We didn’t have all the flashiest facilities or resources but we made the most of every situation,’ Matthews says.

‘Māori boarding schools haven’t fared so well in recent times. So this is to celebrate the impact Hato Pāora has had in its 75 years, and of us being an ongoing kura as an option for our communities. We’ve had judges, we’ve had one sir, and they and other leaders have really given back to the community,’ he says.

Some well-known old boys include kapa haka composer Morvin Simon, the first Māori Catholic bishop, Max Mariu, professional rugby players Shannon Paku and Otere Black, Black Sox softballer Brad Rona, judge Damian Stone, and astronomer Rangi Mātāmua.

Located on farmlands in Cheltenham near Feilding, Hato Pāora College was founded in 1948 by the Catholic branch of the Society of Mary under the leadership of Marist priest, Fr Issac Gupwell. The vision was to create an environment for boys to grow into young men with strong te reo and tikanga Māori, to promote Catholic and Māori values, to provide a solid education and to

The Labour Weekend events include a formal banquet dinner, a karaoke night, an archive exhibition, a history book launch and a special Mass to be celebrated by Cardinal John Dew.

Nathan Matthews says there is very strong interest to the Jubilee, particularly from the old boys of the early years of the kura of the 1950s and 60s. ‘We’re looking forward to it as a kura, especially as other Māori schools have closed in the last 25 years. And it will be an important opportunity to explore the future of the kura.’

The 75th Jubilee celebrations are from 21–24 October 2022. Registrations are open right up to the event at: www.tinyurl.com/2t4dcsau or email jubilee@hatopaora.school.nz



St Patrick’s College Wellington

New Zealand’s oldest Catholic boys’ college

The College is excited to announce our new O’Shea Performing Arts Centre was blessed and officially opened by Rev. Fr. Tim Duckworth, Provincial of the Society of Mary on 22 September 2022. It is named after Archbishop Thomas O’Shea who was a foundation student of St Patrick’s College, who became an ordained Marist and later to become the Archbishop of Wellington. We offer our grateful thanks to the Society of Mary for their enduring support of St Patrick’s College.

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Catholic bishops lift Covid-19 restrictions, urge all to return to Mass

New Zealand’s Catholic bishops have lifted all remaining pandemic restrictions on attending Mass and urged all the faithful to return to Sunday Mass. This follows the Government removing most Covid-19 requirements along with the ‘traffic light’ system last month.

The bishops imposed various health and safety measures to fight Covid-19 when national restrictions began in March 2020. Their measures included a dispensation on the obligation for Catholics to attend Mass on Sundays.

‘With the recent lifting of all Covid-19 restrictions we are happy to extend an enthusiastic invitation for all Catholics of Aotearoa New Zealand to return to full and active participation in Sunday Mass,’ the bishops said in a letter sent to dioceses and parishes on 15 September.

‘In the wake of the removal of wider government Covid-19 restrictions, all restrictions regarding the Mass are lifted.’

While many have already begun returning to Mass, this time of lifting restrictions provides an unprecedented opportunity for others who may have been away from Mass for many years or decades to return, the bishops added.

They said that it is ultimately for parish communities to decide what changes they wish to make, keeping to the fore the concern for those who are most vulnerable.

‘It is important to remember... the lifting of all Covid-19 restrictions does not remove the risk of transmission of infections from Covid-19 or other viruses. We therefore ask every community and each community member to

be prudent in retaining particular restrictions as deemed necessary in the interests of continuing to protect the most vulnerable.’

The bishops say everyone has lived through difficult times since March 2020, including serious illness and months of restrictions prompted by concern for the weak and the most vulnerable.

‘Throughout this time our personal relationship with Jesus Christ has sustained us and we have continued to pray together in innovative and creative ways including social media resources. However, we have longed for the time when we could once again worship together. In recent months this has been possible to an increasing degree and with the lifting of all restrictions we welcome all Catholics of Aotearoa to return to weekly Sunday Mass.’



Parishioners worshipping at Sunday Mass, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North. Photo: David Lupton

New Rangitira welcomed



A mihi whakatau was held for Robert Blucher on 2 September at St Columba Centre in Ponsonby, home to Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College. Robert was recently appointed as the new CEO for Te Kupenga Catholic Leadership Institute. He was previously Northern Regional Manager of Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu – the former Correspondence School. Robert was accompanied by members of his whānau, and friends and colleagues from Te Kura, who handed him over to his new colleagues. After welcoming words including from kaumātua, Archbishop Paul Marton, John Kleinsman the recently-acting Te Kupenga CEO, and Dr Kevin Shore CEO NZ Catholic Education Office, Robert replied saying he was looking forward to working with everyone as their new Rangitira.

Photo: WelCom

Fr Giosuè Busti appointed deputy head of Apostolic Nunciature



The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference have welcomed Fr Giosuè Busti from Perugia, Umbria in Italy, on his arrival in Aotearoa New Zealand to take up his appointment as First Secretary-Deputy Head of Mission at the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See in Wellington.

The Apostolic Nunciature is the diplomatic office of the Vatican in New Zealand, equivalent to an embassy.

Fr Busti was born in Assisi, Umbria, in central Italy, noted as being the birthplace of St Francis of Assisi (1181–1266), founder of the Franciscan order.

He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Perugia-Città della Pieve in Umbria in June 2019. His qualifications include a PhD in Canon Law from Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, a Master’s in Political Science from the University of Perugia and a Bachelor of Theology from Assisi Theological Institute.

Fr Busti arrived in New Zealand in late August and replaces Monsignor José Martínez Franco, whose term finished in January this year.

Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, appointed to Wellington in 2019, is the Apostolic Nuncio – the Pope’s chief diplomatic representative in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Photo: Supplied

All rangatahi welcome and supported in new diversity guidelines for Catholic schools



The Catholic bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand have published new guidelines for the country’s 235 Catholic schools to support young people about sexual diversity.

The guidelines make it clear all young people in Catholic schools – including vulnerable rangatahi – are to be welcomed, supported and encouraged as they navigate their journey from childhood to adult and discover more who they are.

The guidelines, *Aroha and Diversity in Catholic Schools*, have been drafted by the Church’s National Centre for Religious Studies after comprehensive dialogue between the bishops, principals, national and diocesan Catholic education leaders and young people.

Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe, Secretary and Vice President of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, says the bishops are well aware of the need to support school leadership and rangatahi in navigating the complex reality of sexual diversity.

‘Young people today do not live in a bubble. They are aware, and inform themselves of the range of social, scientific, ideological and religious stances regarding this issue, and there is a lot of pressure and rhetoric about this issue. This challenges and can pressurise young people, their whānau, and schools and wider communities,’ says Bishop Lowe.

Bishop Lowe says the guidelines clearly articulate the rich teaching of the Catholic Church and provide practical information and tools to help schools make informed decisions about the support of rangatahi who are grappling with issues around sexual diversity in the complexities of our modern world.

‘All of us are made in the image of God, and called into authentic relationship with God, ourselves, each other and our world. Such relationships are never static, and our young people must navigate their own challenging and sacred journey from childhood to adulthood.

‘Our identities as adults take time to form, and vulnerable young people should not feel pushed or coerced to make decisions about themselves too soon. In the midst of their journey, the rangatahi in our schools deserve to be welcomed with aroha [love] and manaakitanga [respect, hospitality and care for others], and be encouraged to discover the beauty and wonder of themselves in a way that reflects Jesus’ words and actions of love, compassion and challenge.’

Approximately 66,000 students attend the 235 state-integrated Catholic schools in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Aroha and Diversity document is on the bishops’ website: catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/diversity/

» Australia’s bishops’ guide for schools on identity and gender, p 6.

Retreat

26th and 27th November

at the Home of Compassion,
Island Bay, Wellington,
with John O’Connor and Joy Cowley.

Day One: The way. The Truth. The Life.
Day Two: The gift of discernment.

One day: \$60. Two days \$80.
Bring writing materials.

(Proceeds to go to the H.O.C.)
Register: info@ignatianspirituality.nz

Catholics urged to support hospices and palliative care by direct action

Catholics are being urged to support the under-funded hospice and palliative care services by donating, volunteering in hospice shops and asking their members of Parliament and the Government to make palliative care a priority.

In a statement from the New Zealand Catholic bishops last month, Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe, Secretary of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, says hospices provide a free service to 20,000 palliative care patients and their whānau each year, but have to fundraise almost half the \$176 million cost.

‘The Government is providing just \$88 million, meaning hospices are having to raise the other \$87 million through fundraising events and sales from hospice shops and the like, which have been affected by the various pandemic responses,’ Bishop Lowe said.

‘When the public was asked at the 2020 election to support the euthanasia legislation – dubbed the End of Life Choice law – they were led to believe palliative care would be a priority choice. Instead, hospice funding has been virtually capped at a time of high inflation, and it was recently revealed that the Ministry of Health has at least seven staff devoted to supporting euthanasia, but none devoted to palliative care.

“The New Zealand bishops urge Catholics to support the under-funded hospice and palliative care services by donating, volunteering in hospice shops and asking their members of Parliament and the Government to make palliative care a priority.”

‘As bishops we regularly hear from parishioners worried about the survival of palliative care services. A letter we received recently highlighted how we have an inequity of government support between the thankfully small number of those who choose to end their life by euthanasia and those who would like to die in God’s time

with palliative care.

The letter said: ‘As a country we should be expanding palliative care, not cutting back because we can’t pay for it. As individuals we have little voice, but as a community, we could make a difference.’

Bishop Lowe says the bishops wholeheartedly support that message. ‘We need as the Catholic community to be vocal and practical in our support for palliative care and hospice facilities. We should be supporting hospices as much as we can through donations, volunteering in hospice shops and shopping in them when possible. Parishioners should consider contacting their local members of Parliament to state support for the hospice movement and palliative care.

‘Palliative care helps many people with life-ending conditions including multiple sclerosis, lung failure, cancer, motor neurone disease and dementia. We need to remember and emphasise that palliative care is not just undertaken in hospices, but in people’s homes. It also helps families and whānau before and after their loved ones die. It is an essential service which should be supported as such.’



Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe, Secretary of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops conference. Photo: NZCBC

Photojournalism images raise \$200,000 at hospice charity auction



The ceremonial blast made through the Manapouri Power Station’s tailrace in 1968. Photo: Barry Durrant



Former New Zealand Herald picture editor Rob Tucker said the amount raised exceeded his expectation. Photo: Andy Jackson

Organisers of a charity auction celebrating the country’s finest photojournalism say the event, on 24 September, exceeded expectations.

The Photojournalism New Zealand Charity Auction put more than 100 photographs up for sale, with proceeds intended for the Taranaki Hospice.

The auction was the brainchild of NZ Herald illustrations editor Rob Tucker, who has terminal cancer.

Interest had been building in the auction with major corporates and representatives of the Kiingitanga making approaches to bid on many iconic moments captured in the history of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The auction raised about \$200,000 with the biggest seller being a 2006 photo of surfers Wharehoka and TK Wano, which sold for more than \$10,000.

Tucker said the event’s runaway success showed that the cause resonated with people and

underlined the importance of palliative care.

‘And most families if they look back in their history, had something to do care with palliative care in hospices around New Zealand and they want to say thank you in some way. This is the perfect way for them to say thank you,’ he said.

Tucker said the amount raised was about four times what he expected.

Source: RNZ

Faith-based institutions response hearing: abuse in care

The responses of faith institutions to abuse and neglect of thousands of children, young people and vulnerable adults in their care will be examined by the Royal Commission of Inquiry during a final public hearing, from 13 to 20 October.

The Royal Commission will hear from leaders of 10 faith organisations and will question them about their failures to provide adequate care and respond to allegations of abuse and neglect. Multiple witnesses from each faith organisation will be called to give evidence, allowing the Royal Commission to hear senior leadership perspectives. It is the second Royal Commission Institutional Response hearing, the first being an examination of State agencies during August.

Over recent months the Royal Commission has written to Crown agencies and faith institutions asking for written responses to questions regarding abuse and neglect under their care.

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Catholic leaders pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II



Britain’s Prince Philip offers a gift to Pope Francis during a meeting with Queen Elizabeth II at the Vatican April 3, 2014.

Photo: Maria Grazia Picciarella/CNS

Catholic leaders have paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II following her death on September 8 and the end of a reign that lasted more than 70 years.

Pope Francis sent a telegram addressed To His Majesty the King, Charles III which read: ‘I willingly join all who mourn her loss in praying for the late Queen’s eternal rest and in paying tribute to her life of unstinting service to the good of the nation and the Commonwealth, her example of devotion to duty, her steadfast witness of faith in Jesus Christ and her firm hope in his promises.’

Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, president of the

Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, paid tribute using many of the Queen’s own words.

‘On 21 April 1947, on her 21st birthday, Princess Elizabeth said, “I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service,” Cardinal Nichols said. ‘Now, 75 years later, we are heartbroken in our loss at her death and so full of admiration for the unfailing way in which she fulfilled that declaration.

‘Even in my sorrow, shared with so many around the world, I am filled with an immense sense of gratitude for the gift to the world that has been the life of Queen

Elizabeth II,’ he said. ‘At this time, we pray for the repose of the soul of Her Majesty. We do so with confidence, because the Christian faith marked every day of her life and activity.’

Bishop Hugh Gilbert, president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Scotland, praised Queen Elizabeth for her life of ‘outstanding and dedicated public service.’

During her reign, Queen Elizabeth met with four popes — Francis, Benedict, John Paul II and John XXIII, and as princess she met Pope Pius XII.

Source: Catholic News UK

Australia’s bishops issue guide on gender, identity

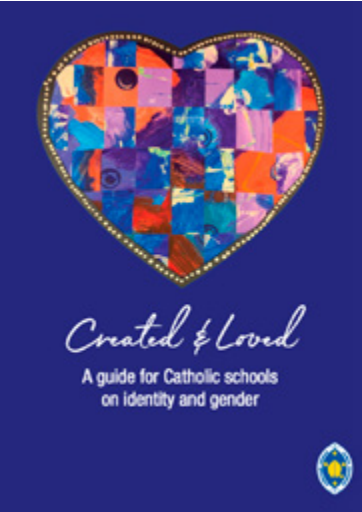
Australia’s Catholic bishops have come out strongly against the medically and ethically controversial gender affirmative model of treatment for gender dysphoria which often involves the use of puberty blockers followed by cross sex hormones, and in some cases gender reassignment surgery.

In *Created and Loved: A guide for Catholic schools on gender and identity*, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference outlined a pastoral approach to support schools as they navigate their theological, medical and legislative contexts and the individual needs of students who experience gender dysphoria.

Social changes in definition and language around sex and gender identity and the view that a sex is assigned by others at birth or a matter of individual self-belief are in conflict with the Catholic understanding of creation, but Catholic schools are called to remain faithful to Christian anthropology in their educational programmes and care of individuals, they said.

They pointed out that in many cases gender affirmative treatment causes permanent infertility but that model has become the dominant form offered to children and adolescents diagnosed with gender dysphoria or identifying as experiencing gender incongruence in Australia.

‘Traditional medical ethics and Catholic Church teaching maintain that health professionals should not disable or destroy healthy bodily



organs or systems, or perform and/or advise actions that render a person incapable of parenting a child,’ the guide says.

‘There are also serious concerns regarding a young person’s capacity to consent to these treatments, as well as concerns with the safety of using puberty blockers and cross sex hormones on children and adolescents, particularly as many research studies continue to note the absence of reliable longitudinal data on this approach.

‘A school community has a responsibility to avoid cooperation with actions which risk unnecessary damage, or which limit a student’s future possibilities for healthy human growth and development.’

Rather, the bishops recommend the biopsychosocial model as less invasive and more closely aligned with a Catholic worldview, and which

treats adverse childhood experiences alongside the gender incongruence by using a trauma informed model of mental health care.

‘Research data strongly suggests that, for the vast majority of children and adolescents, gender incongruence is a psychological condition through which they will pass safely and naturally with supportive psychological care,’ the guide says.

‘Studies quote between 80 to 90 per cent of pre-pubescent children who do not seem to fit social gender expectations are not gender-incongruent in the long term.’

In recommending a compassionate approach in ‘love and truth,’ the guide suggests flexibility on uniform expectations and other ways to promote students’ sense of safety and reduce anxiety, and notes that in single-sex competitive competition where students are over the age of 12 years, ‘it may be lawful to exclude a student from a team where the strength, stamina or physique of competitors is relevant.’

Intended to assist Catholic education authorities in the development of their own local policies and procedures, the guide also recommends use of the terms ‘gender dysphoria’ or ‘gender incongruence’ when referring to students rather than using the term ‘transgender’, which it said infers ‘a fixed decision’ about one’s identity.

Source: Catholic Weekly, Brisbane

Women deacons decision unlikely

The Vatican is unlikely to make any statement on the possibility of women being ordained to the diaconate in the Roman Catholic Church until after the international bishop’s Synod on Synodality next year, says international expert Dr Phyllis Zagano. Dr Zagano was one of 12 scholars appointed by Pope Francis in 2016 to the commission to study the diaconate as it existed in the early Church to ascertain the possibility of women deacons. The Pope said their research was inconclusive and in 2020 reconvened a new commission to examine the question.

Cardinal urges new PM to focus on poor

Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster congratulated the United Kingdom’s new prime minister, Liz Truss, and urged her to focus on the poor by immediately halting the country’s declining living standards. The cardinal, president of the English and Welsh Catholic Bishops’ Conference, said many people in the UK would be facing the choice between ‘heating and eating’ this winter because of rampant inflation and soaring fuel bills.

King Charles III pledges to protect all faiths

Speaking to a large gathering of 30-plus faith leaders at a reception at Buckingham Palace, Charles emphasised his own strong Christian faith and pledged to protect religious diversity in the United Kingdom. He said the sovereign has ‘a duty to protect the diversity of our country, including by protecting the space for faith itself and its practice through the religions, cultures, traditions and beliefs to which our hearts and minds direct us as individuals. This diversity is not just enshrined in the laws of our country, it is enjoined by my own faith.’

Pope visits Kazakhstan

Pope Francis spent three days in Kazakhstan in September, attending the Seventh Congress of World and Traditional Religions. The Pope met with religious leaders, called for increased religious freedom and condemned religious justifications for war and violence. Although Kazakhstan is predominantly Muslim, over four million Kazakhstanis profess Christianity. Over 80 per cent of Kazakhstan’s Christians are ethnic Russians.

Nuclear threat ‘madness’, says Pope

Commenting on Russian President Vladimir Putin’s warning that he was not bluffing about possibly using nuclear weapons, Pope Francis said that thinking of such an act was ‘madness’. At his general audience at St Peter’s Square, the Pope said Ukrainians were being subjected to savageness, monstrosities and torture, calling them a ‘noble’ people being martyred. He also praised Kazakhstan for giving up nuclear weapons after its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Trial of Hong Kong cardinal adjourned

A court in Hong Kong has adjourned the trial of outspoken Catholic activist Cardinal Joseph Zen and five co-defendants until October 26. The retired 90-year-old bishop and cardinal and five co-defendants pleaded not guilty to failing to properly register their 612 Humanitarian Relief Fund, which offered financial, legal and psychological help to people arrested during the 2019 protest movement.

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Bishops pledge to protect local environment

Bishops in the northeast of India have pledged to fight climate change in the region at their regional conference.

The North Eastern Regional Bishops’ Council (NEIRBC) covers the area of India that is north and east of Bangladesh, forming a panhandle. The region is less densely populated than most of India, with only 25 million people. It also has a large Christian population – over 17 per cent, compared with a national average of 2.3 per cent.

Care of creation was the theme of the September Annual Regional Pastoral Conference held in Guwahati.

‘One part of the country is going through severe drought and other parts are experiencing flood. This is happening because of our greed and the kinds of choices we have made,’ said Bishop James Thoppil of Kohima.

The president of NEIRBC and Archbishop of Guwahati, John Moolachira, pointed to how the environment has changed in the region during his lifetime.

‘As a young priest, I used to travel through dense forests to reach some of our centres. Now after 35–40 years, when I travel through the same roads, there is no trace of a forest. Settlements have sprung up. Timber is cut off



The Lohit River in Arunachal Pradesh, in North Eastern India.

Photo: Pixabay

and sold outside the region by unscrupulous elements with either the connivance or negligence of government machinery,’ the archbishop said.

‘As a result of this, the hills and plains have become barren and rivulets dried up, rains have become either too much or too little. When it rains the fertile soils are washed away due to flood, garbage is everywhere and life in towns is unhygienic, pollutants in the cities and towns flow freely into our rivers and water ways, pesticides and fertilisers are used widely and the water in the rivers has become

dangerous for use for man, birds, fish and animals,” he continued.

Bishop Allwyn D’Silva, an auxiliary Bishop from the Archdiocese of Bombay, called on the participants to restore ecological relationships.

‘We can see and are living through a time of increasing crisis of humanity. The reality of North East India is proof of the dangerous climate change reality in the country. We can ill afford to disregard this ecological crisis and climate change,’ Bishop D’Silva said.

Source: *Crux*

Church land could ease Queensland housing crisis

Church land in Queensland could be used to help tackle the state’s housing crisis, according to Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk.

Brisbane Archdiocese was among stakeholders at a high-level housing roundtable meeting that is a step towards a state Housing Summit to be held on October 20. After hosting the talks, Ms Palaszczuk thanked the Catholic Church as among businesses, organisations and church groups that could make property or land available to help tackle Queensland’s housing crisis.

She said the Church had identified blocks of land across the state and would work with the Government ‘with the view to putting some accommodation on those blocks of land’.

Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge said the archdiocese was well placed for discussions with all levels of government through its outreach across southeast Queensland.

‘We recognise the importance of a home in everyone’s life and we understand the pressure on vulnerable individuals and families seeking housing assistance and support. The solution will involve expertise from across the board and we’re happy to play whatever role we can to assist.

‘We are embedded in communities through our parishes, our schools and our services which



Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk hosted a roundtable to discuss Queensland’s housing crisis.

Photo: The Catholic Leader

give us reach into areas of need and an opportunity to respond in practical ways.’

Archbishop Coleridge said that response would include the archdiocese assessing any property or community networks that could provide opportunity for housing.

‘We will certainly look at the contribution we can make through use of land or properties that can support social justice outcomes and further our mission,’ Archbishop Coleridge said.

Source: *CathNews Australia, The Catholic Leader.*

Mother Teresa film aims at new generation

A new documentary about St Teresa of Kolkata hopes to reach a younger audience that might not be familiar with the work of the saint who died 25 years ago.



Cardinal Wilton D Gregory of Washington receives offertory gifts from a Missionary of Charity Sister during a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception marking the 25th anniversary of the death of St Teresa of Kolkata.

Photo: MatthewBarrick/CNS via Catholic Standard

The film about St Teresa, produced by the Knights of Columbus, shows how her mission and spirit continues in the work of her order, the Missionaries of Charity.

Mother Teresa: No Greater Love, directed by Emmy award-winning filmmaker, David Naglieri, was shown at the Vatican and had its American premiere at the St John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC, on September 11. On October 3–4, the film was

shown in about 900 theatres as part of Fathom Events’ Saints series.

The Washington screening capped a weekend of events dedicated to the saint, including the dedication of the Mother Teresa Institute in Washington, designed ‘to preserve, protect, promote, and develop the authentic legacy of St Teresa of Kolkata to the Church and to the world.’

The MTI is located across from the Basilica of the National Shrine

of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, the US Capital.

In a panel discussion about the new documentary, Naglieri said the process of filming new interviews and finding footage for the new documentary took 11 months and was ‘very much the work of the Holy Spirit.’

The particular challenge was that there’s not much vintage film footage of Mother Teresa available, he said. She was not a seeker of personal publicity and didn’t become well-known until British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge made a 1969 documentary, *Something Beautiful for God*.

Public fascination with this practitioner of ‘radical poverty’ developed instantly and built for the rest of her life. Mother Teresa, born in North Macedonia in 1910, went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and was elevated to sainthood by Pope Francis in 2016.

‘We didn’t want to do a chronological biography,’ Naglieri said. Instead, the goal was to ‘show how her mission and her spirit continues today.’

The documentary shows the Missionaries of Charity working with children and adults in Brazil, India, Kenya and New York City.

Source: *Catholic News Service*

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New hope for St Joseph’s Care Home



St Joseph’s Home of Compassion in Upper Hutt, a residential care home for older people that was facing imminent closure, hopes to keep its doors open, Chris Gallavin, Tumu Whakarae of the Sisters of Compassion group has announced. ‘We’re pleased to be able to communicate our partnership between St Joseph’s Home of Compassion in Upper Hutt and Heritage Lifecare, which has been formulated to maintain this great home in the community,’ said Dr Gallavin.

Norah Barlow, Heritage Lifecare’s Chief Executive Officer,

says, ‘This home is vitally important to the many residents, their whānau, as well as many retired sisters and priests. The partnership will be ensuring their way of life continues as we work through this time.’

