

WelCom

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NauMai

A newspaper for the Wellington and Palmerston North Catholic Dioceses

www.welcom.org.nz

Pope invites everyone to pray for Tonga



The provision of clean water to the people of Tonga has been a priority for response crews following the eruption and tsunami, which struck Tonga on 15 January 2022, impacting the lives of thousands of people. Photo: NZDF

Pope Francis has expressed his spiritual closeness to the people of Tonga, following the massive eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano that unleashed a destructive tsunami last month.

"My thoughts go out to the peoples of the Tonga Islands who in recent days were affected by the eruption of an underwater volcano, which caused considerable material damage. I am spiritually close to all those who are sorely-trying, and I implore from God relief in their suffering. I invite everyone to join me in prayer for these our brothers and sisters." – Pope Francis, 19 January 2022

Support pours in for devastated Tonga

Annette Scullion

Tonga is a kingdom of more than 170 South Pacific islands, many uninhabited, and most lined with white beaches, coral reefs and covered with lush and colourful tropical rainforest. But on Saturday 15 January, the country once so bright with vibrant colours, was turned grey by volcanic ash from a major eruption of underwater volcano Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai, which resulted in a tsunami in Tonga and surrounding areas. The devastation

has impacted tens of thousands in Tonga. Three people lost their lives. International support so far has included humanitarian relief, clean up, the rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure, and emergency supplies for Tongan families most affected. Communications have been very challenging with internet and data disrupted due to the severing of a sea cable from Fiji. But the people of Tonga have shown incredible resilience.

Within days of the disaster, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand (CANZ) was able to make contact

with Caritas Tonga and was relieved to hear the team and their families are safe and well. The local team have been distributing pre-positioned emergency supplies, such as hygiene kits, buckets, jerry cans and water-purification items, and are working with local communities to provide further supplies and support. CANZ has offered an immediate Solidarity Grant to Caritas Tonga and is receiving generous donations, through its Pacific Relief Fund.

>> Continues p 3.



The Tongan Maritime Force patrol vessel, VOEA Ngahau Koula, arriving with evacuated people from Mango to Nomuka. Photo: Mona Palu



Support Tonga Today

Join us in supporting Tonga in the aftermath of the volcanic eruption.



Donate to the Pacific Relief Fund - Tonga:

caritas.org.nz
0800 22 10 22

From the editor

Annette Scullion

Kia ora koutou.

Greetings to all with our first edition of WelCom for 2022.

This edition is particularly significant – being the 400th publication of WelCom since this newspaper began almost 40 years ago, in September 1984.

In his greeting on the front cover of the inaugural edition, Cardinal Tom Williams, then Archbishop of Wellington and proprietor of WelCom, wrote:

Derived from the words: ‘Wellington Communications’, WEL-COM is indeed welcomed into the life of our Archdiocese.

Our Catholic people and organisations have good news to share. Because of the growth and developments taking place, it is news to cheer and hearten. Without some form of Archdiocesan newspaper, that good news will remain largely untold.

WEL-COM is to be distributed at every Mass in the Archdiocese. This first issue should therefore reach every active parish family and individual. It is hoped to produce two further issues before the end of this year.

So read, and share the joy of your Archbishop, your clergy and your fellow-Catholics.

During the last 40 years the media landscape has changed

enormously. WelCom began before electronic media became mainstream and news and information was communicated largely through printed press, radio and television. Today, with so many communication formats being instant and fragmented, the place of a regular, printed community newspaper that brings targeted and connected information to Catholics through our parishes and schools is as important as ever.

WelCom builds powerful connections across the Catholic community. Our lead story this month is about the devastating volcano and tsunami that struck our Pacific neighbour, Tonga in January. Bishop Steve Lowe, Bishop of Auckland – the heart of the Tongan community in Aotearoa New Zealand – wrote this message to share through WelCom.

‘In these days, after the destruction of the volcanic eruption and tsunami, our hearts go out to the people of Tonga who are now having to face the interruption to their water and food supplies. At the same time we are reminded of the Lord’s words in the parable: “For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink,” as we look to the needs of our Pacific neighbour.’

Ngā mihi.

A wonderful effort



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

This month, February 2022, WelCom reaches a major milestone with the publication of its 400th edition, after almost four decades since our diocesan newspaper was launched in September 1984.

Creating 400 hundred editions of WelCom is a wonderful effort. The Archdiocese of Wellington and the Diocese of Palmerston North owe an enormous debt of thanks to all those who have been involved in those 400 editions. Clearly the editors – from Fr Bernie Hehir, Marilyn Pryor, Cecily McNeil and now Annette Scullion – have made wonderful contributions.

Also to be thanked are the regular and casual contributors to WelCom, the advertisers who contribute enormously to help enable us to keep it going as a free newspaper, those in the parishes and schools who help distribute WelCom because they want to share information about the Wellington and Palmerston dioceses and the wider Church.

The first edition of WelCom was published in September 1984 – WelCom being an abbreviation of Wellington Communications. In 1984, Pope John Paul II had just entered the fifth year of his service as Pope. Cardinal Tom Williams was the archbishop, and it was Cardinal Tom’s vision to establish WelCom to inform, teach, and tell the stories of the archdiocese. Today, the paper still retains the name WelCom, but is shared with the diocese of Palmerston North.

Initially, Cardinal Tom’s aim was to share news of the archdiocese and firstly it was about two specific and related projects – progress reports on the Cathedral strengthening, the additions to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the Cathedral Foyer and Connolly Hall; and secondly it was to make public information about archdiocesan finances. The second edition of WelCom included a four-page lift-out with the financial review for 1984 and a budget for 1985. Today, 400 editions later, we are once again strengthening the Cathedral and we are also still looking for finances

to complete that.

Over an almost 40-year period WelCom has changed. It has been, and still is, a means for us to share papal letters and encyclicals and encourage others to read, to reflect and pray with messages that come from the Holy Father – particularly Pope Francis in the last nine years. It continues to be a vehicle for sharing the stories of the Archdiocese of Wellington and the Diocese of Palmerston North, so that we can learn from and support one another. WelCom has inspired and educated the people of God, and it still does all those things and for that I am very grateful.

Change in life is constant, and there have been changes in our diocese since the day Bishop Phillipe Joseph Viard arrived in Wellington from France, on 3 May 1850. I have always appreciated the words of St John Henry Newman who said, **‘In a higher world it is otherwise but here below to live is to change, to be**



Celebrating 40 years of WelCom, l-r: original edition 1984; Millennium edition 2000; 40th edition 2022.

perfect is to have changed often’. We know our life consists of change, just as the natural world around us is continually changing with the seasons.

For almost 40 years WelCom has been reporting on the life of the diocese. There have been four Synods, the amalgamation of parishes in recent years and the review of parish properties. The last couple of years have been dealing with the challenges of Covid-19, lockdowns, vaccination passes etc. Our Catholic Schools are in high demand and most of our schools – especially colleges – cannot accept all those who apply for entry. A massive change has been in our clergy numbers. We simply could not manage today without the large number of international priests who generously and willingly serve our two dioceses. At the same time, this situation also gives the opportunity for more and more people to respond to their Baptismal call by being involved in their local parish. In the archdiocese, there has been the advent of Launch Out, and the establishment of Lay Pastoral Leaders. It is inevitable there will be still more changes.

Some things have not changed. We are all the People of God; our Baptism makes us the People of God. Thankfully the emphasis on the fact that we are all the People of God has changed and it is much more appreciated and more clearly understood under the leadership of Pope Francis.



The Church is the People of God. Our Mission has not changed. The Second Vatican Council has been teaching us for 60 years now that the Church is a community of witnesses drawn together by the presence of Jesus. We are inspired by the Word and nourished with the Word and the Eucharist. Our call is to be humble and simple in style, reminding us always that the Mission served is not our own, but the Mission of Jesus himself. Every Catholic parish and school should be seen as a place where we grow in our relationship with God, where individuals work

at becoming a community led by the Spirit of God. In these communities we help one another to draw closer to God and to reach others as we try to become more like Jesus himself. Remember, we are pilgrims who are both holy and sinful, and always

open to the guidance of the Spirit.

It is in the world around us, with its difficulties, its challenges, its joys and hopes, that we are challenged to be Church. It is in the midst of a broken world that we are to be like Christ as we listen to one another and our world; where we are called to integrate and embrace the Stewardship of Creation and the Common Good emphasised by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato si’*.

One writer spoke about **‘sniffing out the presence of God’s kingdom’**. As we give thanks for 400 editions of WelCom, we pray we will continue to learn from the writing presented in it and that we will continue to grow together as the brothers and sisters we read about in the Acts of the Apostles:

‘The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. All the believers were united and shared everything. They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. They praised God and demonstrated God’s goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.’ – Acts 2: 42-47.

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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

Deadline for March 2022 issue: Monday 14 February 2022.

WelCom is published monthly and is available free at parishes and schools in the two dioceses.

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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.

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New bishop appointed for Auckland

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop of Hamilton Stephen Lowe as the new Catholic Bishop of Auckland.

The appointment was announced from Rome in December.

Bishop Lowe is the twelfth Bishop of Auckland and replaces the retiring Bishop Pat Dunn, who has served since 1994.

The Diocese of Auckland has almost 40 per cent of New Zealand's 471,000 Catholics.

'I am humbled at being asked by the Holy Father to be the Bishop of Auckland and the successor of Bishop Pat Dunn, a much-loved Bishop,' said Bishop Lowe.



Bishop Steve Lowe met Pope Francis at a private audience, October 2019. Photo: Facebook

'Auckland is our largest diocese and our first diocese. When I look at the bishops who have served Auckland, starting with Bishop Pompallier, they all had the challenges of their time and circumstances. But they also had their own unique gifts and talents and the gifts and talents of the people of God. So, I'm looking forward to becoming part of the Diocese of Auckland as we work together for the building of

he completed a Licence in Spiritual Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Bishop Lowe was appointed to Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland in 2008 where he served as Formation Director until the end of 2014. While based there, he served for a time as parish priest of Ponsonby.

Bishop Lowe is the Vice President and Secretary of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, and the bishops' representative on *Te Rūnanga o te Hāhi Katorika o Aotearoa*, the Church's national Māori advisory group. He is also a member of several other bodies including the National Safeguarding and Professional Standards Committee.

Bishop Lowe's appointment to Auckland means the dioceses of Hamilton, Palmerston North and Christchurch are without bishops pending Pope Francis announcing new appointments.

Source: New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

» Continued from p 1.

'Communications have been difficult, but we are thankful we are now in daily contact with Caritas Tonga,' says CANZ Director Julianne Hickey. 'Together we have completed the pre-positioning of emergency supplies at three locations in Tonga.

'One of the biggest immediate concerns has been the volcanic ash and dust. The ash affects drinking water, food crops, and respiratory health. Supplying fresh water and water-related emergency supplies has been a priority.'

Caritas Tonga Director, Suliana Falemaka, says the hot temperatures and lack of rain have created dry dusty conditions, making it

difficult to breathe. 'Many people are preferring to work from home because their homes are often less ash-impacted.'

Electricity supply is unstable everywhere. CANZ has approved the purchase of a generator for the Caritas Tonga office with some of the donated funds from the New Zealand public.

The Catholic Diocese in Tonga has formed a disaster team with representatives from each of its departments meeting regularly to care for communities. Cardinal Mafi has sent a letter to parishes in Tongatapu requesting donations of food items and crops for the Ha'apai islands

The people who have been evacuated from Mango and Atata islands to Tongatapu are staying in a Wesleyan hall at Sopa, in the Nuku'alofa area. Immediate counselling has been arranged for them and for others in 'Eua.

'Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and Caritas Tonga have been overwhelmed by the generosity shown by our supporters,' says Julianne Hickey. 'Within 10 days of the eruption and tsunami, together we have raised over \$182,000. Mālō 'aupito! Thank you!'

To support Caritas Tonga, please donate to the Pacific Relief Fund online or via Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, bank account: 03-0518-0211216-00. Include your first and last name and put Tonga as the reference: www.caritas.org.nz/donate-online

At the 2018 census, there were 82,389 people in Aotearoa New Zealand identifying as being part of the Tongan ethnic group, with the majority – 62,403 – living in Auckland. The population in the Tonga Islands was at 105,047.



Rev Michael Gielen (l), Auxiliary Bishop of Auckland met with Fr Patele Line (r), Tongan chaplain in Auckland to discuss providing support and to pray for those affected by the volcano and tsunami in Tonga. In a message on his facebook page Bishop Michael says, 'Please save the date of **Saturday 12 February** where we will have an online fundraiser, **7pm-9pm**, for our Tongan

whānau. All money raised will be distributed on the ground in Tonga to those who need it most through Catholic agencies.' Details are on: www.facebook.com/BishopGielen

Cardinal issues Red Level guidelines

Cardinal Dew has written to priests and lay pastoral leaders of the archdiocese, urging them to think carefully about how they will manage the challenges of parish life at the Red Level of the Covid-19 Protection Framework.

Under Red, gatherings of vaccinated people are limited to no more than 100 people. A Mass registration system is available to parishes to manage numbers attending Masses.

The Cardinal says he intends to communicate frequently with parishes 'as the outbreak progresses as we may need to make changes quickly and deal with unforeseen situations.'

In his letter the Cardinal says 'it is possible as the outbreak gathers speed we will see a reduction in numbers at Masses because people are sick, close contacts or vulnerable because of age or health status.

'If any part of the archdiocese is badly affected by the outbreak, please don't hesitate to suspend Masses in your parish or area.'

Priests are urged to remind people that the dispensation from the Sunday obligation is still in place, and parishioners should not come to Mass if they have flu-like symptoms, are awaiting test results or are in contact with an infected person.

Any form of singing during Mass is discouraged and priests are reminded to wear a mask throughout the Mass, except for the Eucharistic Prayer. Those conducting Liturgies of Word and Communion should also wear a mask throughout the liturgy.

'If a priest is sick or has to isolate, the Masses he is scheduled for should be cancelled or replaced by a Liturgy of the Word and Communion if it is safe to do so. Finding replacement celebrants will be unrealistic as the outbreak increases, and will create a lot of strain. Only seek a replacement if absolutely essential, for example, for a funeral.'

The Cardinal says that 'taking communion to the sick can continue at this early stage, but it should only be done by people who have received all three vaccinations. We may need to suspend it as the outbreak accelerates.'

While the pandemic presents immense challenges, the Cardinal says that it 'also presents opportunities to be creative in the way we minister to people and ensure we reach out as much as we possibly can to others, especially this isolated and alone, those unwell and anxious.'

In a later communication to parishes, the Cardinal clarified that with a Red Level setting it is now mandatory for masks to be worn at gatherings, including Masses. People leading a faith-based gathering do not have to wear a mask but the Cardinal's recommendation was that liturgical leaders wear a mask 'whenever we are projecting our voice to the congregation'. Passing round the collection plate is also discouraged – the plate can be placed at the door as people leave.

Palmerston North Diocese: clergy moves from January 2022

Fr Adonis Rancho will return home to the Philippines
Fr Bernard O'Donnell will retire from Ohakune-Taihape parish
Fr Robin Kurian ic will be appointed parish priest of St Mary's in Palmerston North
Fr Peter Brockhill will serve Marton, Ohakune, Taihape parishes and Waiouru military base
Fr Joseph Saw Tha Khu will be based in Stratford and will serve collaboratively with Fr Craig Butler (Hawera) across the South Taranaki region, including Stratford, Kaponga, Eltham, Hawera, Patea and Waverley.



St Patrick's College Wellington

New Zealand's oldest Catholic boys' college

Warmest congratulations to St Patrick's College 2022 Manu Taupua Matua (Head Prefect), Duncan Gempesaw, and his co-Manu Taupua – Ben Brown, Dimitri Economou, and Lucca Mansfield.

St Patrick's College warmly welcomes all new students and their whānau to our College especially the 2022 Year 9 student group.

Sectare Fidem – Hold firm to the Faith



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Scale of abuse in New Zealand Catholic Church revealed in new research

The scale of reported alleged abuse within the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand has become known for the first time from extensive research - entitled Information Gathering Project - undertaken by the Church at the request of the Royal Commission on Abuse in Care.

A total of 1680 reports of abuse were made by 1122 individuals against Catholic clergy, brothers, nuns, sisters and lay people from 1950 to the present, with 592 alleged abusers named. Almost half the reported abuse involved sexual harm. The 1960s and 1970s were the decades with the most abuse reported, with 75 per cent dated before 1990.

The results of this research have been requested by and provided to the Royal Commission. The definition of abuse used is the one used by the commission and includes reports of sexual, physical, emotional, psychological and neglect.

The research was undertaken by Te Rōpū Tautoko, the group that coordinates Church engagement with the Royal Commission. Te

Rōpū Tautoko encourages anyone who has suffered abuse in the care of the Church to approach the Police, the Royal Commission, the Church's agency for managing reports of abuse (the National Office for Professional Standards, or NOPS), or one of the many support groups and networks that exist for survivors. [To contact the National Office for Professional Standards: ph 0800 114 622, email prof_standards@nzcbc.org.nz website safeguarding.catholic.org.nz]

Te Rōpū Tautoko acknowledges the records will not represent all abuse that has happened in the care of the Catholic Church, as the research only covers recorded reports. Not all the reports of alleged abuse found during the research resulted in police complaints or

criminal convictions. Not all the reports were upheld at the time they were made, or subsequently, but many were.

Not all the alleged abusers were identified - 308 of the reports were against unidentified people. A total of 1296 reports were against 592 named alleged abusers. Of those 592,393 had one report about them, 143 had two to four reports, 40 had five to nine, 10 had 10 to 14 and six had 15 or more. Those six accounted for more than 10 per cent of all reports of alleged abuse.



Catherine Fyfe, Chair of Te Rōpū Tautoko: 'Church leaders are committed to ensuring transparency.'

Catherine Fyfe, Chair of Te Rōpū Tautoko, says: 'Church leaders are committed to ensuring transparency. Consistent with this principle, we have published this information now, as soon as the work on it has been completed. It is important to note that the extent of reports of abuse in the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand has not been collated before now. The Information Gathering Project was a major exercise involving dozens of people over two years, including searching paper files dating back 70 years in hundreds of places.'

Sr Margaret Anne Mills, President of the Congregational Leaders Conference of Aotearoa New Zealand (representing Catholic religious orders and similar entities), says: 'Each piece of data represents many people's lives. Much of it represents terrible harm committed by one person on another. We can never forget that. Being involved in being part of healing that harm, as much as is possible, is, and needs to continue to be, our focus. All Church leaders need to urgently understand and acknowledge our shared history; understand and acknowledge the shocking impact of abuse in church settings on victims and their families; understand what it means for survivors and our faith communities; and act today.'

Cardinal John Dew, President of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, says: 'These statistics on abuse in the Catholic Church going back to 1950 are horrifying and something we are deeply ashamed of. I am grateful that so much work has been done in researching the details and making them public. As we continue to respond to the Royal Commission into Abuse and we build a safer Church for everyone, I firmly hope that facts like these will help us to face the sad reality. The Church will learn from this and affirm its commitment to the work of safeguarding.'

The publication of the research comes shortly before the Royal Commission is scheduled to start hearings that will investigate events at Marylands School in Christchurch. Marylands was a residential school for boys, many with disabilities, run from the 1950s

to 1984 by the Hospitaller Order of St John of God brothers. The commission is also looking into any abuse by the brothers at Hebron Trust, a Christchurch facility for at-risk youth operated by one of the brothers, and abuse by the brothers at Marylands against residents of the neighbouring St Joseph's orphanage run by the Sisters of Nazareth.



Sr Margaret Anne Mills, President of the Congregational Leaders Conference of Aotearoa New Zealand: 'Being involved in being part of healing that harm, as much as is possible, is, and needs to continue to be, our focus.'

In total, 236 reports of abuse relate to Marylands School and the Hebron Trust. That represents 14 per cent of all the abuse complaints compiled in the research. The three most prolific offenders worked at Marylands, and the most prolific offender went on to establish the Hebron Trust. A further 239 reports of abuse (also 14 per cent of the total) relate to St Joseph's Orphanage and Nazareth House, Christchurch. Half of those reports do not identify an offender.

The Information Gathering Project findings by Te Rōpū Tautoko are presented as a fact sheet, available online at: www.tautoko.catholic.org.nz

Catholic Church leaders welcome interim Royal Commission Redress Report

The Royal Commission into Abuse in Care released its interim report to Government on 15 December last year. The report - *From Redress to Pūretumu Torowhānui* - includes 95 recommendations considered necessary to address the harm done to survivors, their families and communities as a result of abuse suffered in state- and faith-based care. The key recommendation is the establishment of a new independent 'pūretumu torowhānui scheme' to be designed in conjunction with Māori and survivors. This will mean changes to services, laws and policies to ensure fair, effective and accessible redress using a wider wellbeing approach than previously

experienced by survivors.

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference (representing the country's Catholic bishops), the Congregational Leaders Conference of Aotearoa New Zealand (representing Catholic religious orders and similar entities) and Te Rōpū Tautoko (the group formed to co-ordinate Catholic engagement with the Royal Commission) said they welcomed the report and that they will closely study it and look at how they can implement the recommendations.

While awaiting the commission's interim report, Te Rōpū Tautoko has proactively created a 'roadmap' of work that needs


doing across all areas of the Church to make improvements in response to reports or disclosures of abuse in the care of the Catholic Church.

'Setting it out in the roadmap makes it clear to everyone the work that is needed and the progress being made,' said Catherine Fyfe Chair of Te Rōpū Tautoko. 'This provides a sense of transparency and accountability.' [See: tautoko.catholic.org.nz/roadmap/]

The Royal Commission is also conducting specific case studies on institutions, settings or themes. The first case study in the Catholic Church investigation will focus on Marylands, a residential Catholic school in Christchurch

for boys - many with disabilities and learning difficulties - from the 1950s to 1984. The inquiry is also looking into any abuse by the Hospitaller Order of St John of God brothers at the neighbouring St Joseph's orphanage, which was run by another order, and at Hebron Trust, a Christchurch facility for at-risk youth operated by one of the brothers of the St John of God order. The public hearing for the abuse at Marylands School will run from 9-17 February 2022.

Royal Commission: www.abuseincare.org.nz
Te Rōpū Tautoko: tautoko.catholic.org.nz



The **S**urvivors **N**etwork of those **A**bused by **P**riests (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

Male Survivors Wellington
The Road Forward
Tāne Whai Ora

**Abuse takes place in isolation
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Contact Richard Brewer:
support@theroadforward.org.nz
Tel: 021 118 1043
www.theroadforward.org.nz



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

Donated *taonga* help fund Cathedral

Fr James B Lyons
Cathedral Restoration Committee

Two quite remarkable gifts have been offered for auction in support of Wellington’s Sacred Heart Cathedral’s restoration.



This painting by New Zealand artist, Ralph Hotere (1931–2013), one of his *Window in Spain* series (1978), has been donated for auction for the Cathedral restoration fund.

They were to be part of a fund-raising dinner this month, regrettably cancelled, due to Covid-Omicron restrictions.

A painting by famed New Zealand artist, Ralph Hotere (1931–2013), is one of his *Window in Spain* series (1978).

Donated by former Cathedral parishioners, the painting shares top billing with a set of Suzanne Aubert’s ‘Herbal Remedies’, gifted for the fund-raising event by the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion.

Both gifts are expected to attract considerable interest. They may

now become part of the online art auction scheduled to commence 19 March (see ‘Cathedral Corner’, p 18).

Ralph Hotere’s work has been widely acclaimed and he is regarded as one of New Zealand’s most important late 20th century artists. His art charts his journeys through Aotearoa and the world.

Suzanne Aubert, Meri Hohepa, founder of the Daughters of Compassion, worked with Māori to develop ‘herbal remedies’ using her skill in chemistry, gained in France, and their knowledge of native plants.

The set of four ‘Remedies’, registered between 1891–1894, are in their original packaging, each signed by Mother Mary Joseph as a guarantee of authenticity.

They were marketed as a means of supporting her work for the poor and underprivileged and used for a variety of ailments, including injuries, colds and liver complaints. The French Consul to New Zealand gave high commendation and introduced the medicines to the Faculty of Medicine at Paris.

The Consul’s letter to Suzanne was 30 November 1892, in which he wrote, ‘I congratulate you most sincerely for the valuable discoveries you have made in your untiring research of the virtues and properties of New Zealand flora.’

The auction also includes many other donated offerings.

Wine connoisseurs will be interested in a range of top vintages. There are additional paintings, holiday homestays and two dinners, one prepared and hosted by Cardinal John, the other by courtesy of Bella Italia Restaurant, Petone.

Meanwhile, efforts continue to raise the final \$2.6 million required.

In the race to raise enough to ensure the opening of the Cathedral this year, a letter is being sent to all parishioners encouraging donations towards specific items, such as interior painting, audio-visual equipment and the Hobday Organ.

For more details about the Cathedral restoration online art auction go to ‘Cathedral Corner’, p 18.



Rongoā – medicinal use of plants: Mary Joseph (Suzanne) Aubert used a mix of her own skill in chemistry, and Māori knowledge to create her products. All her products had Māori names, such as Paramo, Karana, Wanena, Natanata, Marupa, Hapete, Romino and Kekako.

Image: CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. Te Papa (GH003710/4)

Ponsonby-site sale helps Catholic Theological College move to modern premises



The New Zealand bishops’ sale of their share in the former Good Shepherd College property in Ponsonby Rd, will enable the shift to modern premises for Catholic Theological College.

Photo: Supplied

The sale of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference’s half share in the former Good Shepherd College site in Auckland to its other half-owner, the Society of Mary, will help Te Kupenga-Catholic Theological College to move to modern premises.

The site at 20 Ponsonby Rd, Auckland is currently used by Te Kupenga-Catholic Theological College.

Proceeds from the sale of the site will go to refurbishing the St Columba Centre and adjacent Holy Cross Seminary in nearby Vermont St, Ponsonby.

The upgrade will see Te Kupenga-Catholic Theological College move its Auckland campus from Ponsonby Rd to the St Columba Centre, giving staff and students a modern space better integrated with the seminary.

Barring issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the move to Vermont St is expected to happen around Easter, in mid-April this year.

The Ponsonby Rd site has been owned 50–50 by the NZCBC and the Society of Mary. The Society has agreed to purchase the NZCBC share and plans to host some of its ministry agencies at the site, including Logos – a Marist youth-development project.

Te Kupenga was formed in January 2020 by merging the former Good Shepherd College with the former Catholic Institute, creating three subsidiaries, including Catholic Theological College. It had been planned to eventually move Catholic Theological College to another site.

NZCBC Secretary and Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe said the bishops were pleased the Ponsonby Rd site will continue to house entities devoted to the mission of the Church.

‘The buildings in which we perform our ministry may change, but our passion for the mission of the Church and the gospel of Christ is enduring,’ Bishop Lowe said.

‘The bishops are grateful and very appreciative of the work and patience of staff of Te Kupenga and Holy Cross Seminary for helping to bring these changes into effect, and we acknowledge the significant disruption to staff and students caused by construction works and moving premises.’

Catholic Theological College Level 7 head and lecturer Fr Merv Duffy said, ‘It will be hard leaving 20 Ponsonby Road – we’ve taught from here for 21 years – but the Vermont Street site has more parking, which will benefit our students.’