Dr Gallivan said St Joseph’s has a rich history and is ‘beloved by its community’, providing care for older people in Upper Hutt for nearly 100 years. ‘Like many homes in the aged-care sector, it has gone through huge pressure over the last two years, with Covid restrictions adding to severe staffing shortages. Sisters of Compassion was facing having to close the home and try to relocate its residents away from the place they know and love,’ he said.

Heritage Lifecare says it fully recognises the staffing challenges facing the aged-care sector and intends to use its scale and resources to work alongside Sisters of Compassion, with continued engagement of Te Whatu Ora, to keep the home open for residents and staff.

‘We will do everything we can to ensure St Joseph’s remains open and

continues to serve the people of the Hutt Valley’, Norah Barlow said.

‘Heritage Lifecare has 42 care homes throughout New Zealand, with deep connections to the communities it is in, and provides personal, caring support. The daily Masses enjoyed by residents and staff, and open to the community, will continue and the chapel will ensure the base of the Home of Compassion, including all the founding work from the Sisters of Compassion based on the teachings and principles of Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert.’

This is good news for all the families and friends of the residents in St Joseph’s care and for the people of Upper Hutt, says Chris Gallavin. ‘While there is a lot of work in front of us, the partnership provides the local community with a positive way forward.

‘St Joseph’s welcomes enquiries from parishioners for work in the home or care for their family, as we seek to rebuild our staffing complement,’ he said.

EJP Commission joins Living Wage movement

Heeding Pope Francis’ encouragement for dioceses worldwide to collaborate with people’s movements, the Archdiocese of Wellington’s Ecology, Justice and Peace (EJP) Commission has joined the Living Wage Movement Aotearoa New Zealand with Cardinal John Dew’s support.

Worldwide, communities are uniting to address poverty and inequality through living wage campaigns. The Living Wage Movement Aotearoa New Zealand was formed in 2012 to address working poverty impacting New Zealand workers, their families and the economy.

The Movement brings together community, secular, union and faith-based groups to campaign for a living wage. It calls on the government, employers and society to strive for a living wage for all households as a necessary and important step in reducing poverty in New Zealand.

John Kennedy-Good of the Poverty Committee of the EJP Commission and a commission representative within the Movement says social justice and Catholic social teaching on the dignity of work and just wages require employers to engage with this issue and to take a stand, by paying employees fairly. ‘This in turn means



employees are rewarded on the basis of what their families need to lead decent lives and enable them to participate in society.’

The Movement encourages employers to pay employees above the legal minimum wage to ensure all workers and their families have enough to live in dignity and enable them to participate in school events and community activities. The current rate of \$23.65 came into effect on 1 September 2022.

The Movement has an accreditation system available for employers who meet the criteria to become a Living Wage employer. There are over 300 accredited employers in New Zealand, including city councils, the banking sector, law firms, and small-to-medium businesses.

‘There is a need to put into practice our values and lead by example. It may not be possible for some employers to move immediately, but we should encourage payment of the Living Wage as soon as practical,’ says John Kennedy-Good.

Go to livingwage.org.nz for more information. Join ‘Justice and Peace Archdiocese of Wellington’ Facebook group or visit wn.catholic.org.nz

Pope St John Paul II relic in Motueka



The altar at St Peter Chanel Church in Motueka. Photo: Supplied

Triona Doocey

Research into the origins of the altar at St Peter Chanel Church in Motueka has uncovered the following story.

In November 1986 Pope John Paul II visited Aotearoa New Zealand, the first reigning Pontiff to do so. As part of his itinerary, the Pope flew to Christchurch where, at Lancaster Park at 10.45am on 23 November 1986, he celebrated the Eucharist.

For this Mass, it was necessary to construct an altar of a comfortable height for the Pope and to a length that accommodated those concelebrating the Mass.

Extant archives from the Papal Tour indicate Brian Phillips was responsible for the construction of the Mass platform at Lancaster Park. which presumably included the construction of the altar. It is difficult to establish the cost of the altar itself because all the costings refer to the platform or stage.

Meanwhile in Motueka, work was underway to build a new, larger church for the St Peter Chanel Parish. As the building was nearing completion in 1988, a new altar was required, suitable for the large sanctuary. Fr Jim Davis, the then

parish priest, and the driving force behind the build, recalled the altar used by the Pontiff two years earlier. Fr Jim contacted the administrator of the Cathedral in Christchurch, the late Fr Miles O’Malley, to find out what had happened to the altar following the 1986 visit of Pope John Paul II. Jim was told the altar was no longer used and was in storage. Fr Miles agreed to Jim Davis’ request to purchase it. The price of \$200 was agreed to and paid.

The altar was duly set up in the now completed church. Attached to the underside of the altar was a relic of St Peter Chanel, donated to the parish by Mrs Ina Stephens. On 30 October 1988, the new St Peter Chanel Church was consecrated by his eminence Cardinal Thomas Williams DD.

To complete the history of the altar, and relic from Pope St John Paul II, we invite any readers who may have relevant information to get in touch. Can anyone add to the story and confirm who made the altar, what wood was used in the construction, and what was the cost of the altar? Please email the Diocesan Archivist in the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch (archives@cdoc.nz) who will forward all information to the Parish of St Peter Chanel.



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Diocese of Palmerston North Jubilee Mass

The Diocese of Palmerston North invites all parishioners to the Mass to celebrate the Jubilees of Priestly Ordination. The Jubilee Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 11 October at 12.05 pm in the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. The presider will be Cardinal John Dew. The priests celebrating Jubilees this year are: Fr Joe O’Sullivan (65 years); Fr Dominic Heslin (60 years); Fr Paul Kerridge (60 years); Fr Joe Grayland (30 years); Fr Anthony Zaw Htun (20 years); Fr Simon Story (20 years).

St Mother Teresa of Kolkata honoured in Porirua

Annette Scullion

Parishioners, whānau and friends gathered at Holy Family Church in Porirua to support the Sisters from the Missionaries of Charity and the Community of the Missionaries to celebrate the feast of St Mother Teresa of Kolkata at Mass on 3 September.

The Sisters from the Missionaries of Charity live among the parish community offering guidance and support to those in need. In honour of their foundress’ feast day, the altar was decorated with beautiful flowers, candles and



Sr Joy Marie of the Missionaries of Charity Sisters gives a reading at the Mass celebrating the feast of St Mother Teresa of Kolkata, 3 September, at Holy Family Church, Porirua.

Photo: Annette Scullion

a large portrait of St Mother Teresa of Kolkata.

Among the celebrants were the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See in New Zealand His Excellency Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, the new deputy head of the Apostolic Nunciature Fr Giosuè Busti, the parish priest Fr Andrew Atonio and other supporting priests.

Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa thanked everyone for their presence, particularly the four Missionaries of Charity, the Missionaries of the Faith and the whole parish community.

‘This is a very important feast in the Church because we are able

to thank God for His goodness manifested in the life and service of Mother Teresa and of all the Missionaries of Charity – both the living and the dead,’ he said.

Archbishop Novatus went on to say, ‘In St Mother Teresa, God gave to the Church and to humanity an example of how our life can be an expression of divine love manifested in Jesus Christ. Mother Teresa could honestly say, “I see Christ in every human being. When I wash the leper’s wounds, I am nursing the Lord himself.”

‘In this way, Mother Teresa always encourages us to serve others with respect, love and devotion because “whatever we do, we do it for God and to Christ; which is why everything must be done as beautifully as possible.” We cannot say we love God while ignoring the needy because such a love would be a fraud, a self-deceit and indeed a way to camouflage or disguise our selfishness. May the Congregation of the Missionaries of Charity in New Zealand and all over the world continue to satiate Jesus’ thirst for souls by continuing to labour for salvation and sanctification of the poor.’

The celebrations continued with lunch in the adjacent parish hall and the cutting of a cake by Archbishop Novatus, Fr Andrew Atonio, and Sr Oliva.

Diocesan vocations – looking to the future

Fr David Dowling

Vocations directors from around the country met for a day with formation staff at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland in August to discuss the formation of future diocesan priests in New Zealand.

The day began with prayer and reflection on the model of the Good Shepherd, remembering how Jesus met people in real-life situations. By caring and being present to them, he helped people to encounter the living God.

They noted how today’s world is becoming more and more superficial and with so much information pushed into us, we seem to have less and less ability to think deeply and

to reflect, to consider, to ponder.

Various challenges associated with vocational discernment and accompaniment were also discussed. This included how to form good servant leaders, pastoral placement in parishes, supporting pre-seminary students from Vietnam, ways of developing a deeper prayer life, the struggles and challenges faced by those in formation and how to journey with them in an honest, encouraging, and supportive way.

The vocations directors and seminary staff are committed to ongoing collaboration in the formation of those discerning the call to priesthood, so that they may be well formed in ‘helping people to encounter the living God in our time.’



Meeting to discuss formation for New Zealand’s future diocesan priests (l-r): Fr Tien Cao, Christchurch; Fr Joe Stack, Hamilton; Fr Tony King-Archer, Auckland; Fr Trung Nguyen, Palmerston North; and Fr Andrew Kim, Wellington. They met with Holy Cross Seminary formation staff – Fr Peter Murphy, spiritual formator; Fr David Dowling, human formator; Louisa Rani, pastoral formator; and Fr Mathew Vadakkevettuvazhiyil, rector.

Photo: Supplied

Environmental learning during Season of Creation

Fr Dennis Nacorda

Levin’s Catholic Parish of St Joseph’s and St Joseph’s School had a full schedule during September to celebrate the Season of Creation 2022.

Bernie Hanaray, chair of SVdP Levin, spoke to us about our interconnectedness as part of God’s creation and highlighted SVdP’s ministry and mission patterned after its founder, Frederic Ozanam.

Catherine Gibbs of the Wellington Archdiocese Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission, spoke to the parish and the school about the environment and what our faith teaches us about caring for creation.

Parishioners and school children visited three significant local sites where local iwi, Mua-Upoko, hosted preservation-conservation tours. At Waiopahu Forest Reserve we learned about ngāta – the native snail, kawakawa plants as rongoa, destruction brought about by introduced pests and how they are caught and disposed of. At Lake Papaitonga



Respecting creation at Waiopahu Forest Reserve.

Photo: Supplied

we learned about the Kakapu, the mudfish, freshwater koura, and the motu iti, a small island in the lake with historical significance. At Lake Waipunahau, as well as tree-planting and catching tuna (eel), we learned about the state of the lake, its perch, a pest fish that preys on eggs and young fish, and about how, instead of using poison, iwi use traps, constant monitoring and surveillance to control pests in the three reserves.

Hilary Sheeran, parish Social

Justice Team chair, thanked the iwi led by Dean Wilson for their initiatives and praised their conservation leadership. Maria Lyne, the school principal, thanked the iwi for their knowledge imparted to parishioners and children. ‘The children want to check on their trees every year.’

Our parish initiative, which recognised local iwi leadership for the care of the taiao – environment, occurred during Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori.

Later in the month, the One in Faith SJP Youth group held a workshop facilitated by youth leaders Forrest and Chrysta. Creation Sunday Masses displayed children’s artworks, children’s liturgy on helping to protect the environment, and Bridget Taumoepeau shared a *Laudato si’* reflection.

The season will end with a pet blessing moved to 20 October.

Our parish has also been selling flower seeds to encourage people to participate in the Season of Creation at home. Proceeds will fund the future Social Justice team activities in the parish.

Vietnamese students welcomed – Joseph Kham Dinh Nguyen, Joseph Long Tranh Kim Tran and John Quang Dinh Dang have arrived in New Zealand to continue their English language study and further discern their call to training for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Wellington. They will initially be with Vocations Director Fr Andrew Kim at St Theresa’s parish, Plimmerton, as accommodation arrangements are being made. Please keep these three young men in your prayers as they settle into Wellington.



Proud silver medal winner Maria Collier (Te Rarawa and Ngāti Whātua) of Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish won a silver medal in the 19th IVF Vāa World Sprint Championship. The outrigger championships were held in Windsor, UK, in August. Maria paddled in the Women’s Master 60+ years. She is pictured (second from right) holding her medal and celebrating her success with other parishioners.