Te Huinga o ngā Pīhopa Katorika o Aotearoa

New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

Manager

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Enquiries to Siobhan Dilly, NZCBC Executive Officer, (04) 496-1747: sdilly@nzcbc.org.nz

Full details here: www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/nzcbc-manager-apply/



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Pope warns of retreat from democracy



Pope Francis greets Church and civic leaders on his arrival at Athens Airport on December 4, 2021.
Photo: Alkis Konstantinidis/Reuters

On his December visit to Greece, the birthplace of democracy, Pope Francis sounded the alarm that democracy is under threat across the globe, as authoritarian leaders fuelled by populist and nationalistic interests are on the rise.

“Today, and not only in Europe, we are witnessing a retreat from democracy,” the Pope said, warning that the common bonds of society are being severed by an increasing scepticism of institutions, hyper-individualism and partisanship – all heightened by social media that deepens divisions.

Addressing Greece’s political leaders, just over a mile from Athens’ iconic Parthenon, Pope Francis called Europe to return to its democratic roots.

“Democracy requires participation and involvement on the part of all. Consequently, it demands hard work and patience,” he said. “It is complex, whereas authoritarianism is peremptory and populism’s easy answers appear attractive.”

Over the last decade, Greece has suffered a severe financial crisis that plunged the country into political chaos, giving rise to both right-wing and left-wing populist movements that destabilised the country’s economy and nearly decimated its social programmes.

In a spirited address peppered with references to Greek philosophy and literature, the Pope lamented how far the Western world has drifted from its heritage of a politics built around the common good.

“The European community, prey to forms of nationalistic self-interest, rather than being an engine

of solidarity,” he said, “appears at times blocked and uncoordinated.”

The Western world, Francis continued, is ‘trapped’ in a ‘frenzy of a thousand earthly concerns and the insatiable greed of a depersonalising consumerism.’

As he recalled the country’s political heritage, the Pope said it was in Greece that people began ‘to see others not as subjects but as fellow citizens’ and as participatory members of a community.

He pleaded for a return to those foundational principles, urging a recovery of ‘the art of the common good’ and a move from ‘partisanship to participation,’ one that he said should prioritise ‘the weaker strata of society.’

Francis went on to rebuke world leaders engaged ‘in an obsessive quest for popularity’ and ‘a thirst for visibility.’

Concretely, the Pope urged solidarity in the fight against climate change – ‘lest children once more have to pay for the hypocrisy of their fathers’ – and a greater welcome of migrants and refugees, which, in a nod to the classical Greek poet Homer, he described as ‘protagonists of a horrendous modern Odyssey’.

Sources: National Catholic Reporter, Vatican News

Pope Francis’ address is on the Vatican website: tinyurl.com/Pope-democracy-address or www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2021/december/documents/20211204-grecia-autorita.html

Archbishop Tutu hailed for ‘prophetic life’

Anglican Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu’s death in South Africa has drawn tributes from all walks of life, among them, the Pope, bishops and clergy.

Tutu who helped to end apartheid in South Africa and 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner died in a frail-care centre on Boxing Day, 2021, at the age of 90 in Cape Town.

From Rome, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, on behalf of the Holy Father Pope Francis, sent a message of condolences. Pope Francis was saddened to learn of the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and offered heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones.

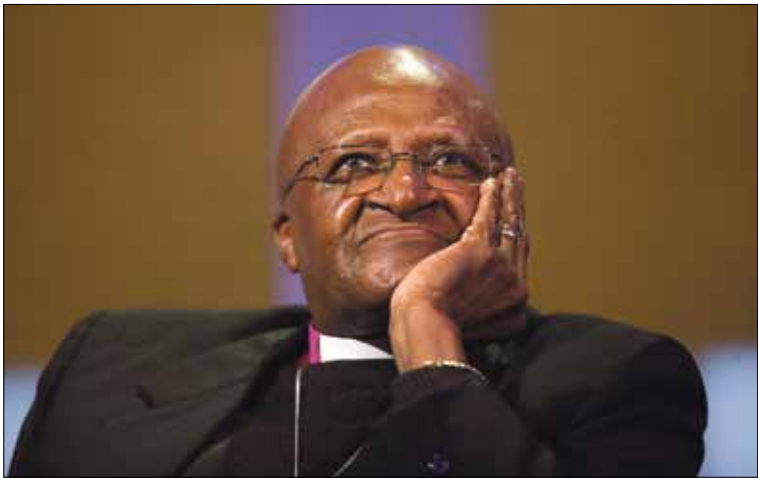
Archbishop Tutu Archbishop Tutu was known as the country’s ‘moral compass’. He used the pulpit as the first Black bishop of Johannesburg and later Archbishop of Cape Town to mobilise public opinion against racial inequity.

Tutu was against the tyranny of white minority rule, but he never stopped fighting for a fairer South Africa, calling the country’s politicians to account after the end of white rule in 1994.

Among other issues Tutu strived to draw awareness on Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territories, LGBT+ rights, and climate change.

Archbishop Tutu won global acclaim for his activism as one of the world’s most effective champions for human rights. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his non-violent struggle against apartheid highlighted.

The Catholic Church in Southern



Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu.
Photo: Allison Joyce/CNS

Africa wished Archbishop Tutu’s soul a peaceful rest.

“The Archbishop will be remembered for his immense spiritual contribution to the liberation and democracy of South Africa, the reason for which he was a laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize,” the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference said.

“The Arch” as he was affectionately known lived a prophetic life which brought consolation to many of the suffering and marginalised people in our country, and simultaneously, discomfort to those who benefitted from an unequal society. His ability and willingness to speak truth to power made him a symbol of justice throughout the world,” said Bishop Sylvester David OMI, vicar general of Cape Town Archdiocese.

Archbishop Tutu has been remembered at a state funeral on

Saturday 1 January. His plain pine coffin, the cheapest available at his request to avoid any ostentatious displays, was the centre of the service, which also featured African choirs, prayers and incense.

At the requiem mass celebrated for Tutu at St George’s Cathedral in Cape Town, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, the head of the worldwide Anglican church, said in a video message, ‘For me to praise him is like a mouse giving tribute to an elephant. South Africa has given us extraordinary examples of towering leaders of the rainbow nation with President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Tutu...Many Nobel winners’ lights have grown dimmer over time, but Archbishop Tutu’s has grown brighter.’

Source: The Tablet, UK

Pope’s comments stir reaction

Pope Francis began his regular weekly address at the Vatican recently by talking about the role of St Joseph as an adoptive father. It was a celebration of adoption as ‘among the highest forms of love’. The general audience was part of a series of catechesis on St Joseph.

And then, in offhand comments, the Pope talked about how some people choose to have pets instead of children and warned of the

dangers of a dwindling birth-rate in affluent countries.

In the context of the ‘demographic winter’ affecting Europe and other wealthy nations, the Pope encouraged people to ‘take the risk of welcoming children,’ biological or adopted.

“Today ... we see a form of selfishness,” the Pope said, according to translations in multiple reports. “We see that some people do not

want to have a child.’ Or, he said, they may have one or two kids – ‘but they have dogs and cats that take the place of children.’

The Pope’s comments, widely reported by the media out of context, drew criticism from pet owners and a number of commentators who argued that falling birth-rates are far more complicated than personal choice.

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‘Most dangerous place to be Christian’

Afghanistan is the most dangerous place to be a Christian after the Taliban takeover has emboldened Islamist extremists worldwide, according to a new report.

Afghanistan has replaced North Korea at the top of the World Watch List. North Korea was the worst for Christian persecution on the annual list for 20 years, but has dropped to second place, even though persecution there also increased.

The World Watch List, by Open Doors UK and Ireland, records persecution and discrimination worldwide. Open Doors is a non-denominational Christian organisation, working with persecuted Christians around the world. According to the 2022 list, more than 360 million Christians suffered high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith – a rise of 20 million on the previous year.



A Taliban fighter on patrol in Kabul in December 2021. Photo: Ali Khara/CNA

The number represents one in seven Christians worldwide, the highest levels of persecution since the list was first published 29 years ago.

In Afghanistan, where the Christian population is small and hidden, the report finds that Christian men face almost certain death if their faith is discovered. Women and girls may escape death but may be married to young Taliban fighters who want ‘spoils of war’. After women and girls are raped, they are trafficked.

The report says that after the Taliban government gained access to recordings and reports that helped to identify Christians inside the country, they were often detained and made to identify further networks of Christians before finally being killed.

The fall of Kabul has fuelled a new mood of invulnerability among other jihadist groups worldwide, the report says.

Source: The Tablet, UK

New report incriminates Pope Benedict

A new report has found former Pope Benedict XVI failed to act over four child abuse cases when he was archbishop of Munich. The report was carried out by a German law firm, Westpfahl Spilker Wastl, and was commissioned by the Catholic Church. The report alleges abuse continued under his tenure and the accused priests remained active in church roles. The New Zealand Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) has called for the report to be fully released into the public domain.

Apology to indigenous people

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland has announced plans to issue an historic apology to the Sámi people, who are indigenous to the Finnish nation and several other Nordic countries. The Sámi, currently numbering around 100,000 members, are the only recognised indigenous people of Europe. ‘We are coming to the moment when the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland, and other churches, should apologise to the Sámi,’ Lutheran Bishop Jukka Keskitalo of Oulu told Pope Francis at a meeting during the January 18–25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Bishop Jukka Keskitalo said repentance and an apology were due in relation to abuses and structural sins of the past that continue to affect people’s lives.

Prayer week for Christian Unity

Pope Francis has invited everyone to participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which this year focuses on a theme relating to the experience of the Magi, who came from the East to Bethlehem to worship the Messiah King: ‘We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him.’ The Pope said in a similar way, Christians of diverse backgrounds and traditions ‘are pilgrims on our way to full unity’ who come closer to our goal when keeping our gaze fixed on Jesus. The Week of Prayer is celebrated in January in Europe but in New Zealand it is celebrated between the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost at the end of May.

New ministries for lay people

Pope Francis conferred the ministries of catechist, lector, and acolyte upon lay men and women for the first time in St Peter’s Basilica in January. Candidates from three continents received the new ministries. Two people from the Amazonian region in Peru were formally made catechists by the Pope, along with other candidates from Brazil, Ghana, Poland, and Spain. The ministry of lector were conferred on lay Catholics from South Korea, Pakistan, Ghana, and Italy. Pope Francis established the ministry of catechist as an instituted, vocational service within the Catholic Church last May.

Nun among the most inspiring

The BBC has named a Catholic nun from Myanmar among Nobel laureates, politicians and professors as one of the 100 inspiring and influential women from around the world for 2021.

Sr Ann Rose Nu Tawng became a symbol of Myanmar’s nationwide protests against a military takeover when, in March, she knelt in front of armed security forces to halt their pursuit of fleeing demonstrators.



Act of Courage, Sr Ann Nu Thawng, a member of the Sisters of St Francis Xavier, kneels in front of police and soldiers and pleads with them not to shoot protesters during an anti-coup protest in Myitkyina, Myanmar. Photo: Myikyina News Journal

The photos and video of the 45-year-old nun on her knees with her arms spread wide, pleading with police, went viral in March. She reportedly told security forces that day: ‘You’ll have to come through me. Shoot me instead of these young people.’

The BBC’s description reads: ‘Sister Ann Rose Nu Tawng has openly spoken of protecting civilians, especially children. She has trained as a midwife and has led a life of service for the past 20 years. Recently, she has been looking after Covid-19 patients in Myanmar’s Kachin state.’

The BBC website says, ‘This year, 100 Women is highlighting those who are hitting “reset” – women playing their part to reinvent our society, our culture and our world.’

Women from Afghanistan make up half of this year’s list. Some of whom appear in the list under pseudonyms and without photos for their own safety.

The BBC quoted Sr Ann Rose Nu Tawng words, ‘I have witnessed with a broken heart what happened in Myanmar. If I were able to do something, I would release all people detained in prisons without justification. And I would make people equal without any discrimination.’

Sources: Crux, BBC News.

Notre-Dame restoration sparks debate

Leaked information about the interior restoration proposed for the fire-damaged Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris has sparked controversy, with some fearing the proposals would turn the site into ‘a kind of theme park’.

The Archdiocese of Paris will soon present its design to France’s National Commission on Heritage and Architecture (CNPA) to restore the interior of the building damaged in the fire on the evening of April 15, 2019.

The Daily Telegraph English newspaper reported that critics feared the changes would turn the building into a ‘politically correct Disneyland’. The article said that ‘confessional boxes, altars, and classical sculptures will be replaced with modern art murals, and new sound and light effects to create “emotional spaces”’.

‘There will be themed chapels on a “discovery trail”, with an emphasis on Africa and Asia. Quotes from the Bible will be projected onto chapel walls in various languages, including Mandarin,’ it added.

Maurice Culot, an architect who has seen the plans, told the newspaper: ‘It’s as if Disney were entering Notre-Dame.’

The man in charge of the project is Gilles Drouin, a priest of the Diocese of Évreux. He is also director of the Higher Institute of Liturgy at the Catholic University of Paris.

Fr Drouin was asked to improve the way tourists are accommodated and provide a more effective means of showcasing the cathedral’s works of art. Both are issues that predate the blaze.

The project has taken shape with the help of architects, lighting and sound specialists, stage designers and artists. The various options have been submitted to heritage professionals.

Catholics of Paris have demanded the archdiocese do a better job informing the public about the stages of the restoration project. Fr Drouin has readily acknowledged the criticism. But he says earlier proposals that are now completely obsolete are still in circulation, which may fuel fears.

The cathedral will reportedly reopen for worship with a Te Deum on April 16, 2024, five years after the blaze.

Sources: La Croix, Catholic News Agency

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Changing of the guard for diocesan governance body

The Diocesan Management Advisory Council (DMAC) is a consultative body to the Bishop of Palmerston North Diocese. Its members, representing both clergy and laity, assist in the governance and administration across the whole diocese.

The members meet bi-monthly to discuss and approve projects and programmes and provide financial and legal expertise in the administration of the Church's assets, under the bishop's direction. Together they ensure pastoral priorities, established by the bishop, are met so the diocese remains 'in keeping with sacred scripture, the Church's teachings and the provision of Code of Canon Law'.

At the council's meeting last May, after many years of service, four members – Marty Gunn, Monsignor Brian Walsh, Marie Russell and Fr John Dykes – all declared 2021 to be their last year on the council. Their skills and expertise include Marty Gunn's many administrative and financial skills as an auditor and Fr John Dyke's historical knowledge of the diocese.

When appointing new members, the bishop takes into account the balance and diversity of skills, experience, background and expertise necessary for prudent advice and stewardship on the council. He then appoints the new

members for a term of three years, with the option to renew at the end of the term.

'The Palmerston North Diocese acknowledges and thanks the retiring members for their considered guidance and dedicated service to the council, some of whom have served for more than 16 years,' said Liam Greer, general manager for the diocese.

The DMAC has welcomed four new members with commensurate skills to sit alongside clergy Frs Joe Grayland and Craig Butler, and long-serving chairperson of 30 years, Marie Dwyer. The new members are Grant Novak, New Plymouth; Vipin Thomas, Hastings; Maria Neville-Foster, Clive; and Keith Wedlock, Palmerston North.

'The new members span the diocese geographically and professionally, says Liam Greer. Collectively they bring essential, relevant skills to compliment those who are continuing to serve, and bridge and gaps in ability or professional experience that would most benefit the diocese.'

Diocesan Management Advisory Council: four new members



Grant Novak, New Plymouth

Grant is a retired lawyer with a background in property and commercial law, business, financing, and estate and trusts law. He is active in charities and their governance; chairs the Board of Trustees at St Pius X Primary School; and is on the leadership, property and health and safety teams at the Catholic Parish of New Plymouth.



Vipin Thomas, Hastings

Vipin is an associate director (audit and assurance) at Baker Tilly Staples Rodway Hawke's Bay with a wealth of experience and financial knowledge. He is a trustee for Jesus Youth New Zealand Trust and St Joseph's Catholic School Hastings, and has served on both the Catholic Parish of Hastings council and finance committee. He is active in parish ministries and charities and a catechism teacher for youth.



Maria Neville-Foster, Clive

Maria is the principal of Sacred Heart College in Napier and a firm believer in the importance and value of faith in the lives of young people. Catholic faith is an integral part of her life and she brings to the DMAC a perspective that is focussed on education, youth and the future.



Keith Wedlock, Palmerston North

Keith is a highly-qualified accountant, and current chair of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, with a wealth of experience working in public practice. Keith has held various professional leadership roles, both nationally and in Asia-Pacific, and has sat on many advisory boards, including the founding board of the Massey Business School. He is also Chairman of the Marist Sports Club, Palmerston North.

Jubilarians celebrate Mass

Last year's annual Mass for clergy celebrating their Jubilees of Ordination in the Diocese of Palmerston North, was held at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on 30 November 2021.

Bishop Peter Cullinane presided over the Mass with Cardinal John Dew, Bishop Owen Dolan, Fr Craig Butler, Monsignor Brian Walsh and several other clergy from the diocese concelebrating.

The five jubilarians celebrated were Bishop Peter Cullinane, 60 years; Fr David Moore sm, 60 years; Fr Arthur Toothill sm, 50 years; Fr Marcus Francis, 20 years; and Fr Manoj Mathew ic, 10 years. Not all of last year's jubilarians were able to attend the Mass.

Br Kevin Dobbyn fms, who celebrated 50 years of religious profession, was also present for the celebration.

During his homily, Bishop Peter said, 'Jubilees of Ordination are times for remembering'.

Bishop Peter shared two stories from his own life, which he said highlighted for him the giftedness

of God's presence in our lives.

One story was about a visit he made as a bishop to St Joseph's School in Dannevirke – the school he had attended as a child. He described to the students gathered how his grandmother had made it possible for him to attend school, despite the long journey required every day. Bishop Peter said, 'the lesson in this story for all of us is to listen to our grandparents because we never quite know what God might be wanting to say'.

Bishop Peter explained how, that many years after his ordination, he was told by a friend who had been visiting his grandmother when she was unwell, that she had been certain Peter would become a priest.

Bishop Peter said the communion of saints is where we go for our remembering. 'Our personal histories are in them, our belonging is in them, our identity is in them.'

Bishop Peter spoke on behalf of all the priests, especially those celebrating Jubilees, when he said,

'What has enabled us to carry on...and empowered us in our ministry...is the people we serve in the parishes. It is in their faith and hopes and love and sacrifices and joys and sorrows and struggles we meet our own calling and find ourselves lifted up, as if on eagles' wings.

'The occasion of Jubilee is an occasion of remembering and therefore a time of giving thanks.'

Bishop Peter concluded by asking all the priests gathered to join him in acknowledging their indebtedness to the people to whom they have served and by whom they have been nurtured.

'I refer therefore to the whole consecrated, saintly, motley, lovely People of God.'

Article by Diocese of Palmerston North Communications Team.



Jubilarians at the Mass with Cardinal John Dew (Apostolic Administrator) and Fr Craig Butler (Local Administrator. L-r, back: Frs Manoj Mathew, Arthur Toothill sm, Craig Butler and Cardinal John Dew; front: Fr David Moore sm and Bishop Peter Cullinane.



Bishop Peter Cullinane gives Homily. Photos: Diocese of Palmerston North

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Hundreds farewell Kāpiti parish priest

On Sunday 23 January the people of Te Whaea Tapu o Kāpiti – Our Lady of Kāpiti farewelled their much-loved and respected priest Fr Michael McCabe. After 14 years leading the parish Fr Michael has been appointed to Marlborough’s Our Lady of the Sea Parish.

Fr Michael celebrated Mass assisted by Pā Phil Cody sm from Whānua Maria, Ōtaki. The Mass, attended by hundreds, began with a karanga led by Pauline Takiwa and ended with local kaumatua Rakauoteora Te Maipi (Koro Don) blessing a seven-tonne rock marking the ‘Michael McCabe Reserve’. The moving celebrations honoured the gift that Michael is and the way that he has built not only a church but a community.

In his homily, Michael spoke



Hundreds gathered for Mass at Our Lady of Kāpiti Church to farewell their much-loved priest Fr Michael McCabe.

Photos: Bernie Velasco

of how, as an apprentice gardener during the 1970s, he was offered a job with Blenheim Parks and Reserves but after six months living with the Marist community at Futuna in Wellington, he answered the call to priesthood. Now, 50 years later he will finally take up his post in Blenheim.

Maureen Borkin, Pastoral Council chairperson, spoke of Michael’s servant leadership and ended with the quote, “Many times what most people need is not a brilliant mind that speaks but a special heart that listens”. Michael, in you we’ve had both.’ John O’Sullivan, chair of the Development Committee responsible for building the new church told the gathering, ‘The church building, magnificent as it is, is just a symbol of what Michael has achieved. The real victory is that you are all here today.’

In his reply Michael thanked the parish for their love and support then Koro Don spoke on behalf of the four local iwi and thanked



Fr Michael with kaumatua Rakauoteora Te Maipi (Koro Don) blesses the newly-installed seven-tonne rock marking the ‘Michael McCabe Reserve’, on the grounds between the church and the school.

Michael for the aroha he has given to the church, the iwi and the rohe. Michael called the L’Arche Community forward to respond by singing *Edelweiss*.

The generous brunch that followed, catering for 800 people indoors and outdoors, was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. It was the first opportunity for many to socialise with fellow parishioners on a wider scale for some time, and the food provided by generous local sponsors and parish groups was superb.

Over \$4000 was collected after Mass for Fr Michael’s retirement fund, which he is donating to Caritas’ relief fund to support Tonga.

The Mass can be viewed on YouTube via the parish website.

Nativity scene lights up Christmas

Anita Peters
GBweekly

Tākaka’s historic marble church was lit up for the Christmas season. Since the doors were closed and the power disconnected in 2012, the Sacred Heart Church has sat forlornly empty.

But over the Christmas weeks, after dark, its interior came alive with a solar-lit nativity scene and a Christmas tree hung with prayer cards amidst twinkling lights, inviting more than just a passing glance.

‘I think people get a sense of comfort if there are some lights on at night in the church,’ says parishioner Kate O’Byrne. ‘It gives them a nice feeling. We first lit the ceiling up and it looked so beautiful; the stones inside really stood out. So, I put strings of fairy lights up just to enhance its beauty and to draw the attention of people as they walk past. And because we’re not occupying the church at the moment, it’s been a good opportunity to peek through and have a look inside.’

Now 103 years old, this is the only stone church in Tākaka and a local icon. Since being declared a possible earthquake risk in

2012, many decisions have had to be made concerning the repairs and structural work required to meet the subsequent revised building regulations. But hope is strong that this coming year strengthening can begin.

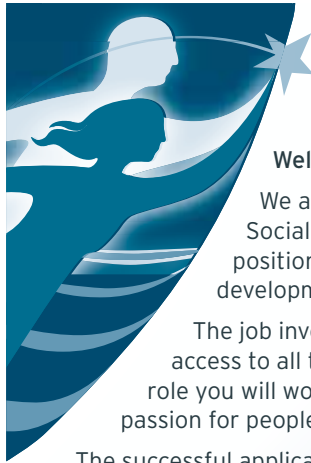
‘There’s been a very good committee of people who have carried this a long time,’ says one of its members, Sheryl Nalder. ‘It’s been 10 years since the church was closed and five years since we started planning. But there’s still a lot to be done to complete the decision-making.’

‘This church has a very special feeling,’ adds Kate. ‘We want to do everything we can to have it more usable.’



Christmas nativity scene lights up Tākaka’s Sacred Heart Church interior.

Photo: Supplied



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- Strong administration and documentation skills.
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- Excellent communication and well-developed interpersonal skills.
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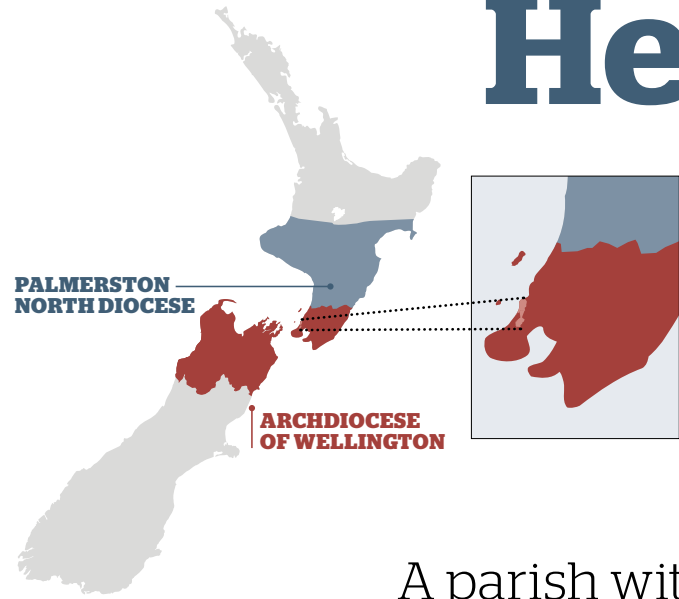
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BRIEF HISTORY

1842: Fr Michael Borjo sm first parish priest for whole Wellington district.

1843: Fr Jeremiah O'Reilly OFM, Wellington's second resident priest, walked bush tracks over hills to serve widespread Wellington parish district including Porirua.

1844–1854: Fr Jean Comte SM of France, celebrated first Mass at Māori pa ā Takapuwahia (Titahi Bay-Elson area). Takapuwahia became a centre of Catholic Māori life, and cradle of faith. 1850, Tohininute – Wiari (Viard), Ruhi – Remi; and Ngamonu – Werahiko (Francis) from Porirua, baptised in Wellington.

1850: Hutt parish established, covered Porirua and Titahi Bay.

1870: Denis and Martha Ryan, first European Catholic family, came to Tawa Flat. Hutt priests said house Masses at their home.

1878: Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pauatahanui, consecrated by Bishop Redwood, attended by Catholics of Porirua basin and Pauatahanui.

1886: Fr Joseph Lane of Country Cork, Hutt parish priest, travelled on horseback over Hayward Hills tracks, down Tawa Valley and old Porirua Road, saying Mass and administering sacraments.

1889: Mass in residence of Mr Denis Ryan, police constable. Fr Lane offered monthly mass in Tawa school.

1900: Mass centre in Titahi Bay was Porirua. Mrs Bassy Sullivan donated hotel land for church site.

1903: Sacred Heart Church Porirua blessed by Archbishop Redwood, parish church for Titahi Bay Catholics for 50 years. (Church now beside Bishop Viard College).

1922: Johnsonville parish established, taking in Porirua and Pauatahanui. Fr Michael Griffin first parish priest. Established convent for Brigidine Sisters, built first Catholic school in area for children from Plimmerton, Porirua, Tawa.

1940: Parish of Plimmerton established – Plimmerton, Pukerua, Pauatahanui, Porirua, Titahi Bay.

1943: US Marines at Titahi Bay travelled to Porirua for Mass. Built cinema, served as Catholic temporary school later.

1946+:: Post WW2, huge growth and housing development, Porirua, Titahi Bay, Tawa. Faith and parish evolve, church and school built.

1951: Official 'birth' of Tawa parish. Church hall opened.

1953: St Francis Xavier School prefab buildings opened behind Sacred Heart Church, Porirua. Brigidine Sisters taught.

1954: Archbishop McKeefr opened Pius X Church, school, Titahi Bay. Population growth Titahi Bay, Elsdon and Porirua.

1956: Titahi Bay Catholic Women's League formed; Children of Mary and Altar Society in 1957.

1958: Porirua-Titahi Bay parish, separated from Tawa.

1960: Archbishop McKeefry blessed St Francis Xavier School, building and site.

1960s: Christian Family Movement and St Vincent de Paul Society, Titahi Bay-Elsdon, St Pius X parish council, Catholic Youth Movement formed Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, began in parish.

1964: Titahi Bay and Elsdon, constituted parish.

1966: Bishop Snedden opening Mass for Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa.