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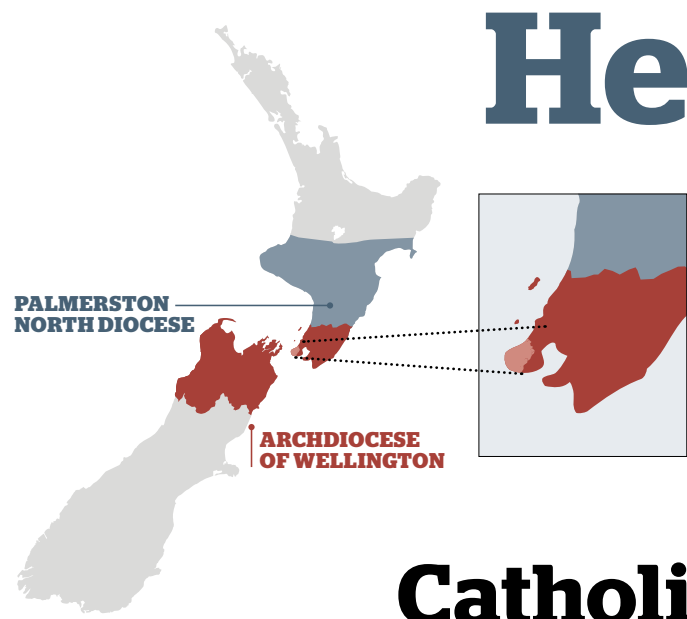
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He Hīkoi Whakapon



This month we visit the Catholic Parish of Otari. It has two churches - St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral and St Thomas More's Church, and two Catholic primary schools - St Teresa's and Cardinal McKeefry School. The parish area encompasses urban Wellington's west-central suburbs of Karori (one of New Zealand's most populous suburbs), Northland, Wilton and Otari, about 4km to 6km and 10 minutes from the city centre, as well as Makara to the west. Literally on the doorstep of St Thomas More's Church is the Otari-Wilton Bush, a native botanic garden and forest reserve and the only public botanic garden dedicated solely to the native plants of New Zealand. With 14km of walking tracks and a 'canopy walkway' it is often a focus for the parish's Care for Creation ecumenical walks.

Catholic Parish of Otari

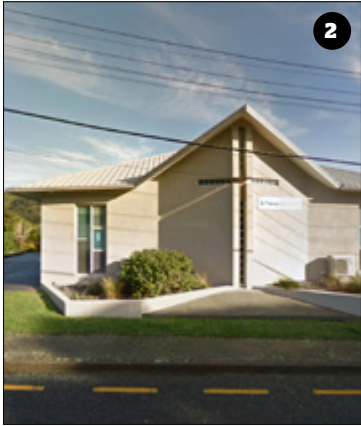
David Ross, parish archivist

BRIEF HISTORY

1840s: Marist missionary priests trekked through Karori wilderness to visit Māori pa in Makara Valley, and along coast.
1840s: First Catholic families settled in Karori area.
1850: Parish formed on site of Basilica of Sacred Heart, Thorndon, included Karori and Makara.
Mid-1850s: First-known Mass for European settlers in area, home of Patrick Monaghan.
1860s: Makara settlement flourished with gold rush. Catholic community grew.
1873: Church of St Patrick built, Makara, opened and blessed by Bishop Patrick Moran of Dunedin, 300 attended. Masses infrequent, priests walked from Wellington.
1900: Thorndon parish included Kelburn, Northland, Karori and Makara. Sunday Masses and catechism in private homes.
1909: Sisters of Mercy from St Mary's Convent, Hill St, taught Sunday catechism in Karori, Wadestown, Northland.
1910: St Vincent de Paul Church Northland completed and blessed. School lessons in nave. Church was moved to Rigi in 1917.
1927: Archbishop Redwood opened red-brick St Teresa's Church, Karori. Sisters of Mercy taught school in building.
1939: Three-roomed school built on church grounds.
1940: New parish of Karori, Northland and Kelburn established. Fr P Herlihy, of Palmerston North, parish priest.
1941: Presbytery completed, Karori.
1941: Marist Sisters came to parish as teachers, lived at school.
1943: Sisters moved into Karori house as convent. School expanded, Sisters twice weekly visits to St Patrick's Makara with parish priests. Taught at school at St Vincent's until mid-1960s.
1948: Society of Mary's centre formed in Karori.
1950s & 60s+: Organisations and activity groups included Catholic Women's League, Children of Mary, Holy Name Society, St Vincent de Paul, CCD, Catholic Youth Movement, tennis club, music groups.
1956: Northland-Kelburn separated. Karori-Makara parish in own right, Fr Walsh parish priest.
1958: Northland-Kelburn parish administered by Capuchin Fathers.
1961: Archbishop McKeefry blessed and opened Friary at Rigi.
1960s: Improvements to Karori school playground, new infant block.
1960-65: Mercy Sisters at St Vincent de Paul Parish School.
1961: Society of Mary opened Futuna Chapel, Karori.
1967: Sisters of St Joseph of Nazareth Convent set up, Northland-Kelburn.
1968: Growing Karori population. New Church of St Teresa opened by Archbishop McKeefry, with Bishop Sneddon, Mons Herlihy and several priests concelebrated Mass, c 1000 attended.
1960s+: Fewer religious in Catholic school teaching, more lay teachers.
1969: St Thomas More Church, Wilton opened and blessed by Cardinal McKeefry.
1970: Cardinal McKeefry Marist Brothers School for boys opened, Wilton.
1982: St Vincent de Paul School closed. Pupils assimilated into St Teresa's Karori or Sacred Heart Guildford Tce Thorndon.
1983: St Thomas More separated from Basilica parish.
1988: Cardinal McKeefry School became co-ed.
1996: Friars farewelled. Diocesan priests returned.
2000: St Vincent de Paul Church closed; parish located to St Thomas More.
2000: Futuna complex sold. Chapel purchased by Friends charitable trust.
2003: Cardinal Tom William's pastoral letter announced 47 parishes of archdiocese to be grouped into 15 pastoral areas. St Vincent de Paul-St Thomas More parish, Northland-Wilton, joined Sacred Heart Cathedral parish. St Teresa's parish, Karori became Wellington West Pastoral Area.

Sanctuary located in Karori.
Otari Parish has benefitted from having two priests. The current parish priest is Fr Ron Bennett who several Upper Hutt parishioners will remember from his many years stationed there. Fr Tikoua Kautu is also based with our parish. Fr Tikoua is from Kiribati and is chaplain to the Kiribati and Tokelauan communities. Matthew White, who is training to be a priest, has been on pastoral placement at Otari Parish.
The parish has a pastoral and finance council and a liturgy committee. Parishioners are engaged in the regular pastoral mahi of altar server training, children's liturgy, flowers, church cleaning, hospitality roles and other smaller parish duties.
The Eucharist Ministers also attend to the pastoral needs of Catholics - and anyone else asking - who are 'shut ins' in their own homes or in one of the three elderly-residential care homes in our area. These include the St John of God home, which provides specialist residential and respite support

to adults living with physical or neurological disabilities.
Otari Parish has four choirs and is spoilt for choice in liturgical music tastes. Both the Tongan and Filipino communities sponsor a choir, and there is also the regular parish choir, plus a folk choir.
The parish also has the usual liturgy, and sacramental roles, for example preparation for the Sacraments, managed jointly within our pastoral area with Sacred Heart Cathedral and St Mary of the Angels from the central city.
Otari parishioners are involved in other charitable activities such as the local foodbank. We operate a vetting and cleaning service for used reading glasses, which are then sent to various Pacific Islands and we have a 'Good Companions' group, which holds monthly luncheons with entertainment and companionship for the elderly, infirm and rest home residents.
Otari Parish has a thriving Catholic Women's Group committed to Catholic Women's League spiritual and charitable national kaupapa.
During the height of the Covid pandemic St Teresa's church foyer was used for Covid testing as people could easily drive around to the front of the church and back out on a separate route. This is an example of our practical participation in the local community.
Otari Parish, like many parishes, has been enriched by the arrival of significant Catholic migrant communities from the Pacific, Asia and the Indian sub-continent.
Currently the parish is running an Alpha course which is well attended. The course highlights the Church's recent exhortations to move from maintenance to mission and Otari parishioners will review what it means to be a parish, and whether outreach is normal part of their parish community.
The parish is committed to the environment, the ecology and care for creation, based on Pope Francis' *Laudato si'*. Activities include walks, seminars, and sustainability practices in the parish, at home and in the wider community.



1. St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral Karori. 2. St Thomas More Church, Wilton. 3. St Patrick's Church - former Catholic church, now Settler's Church and 'The Cottage', Makara. 4. Fr Ron Bennett blesses parishioners on Palm Sunday. 5. First Communion held at Sunday Mass in September 2022 for children of the parish, with assistant priest, Fr Tikoua Kautu.

Photos: Supplied

o: A Journey of Faith

Karori novena family

A group of Filipino faithful gathered one Wednesday night in mid-2009 at a home in Karori for a devotional prayer to the Mother of Perpetual Help. No home was too big or too small as each household took turn hosting their weekly Wednesday novena, and since then, followed by shared dinner. The devotion continues to this date, amidst departures and new arrivals, and despite the Covid pandemic challenges that brought new ways of expressing devotion.



The group’s fellowship culminates with joy as they celebrate their themed annual Christmas Party as a novena family.

Good Companions Club

Good Companions Club is a long-established Karori institution that provides support for the elderly and disabled in our community. We celebrated our 56th birthday in September 2022. We provide a light lunch and entertainment on the fourth Tuesday of each month at St Teresa’s Hall in Karori, from February to November as well as a celebratory Christmas lunch each year. Transport is facilitated through



The Good Companions Club meets every month for lunch and entertainment at St Teresa’s Hall in Karori.

Today, the members have metamorphosed into servants of the Catholic Parish of Otari, and of the parishes where the former members have moved. They serve in varying capacities as parish council members, sacramental programme servants, lectors, choir members, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers or morning-tea servers. Mother Mary, their icon of discipleship remains in their hearts, just as they remain in hers.

volunteer drivers if required. Good Companions Club is a non-profit, inter-denominational organisation run by volunteer members. All are warmly welcome to come along and enjoy the friendly atmosphere, varied entertainment and food. Contact Otari Parish Office on (04) 476-6131 for more information.

St Teresa’s started by the community, for the community

Principal Pip Cook reflects on the beginnings of the Karori-based school and celebrates the school we see today.

St Teresa’s School was formed in 1931, three years after the opening of St Teresa’s Church in Karori. The first classrooms were housed in a shed, which was an extension at the back of the church and the church itself. Church pews were moved daily to cater for all. As the roll grew, a classroom needed to be built on the grounds behind the church. The upgraded classroom block still stands there today.

The founding teachers were the Marist Sisters, who travelled from Wellington city daily to teach the lessons, often with the help of the community. After some time, it was decided to open a convent in Karori, so a local house near the school and church was obtained by 1942. This came with the problem of purchasing the property. In the end, the Sisters had to use the classroom during the day for lessons and then at night to sleep. They received some community help from the prime minister of the time, Peter Fraser, in obtaining possession.

One thing that has remained constant over the school’s history is the valuable role our parent volunteers have played. Their commitment has been integral to the success of the school. The community also has played a huge role in developing the school, with



St Teresa’s encourages every child to be the best they can be. Photos: Supplied

parish member and carpenter Mike McArley building the first three classrooms in the 1930s. Parents touch every aspect of our school life, from organising the famous Karori Spring Fair, coaching sports teams, running liturgies, and helping in the classroom

Today we have a mix of cultures. We have children from Karori and those whose grandparents live in Karori and travel to St Teresa’s while their parents work in town. People want to be part of the community and the values of St Teresa’s as a school that thrives on encouraging every child to be the best they can be.

We have parents who attended the school, and now their children attend. Some of our families have moved away from the suburb, yet they choose to travel each day

back to Karori so their children can continue to be part of our community. This speaks volumes of the strength of our community.

At present, we have five classes that allow us to focus on the learner and their individual needs. We know each other well and can cater to all. We are part of a close community of Karori, and our children are encouraged to give back to that community. We make the most of the amenities our suburb offers, and we are also lucky to have such large grounds for a school so close to the central city. But most importantly, we are a community of learners where each child is nurtured to grow as a happy, faith-filled learner who is inspired to achieve excellence, in the best community possible.



We are a community where each child is nurtured to grow as a happy, faith-filled learner who is inspired to achieve excellence in the best community possible.

Cardinal McKeefry Catholic School

Peter Hijazeen, Principal
Satvinder Baines, Deputy Principal

‘A small school with a big heart.’ The school’s vision is to ‘empower every child to contribute and to grow with God and each other’. Our Marist mission is quite prominent in the way teachers and students connect and deal with each other. We aim to live our Marist pillars in word and in deed. They are: 1. Family Spirit. 2. In the way of Mary. 3. Simplicity. 4. Presence. 5. Love of Work.

We aim at providing students with the maximum opportunities

possible to grow to become responsible social citizens. This ranges from being a pioneer school as a ‘Garden to Table’ school, to being involved in musical events such as Artsplash and out-of-the-classroom activities.