1967: St Pius X Church, Titahi Bay, opened by Bishop Snedden.

1969: Viard College, Porirua opened by Cardinal McKeefry, Governor General Sir Arthur Porritt.

1993: Assumptionist priests came to Tawa.

2000: Marist Sister Sr Antonia and Sr Francine welcomed to Tawa, Sr Margaret and St Juliana arrived 2006.

WelCom's Hikoi of Faith this month visits Our Lady of Hope Catholic Parish in Tawa and Titahi Bay. Tawa is about 15km north of Wellington's CBD between Churton Park and Porirua. Tawa, a mainly suburban area, is known for its large number of churches, representing a wide range of Christian denominations. Within Tawa, there are a number of areas - Lindenvale, Westhaven, Redwood and Southgate to the west and Linden, Greenacres and Sundale to the east of the central Tawa area. Titahi Bay, about 10km further north, is a suburb of Porirua, at the foot of a peninsula on the west coast of the Porirua Harbour, to the north of Porirua city centre. The legendary Polynesian navigator Kupe landed at Komanga Point, 3 kilometres west of Titahi Bay. The area was settled by Māori for many years before the arrival of Europeans, and several pa sites and marae are located nearby. The first European residents were whalers operating from Korohiwa, between Titahi Bay and Komanga Point.

A parish with a diversity of people

Jane Langham

Our Lady of Hope Parish in Tawa and Titahi Bay is blessed to have several priests and sisters living in our community who reflect the diversity and charisms involved in our parish life and ministry. Fr Rico de la Torre, who was appointed parish administrator in February 2018 and parish priest in February 2019, and Fr Marlon Tebelin, chaplain to the archdiocesan Filipino community and parish assistant, have served our parish with dedication. They are 'on loan' from the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines. Fr

Marlon will be parish priest in Holy Family Parish, Nelson/Stoke from this month. Fr John van der Kaa AA and Fr Paul O'Connor AA are the last of the Assumptionist priests



Fr Marlon Tebelin and Fr Rico de la Torre, parish priest.



Fr John van der Kaa and Fr Paul O'Connor, both now retired.



Sr Francine McGovern and Sr Margaret Vaney.

surrounding parishes. The Marist Sisters have had a community in Tawa for almost 30 years, not as 'parish sisters', but to serve parish and community in whatever ways they can. Currently living here are Sr Francine McGovern SM and Sr Margaret Vaney SM and they service the community in many ways. We are also enriched by members of the Foculare Movement living nearby. Our parish churches, Our Lady of Fatima in Tawa and St Pius X in Titahi Bay, are attended and supported by many and we are blessed with a sharing of many vibrant cultures and traditions.

St Francis Xavier School, Tawa

Joan Woods Principal-Tumuaki

St Francis Xavier School Tawa was founded by the Brigidine Sisters. It has been on its present site in Tawa since 1960, when it was built to meet the need of a growing number of Catholic families in the area. The Bridigine Sisters' motto is Strength and Gentleness. Strength of mind and gentleness of heart form our values. The children show strength through their resilience when facing challenging situations in learning, or on a personal level. They show gentleness in their caring for others and the world around them. We have 160 on our roll and over 17 ethnicities represented,

reflecting the diverse makeup of the Tawa population. There are seven classrooms operating from new entrants to Year 6 with a dedicated teaching and support staff. Even in these ever-changing and challenging times our school continues to involve families. The annual school picnic at the local Willowbank Park, and Grandparents' Day, are examples of how we enjoy connecting with our wider community. New children are formally welcomed at a whole-school assembly when they wear a school korowai (cloak) as a sign of belonging the school. The children wear the korowai again at their leaving ceremony. St Francis Xavier School has



been extremely successful in the local Catholic Schools' Scripture Reading Competition, and has won first places in the English, Māori and Samoan sections. We also have strong connections with the other local Tawa schools and cultural events. Year 6 students can join the Young Vinnies and their activities have included visiting a local rest

home, where recently – to their delight – they met a resident who had been an All Black! They have also grown vegetables, which were donated to the local SVdP foodbank. Cleaning up the beach in Porirua Harbour was another very popular activity. Our school vision is: 'through Christ we believe, we learn, we grow'.

St Pius X School, Tītahi Bay

'Whānau-Atua-Kura-Aroha - Together we Shine'

Michele Whiting Interim principal

St Pius X School in Tītahi Bay is a small school with a big heart from New Entrants to Year 6. Situated in the beautiful seaside suburb of Tītahi Bay, St Pius X School was established in 1954 to serve the Titahi Bay Catholic Parish. It was originally staffed by the Brigidine Sisters. Today, we begin the 2022 year with 56 students, 3 teachers and a teaching principal, supported by two teacher aides and our office administrator. We are Christ-Centred, forward thinking and actively engage our learners to live the gospel values of Jesus Christ in all we do here at St Pius X School and contribute to



Care-Respect-Excellence-Wisdom (CREW) are the values used by St Pius X students and staff. Image: School mural painted by Ian Taylor, 2013

a positive school culture, through living our four CREW values – Care, Respect, Excellence and Wisdom. Despite Covid interruptions, last year we were able to celebrate our Catholic Character on two special days. The first was grandparents' day with Mass at St Pius X Church

followed by fun activities with grandparents in the classrooms and morning tea with staff. The second was Mass of the Assumption held at Bishop Viard College. It was great for us to be involved with our tuakana, reminding our students there is a Catholic education pathway.

Our students enjoy positive movement, dance and sport activities and Years 5 and 6 attend school camps at El Rancho learning about self management, relating to others, participating, contributing, and having fun. Years 4–6 learners are part of the Healthy Harbours programme, which looks at Titahi Bay's marine diversity, Porirua histories, the geological features and impact of humans on our environment. This includes snorkelling at Titahi Bay. We have a great group of parents and whānau who to provide support by transporting students to activities, working in the breakfast club and organising fruit. A disco, organised towards the end of term three last year contributed to a large amount of grocery items for the Vinnies food banks.

Tawa: A Journey of Faith

A vibrant, diverse and prayerful parish



Our lady of Fatima Church, Tawa.

The first parish magazine in Tawa, *Gleanings*, was published from 1979 through to the late 1980s. The idea was raised again following a Parish Mission in 2000. *Tawa Catholic News* came into being to continue the evangelising process. Production was led by the team of Bernie Griffin, David Belz and Brain Martin. The principle ‘Every edition to every Catholic home in the Parish’ continued through to parish amalgamation when Tawa and Titahi Bay joined to become Our Lady of Hope parish. The magazine name then became *Stories of Hope* and continues to provide news about parish and family celebrations, group activities and personal reflections and testimonies, as well as updates from our schools and parish births, deaths and marriages. The printing is provided by Ninness Funeral Homes, making it possible to produce 800 plus magazines.

– Jane Langham

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, ‘Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.’

Prayer is the foundation of all Christian life. There have been many examples of revitalisation of areas of parish life because of personal and shared prayer times.



St Pius X Church, Titahi Bay.

On 7 June 1995, Adoration of the Blessed Eucharist was introduced in our parish, set up with the blessing of then parish priest, Fr Penders. Since then, dedicated parishioners have committed to spend an hour with the Lord in Adoration during each hour of the 12-hours from 9.30am to 9pm, every Wednesday, to ensure there is always someone present with our Lord. Covid restrictions have limited this Adoration time.

After every weekday Mass, several people stay to say the Rosary together. This is one of the many strengths of our parish.

– Mark and Angela Wolstenhome

Our parish is blessed with passionate and committed volunteers. To honour their invaluable contributions the parish held a ‘volunteer day’ in January last year to celebrate over 120 volunteers from different ministries in the parish who attended. Fr Marlon opened the event with prayer followed by Fr Rico’s words of appreciation, blessing and sprinkling of Holy Water. Fr Rico said the parish is blessed to have about 300

committed volunteers serving in different capacities and ministries. ‘It is evidence of God’s grace to have such committed and active volunteers who keep the parish alive.’ Marie Prescott (PPC chair) warmly acknowledged the parish’s appreciation of the volunteers gathered. Fr Marlon blessed the sumptuous meal for the volunteers.

– Kingsley Ihejirika



The parish is blessed to have over 300 volunteers serving in different capacities and ministries.

I have been a member of our local **Saint Vincent de Paul conference** for a few years but had only ever delivered a handful of food parcels. All that changed when the Covid-19 Lockdown occurred in 2020.

Government age-restrictions left us with fewer members allowed to deliver food parcels, so I stepped up to help. Our delivery area covers from Grenada North through to Titahi Bay.

Our usual food donations made by way of the basket in the church foyer was not an option during lockdown, so more food had to be purchased to fill the parcels requested. Donated money has allowed us to purchase basic food staples to make up each parcel. We have been fortunate to have been given basics by Kiwi Community Assistance.

I felt privileged to be able to enter the church during this time albeit wearing a mask and gloves. It felt strange, but the photo of Pope Francis and the large Divine Mercy picture of Jesus on the wall in the foyer reminded me Jesus was guiding me.

I and my fellow Vinnies throughout New Zealand have prayed daily for people around the world and the effects Covid-19 has on us all. I also prayed the Divine Mercy Novena for the first time and found this to be spiritually uplifting, allowing me to focus on doing the Lord’s work by feeding the hungry and serving the poor.

There is a continuing need to help an increasing number of individuals and families struggling from the impacts of Covid-19.

– Marie Nicol



Past and present members of SVdP group.

The **Legion of Mary** is another of our parish groups that quietly goes about its activities of prayer and service. The Samoan adult group visit Longview Home every Friday for a liturgy and to give Holy Communion to Catholic residents. They organise ‘Rosary Statue’ of Mary roster, delivering it to those who sign up on the roster then collect it a week later.

They also make regular visits to Arohata Women’s prison to lead a Sunday service. Visits are made to sick parishioners at home or in hospital. There is also a children’s-young people’s Legion of Mary group who take part in some of the parish ministries such as altar serving, cleaning, and music.

– Vitolina Thomas

Many people give ‘life’ to a parish – as evidenced by our volunteers – and many who generously give of their own talents are able to inspire and encourage others to do the same. **Marie Andrewartha** is one of these special people. Marie has initiated children’s liturgy, family Masses, ‘cup of tea’ roster for after Masses, Marian Mothers’ groups, joining with the other Tawa churches offering Alpha courses, and training and encouraging ‘greeters’ to be ‘ministers of hospitality’. Marie was a recipient an archdiocesan Fitzgerald Award in 2010. Her twin brother Ian McClean is active in the SVdP group and lives in Titahi Bay. Marie is supported in everything she does by her husband Graham.



Graham and Marie Andrewartha.

The **presence of flowers** can bring a sense of calm, natural freshness and colour to a room. I am one of six ladies who do the flower arrangements in our church. We each have our own style. I’ve been preparing the flowers in the sanctuary for over 20 years. Without formal training, I never dreamed I could do it. I couldn’t believe what could be done with flowers and how much detail and passion was involved in their preparation – some occasions demand a large eye-catching display and bold statements, while an urn or pedestal create drama and classical grace. I’ve completed a few arrangements for special occasions like church weddings, wedding receptions and birthday displays, christenings and funerals. I love flowers, with their beauty and texture and I also now look after the presbytery garden flowers outside.

– Evelyn Lang



Young Catholics

Schools face challenging times



Dr Kevin Shore, Chief Executive of the NZCEO.

There are major challenges ahead for schools as Omicron spreads through our community, says Dr Kevin Shore, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Catholic Education Office (NZCEO).

In a January communication to Catholic schools, Kevin Shore writes: 'Schools will have to respond to possible staff shortages due to illness and staff having to isolate. If schools face critical staff shortages, they may have to respond by rostering year levels home on certain days, moving to hybrid models of delivery including remote learning in conjunction with face-to-face programmes.'

He says the situation may get 'somewhat messy – that is the nature of the issue facing our communities but [our schools] will always try and do their best to support and

keep our tamariki safe.'

The NZCEO is encouraging parents in the Catholic schools' community to have their children vaccinated against Covid-19, says Kevin Shore.

'Vaccination is the most effective method of ensuring not only their health but that of others and, as our New Zealand bishops have stated, all of the Covid-19 vaccines recognised as clinically safe can be used in good conscience.

'Alongside vaccination, ensuring students stay home when sick, are tested, continue using good hygiene and putting in place physical distancing mechanisms will all support a healthy school environment.'

Kevin notes that having good ventilation is another key strategy which schools are being asked to plan for. The Minister of Education Chris Hipkins has announced that 5,000 portable air cleaners have been ordered for New Zealand schools. Schools will be receiving ventilation self-assessment toolkits with a portable CO2 monitor to identify areas of concern and the right approach to improving ventilation.

'It is a challenging time for our schools and families, but our principals and staff have proved time and again to be resilient and effective in managing these challenges,' says Kevin Shore.

NZ history curriculum delayed until 2023

Schools will not be required to teach Aotearoa New Zealand's history until 2023 to give them longer to implement the new curriculum while navigating disruptions caused by Covid-19.

The Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced in September 2019 that all schools and kura

would be expected to start teaching the country's history to year 0 to 10 students by 2022.

But a year-long delay has been confirmed after public reservations about the finer details of the draft that drew in more than 4000 submissions. It is now due to be finalised early this year.

New Trust honours Polish sisters

A new Educational Trust has been established to honour the memory of two Polish sisters who were among the Polish refugee children offered refuge in New Zealand in 1944.

Irena and Teresa Ogonowska were deported from their home in eastern Poland in 1940 and suffered extreme privation and traumatic experiences. They were eventually re-united and finally found a safe and secure home in New Zealand.

The sisters were educated in New Zealand Catholic secondary schools and both chose teaching as their profession. They were committed and passionate teachers all their adult lives with a strong faith in overcoming life's obstacles. Teresa taught in Wellington and on the Kāpiti Coast and Irena taught in Canterbury.