Our academic outcomes match our intentions of continuously achieving positive learning outcomes for our students. This can be clearly seen in our tracking of Literacy and Numeracy PAT (Progressive Achievement Testing) results. This is due to the hard work of our reliable and competent teachers.

We are a future-focused school that aims in finding meaning for



students, connect with their lives, and engage the support of their families, whānau, and communities. Cardinal McKeefry School has an open-door policy. All are welcome to visit.



Left: Providing students with maximum learning opportunities. Above: Celebrating 50 years in 2020 with a ’70s dress up day.

Young Catholics

Young Church alive



Young people from all over the archdiocese gathered for Young Church Mass hosted by Life Teen Petone. Photo: Supplied

Young people came from all over the archdiocese to gather and celebrate a Young Church Mass in August, hosted by Life Teen Petone at Sacred Heart Church and celebrated by Cardinal John Dew.

Although Covid had disrupted plans to hold Young Church Mass for a year over 50 teenagers came to share in the Mass making it one of the largest turnouts for Young Church Mass since 2019. They came from United Youth, Life Teen Wellington, Chanel College, Our Lady of Kāpiti Youth and Sacred Heart College and they packed the church.

'I'm so happy so many people came and got to see what we do,' said Anita, a Life Teen Petone leader. 'I'm proud of our team and the teens for putting this together.'

Louise Lloyd, Young Church Coordinator for the Archdiocese Church Mission team said, 'We can't wait to join again for our next Young Church Mass on Sunday 20 November to celebrate World Youth Day – on the Sunday of the Feast of Christ the King.'

Contact Louise at youth@wn.catholic.org.nz if you wish to host a Young Church Mass in your parish or serve during the Mass.

Education charitable trust announces new grants

The Trustees of the Ogonowska Education Charitable Trust – Jenny Gordon MNZM, Halina Ogonowska-Coates and Gordon Noble-Campbell – are pleased to announce the awarding of three grants to primary school students in the Archdiocese of Wellington. The grants will meet the archdiocese attendance dues for each of the three recipients in 2023.

The recipients are: Caeliah Ashcroft of Our Lady of Kāpiti School, Paraparaumu; Grace McKnight of Holy Family School, Porirua; and Nieson Palala of St Anne's School, Newtown.

The grants acknowledge the personal qualities and contribution to the cultural and spiritual life the three students make to their schools. The students were nominated by their school's principal.

The Trust honours and remembers two Polish sisters, Irena and Teresa Ogonowska who were members of the much-celebrated Polish refugee children offered refuge in New Zealand in 1944 during WW2. The Trust Patron is the Archbishop of Wellington, Cardinal John Dew.

In 1940, Irena and Teresa, together with their family, were forcibly deported to Siberia from their home in Ulanowyszczyna, a Polish military settlement in eastern Poland, near Baranowicze.

After arriving and settling in this country, both sisters were educated in New Zealand Catholic secondary



Grace McKnight of Holy Family School, receive her grant certificate from Gordon Noble-Campbell, Trustee of the Ogonowska Education Charitable Trust.

schools and both chose teaching as their profession. They were committed and passionate teachers all their lives, underpinned by their deep and life-long Catholic faith. Irena and Teresa appreciated the importance of education in creating the opportunity for children to be successful in their adult lives.

Viv Conroy, principal of Our Lady of Kāpiti School said, 'Caeliah is a wonderful girl who has a great attitude towards her learning and is a role model to other students.' Sue Goodin, principal of Holy Family School said, 'Grace is a delightful year 5 girl and always displays our Catholic values in class and in the playground.' Doreen O'Sullivan, principal of St Anne's School noted,

'Nieson is an excellent student. His attendance, attitude and commitment are faultless. The way he plays "big brother" to his siblings is second to none. It's lovely to see the way he steps up and takes on responsibility.'

The Trustees congratulate Caeliah, Grace, Nieson and their families.

The Ogonowska Education Charitable Trust is a registered, incorporated, charitable trust (NZBN 9429049158564) and is a registered charity (CC58940). The Trust is a 'donee organisation' in accordance with section LD 3(2) of the Income Tax Act 2007. Expressions of support, including donations, are invited.

Gap Year opportunity – become a youth minister

The archdiocese of Wellington's Young Church group invites parishes to encourage young adults to consider a Gap Year working among students at Wellington's Catholic Colleges as a Tuākana ('accompanying elder brother or sister').

The Tuākana Gap Year programme is part of the archdiocese's dedicated youth ministry and mission work among Catholic schools. Applications are now open for the 2023 programme.

The programme is aimed at young people aged 18–24. It gives them the opportunity to work part-time as a youth minister and faith mentor within one of the archdiocese's nine Catholic colleges. As well as offering

students mentoring, nurturing and faith support, the programme also enhances growth in each Tuākana's own faith journey.

The work involves fostering active Catholic faith expression among students and a commitment to Catholic character. The Tuākana walks alongside students to encourage them in their faith journey by supporting their day-to-day well-being and facilitating their engagement with the wider Catholic community. Each Tuākana works with their assigned college's Director of Religious Studies, as well as with Louise Lloyd, the archdiocese's Young Church coordinator.

Lavinia (Nia) Foliaki has been a Tuākana at St Catherine's College

in Kilbirnie this year – the college she attended as a student. 'I was encouraged to apply for the role by my past teachers,' Nia said. 'I saw it as an opportunity to give back to a community that's been an important part of my family's life.'

At the start of the year, Nia felt passionate about supporting students find a balance between the busyness of school life and their spirituality. 'Students don't always feel they can take time just for themselves and God. I wanted to help them to deepen their spirituality by supporting them to make time for those conversations,' she said. Nia has noticed, particularly among senior students, they have formed a new relationship with their spirituality.

'Learning to have a balance is so important for young people.'

The Tuākana role has also encouraged Nia to step outside her comfort zone. Not previously a fan of public speaking, at a recent Young Church retreat she led a session and talked about her faith journey.

'I didn't feel confident about it but everyone's support before and after the session left me feeling really good. Experiences like that have definitely helped me overcome some of my fears and to grow and learn from this role.'

Please email Louise Lloyd at youth@wn.catholic.org.nz for a copy of the role description and how to apply.



Nia Foliaki, Tuākana at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie, during 2022. Photo: Supplied

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Rangatahi Katorika

Vinnies annual student Mass

Students from all eight Catholic colleges in the archdiocese gathered for the 28th annual Vinnies Mass, at St Patrick's College chapel in Wellington on Sunday 18 September, to celebrate the works of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

The Mass was an opportunity to appreciate the work done at the various schools to support the Vinnies through fund-raising, replenishing foodbanks and support for the annual street-day appeals.

Around 100 young and older Vinnies, principals, teachers, parents were at the Mass. The first to arrive were the students from Chanel College, Masterton, who travelled the longest distance.

Frs Matt Crawford sm and Hayden Powick sm concelebrated Mass. Fr Hayden gave an enlightening homily on service and stewardship, social justice and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. They blessed and presented badges to the Vinnies for their committed service



Archdiocese Catholic college students with Fr Matt Crawford sm gathered for the annual Vinnies Mass at St Patrick's College chapel.

Photo: Supplied

and outreach in the community.

The president of the Seatoun St Vincent de Paul Conference, Andrew Bridgeman, thanked the teachers and Vinnies for their work and invited the students to carry on their service after they left school. 'Even small acts of charity nourish faith,' he said.

The first annual Mass was celebrated 30 years ago by St Patrick's

College priest Fr Peter McAfee with St Pat's Town, St Mary's and St Catherine's Colleges represented.

Lunch followed Mass with thanks going to Maria Elenio, the Vinnies from St Patrick's along with principal Mike Savali and support teacher Lucy McLeod for hosting and welcoming Vinnies to the Mass.

St Mary's Blenheim farewells popular principal



Principal Patrick Dowling surrounded the 'Joy of Spring'.

Nigel Mitchell

St Mary's School of Blenheim is sad to announce that Paddy Dowling, our dedicated principal over the last six years is following his family to Christchurch as high school beckons next year for his growing children. Paddy has been instrumental in the reinvigoration of our learning environment and the driving force behind so many of the changes you now see around our school. He introduced the 'learning through play' system for our juniors and the student leadership programme for the seniors as well as changing the colour scheme of our uniform and buildings.

Paddy's infectious laugh and boisterous personality will be greatly missed by the younger children and the year eights have lost the benefits of an adventurous spirit that encourages them to strive and achieve success in challenging situations. He may be flying down south for a while but after a brief hiatus he plans to return to Blenheim as he considers it the best place in New Zealand to have a

family's roots grounded.

Working alongside a cohort of old boys, Paddy has helped to plan next year's St Mary's School 150th year jubilee celebrations starting on 30 June 2023. The weekend long event will include a multicultural celebration on the Friday, an open day at the school on the Saturday followed by an evening meal and gathering, Sunday Mass and the opening of the Freeth Whānau Room. Details are available on our Facebook page. Visitors to this extravaganza will witness the multitude of projects Paddy has taken on, such as renovation of the Little Theatre, new junior playground and cherry blossoms planted around the fence line. They are strong examples of his legacy at the time of his departure.

We wish Paddy all the best with his future endeavours. We are now seeking another superhero to fill the huge shoes Paddy has left behind. If this sounds like someone you know please have them contact chairperson@stmb.school.nz for an application pack.

Nigel Mitchell, presiding member of St Mary's School Board of Trustees.

St Patrick's Silverstream debate team champions

Congratulations to St Patrick's College Silverstream's Junior Certificate 2 debating team members Caleb Malskaitis, Gyananjan Ahluwalia, Joseph (Joey) Moorman, and Blake Simcock who won their grade in the finals of the Wellington Speaking Union competition. The team was coached by Ms Maddie Van Woerkom.

Out of over 50 schools taking part, the final debate against Kāpiti College debating team 2 was held at Victoria University on 31 August. St Patrick's Junior team was affirming. The moot was that major social issues should be decided by referenda, rather than Parliament, for example becoming a republic, lowering the voting age, legalising drugs.

The college's head of debate was at the finals and said he has been at the school over 20 years and they had never won. It was also the first time the team had debated in person instead of online due to Covid restrictions and the team being 9th graders.



St Patrick's College winning team members (l-r): Caleb Malskaitis, Gyananjan Ahluwalia, and Joseph Moorman.

Photo: Supplied



Young Church

TUĀKANA

2023


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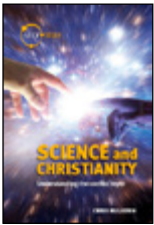
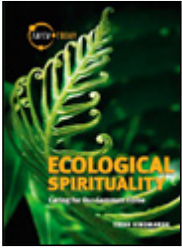


Ecological Spirituality: Caring for Our Common Home

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Cardinals focus on a missionary Curia

In August **Cardinal John Dew** went to Rome to attend a consistory of new cardinals, joining new and existing cardinals from all around the globe. Twenty new cardinals were created at the consistory, geographically promoting a globalised Church. Pope Francis has created cardinals at eight consistories held at roughly annual events beginning in 2014 - a total of 121 cardinals from 66 countries. At this year’s gathering of cardinals, the focus was on *Praedicate Evangelium* (Preach the Gospel), the Pope’s Apostolic Constitution on the reform of the Curia. Here is Cardinal John’s reflection on his involvement in the universal consistory.

In late August I was privileged to be in Rome for a consistory of new cardinals which was then followed by some days of meetings with Pope Francis and as many cardinals from around the world who could be present. We were asked to reflect on the Apostolic Constitution which Pope Francis promulgated on 19 March this year and which came into effect on Pentecost Sunday. The title of this constitution is *Praedicate Evangelium* (or ‘Preach the Gospel’).

Almost 200 cardinals gathered in Rome, including those cardinals who are now over 80 years of age and are no longer eligible to vote in the election of a new pope. But Francis wanted them there so they could be part of the conversations regarding the reform of the Roman Curia.

The first words of this constitution focus on Jesus’ mandate to the Apostles, and therefore on the mandate that the whole Church must carry out until the end of time, ‘to go and proclaim the Gospel.’ We were asked to reflect on how the ‘pastoral and missionary conversion’ of the Church can be implemented.

The Holy Father spoke early in the document about how in the meetings held before the Conclave that elected him in 2013, most of the

cardinals of the world emphasised the new Pope would need to work on the reform of the Curia.

The Roman Curia is constituted of what are known as ‘dicasteries’. Pope Francis has re-listed these dicasteries so that rather than the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith coming first in importance, it is now the Dicastery for Evangelisation which has combined two dicasteries:

- the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples; and
- the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation.

In Canon law all of the dicasteries are seen as equal but Pope Francis wanted everyone to know that preaching the gospel is the first mission of the Church. This Constitution therefore gives a central place to the missionary and evangelising nature of the whole Curia. Pope Francis emphasised his great desire to explicitly proclaim the Gospel with charity and that the proclamation of faith is everyone’s responsibility. This document – *Praedicate Evangelium* – stresses to all of those Roman departments that the whole Church is about proclaiming the Gospel.

In the document Francis also spoke about the fact that laywomen

and laymen could be appointed to positions of authority in the Curia. This conversation became a bit of a struggle when some attending these meetings protested and wanted to ensure their own power and authority was protected. The Pope’s argument – and support came for him in this argument – was that all ministry flows through Baptism. In our English language group (there were four English four Italian and four French groups) some of the participants protested and maintained the Pope was not able to appoint laity to such positions. These voices of protests were mostly heard in the small groups and when we reported back in the Synod Hall there was great support for Pope Francis and what he is doing.

Basically, Pope Francis is continuing to try to reclaim the vision of the Second Vatican Council. I was very impressed in one of our language group sessions when a Cardinal spoke up and said ‘Jesus gave power and authority not just to the 12 apostles but to the 72 disciples. All disciples are able to preach by charity and kindness, the Holy Spirit speaks through the Church and that means through ALL of the baptised’.

Another Cardinal spoke up in defence of Pope Francis saying,



Pope Francis at the meeting with the Cardinals at the New Synod Hall to discuss *Praedicate Evangelium*.
Photo: Vatican News

‘what matters is delegation given by the Pope and that the Pope has jurisdiction which he is able to delegate; his jurisdiction is not by ordination but by election, and the presence of the Holy Spirit is key to that authority.’

While the meeting was clearly about the reform of the Roman Curia, Pope Francis’ document sends a message to the Church throughout the world, including us here in New Zealand. Just as he has called all the dicasteries of the Roman Curia and all their personnel to ‘pastoral and missionary conversion’ so he is reminding us all, as the baptised people of God, we are all summoned every day to that same conversion.

Our National Synod Synthesis for the New Zealand Church spoke about the need for formation for all of us, and that is true. But at this meeting in Rome, Pope Francis reminded us that continuing formation efforts are not enough; what we need also and above all is continuing conversion and renewal. Without personal renewal, efforts at practical improvements in the Church will be in vain.

Gorbachev and St John Paul II: key players in bringing about peace

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mikhail Gorbachev, the last president of the Soviet Union before its dissolution in 1991, died in Moscow on 30 August 2022, after a protracted illness at the age of 91.

The prominent former Soviet statesman and reformer who lifted the Iron Curtain, leading to the dissolution of the Soviet Union, chartered a new course in the relations with the Holy See, putting an end to decades of religious persecutions against the Catholic Church in the former USSR.

The following article by Lisa Zengarini was published by Vatican News on 31 August 2022.



Pope St John Paul II and Mikhail Gorbachev in the Vatican on 1 December 1989.
Photo: Vatican News/Archives

A leading figure in ending the Cold War

A member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union since the early fifties, Gorbachev was its general secretary from 1985 to 1991 and Soviet president from 1990 to 1991. During his seven-year tenure, he introduced key political and economic reforms to the USSR, the so-called ‘Peretrojka’ (Reconstruction), and ‘Glasnost’ (Transparency).

He played a crucial role in ending the Cold War which earned him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990 and widespread popularity in the West, but not at home, where Russians have blamed him for the 1991 implosion of the Soviet Union and for the economic downfall that ensued in Russia in the Nineties.

The historic meeting with Pope St John Paul II in 1989

A political reformer, Gorbachev also chartered a new course in relations with the Holy See, putting an end to decades of religious persecutions against the Catholic Church in the former USSR.

The new course was marked by his historic meeting in the Vatican as General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, with Pope St John Paul II, on December 1 1989, less than a month after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, and a year after he had welcomed a top-level Church delegation to Moscow for the celebrations of the Millennium of the Baptism of the Rus’ (1988). [The 1000th Anniversary of the Christianisation of Rus’ (the Baptism of Rus’) was

marked by events held in the USSR from May–June 1988, to celebrate the introduction of Christianity to Russia by Prince Vladimir Svyatoslavich in 988.]

Shared values

During that visit St John Paul and Gorbachev had a conversation in which they shared their views on the deep changes then taking place in Eastern Europe, expressing broad agreement on the need for greater religious freedom in the Soviet Union, for a renewal of ethical and moral values, and for improved Catholic-Orthodox relations.

They also agreed on the fact that Eastern European countries should not be expected to simply import Western values wholesale. ‘It would be wrong for someone to claim that

changes in Europe and the world should follow the Western model,’ said St John Paul II. ‘Europe, as a participant in world history, should breathe with two lungs,’ the late Pontiff added, using one of his favourite metaphors calling for harmony between East and West on the continent.

Building religious freedom and dialogue in post-Soviet Russia

During the conversation the Polish Pope also expressed concerns about religious freedom in the Soviet Union and the Vatican’s relations with various Orthodox and Catholic denominations, meeting a cautiously positive response from Gorbachev, whose reform plans didn’t originally include changes in the existing Church-State relations.

St John Paul II reiterated these points in his official address to the Soviet leader.

‘In a climate of restored freedom, Catholics will thus be able to work together with their brethren of the Orthodox Church, who are so dear to us. Indeed, we share with them a common patrimony and wish to cooperate with them in a renewed ecumenical commitment to preach the Gospel of Christ to new generations and to work together with them in the vast field of human development, as we await the rebuilding of that unity which Christ willed for his Church.’

Gorbachev paid another visit to

the Vatican as President of the USSR in 1990, when his government passed a law on freedom of religion abolishing restrictions on Churches and legalising the Ukrainian Catholic Church after decades of persecution.

He met up again in Rome with St John Paul II ten years later, on November 13, 2000, on the occasion of the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates. Speaking to Vatican Radio’s Alessandro Gisotti on the topics discussed at the event, he gave an insight into the challenges of our times which sound prophetic today. In the interview, he warned that: ‘Nowadays there are processes that lead not so much to disarmament, but rather to the danger of nuclear weapons proliferation.’ Speaking about the post-Cold War global order, he echoed the Pope’s call for ‘a more stable, just and humane’ world.

Gorbachev’s interview with ‘Der Spiegel’ in 2015 on the conflict in Eastern Ukraine

More recently, in an interview with the German weekly *Der Spiegel* in 2015, he warned that the fighting in the Donbas region in Eastern Ukraine, could lead to a major military conflict and condemned the economic sanctions against Moscow, lamenting what he called a ‘catastrophic loss of trust’ between Russia and the West.

The ongoing fall of Afghanistan – *the reality of life under Taliban rule*

Muzhgan Samarqandi

Muzhgan is a former TV and radio broadcaster from Baghlan, Afghanistan. She now lives in Wellington, New Zealand with her Kiwi husband and their son, and works part-time as a cross-cultural adviser and interpreter. Muzhgan and her husband met at a peace-building conference in Panchgani, India, and lived together in Egypt before moving to New Zealand in 2020.

It is now more than one year since the fall of Kabul, and the return of terrorist rule in Afghanistan, my homeland. On 15 August 2022, we briefly remembered that horrifying sequence of events from a year ago, and revisited the shocking images of crowds of people scrambling to escape, screaming children clinging to their parents’ arms and legs, desperate adults clinging to the landing gear of moving planes, only to be crushed or thrown to their death during take-off, and packs of unruly young men armed with Kalashnikovs, roaming the streets and terrorising public spaces.

On 15 August 2021, I was glued to my TV and phone, day and night, watching these scenes in despair, and in constant contact with my friends and family in Afghanistan, all trying to escape. I made calls and sent emails and submitted and supported applications for evacuation. Most of them were unsuccessful. Most were not even responded to. Some of these people are still trying to get out, and many in Afghanistan are still suffering, every day, at the hands of the Taliban. In particular, Hazaras, Tajiks, Uzbeks, women, and members of the rainbow community, are all being targeted for their identity (which does not fit the ethnocentric hegemonic norms of the Taliban).

So, as the anniversary of 15 August fades from memory, I ask you not to think of the fall of Afghanistan as a moment in history. Our people, society, and culture continue to be brought down every day by terrorists. Most girls are still being excluded from secondary school throughout the country. Most women, young and old, are still being denied jobs, careers, and any opportunity to participate in society. Many are being beaten, raped, and forced into marriage, with no recourse or access to justice. Some are marrying out of necessity or desperation, or to avoid being married to a door-knocking Talib.

At the same time, our people are experiencing increasingly widespread famine and devastating poverty. Increasing numbers are resorting to selling dangerous volumes of blood and bodily organs. (Precious furniture and family heirlooms are long gone.) Millions are internally displaced, thousands are dying of starvation, and countless members of targeted communities are being abused, forcibly removed from their homes, arbitrarily detained and executed.

Meanwhile, Taliban officials continue to reiterate empty promises, deny knowledge of any such

atrocities, and travel the world in luxury, to meet with an international community that continues to afford them the legitimacy of diplomacy.

The evidence of an unchanged or even more radicalised Taliban is overwhelming. Yet, the increasing divergence between this reality, and that which the Taliban asserts and which the international community and some media outlets willingly accept, is nauseating. I think this, in itself, reflects the further fall of Afghanistan from the regard and concern of those in positions of privilege around the world (perhaps they don’t care anymore, or enough to engage, and perhaps they never did). I also think this reflects the fact that the Taliban’s power relies on external support and validation.



Muzhgan Samarqandi, a former TV and radio broadcaster from Baghlan, Afghanistan, now lives in Wellington: ‘Continue to pray for Ukraine, but do not forget Afghanistan.’

Photo: Supplied

In this light, I also ask you not to think of the fall of Afghanistan as inevitable, or as an isolated phenomenon. It was a direct result of political and strategic decisions made by numerous parties, and it has a direct impact on both regional and global security. The US decided to withdraw, according to their own timeframe, and unilaterally entered into partnership with, and empowered, the Taliban on this basis. With the benefit of that deal, the Taliban had no need or incentive to engage with domestic parties who were promoting legitimacy through a legitimate political process.

We know that this has paved the way for increased terrorist activity and connectivity in the region. Terrorist groups from Tajikistan,



Frantic scenes at Kabul airport as Afghanistan people try to flee the Taliban, after the collapse of the government, August 2021.

Photo: Reuters

Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, have rediscovered safe haven in Afghanistan, and Al Qaeda leaders are again freely operating within its borders. Of course, the US understands that terrorism in Afghanistan is linked with international terrorism. That is why it intervened in our country in response to 9/11, and why this was the chosen site for retaliation – and our people paid the price – when not a single one of the perpetrators was from Afghanistan.

“The fall of Afghanistan is a daily occurrence, but so too is the courageous act of getting up again.”

However, when it suited, the US and its supporting parties chose to abandon Afghanistan, and those resisting the Taliban, as if they bore no responsibility for our fate. The abrupt and unilateral nature of the withdrawal was inconsistent with justifications for intervention in the first place. It was also inconsistent with the best interests of anyone in Afghanistan, other than the Taliban and its supporters.

It is important that people understand this, that the fall of Afghanistan was not an inevitable or isolated phenomenon, so they appreciate the impact of their own engagement. Otherwise, foreigners tend to approach our country as an arena for extreme tourism and journalism, a place to dance with the wolves for the thrill of it, or the kudos for doing so. They think it interesting and harmless to present the ‘other side’ of the Taliban. Whereas, in reality, this normalises and legitimises terrorism, and causes significant harm.

It is also important that people understand our country’s demise is not a done deal, and so the way they engage with it can play an important part in shaping its future. The failures of the past point to the fact that peace- and nation-building must be led by local expertise, in a genuinely representative way. But

the interconnectedness of regional and international conflicts, and the ongoing reality of foreign interference, mean the world cannot simply turn its back on Afghanistan, even if it does not sit within Europe (and even if our people are not blonde-haired and blue-eyed, like Ukrainians).

Finally, at this time, I ask you not to think of our people, and especially our women, as victims or objects of inquiry. We are the bearers of a rich cultural inheritance and resilience;

are reminded of this every time we are told how lucky we are to be here, and how awful it must have been back home. But those ‘heroes’ left, and the vast majority of women of Afghanistan were left behind, and they are the ones who continue to resist, rise up against the Taliban, and raise their voices, even still today.

Even one year on, even in the face of violent suppression of freedom and brutal retaliation for political demonstration, our women continue to take to the streets in protest. They refuse to accept terrorism as the status quo. They insist upon their rights and express their defiant hope for the future of Afghanistan, as they are responded to with bullets. These women, and those of Iran now similarly taking to the streets in the name of Jina Mahsa Amini (murdered for incorrectly wearing a hijab), embody the bravery of true heroism (see the fear it inspires in their armed oppressors).