The Ogonowska Education Charitable Trust has been established to support students who may be facing challenges, by providing grants.

St Mary's School, Christchurch is the first recipient of a Trust grant to meet the 2022 attendance fees of a student nominated by the school.

'St Mary's School is grateful to receive support from the Trust,' says David O'Neill, principal of St Mary's. 'Many migrant families have struggled with the impact of the Covid pandemic on employment and the grant from the Trust means that one of our deserving students, Han Nguyen, can continue with her education at St Mary's school.'

Trust founding chairperson, Gordon Noble-Campbell, the son of Teresa Ogonowska, was inspired by his mother's childhood journey of survival and her commitment to teaching.

'Both my mother and her sister were life-long teachers and recognised



Teresa (Ogonowska) Noble-Campbell (1936–2020), left, and sister Irena (Ogonowska) Coates (1932–2019), right, were committed, passionate and much-loved teachers. A new Educational Trust has been established to honour their memory and faith.

the importance of education in providing young people with a sense of place in their communities and in laying the groundwork for their adult lives,' says Gordon.

As founding chairperson of the Board of trustees, Gordon feels that the Trust will enable educational opportunities in difficult times. 'Given the challenges facing many families in providing educational opportunities for their children, the Trust will provide a needed and welcome support.'

The Trust is a registered, charitable Trust. Donations and support for the Trust are welcome. To find out more, visit www.oect.org.nz

To contact the Trust, please call Gordon Noble-Campbell on 021 612 451.

The Trust has been established with the support of the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington and Cardinal John Dew is its patron.



Polish sisters, Irena (l) and Teresa Ogonowska (r), as young women.

Photos: Supplied

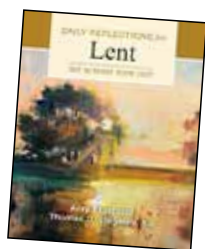


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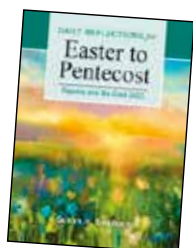


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Rangatahi Katorika

Student sharpens skills at prestigious restaurant



St John's College student Braeden Foster is gaining valuable experience as a Commis Chef at St Georges Restaurant. Photo: Kirsten Simcox

A St John's College student with a passion for fine dining has landed himself a dream gig as a Commis Chef for one of Hawke's Bay region's prestigious restaurants.

Braeden Foster, in Year 13, recently began working at St Georges Restaurant. It is not the first restaurant the 17-year-old has worked at, having spent five months

at Mission Estate.

'It's pretty cool that they've taken me onboard,' he says. 'I'm humbled and proud.'

He credits the tutorship from the school, in particular Culinary Arts Head of Department Craig Ireland, for whetting his appetite for the profession.

'I owe my whole career and where I am now to Mr Ireland. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be at St Georges or anywhere.

'And it's not just Mr Ireland, Mr Ferreira [principal] is very supportive as well, always pushing us to do our best. There is just a very supportive environment at school from staff, parents and other students.'

Braeden has already achieved a number of successes in culinary arts.

Most recently he came First in Class with Gold for the Barista Challenge and Silver in the National Secondary School Culinary

Challenge where he had to make a dish using every component of broccoli.

Two years ago, Braeden won gold for the same challenge, only his dish used every component of a carrot.

'It was a really fun challenge, but it took a lot of hours of practice before and after school,' he says.

The college's annual Degustation Dinner, featuring seven courses each with a wine match from de la terre winery, is also a firm favourite of Braeden's.

Not only is it an important fundraiser to raise much-needed

funds for the school's culinary institute, it also fosters relationships between the junior and senior boys.

Split into pairs, they are tasked with creating a dish and serving it to customers.

'It just gave me that extra bit of confidence seeing where everything needs to be, at what time and making sure everything's perfect,' he says.

Braeden plans on staying at St Georges this year for an apprenticeship through EIT. His ultimate goal is to open his own restaurant.

Cultural institutes foster talent at college

Holistic education is strong value at St John's College in Hastings. Cultural institutes have been set up so that each gifted and talented student receives specific tuition in their chosen area of specialisation. Initially five sports' institutes were established, which have been very successful. The programme has been expanded with five new institutes in: Fine Arts, Performance Arts, Culinary Arts, Debating and Music.

Catholic Foundation – 2022 Tertiary Scholarships



The Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of Wellington was launched by Cardinal Williams in 1981. The Foundation funds grants and scholarships to Catholic organisations and individuals for the benefit of the Catholic life of the Archdiocese.

Every year, The Catholic Foundation makes available eight scholarships to students who live in the Archdiocese and who are in their final year of secondary education. The scholarships, each worth \$2,000, are for the recipient students' first year of tertiary education.

Scholarship categories

- Four Catholic Foundation scholarships – open to all students undertaking tertiary study
- The Margaret Ryan scholarship – for students studying for a degree in teaching
- Halina Morrow Fladrzynska scholarship
- Joseph Francis Kish scholarship

- Krystyna Danuta Downey scholarship.
- The scholarship awards for the 2022 tertiary year were presented at college prize-giving ceremonies at the end of 2021.
- The Catholic Foundation Board congratulates the eight scholarships recipients and wishes them all well in their chosen courses.
- The Board also paid tribute to the applicants, who while not successful in their applications, were of equally high calibre, and wishes them well in their future studies.
- Details of how to apply for a scholarship for 2023 tertiary year are on The Catholic Foundation's website at: www.catholicfoundation.org.nz

Suzanne Aubert 2022 Tertiary Scholarship Recipients

Ruchika Jayatilaka

Five students have each been awarded a Suzanne Aubert Tertiary Scholarship to help them complete their studies in 2022.

The Suzanne Aubert Tertiary Scholarships, awarded to students in their third or subsequent year(s) of study, are made possible by the Home of Compassion Trust Board and a benefactor. The Sisters of Compassion have congratulated the following students who were the successful applicants for 2022.



Mackenzie Batchelor is studying education, health and Māori studies at Victoria University Wellington and aspires to be a primary school teacher. She strives to prevent the disadvantages that children face from becoming a barrier to their future success.



James Cowan is a student at Victoria University Wellington and studies law and commerce. On completion, he will use his qualification to advocate for vulnerable people and is looking forward to doing this in both a national and international context.



Keiran Baird is studying towards a Bachelor of Design majoring in visual communication design. He contributes to his community as a residential assistant at Massey University Halls where he supports first-year university students living away from home for the first time.



Mateusz Mendrun is in his third year of studying a Bachelor of Music with a double major in classical performance and music composition, a passionate pursuit inspired by being selected for the New Zealand Secondary Students' Choir in 2017.



Baylee O'Donnell-Martin is studying towards a degree in Biomedical Science, majoring in human genetics and molecular pathology. Had Baylee graduated earlier she would have pictured herself working on the frontline of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 2022 scholarship recipients



Grace Hall, Garin College – will attend the University of Otago to study health science and will continue on to study a Bachelor of Physiotherapy.



Angelo Cabauatan, St Bernard's College – will attend Victoria University to take up a Bachelor of Laws.



Melanie Lui Fai, Queen Margaret College – will attend Victoria University to study law, public and international relations, Pacific studies, communication and government policy.



Joshua Ibarra, St Patrick's College Town – will attend the University of Canterbury to study mechanics/mechatronics in Engineering.



Vitolina Latailakepa, Sacred Heart College – will attend Otago University to study first-year health sciences to gain a Bachelor Degree in Medicine.



Leona Coral, St Catherine's College – will attend Whitireia to study for a Bachelor in Nursing.



Marisa Raymond, St Mary's College – will attend the University of Otago to study for a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts majoring in philosophy, politics and economics.



Savanna Stevens, Garin College – was awarded the Margaret Ryan Scholarship and will attend the University of Canterbury.

Called to Be Peacemakers

the
Lent
appeal
2022

THE LENT APPEAL on behalf of the New Zealand's Catholic Bishops Conference enables Caritas to continue working to heal and support those overcome by poverty and injustice around the world. The theme for the 2022 Lent Appeal is "Called to be Peacemakers", inspired by Pope Francis' recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* and referenced in the Beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel.

"Intermediaries seek to give everyone a discount, ultimately in order to gain something for themselves. The mediator, on the other hand, is one who retains nothing for himself, but rather spends himself generously until he is consumed, knowing that the only gain is peace. Each one of us is called to be an artisan of peace, by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding on to it, by opening paths of dialogue and not by constructing new walls." – Pope Francis, 2013: Address to the International Meeting for Peace organised by the Community of Sant'Egidio (30 September 2013), as quoted in *Fratelli Tutti*, para 283.



Called to be Peacemakers

The Lent 2022 theme, *Called to be Peacemakers*, is based on the Beatitude reference in Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God" and on the writing of Pope Francis, particularly his recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. As we journey towards Easter we also recall from Luke 23 – The Passion of Christ – where Christ becomes the ultimate Peacemaker and Reconciler for all people through the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection. In a time where societies are increasingly dividing into opposing camps where authentic communication and dialogue become difficult or impossible, it is vital that Christians play a positive and healing role as peacemakers who promote genuine and respectful dialogue – even on issues where people have sincere disagreement. Pope Francis says "we are called to be true 'people of dialogue', to cooperate in building peace not as intermediaries but as authentic mediators." We are called to be Peacemakers.



About the Lent Appeal

During Lent, New Zealand's Catholic Bishops invite us to provide for the needs of the poor through the work of Caritas. Money raised through the Bishops' Lent Appeal helps to fund both development and emergency relief work around the world.

The Lent Appeal provides funding which can be used where they are most needed. Funding from the Lent Appeal allows Caritas to respond quickly to emergency situations by having resources immediately available to those in urgent need.

We appreciate that not all those who wish to donate to the Lent Appeal will be able to do so. We invite everyone to join us in prayer for the work of Caritas and for the poor and vulnerable around the world.

"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God" MATTHEW 5:9

Kua Karangatia Tātou hei Kaihohou i te Rongo

the
Lent
appeal
2022



Lent in Schools 2022

The theme of "Called to be Peacemakers" is very timely for Lent 2022 as we reflect on the events of the past two years and the impact of the pandemic. The focus of the school resources for Lent is similar to the Caritas Lenten Reflection Programme used in parishes, arranged to focus on the Gospel readings for each Sunday during Lent and connect to the work of Caritas and the call of justice in our world.

Lessons have been made using PowerPoint and Google Slides and are designed for a range of levels for each week of Lent. The teacher guide provides a good summary of all the resources available and how they can be used. Other key resources like the action plan and the Way of the Cross Notes and Slides are also available.

All education resources are freely available online on the Caritas website and some elements are available in printed form. Every New Zealand Catholic school received a pack of materials at the start of December to help them utilise the Caritas resources for Lent 2022.

Get Involved through Lent Speaking

Are you interested in supporting the work of Caritas in an active way in your community?

We invite you to consider volunteering as a Lent speaker within your parish. As a Lent speaker, you will help to share information about Caritas with your parish and encourage others in your community to get involved.

Caritas will provide support and online training for interested speakers. We would love to hear from you!

If you would like to join our team of Lent speakers for 2022 or if you just want to find out more about Lent speaking, please contact Mareta Lavea Leitupo at maretall@caritas.org.nz or Joanna Viernes at joannav@caritas.org.nz.

Caritas Challenge

Registration is now open for Caritas Challenge 2022, a fun and engaging annual event for schools and youth groups around New Zealand.

Students and young people are challenged to Move It, Live It, Sweat It or Stop It for 24 hours to show solidarity with those living with poverty and injustice and to raise vital funds that will support Caritas programmes.

Participating groups can get involved in the Caritas Challenge at any time from **February to December 2022**.

For more information about the Caritas Challenge or to register your own group for 2022, please visit our website: www.caritas.org.nz/caritas-challenge.

Lent Reflection Programme

Each year, Caritas creates a Lenten Reflection Programme (LRP) to support parishes, communities, families and individuals as they pray and spend time with the Gospels during Lent.

The LRP includes prayers, Gospel readings and reflections, discussion materials and information about Caritas projects with a focus on helping us to live out our faith during the Lenten season. It is available in English, Te Reo Māori, Sāmoan and Tongan language versions.

LRP booklets can be ordered from the Caritas office for a small fee by calling **0800 10 22** or emailing caritas@caritas.org.nz. They can also be downloaded for free from the Caritas website: www.caritas.org.nz/lent.

Your Lent donations will save lives

Thank you to all those who have already generously supported our life-changing work by donating to previous Lent Appeals.

The ongoing support from generous donors enables us to continue our development, emergency relief, advocacy and education work around the world, including Aotearoa New Zealand. All funding received through the Lent Appeal is used where it is most needed.

Donate throughout the weeks of Lent, or make a one-off donation using the Lent Appeal weekly or single donation envelopes distributed by your parish.

Leave donation envelopes in your parish collection basket or post to Caritas: PO Box 12193, Wellington 6144.

You can also donate online at our website or call us at the phone number below.

www.caritas.org.nz | 0800 22 10 22
caritas@caritas.org.nz

Catholics Thinking

Waitangi Day in a time of pandemic

During late 1918 the worldwide ‘Spanish flu’ pandemic swept across New Zealand. World War One cost 18,000 New Zealand soldiers’ lives over four years. The Spanish flu pandemic took about 9000 lives across the country. Of these the calculation is that about 2500 were Māori, a number highly disproportionate to their percentage of the population [a death rate of 42.3 per 1000 compared with the European rate of 5.5. per 1000].

**Msgr Gerard Burns, Vicar General
Archdiocese of Wellington**


This loss of Māori lives has not been forgotten. On many marae or *urupā* there are unmarked mounds, mass graves, where *tūpuna* were buried rapidly because of the widespread sickness. Māori had already been decimated by the effects of European settlement which had ignored the articles and principles of *te Tiriti o Waitangi*.
Loss of ancestral land, of access to food supplies from forest, rivers and sea, diminishment of *mana* and splitting up of *hapu* and *iwi* through war, confiscation and the work of the Native Land Court had all led to Māori being marginalised in their own land. Although there had been some recuperation by 1918 in Māori population numbers, they were well down from 1840.
The long-term effects of this loss of sovereignty still affect Māori in Aotearoa. This can be witnessed in many negative statistics affecting Māori – in income, education, employment, incarceration, housing, and health. Thus, and despite the

Treaty settlements process, among some Māori there is a suspicion of government action and proposals, a feeling that Māori are still ‘at the back of the queue’ and have to act themselves to protect their own.
So when another pandemic arrives in 2020–2021, the question of how to protect Māori health and lives as a human necessity and as part of the Treaty partnership come to the fore. This in the context of a well-documented bias of the major institutions in New Zealand that favour those who designed and have run them – people from the majority European/*Pākehā*.
A recent Waitangi Tribunal Report (*Wai 2575 – Haumarū*) has examined how the pandemic response, vaccine rollout and involvement of Māori-led health organisations have followed Treaty principles. It has found the Crown breached Treaty principles in terms of active protection, equity, partnership (in the ongoing relationship with Māori and co-design of measures).
The Government argued that in the fast-changing, challenging circumstances of the pandemic it did its best, and ‘special’ measures for Māori could bring a racist backlash. The Tribunal acknowledged that in emergencies (wartime, public health crises) the Crown may need to act decisively, even suspending *tikanga*. But it also said on the basis of the evidence it had gathered and the power imbalance in favour of the Crown it was clear that a true partnership and practical respect for *tino rangatiratanga* was lacking.
Why might this be important as we mark Waitangi Day, this Sunday 6 February 2022? It shows me that there is still work to do in terms of observing the Treaty, in terms of structural and personal changes. And for we who carry the heritage of Bishop Pompallier at Waitangi, advocacy for a true hauora (health) in the land must continue.
As Catholics the wholistic concept of health put forward by Mason Durie (full health involves physical, mental, familial and spiritual dimensions) rings a bell. There is a responsibility to ensure that Māori as people indigenous to Aotearoa survive and thrive. At the same time – if one part of this land is not well, then none of us are well (1 Corinthians 12:12-26).



Carved wooden Māori cenotaph at Te Koura Marae, 17km north of Taumaranui, in memory of those who died in the 1918 influenza epidemic.
Photo: Albert Percy Godber, 1920.
Source: natlib.govt.nz/APG-0786-1/2-G

How did the influenza get to New Zealand?

New Zealanders looking for someone to blame for the influenza pandemic of 1918 looked to their politicians. Many thought the country’s health services had let them down and that national politicians had not prevented the spread of the disease and had not advised people well enough about treating it. Many went further and blamed the arrival of the flu on their politicians – Prime Minister William Massey and his deputy Joseph Ward in particular.
The two men had been in Europe for a peace conference and were returning to New Zealand on the *Niagara*, having boarded the ship in Vancouver. It was only three days out to sea when a junior crew member came down with an illness, first diagnosed as dengue fever. The vessel continued on and by the time it arrived in Suva, Fiji 83 passengers and crew were ill. The ship’s doctor realised what had happened and advised the Fijian authorities the ship was carrying influenza. The ship was placed in quarantine and denied permission to berth.
The *Niagara* steamed on to Auckland, arriving on 12 November 1918. The ship’s captain radioed they had the Spanish Flu on board, saying that 100 crew members were down with the illness, and that 24 cases needed urgent hospitalisation. The local authorities didn’t have the power to quarantine the ship and wired Minister of Health George Russell for permission. He asked whether the infection was ‘merely influenza’, and on being informed that the sickness appeared to be influenza, he allowed the ship to berth and be cleared.


RMS Niagara, departing Sydney for Vancouver, 1924. Owned by the Union Steam Ship Company the passenger liner was active on the Pacific trade route from 1912 until it was requisitioned for service during World War I and II. During World War II Niagara was in service with the Canadian-Australasian Line from Auckland, to Suva and Vancouver. She sank on 19 June 1940 after she struck a mine laid by Germans off the north coast of New Zealand.
Photo: Wikipedia

The arrival of the *Niagara* coincided with the widespread dispersal of the disease and many New Zealanders blamed Russell, thinking he had been swayed by the prestigious passengers the ship carried.
In fact, the more virulent strain of the pandemic was already in New Zealand, the six first deaths being recorded in Auckland three days before the *Niagara* docked. The main surge in cases occurred a fortnight after the ship berthed. In all, 29 *Niagara* passengers and crew were treated for influenza but doctors reported their cases seemed no worse than normal. As the more virulent form of the disease was not known in Vancouver it seems likely that the *Niagara* sailors and passengers were infected with the less dangerous form.
The New Zealand pandemic appears to have spread from Auckland. It is almost certain that the second wave of the influenza arrived in the country with returning WWI troops in the weeks before the arrival of the *Niagara*, as many troopships arrived from the United States during October and November 1918.
Source: library.mstn.govt.nz

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St Josephine Bakhita patron of anti-slavery

Josephine Bakhita, born in Darfur region of the Sudan around 1869, was kidnapped as a young child and sold into slavery. She was sold on many times, suffering severe physical abuse for about 12 years. She was finally freed by an Italian court order when she was about 20 years old. She became a Christian and eventually joined the Canossian Sisters in the north of Italy, where she lived as a religious sister for over 40 years. She died 8 February 1947, in Schio, Italy.

Pope John Paul II canonised Josephine Bakhita in 2000, and Pope Benedict spoke of her as an outstanding example of Christian hope in his encyclical *Spe Salvi* (*Saved in Hope*).

Pope Francis has made her the patron of the anti-slavery movement, and her feast day on 8 February is a day of prayer for all those who are subject to modern slavery.

In Aotearoa -New Zealand, as in many countries, there is a network of religious men and women called Talithkum, committed to raising awareness and action to end modern slavery.

So, we ask you St Josephine Bakhita to pray with us to rid the world of modern slavery, so that no children or adults be subjected to the inhumane treatment you suffered.

For more information about Talithakum and ending human trafficking, visit: www.talithakum.info

Contact Sr Anne Phibbs at annephibbs@xtra.co.nz or Sr Anne Powell at ampowell@cenacle.org.nz

St Josephine Margaret Bakhita, 1869-1947, Sudanese-Italian Canossian religious sister, whose feast is celebrated 8 February.

Image: Painting by Celia Duff

*Bless us God
with hearts that grieve
injustice.
May your spirit be with us
and Christ companion us.
May your blessing flow
in us,
strengthening our
commitment
to stop the trafficking and
slavery of humans
in this country and
around the world.
We ask this, confident
that you desire
freedom for all people.
AMEN*



Gospel Reading: Sunday, 6 February 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – GOSPEL LUKE 5:1-11

¹ While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret.

² He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets.

³ Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

⁴ After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.’

⁵ Simon replied, ‘Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.’

⁶ When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing.

⁷ So they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, ‘Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.’

⁹ For he and all those with were seized with astonishment at the catch of fish they had made,¹⁰ and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were Simon’s partners. But Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.’

¹¹ When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

Jesus takes Simon fishing

Tom Gibson

In today’s story, Jesus preaches to a crowd on the shore of Israel’s Lake Gennesaret. Jesus noticed two boats anchored close to the shore, belonging to fishermen who were washing their nets. One of these belonged to Simon. Noting the crowd, Jesus asked Simon to put out a little from the shore, so that he could sit in the boat and with a clear atmosphere, preaching to them.

We do not know what he taught the crowds this day, but in this story, even though Simon had already experienced Christ’s miracles, we get a sense of Simon’s scepticism. Remembering the wedding in Cana, where Jesus changed water into wine, Simon thought any wine merchant could do that. Simon was a tough fisherman. He knew fishing and understood the difficulties involved, so when Jesus asked Simon to put out into the deep for a catch,

he wondered what Jesus knew about fishing – especially since Simon had been out all night and caught nothing. But as Jesus was becoming a friend, Simon decided to give Jesus the benefit of any doubt, and so he paid out the nets.

To Simon’s amazement the catch was more than his boat could hold and he signalled his companions for assistance. The catch now filled the two boats immediately drawing a reaction from Simon. He fell on his knees asking Jesus to go away because of his embarrassment at his own lack of faith which highlighted his sinfulness. Jesus acknowledged his humility telling Simon not to be afraid because from now on it would be people that he would catch.

It is hard not to sympathise with Simon. In this modern age, we ourselves have learnt from the school of hard knocks to be sceptical of smooth-talking sales agents offering much more than

what reality suggests could be credible. Yet our Church teaches us to have faith in a God we cannot sense with the very physical senses that God has created us with. From today’s story we can take comfort from the fact that Christ was sympathetically merciful, not blaming or condemning Simon for his lack of faith. Despite Simon’s scepticism, his decision to obey Christ’s suggestion – as incredulous as it seemed at the time – was enough. And we know that Simon Peter, a humble fisherman, went on to catch people for Christ.

That should be our prayer, to ask Christ to give us the courage to obey his suggestions in whatever way our human constraints permit, and then be open enough to revel in whatever surprise awaits us.

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



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Cathedral Corner: Charity Art Auction

Save the Date - Sacred Heart Online Charity Art Auction, 19 March 2022

Debbie Matheson
Parish Leader/Lay Pastoral Leader
Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Parish



The parish fundraising efforts for the Cathedral restoration fund are set to begin this year with an online art auction to be launched Saturday, March 19, 2022.

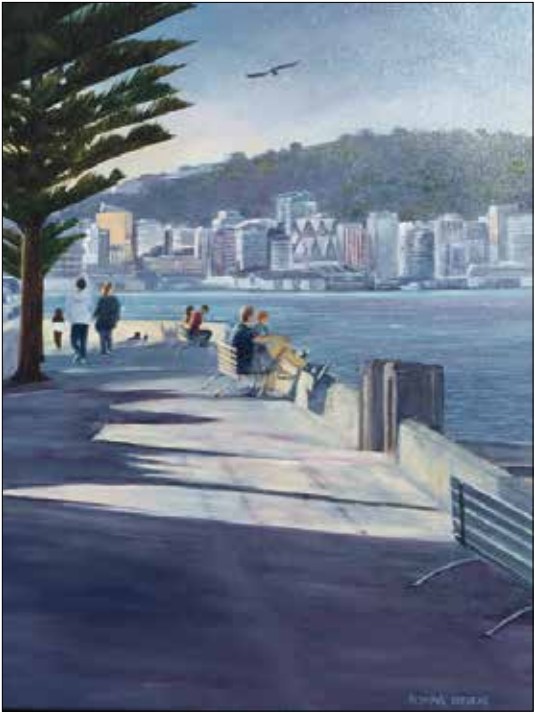
Thanks to the generous support of artists in Wellington and beyond, many exquisite works will be available at our special auction.

Also on offer will be a collection of non-art items kindly donated by the business and general community. So, beyond artworks, everyone will have an opportunity to bid on a variety of items to be enjoyed.

We are thankful for the support of so many people in our fundraising efforts and look forward to bringing this special event to the community virtually.

Our online catalogue is in production. More details about the catalogue, the artworks and the auction will be in the next edition of WelCom. Details of our event can also be found on the Cathedral campaign website www.cathedralcampaign.org.nz or keep an eye on our parish Facebook page at [facebook.com/mcshwellington](https://www.facebook.com/mcshwellington) for future updates.

If you have any questions about the upcoming auction or are interested in contributing to our fundraising efforts, please email:



'City Vista', by Olympia Osborne – one of many works to be available on Sacred Heart Cathedral's online fundraising auction, commencing 19 March 2022.

mcsh.march22art@gmail.com or contact the parish office at email: cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz or ph (04) 496-1700.

Michelangelo: Auckland exhibition a 'tremendous success'

Dr Christopher Longhurst

The exhibition 'Michelangelo: A Different View' at Auckland's Aotea Centre this summer has attracted unprecedented interest from around 18,000 visitors. The exhibition, which concluded at the end of January, was born out of an idea from Stewart and Tricia Macpherson's The Stetson Group, to give New Zealanders an opportunity to see up close and from 'a different view' the Florentine sculptor's sumptuous frescoes in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

As participants flocked to see what lies behind the literal meaning of Michelangelo's highly allegorical frescoes, they discovered a synthesis of diverse branches of knowledge informing complex theological ideas such as the meaning of Genesis 1:26: 'Let us make humans ('ā-dām/anthrōpon) in our image, according to our likeness.'

More than a tremendous success as far as art exhibits go, 'Michelangelo: A Different View' has provided the public with philosophical and theological knowledge prior to any learned perception of what belief in God or creation could possibly mean. It was exciting to see some viewers interpret the Creation of Adam



Michelangelo, 'The Creation of Adam.'


Photo: Supplied

from Māori perspectives: Sky Father Ranginui and Earth Mother Papatūānuku separating as a moral rational creature is born, te tangāta.

The Stetson Group has offered New Zealanders not only another angle to physically view Michelangelo's ceiling, but also the chance to discover again how one of the most complex ideas in the history of civilisation – the human as an image of the divine, is accessible through studies in human biology, physiology, cognitive psychology, obstetrics, neuro-physics, quantum chemistry, heliocentricity, philosophy, and cosmogony all synthesised through theology in an early sixteenth

century painting. In the effect, Michelangelo made these diverse fields of knowledge universus, 'turned towards' (versare) the 'one' (uni), from which we get the word 'university.' He essentially transformed the popes' chapel at the Vatican into a beautiful micro-university.


Dr Christopher Longhurst, Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College lecturer and researcher, was a VIP Tours Guide for 'Michelangelo: A Different View', Auckland, January 2022. He spent 17 years conducting tours of the Vatican and the Sistine Chapel.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

During the month of February 2022 Pope Francis' intention is for:
Religious sisters and consecrated women.

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.



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THE EVENTS LISTED ARE OMICRON AND ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF COVID PERMITTING, INCLUDING VACCINATION CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS.