I simply ask that you do not avert your eyes, and do not remove yourself from this reality, or reduce it to something it is not.

The fall of Afghanistan is a daily occurrence, but so too is the courageous act of getting up again. Our people continue to get up and resist terrorism, in whatever ways they can, and we will yet prevail!

Continue to pray for Ukraine, but do not forget Afghanistan.



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Catholics Thinking

Like charity, Christian unity begins at home

This article, in three parts, by **Bishop Peter Cullinane** coincides with Pope Francis’ desire for our parish liturgies to be as they as they should be, and for the Catholic people to receive on-going liturgy formation. Pope Francis’ most recent Apostolic letter, *Desiderio Desideravi – I have desired with a great desire* (Lk 22:15), published 29 June 2022, deals with this. It is a follow-up to his letter, *Traditiones Custodes – ‘Guardians of the Tradition’*, published last year, 16 July 2021, in which he called for the Traditional Latin Mass to be terminated. Bishop Peter brings these two concerns together in his article. The concluding Part 3 offers further points of clarification of some areas with potential for misunderstandings and superficiality.

Part 3: Further points of clarification



Bishop Peter Cullinane.

7. Mission

In the celebration of Eucharist, the Holy Spirit makes present to us what God is doing for our salvation (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1091 ff). We allow ourselves to be taken up into it, with wonder and thanksgiving.

“The split between the faith which many profess and their daily lives deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age” – 2nd Vat Council Church in Modern World, 43.

We are being sanctified and sent – two sides of the same coin. Our participation in the Mass is incomplete if it does not flow out into every aspect of life, making it more authentically human – through social and economic justice, and responsibility for the planet. ‘The split between the faith which many profess and their daily lives deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age’ (2nd Vat. Council Church in Modern World, 43).

The connection between our sanctification and our mission is illustrated in our reception of Holy Communion. ‘We become what we receive’ (St Augustine). What we receive is ‘the body broken and given up for others’ and the ‘blood (life) poured out for others’. Being ‘for

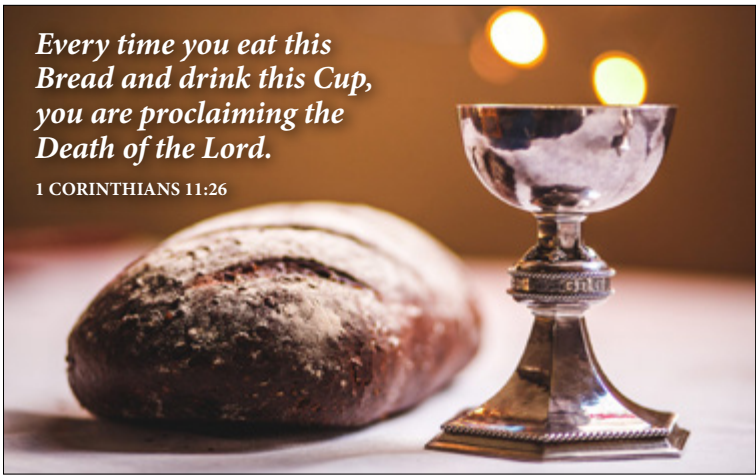


Image: James Coleman/Unsplash

others’ is what we commit ourselves to when we respond: ‘Amen.’

‘Meal’ and ‘sacrifice’ are not conflicting concepts: ‘...every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming his death’ (1 Cor. 11:26). Nor are ‘altar’ and ‘table’ conflicting concepts, as the table shape of the altar in meant to remind us.

“Noticing what God is doing in the midst of our struggles lifts us up. Contemplating God’s love for us evokes our love for God.”

8. Hand or tongue?

During times of infection, hygiene aimed at preventing the spread of potentially fatal infections is a matter of moral duty towards ourselves and others. In normal times, our practice should be based on Jesus’ own words at the Last Supper: ‘take, eat...take, drink’. It is based on the normal ways that adults take food and drink. But we receive it with deep awareness of

who it is we are receiving. (Placing food on another’s tongue is more normally what we do for infants and disabled people.)

9. Homily or sermon?

The scriptures give us a backdrop against which to notice how God has been involved in other people’s lives. The homily is intended to help us recognise how God is still involved – now in our lives. It is specifically about what *God* is doing. A sermon is more about what *we* should be doing. Of course, we also need to know that, but not all our learning can be loaded on to the homily. Catholics are supposed to participate in other forms of on-going formation.

Constant moralising can lead to over-anxiety for people already harassed by the struggles of living and can weigh them down. In contrast to this, noticing *what God is doing* in the midst of our struggles lifts us up. Contemplating God’s love for us evokes our love for God.

10. Adaptations

There is a difference between aberrations and adaptations. Changes that deflect from the meaning of a given part of the Mass are aberrations and not acceptable. However, adaptations that better *bring out its meaning* actually help to fulfil the purpose intended by the rubrics. We fulfil the whole law by fulfilling its purpose (Mark 2:23-27).

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* requires that ‘accommodations and adaptations’ should ‘correspond to the meaning and character of each part of the celebration’. Some adaptations require decision by the bishop, or bishops’ conference. Smaller ones are made by the priest so that the prayer of the Church can become the prayer of the people who are present. In this way he is being faithful to his duty:

‘...the age and condition of the people, their way of life, and degree of religious culture (that is, religious formation, faith-practice etc) should be taken into account. By doing so, pastors will be fulfilling one of the chief duties of a faithful dispenser of the mysteries of God...’ (*Constitution on the Liturgy*, 19).

‘...always to be kept in mind is the preservation of that freedom, envisaged by the new rubrics, to adapt the celebration in an intelligent manner to the church building, or to the group of faithful who are present, or to particular pastoral circumstances in such a way that the universal

rite is truly accommodated to human understanding. (Consilium for Promoting the Constitution on the Liturgy, *Notitiae*, 1965, p 254.)

Making these kinds of adaptations should be as natural as the way we adapt our vocabulary when speaking now to adults, now to children. Changing non-inclusive to inclusive language is a case in point.

11. Church architecture and furnishings

These are meant to help us be aware of Christ’s presence in the four ways he is present:

- in the sacrament – altar;
- in the word – table of the word;
- in the ministry of the priest – presider’s chair; and
- in the congregation – seating arrangements.

Other furnishings and statues help to create atmosphere but must not distract us from the liturgy itself. The tabernacle and reserved Sacrament are not part of the Mass. This is why the Church’s preference is for the tabernacle to be located in a separate space within the church, suitable for the devotion due to the Blessed Sacrament, and apart from spaces that are used for other activities, such as marriages; (*Instruction on the Eucharistic Mystery*, 1967, n 53).

Part 1 of this article was published on p 16, August WelCom, part 2 was published on p 16, September WelCom/NauMai.

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'You shall be my witnesses'

Mission Month and World Mission Sunday - 23 October 2022

Fr Bernard Espiritu svd
Missio Aotearoa

A picture paints a thousand words. Our 2022 Mission Month/Sunday poster captured the gathering of religious leaders, with Pope Francis leading them to come together in prayer. It happened in Rome to pray for the victims of war and the pandemic. Witnessing to Christ finds its right direction when it starts with a prayer, an acknowledgement that mission work is a partnership of humans with our God. Our mission is participation in the Mission of God. 'You shall be my witnesses' (Acts 1:8). This is the theme of October Mission Month 2022. Pope Francis points to three Christian truths behind these words of the Master.

1. Mission is every Christian's call to bear witness to Christ.
2. Our mission to evangelise is to give life to all.
3. The Holy Spirit empowers, strengthens, and guides each missionary-disciple.

This year marks the 200 years of the initial founding of the Society of the Propagation of Faith. It all started when the 18-year-old Pauline-Marie Jaricot of Lyon, France, gathered a small group of 15 workers in her father's silk clothes' factory. She asked each one to commit to praying daily a decade of the Rosary



for the missions, and each one also contributed a penny a week. Their aim was a decade of Rosary daily and a penny weekly. The monies were collected and sent to the missions. And all the 15 decades of the Rosary are prayed daily. This group model grew throughout Lyon and then spread to all parts of the diocese and then the whole of France. Mission Month grew out of this

background. It was the beginning of the Propagation of the Faith, which on May 3, 1922, Pope Pius XI declared the Society for the Propagation of the Faith 'Pontifical'. Mission Month/Sunday is a time to pray and give, also, from the heart that the mission of God to evangelise becomes the heartbeat of our mission. God's Mission is Our Mission.

Ablaze parish renewal conference for all

Christchurch Catholic Diocese is hosting a second Ablaze conference in November for everyone interested in parish renewal. It will build on the diocese's first Ablaze in 2017. The event is on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 November at the Aldersgate Centre, 309 Durham St North, Christchurch, and open to all. Bishop of Christchurch Michael Gielen says the first Ablaze was a focal point and impetus for evangelisation in the diocese. Following the lifting of Covid restrictions he says as we return to normal life 'now is the time to gather again and focus on helping our parishes and communities be more intentionally missional'. Bishop Michael was a keynote speaker at the first Ablaze and will

be at this one. Two other keynote speakers are: **Anna Stuart**, Director of Global Operations with the international Divine Renovation Ministry. A parishioner and chair at St Benedict Parish Council, Halifax, Canada, Anna will look at parish renewal to guide a parish towards mission through the power of the Holy Spirit, the primacy of evangelisation and the best of leadership. **Fr Chris Ryan mgl**, parish priest of two parishes in the Sydney Archdiocese, will look at parish renewal, why we need it and how our transformation leads to a transformed world. Mike Stopforth Christchurch Bishop's Pastoral Office Director

says, 'Open to all, Ablaze will be suitable for clergy, parish leadership teams and councils, pastoral staff, youth ministry leaders, catechists, parish volunteers, school staff and everyone interested in parish renewal. It will include a youth ministry leaders' team. The focus will be on parish renewal and our call to mission and faith in Christ. There will be inspirational speakers, tools for mission through workshops, discussion forums, prayer and liturgy.' Go to www.chchcatholic.nz/ablaze for more information and to register or contact Mike at mstopforth@chch.catholic.org.nz or ph 027 5398 542. The cost is \$99 per person.

Gospel Reading: Sunday 2 October, 2022

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME LUKE - 17:5-10

⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' ⁶ The Lord replied, 'If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you. ⁷ 'Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from ploughing or tending sheep in the field, "Come here immediately and take your place at table"? ⁸ Would he

not rather say to him, "Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished"? ⁹ Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded? ¹⁰ So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, "We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do."

What is faith to me?

In Luke chapter 17 verses 5-10, Luke metaphorically asks this question of Jesus: 'What is faith to me?' He gets a surprising answer. Jesus tells us we have plenty, but it doesn't make much sense. He then answers the question with a challenge about being a servant and relates the humble acknowledgment of that duty to the meaning of faith. That makes even less sense. So, what is our trouble? We know Christ rose from the dead then ascended into heaven. Had he remained on earth, there would be no faith or hope because his followers would all see Jesus in the flesh and his physical body would distract them from the greater spiritual treasures that only faith and hope could make available to them. When Jesus left the earth, the Cross and the Crown had governed every facet of his life. Remember Jesus wept over Jerusalem, not from a throne, but from a mountain elevated above the garden - where, on the olive trees soaked with his blood, he gave his final manifestation of his Divine power. His heart was not embittered by

his cross because Ascension was the fruit of his Crucifixion. It was as if his faith and hope carried him through. For our benefit Jesus performed the work of a supreme servant and kept working right to the very 'end'. It is this Faith he left for us. Having faith includes the outworking of our belief in God; of putting God foremost in our lives; acknowledging there is a supreme being, responsible not just for our very existence, but for everything around us. We are all short of faith. And of course, nobody has the degree of faith to move mountains. But we can start with just a small bit faith - about as much as the smallest of seeds - say a mustard seed. We can begin by just wanting to serve Our Lord. As Jesus reminds us in verse 10, when we have done all we are supposed to do, we may say, 'We are merely servants, we have done no more than our duty.' And then watch the mountains move.

Tom Gibson is a retired dairy farmer and a parishioner at Immaculate Conception, Stratford.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

During the month of October 2022 Pope Francis' intention is: *for a Church open to everyone.*

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Recognised for leadership talents

Fr Brian Cummings sm, a former rector of St Bede’s College and provincial of the Society of Mary, died in August after a short illness.

Brian was born and raised in Petone and remained a ‘Petone man’ all his life. His schooling was at Sacred Heart Petone and St Patrick’s College Wellington. After secondary school he entered formation in the Society of Mary at Greenmeadows. He graduated with a BA in Theology and a BA in Literature from Victoria University.