‘Building a Love that Lasts’

An online event to celebrate World Marriage Day, 13 February, will be livestreamed nationwide from 7.30pm, **Sunday 13 February**. Called ‘Building a Love that Lasts’ the event is sponsored by the Catholic Network of Marriage Educators, and hosted by the Hamilton diocese. Keynote speakers are Megan and Nahum Kozak of Lighthouse Relationships.

For 22 years, the Catholic Network of Marriage Educators’ board (CNME) has supported and promoted the annual St Valentine’s Day Mass, celebrated in several New Zealand dioceses with the support of local diocesan staff.

This year because of ongoing uncertainty about gatherings due to Covid-19 restrictions, CNME has organised this Catholic marriage-enrichment online event to support, enrich, and encourage married couples throughout the country. Couples can view the event from their own homes.

Earlier last year, CNME and marriage network supporters invited the New Zealand bishops

to consider adding World Marriage Day to the NZCBC national calendar – to which the bishops agreed.

At Masses on Sunday 13 February, parishes and communities throughout Aotearoa New Zealand will be encouraged to celebrate and support married life. Resources are available at: www.nlo.org.nz/about/liturgical-calendar/

‘Building a Love that Lasts’ date night for couples, on the evening of World Marriage Day, starts at 7.30pm. The organisers invite married couples ‘to book in some time to enrich your relationship, from the comfort of your own home, to ‘grab some wine and cheese’ and tune in at 7.30pm for the hour-long live talk. The presentation will suit engaged couples, newly married couples and those married for many years who would like to enrich their relationship on this special day.

More information: www.cdh.org.nz/events

Free registration: events.cdh.nz

Pā Maria Marist Spirituality Programme

Information is now available for the 2022 events and courses programme at Pā Maria Marist Spirituality Centre, Hobson St, Thorndon.

Included are spiritual theology courses presented by Michael Young sm: The Ten Commandments: The Kingly or Virtue Road, Tuesday evenings, 7.30pm, **8 February to 10 April** (10 sessions); Death after Death, Tuesdays, 7.30pm, **3 May to 31 May** (5 sessions); and The Matthean Beatitudes: The Prophetic or Summoned Road, Tuesdays, 7.30pm, **13 September to 15 November** (10 sessions).

Also included are The Winter Film Series presented by Brian

Cummings sm: ‘Born in the Shadows’, focuses on elements of the Marist charism – a spirituality for living the Gospel in the world of our time. Series 1: 7pm, Mondays 6, 13, 20, 27, June and 4 July. Series 2 (repeats Series 1): 7pm, Thursday 9, 16, 23, 30 June and 6 July. Both series limited to 30 participants. Koha. Brian Cummings is also presenting and facilitating non-residential retreats, private retreats and spiritual direction.

For further information or to register for any parts of the programme please contact Brian Cummings at email bgcummings@xtra.co.nz or ph 021 703 580.

Volunteer at the Home of Compassion

Would you like to volunteer with us? Roles offering hospitality to visitors include, general housekeeping in the public spaces, and event hospitality. There are also regular roles as a Heritage Centre greeter and guide and Chapel Guardian. In 2022 there will be volunteer educator roles. You can register your interest now. Contact Sofia for more information: events@compassion.org.nz

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

Sunday 6 February
Waitangi Day (see article p 16).

Saturday 12 February
30th celebration of Passionist Family Group Movement – Catholic Parish of Hastings, 5.30pm Mass, St Peter Chanel, followed by meal, 7pm, Club Hastings, 308 Victoria St, Hastings. Price \$25 to be paid in advance to Margaret and Graeme Armstrong, ph (06) 877-7758. All welcome, vaccine passports required.

Sundays 20, 27, February; 6, 13 March; 15, 22 May; 12, 19 June
‘Love is a Decision’ – Marriage preparation course. Getting married soon? Bookings are now open for courses from February to June. Go to www.wn.catholic.org.nz/about/church-mission/marriage-ministries/ to book or contact Felicity Giltrap at ADW Marriage Ministries at marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz or ph (04) 496-1719. Courses are at the Catholic Centre. All participants are required to wear masks and be fully vaccinated.

Sunday 13 March
Rite of Election for Diocese of Palmerston North catechumens– 9.30am at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North. Hospitality provided, all welcome.

Friday 25 March
St Mary of the Angels Church – celebrates 100 years with a weekend of celebrations. More information in March WelCom.

‘Little Lourdes’ to feature in prayer for the sick Covid casualty – planned event cancelled



Wellington’s ‘Little Lourdes’ in the grounds of the Home of Compassion, Island Bay – a focus for this month’s 30th World Day of the Sick.

Photo: Fr James Lyons

Fr James Lyons

Wellington’s ‘Little Lourdes’ provides an ideal focus for the celebration of this month’s 30th World Day of the Sick, 11 February.

A pilgrimage, with prayer for the sick, was to be held at the site honouring Our Lady of Lourdes in the grounds of the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, this month.

Covid-Omicron had other

ideas and the restrictions designed for public protection from the pandemic forced cancellation of the pilgrimage.

The World Day of the Sick is marked annually on 11 February. Pope John Paul II started the observation in 1992 as a way for us to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses and for their caregivers. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

In his message for this year’s

commemoration, Pope Francis calls us to ‘stand beside those who suffer on a path of charity’ and urges us not to forget ‘the dignities and frailties’ of each person.

He writes, ‘Even when healing is not possible, care can always be given. It is always possible to console, it is always possible to make people feel a closeness that is always more interested in the person than in the pathology.’

Pope Francis reflects in his message on various aspects of ‘mercy’, starting with the mercy of the Father. He says God’s mercy is part of His very nature and combines ‘strength and tenderness’.

‘God cares for us with the strength of a father and the tenderness of a mother. He unceasingly desires to give us new life in the Holy Spirit.’

Although the planned event at the Home of Compassion grounds is cancelled, organisers, including the Sisters of Compassion and members of the Order of Malta, encourage all to pray for the sick and their caregivers, especially over the weekend of 11–13 February.

Modelled on the original Grotto in Lourdes, France, the local shrine, affectionately dubbed ‘Little Lourdes’, was constructed by Home of Compassion supporter and benefactor, Bill Kraus, and blessed in 1973 by Bishop Owen Snedden.

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‘Big picture’ guy

Chris Gallavin, appointed CEO of the Sisters of Compassion Group nine months ago, talks with **Michael Fitzsimons** about the bright future he sees for the organisation.

Chris Gallavin, the Compassion Group’s youthful chief executive, does not pretend to have a balanced life.

‘I’m not a nine-to-fiver. I can’t ever imagine retiring.’

Chris has fingers in a multitude of pies. As well as being a husband and father of three, he is the CEO for the Sisters of Compassion Group three days a week, an adjunct professor of law, a performance poet, chairs the Board of the Centre for Global Studies, does media commentary, makes documentaries on criminal justice issues, and is about to launch Global Citizenship New Zealand – promoting civics education for a new generation.

He likes a busy life, ‘a lively intellectual life at the service of action.’

“I can survive on two or three hours sleep for a long period of time if necessary.”

‘That’s how I have operated for the last 25 years. I can survive on two or three hours sleep for a long period of time if necessary.’

Chris describes his work history as that of an ‘entrepreneurial career academic’. At a young age he was Dean of the Canterbury Law School, which excited him about the possibilities of being a university senior manager, ‘maximising my opportunity to make a difference in the community’. He was awarded an Eisenhower Fellowship in 2018 and on his return became Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor at Massey University for the next five years. He looked around for Deputy Vice-Chancellor positions overseas but Covid intervened. Out of the blue, he got a call from Compassion Sister Sue Cosgrove, who he had met at Jerusalem several years earlier, telling him about an upcoming chief executive vacancy. He took up the role in 2021, hugely enthused by the five enduring values of the Sisters of Compassion – divine providence, simplicity, justice, advocacy for people in the gap and partnership under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

‘These enduring values are everything. I say to the boards, whether it be the soup kitchen, or our place of pilgrimage at Hiruhārama-Jerusalem, whether it be elder care in Upper Hutt, whether it be Compassion housing, or here at the Suzanne Aubert Centre in Island Bay – I say, “what’s your point of difference?” Our commitment is to the mission and living out the five enduring values. If we are not committing 100 per cent to mission, we’re

not doing service to Suzanne Aubert and the public of New Zealand.

‘We have 38 Sisters left and there may not be any actively involved in a few years’ time. That does not mean that we won’t have an incredibly vibrant compassion-led organisation, guided by the enduring values and the spirit of Suzanne Aubert, which will be relevant to New Zealand 100 years from now.

‘Our future is incredibly bright. I see opportunity at every turn. There are very few organisations that have the provenance, the history, the focus on community-building of this organisation. If we are not engaged in helping, leading and empowering our community for collective resolution of significant crises, who else is going to do it?’

Chris is inspired by the laser-like focus which Suzanne Aubert had on being where the greatest need is. Those needs change over time. The Sisters used to run a hospital, an orphanage and a crèche but that’s not where the needs are now, he says.

An example of a current need is migrant community support, says Chris. He would like to see the organisation respond to the call of the Red Cross to support the 200–300 Afghan nationals coming to New Zealand, many of them escaping the Taliban.

‘It’s hard to say at this stage what exactly that support will look like but through our networks and good collaboration we know we can make a real difference. It might be that this facility at Island Bay, which at the moment is under-utilised, could have multiple purposes – perhaps a third housing the Sisters, a third housing 10–15 migrant families or individuals on either a temporary triage or longer-term basis, and a third running our own retreats and providing a place of contemplation – key elements of an urban monastery.’

Social housing

Another example of ‘current need’ is social housing. The Sisters of Compassion already have a strong commitment to social housing, providing over 200 social houses, largely in the Horowhenua but also in Whanganui and Upper Hutt. A large proportion of these are financed through a joint venture with Wellington property and investment company, Willis Bond.

‘It’s not just about being an accommodation provider but also about community-building. We have Sisters who live in our Levin complex of houses and we have part-time nurses who care and nurture.



Chris Gallavin, CEO of the Sisters of Compassion Group, is “hugely enthused by the five enduring values of the Sisters of Compassion – divine providence, simplicity, justice, advocacy for people in the gap and partnership under Te Tiriti o Waitangi”.

Photo: Michael Fitzsimons

We want to do things that are quantifiably different at a time of major housing crisis in New Zealand.

‘Ultimately, I would like the Sisters of Compassion to be recognised as the organisation that facilitates tough conversations on issues that matter, that real work results from. We don’t want to sit around navel-gazing and being no more than talk.’

Chris sees the Compassion organisation as the consummate collaborator. With 150 staff, it is a large organisation with substantial assets to be used in the service of the disadvantaged. Looking ahead, he would like the Compassion enterprise to be a catalyst for change, ‘the spark for something that becomes far bigger than us, to be humble enough to be the quiet player in the background that empowers other organisations to make real change. We don’t need to have our name above the door on everything that is done.’

Bicultural focus

The night before we meet for this interview, the Board of the Compassion Group made a decision to appoint a co-chief executive Māori – a move which greatly excites Chris. He sees it as a high-water mark in becoming a bicultural organisation, working in genuine partnership with Māori.

‘In researching the history of the Sisters and Meri Hohepa [Suzanne Aubert], it’s clear that the history of the order is indelibly linked to Māori. Suzanne Aubert’s approach to working with Māori, her excitement in working with them, her commitment to learning from them, says to me very clearly that the bicultural model of partnership is appropriate for us.

‘It sends a very clear message to all our partners and to Māori and Aotearoa that we are very serious about working collaboratively with Māori. What I hope this will mean is a totally different level of collaboration with Māori partner organisations to do things quantifiably different in the space of health, housing, food security, elder care, youth poverty and community-building.”

Chris Gallavin is not your conventional CEO of a church-based organisation. He relishes innovation. He’s a big picture guy, not a micro-manager. He is one of eight, born in Central Otago but not raised a Catholic. One of the real pleasures of the job, he says, is to learn more about the Catholic world, to help him make sense of the heritage which was in the background of his upbringing.

“I might not be Catholic but I defy you to find another person to whom the five enduring values of this organisation mean more. These values offer so much to a secular world riddled with anxiety, perhaps even more relevant than they were in Suzanne Aubert’s time.’

“Our future is incredibly bright. I see opportunity at every turn.”

We step outside into the quiet courtyard of the beautifully designed Suzanne Aubert Centre. I take his photo. He is a snappy dresser. He gives me his book of poems, *‘a dance together’*. Poetry is a dynamic force in his life. He knows 150 poems off by heart and performs them at pubs, music gigs and fish ‘n’ chip shops.

We finish where we began, with the five enduring values.

‘The legacy of Meri Hohepa is for everybody, not just for Catholics or for people from a religious background. Don’t pigeon-hole it. I can tell you the five enduring values align with who Chris Gallavin is so much that they will be, in letter and in spirit, the guiding principles that instruct my life and will do for the rest of my life.’

Looking back

In 1910, Wellington celebrated the 50th anniversary of Suzanne Aubert’s arrival in New Zealand with a concert in the Town Hall. The money raised helped to build the Jubilee Ward for disabled children at Mother Aubert’s Home of Compassion at Island Bay.

This photo was taken at the opening ceremony of the Jubilee Wing at the Home of Compassion in February 1912.

Standing: centre-back, is the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Wellington Thomas O’Shea sm; second to his right is Eileen Ward (daughter of Sir Joseph and Lady Theresa Ward – Sir Joseph Ward was New Zealand’s Prime Minister, 1906–1912 and 1928–1930).

Seated: at front left is Mrs TG Macarthy (Mary Ellen, wife of prominent Wellington businessman, Thomas George Macarthy) talking with Suzanne Aubert. In the centre is Governor Lord Islington (Sir John Poynder Dickson-Poynder Islington, Governor to New Zealand, 1910–1912) with Archbishop Francis Redwood and Lady Theresa Ward on his right.

Photo: Zak, Home of Compassion, 1912