After ordination Brian was appointed to St Bede’s College where he gained a reputation as an excellent teacher and sports coach. His leadership talents were quickly recognised – in a short time he became the Head of English, the Dean of Borders, and later Assistant Rector.

He was appointed to St Patrick’s College Silverstream as Deputy Rector for a couple of years before returning to St Bede’s for 12 years in the top job from 1990–2001. There are many former students, staff and parents very grateful to Brian for his ministry in education, his careful planning and organisational skills, his clarity, thoughtfulness and encouragement.

Brian then went to Guelph in Canada for studies in Ignatian Spirituality – studies which were to shape his future spirituality ministry in New Zealand. He returned home mid-2003 and was appointed interim Superior and Formation Director at the Marist Seminary in Auckland.

Brian was elected to the Provincial Council and became Vice Provincial in 2005. Three years later he was elected Provincial, serving six years in that role. He performed his duties with his normal administrative competence, with well-formulated plans of action, and was always well prepared for meetings. He was considered an excellent listener and sensitive to the mood in the room, qualities that made him a sought-after facilitator.

Finishing as Provincial, Brian took up spirituality ministry at Pā Maria in Hobson St, Wellington. Much of his time was given to preaching or directing retreats, talks, writing articles, spiritual direction and supervision. Many whom Brian directed have spoken with gratitude of his work with them, his spiritual guidance, his humanity and his care. His popular



Fr Brian Gerard Cummings sm. May he rest in peace.

winter film series took themes from movies, asked questions about life and invited people to consider the themes in light of their own experiences. This innovative ministry extended into the wider community.

Brian died on 19 August 2022, aged 68. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St Mary of the Angels, Boulcott St, Wellington, on 23 August, and thereafter his interment at the Makara Cemetery.

Clarification

The last issue of WelCom contained an article, ‘Mercy Sisters mount global response to *Laudato si’*.’ The article had been edited for space reasons. The edited version indicates that sisters were present in person at meetings in New York and Lisbon. This is not correct. Following the Mercy Congregation’s and companions’ 2016 Mercy International Reflection Process on *Laudato si’*, a Mercy Global Presence programme was formed. Sisters in Aotearoa New Zealand, Tonga and Samoa created resources and participated in worldwide Zoom meetings about the Cry of the Earth and the Poor. A regional meeting of Asia Pacific Leadership Teams took place in 2017 and in 2018 some of the region’s sisters gathered in Samoa, along with a sister from the Mercy International Association Global Action office at the UN, New York, to discuss climate-change effects on the sisters’ homelands and their people. From 27 June to 1 July this year, the sisters took part online in the Global Mercy Oceans Campaign, which was held at the time of the UN Oceans Conference in Lisbon.



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Support Life Sunday 2022

‘You are not alone – accompanying and caring for people living with mental illness’

Catholic Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe and Vice President and Secretary of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference says it is estimated 50 to 80 per cent of New Zealanders will experience some form of mental distress, addiction challenges or both in their lifetimes.

‘Mental illness is a major issue which touches every family in some way. And yet we don’t talk about it nearly enough,’ says Bishop Lowe.

Because of these issues, the country’s Catholic bishops are urging everyone to reflect on mental illness and its consequences for individuals, families and communities as they prepare to mark **Support Life Sunday 2022 on 9 October**.

‘The bishops want to highlight the needs of many in our community and affirm everyone who works in the mental health area,’ Bishop Lowe says.

This year’s parish resources for Support Life Sunday include a social media campaign that highlights critical facts about mental illness and features quotes from people living with a mental illness or caring for someone who is mentally ill.

As in past years, the bishops’ Nathaniel Centre for bioethics has prepared the resources for Support Life Sunday. Dr John Kleinsman,

the centre’s director, says it is important this campaign amplifies the voices of people who have first-hand experience of mental illness.

‘By making mental health a focus, we hope to further break down and lessen the stigma and discrimination which still surrounds mental illness and encourage more open and honest conversations,’ Dr Kleinsman says.

Dr Kleinsman says Support Life Sunday’s focus on mental illness follows directly from this year’s Mental Health Awareness Week, from 26 September to 2 October and took as its theme the importance of reconnecting with uplifting people and places.

‘Our schools and faith communities should be places of positive connection that lift people up and we want to encourage people to reflect on the extent to which that is the case, as well as ways of becoming more supportive, uplifting and inclusive,’ Dr Kleinsman said.

Bishop Lowe says people with mental health issues deserve to get the professional care they need. ‘But we also know a loving and supportive school or parish, alongside a prayerful trust in the presence and power of a loving God who walks with us through even the darkest of times, can have a significant positive impact on a person’s well-being and be an important part of their journey with mental illness.’

Support Life Sunday 2022’s resources include reflection questions for parish leadership teams and ways to examine consciences for individuals and groups, with a view to parishes becoming more purposeful in responding to mental illness.

Bishop Lowe says overseas research highlights stigma and fears surrounding mental illness means people living with mental illnesses are less likely to get the level of pastoral care provided for people with physical illnesses: ‘We need to celebrate what we are already doing well in our schools and parishes to help people with mental health issues, but we must also realise we can and need to do better as faith communities in acknowledging mental illness and accompanying people with it. It’s all about putting into action our core belief in the unconditional dignity of the human person.’

Parishes have been encouraged to start the social media campaign from Monday 3 October. The resources are on the bishops’ website catholic.org.nz/resources/sls2022/

DATES AND EVENTS – WHAT’S ON IN THE TWO DIOCESES

- Sunday 2 October**

 - Day of Celebration for Venerable Suzanne Aubert
 - Laudato si’ Action Platform – the Archdiocese of Wellington and EJP Commission have signed up to the Laudato si’ Action Platform. The launch and Eucharist were presided by Cardinal John Dew on the last day in the Season of Creation 2022 at 10.30am Mass, St Thomas More Church, Wilton.

Sunday 9 October
Support Life Sunday (see this page).

Tuesday 11 October
Priest Jubilee Mass – Diocese of Palmerston North, all parishioners invited to celebrate the jubilees of priestly ordination, 12.05pm, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit (see p 8).
- Sunday 23 October**
World Mission Sunday – collection (see p 17).

Thursday 27 October
Healing service – at St Teresa’s Pro-Cathedral Church, 301 Karori Rd, Karori, Wellington, by Fr John Rea sm from 7.30pm. Please contact Melissa Braganza at melissabraganza7@gmail.com for more information.

Friday 4 and Saturday 5 November
Ablaze parish renewal conference – hosted by Diocese of Christchurch at Aldersgate Centre, 309 Durham St North, Christchurch. Open to everyone interested in journey of parish renewal, call to mission and faith in Christ. Go to chchcatholic.nz/ablaze to register or contact Mike Stopforth at mstopforth@chchcatholic.org.nz or ph 027 5398 542 for more information. Cost \$99 per person. (See details p 17).

If your parish or school has an event coming up, please email information – up to 50 words – to welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz by **Monday 17 October for November WelCom**; and by **Monday 14 November for December WelCom**. Include date, name of event, location and contact.







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Support Life Sunday 2022
Tautokona te Rātapu Whakaora

You are not alone: Accompanying and caring for people living with mental illness





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Catholic Liturgical Dates October

1: Therese of the Child of Jesus – Mem

4: St Francis of Assisi, Mem

7: Our Lady of the Rosary, Mem

15: Teresa of Avila, Mem

17: Ignatius of Antioch, Mem

18: Luke, Evangelist, Feast

28: Simon and Jude, Ap, Feast

World Dates October

1: International Day of Older Persons

2–8: Fiji Language Week

3: World Habitat Day

10: World Mental Health Day

13: Natural Disaster Reduction Day

15: International Day of Rural Women

16: World Food Day

17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty


16–22: Niue Language Week

23–29: Gagana Tokelau Language Week

24–28: Diwali Hindu Festival of Lights

24–30: Disarmament Week

24–31: World Media and Information Literacy Week



The **Survivors Network** of those **Abused by Priests** (SNAP) Aotearoa-New Zealand is an **independent**, grassroots, non-binary peer-support network among victims and survivors of clergy, religious and institutional abuse.

If you or someone in your whānau need support, please contact us.

Call or text 022 3440496 or email: aotearoa-newzealand@snapnetwork.org

www.snapnetwork.org



Wellington Sexual Abuse HELP

We support individuals, whānau and communities affected by sexual violence. Our free 24/7 crisis support line, social work and counselling services are available to everyone – regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or sexuality.

For immediate support call **(04) 801-6655** (press 0 at the menu).

To find out more about our services visit www.wellingtonhelp.org.nz or email support@wellingtonhelp.org.nz

Male Survivors Wellington

The Road Forward

Tāne Whai Ora

Abuse takes place in isolation – recovery works well with others.

We provide peer support to male survivors of sexual abuse through individual and group peer support, therapist-led workshops, referral to counsellors and other agencies as needed.

Contact Richard Brewer:
support@theroadforward.org.nz
Tel: 021 118 1043
www.theroadforward.org.nz



Whiringa-ā-nuku – Te Marama o te Rōhario

October – The Month of the Rosary

Traditionally, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a certain devotion. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. October includes the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, celebrated on 7 October.

St John Paul II called the Rosary his favourite prayer, ‘in which we meditate with Mary upon the mysteries which she as a Mother meditated on in her heart (Lk 2:19).’

Our Lady of the Rosary – Pray for us.
Tō Tātou Kahurangi o te Rōhario – Īnoi mō mātou.



‘Mysteries of Hope’ – the five decades of the Rosary reflect wonderful signs of hope that help fill the gospels and our personal lives with joy and purpose.

1. The Immaculate Conception – **Hope for the world.**
2. The Well of Living Water (John 4) – **Hope for life.**
3. The Parable of the Vine (John 15) – **Hope for community.**
4. The Raising of Lazarus (John 12) – **Hope for our future.**
5. The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24) – **Hope for our journey.**

The Rosary as a work and memory of love

Fr James Lyons



A teacher loved the Rosary. She wanted to make this devotion more obvious and better understood.

The parish church stood on a large piece of ground. Why not create a Rosary Garden in one corner? The parish said, ‘Go ahead!’

But, very sadly, the teacher became seriously ill and died before the garden was even started. Now it thrives in her memory.

The Rosary Garden was the dream of Angela Moeke, a teacher and Director of Religious Studies at St Patrick’s School in Tongariro Parish, Taupo.

After her untimely death in 2021, the school and parish combined to create the garden as a memorial, while providing a visual feast honouring the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The garden is made with used car tyres, painted blue, one for each of the 53 ‘Hail Marys’ and each proudly displaying a red rose bush. The ‘Our Father’, in between each Decade features a tall-stemmed white rose.

Blessed on 1 October last year, the Ms Moeke Memorial Garden has attracted great interest and is regularly visited by school classes and parishioners.

Alison Carroll, Faith Formation Coordinator for Tongariro Parish says the joint project by school and parish shows ‘our respect for and love of Angela, a highly valued teacher, parishioner, friend and colleague.’

‘It was a beautiful setting for our RCIA

[Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults] candidates to learn about the Rosary and pray it together for the first time’, she said.

Close by, the parish has recently built and blessed a columbarium for the interment of ashes, making the garden ‘a prayerful companion’ to the memory of loved ones.

School pupils find the site a helpful aid to prayer. Jack, aged 10, loves class prayer time there: ‘It gives me peaceful vibes.’

Parish priest, Msgr Trevor Murray, encouraged the project with a ‘hands on’ involvement, laying out the site and helping the children plant the roses. He says the impact on both parish and school has been ‘enormous.’

‘Parishioners spend time there after Mass and school classes make regular visits. As a priest, I’m very heartened to see this growing understanding and appreciation of the Rosary. We have a beautiful setting for a beautiful prayer.’

The photographs with this article display the unique and dignified nature of the memorial. Hopefully, they also encourage readers visiting Taupo to pray there.

Traditionally, the Rosary comprises five decades (ten Hail Mary prayers) each separated by the Our Father (The Lord’s Prayer). Each decade invites meditation on a ‘Mystery’ relating to the life of Jesus.

There are the Mysteries of Joy, Light, Sorrow and Glory. The Joyful Mysteries follow the birth and infancy of Jesus and are prayed on Monday and Saturday. The Mysteries of Light bring us into the ministry of Jesus (Thursday). The Sorrowful Mysteries highlight the passion and death of Jesus (Tuesday and Friday); the Resurrection and the culmination of Mary’s life are the Glorious Mysteries (Wednesday and Sunday).

A parishioner of Wellington’s Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish, Dr Michael Humble, recently suggested a further set of meditations, naming them the Mysteries of Hope [see left].