



# WelCom



**NauMai**

A newspaper for the Wellington and Palmerston North Catholic Dioceses

[www.welcom.org.nz](http://www.welcom.org.nz)

**WELCOM SUPPORTS NEW ZEALAND SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK | 8-14 MAY 2023**



## Restoring taonga

When Cyclone Gabrielle's devastating floods tore through properties and homes across many parts of the North Island on 14 February, thousands of people were left homeless or with badly-damaged houses and properties, and ruined personal possessions. Among the most treasured but damaged personal items for some were their precious family Bibles, which had been passed down through generations. Within days a number of people were in contact with Bill Tito, master craftsman and book-repair specialist, asking for his help to mend and restore their rescued but near-ruined Bibles.

Bill, a former student of Hato Pāora Maori Boy's College, who has been repairing and restoring books and other prized papers for 50 years, set about with his meticulous attention to detail and craftsmanship, to carefully transform the Bibles back to their original and beautiful condition to the delight of their owners.

>> *Bill Tito, master craftsman book repair specialist, p 5.*

Bill Tito works from his home studio overlooking the hills of Akatarawa Valley, north of Upper Hutt.

Photo: Annette Scullion/WelCom

## Bishops welcome Vatican's rejection of 'Doctrine of Discovery'

The Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand strongly support the Vatican's repudiation of the colonial-era concept of the 'Doctrine of Discovery' used by European powers to take over many lands from their indigenous owners.

A joint statement published 30 March 2023 from the Vatican's dicasteries for Culture and for Integral Human Development, formally repudiates 'those concepts that fail to recognise the inherent human rights of indigenous peoples, including what has become known as the legal and political "Doctrine of Discovery".'

The Doctrine had as its basis 'papal bulls' (decrees) issued by Pope Nicholas V in 1455 and Pope Alexander VI in 1493 granting European monarchs the authority to seize inhabited lands in Africa and the Americas, establish European colonies and convert the people of those lands to Christianity. Though those bulls were rejected by Pope Paul III in 1537, many European powers continued to use the Doctrine of Discovery as the basis for colonisation.

According to the Vatican's joint statement, 'thanks to dialogue with indigenous peoples, the Church has acquired a greater awareness of their sufferings, past and present, due to the expropriation of their lands...as well as the policies of forced assimilation, promoted by the governmental authorities of the time, intended to eliminate their indigenous cultures.'

The document states that the 'Doctrine of Discovery' – a theory that served to justify the expropriation by sovereign colonisers of indigenous lands from their rightful owners – 'is not a part of the teaching of the Catholic Church.' It further affirms that the papal bulls that granted such 'rights' to colonising sovereigns have never been a part of the Church's Magisterium.

The joint statement further adds, 'More recently, the Church's solidarity with indigenous peoples has given rise to the Holy See's strong support for the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The implementation of those principles would improve the

living conditions and help protect the rights of indigenous peoples as well as facilitate their development in a way that respects their identity, language and culture.

The Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand have been carefully considering calls in recent years by Māori leaders for the Catholic Church to reject the Doctrine of Discovery.

'In the 21st Century we abhor the kind of belief that one group of people is superior to another and reject it absolutely,' the bishops say jointly in a statement issued on 31 March. In welcoming the Vatican's repudiation of the Doctrine.

'We say to the Māori leaders who asked us to reject the Doctrine and to all other people of this country that we reject it absolutely and without reservation. Such a doctrine has no place in our world and should not be part of any discourse about this country's future directions.'

✠ **John Dew**, Cardinal Archbishop of Wellington, Apostolic Administrator of Palmerston North and NZCBC President



A teepee stands in front of Parliament in Ottawa, Ontario, 21 August, 2021. When Pope Francis visited Canada in July 2022, Indigenous Canadians called on him to reject the Doctrine of Discovery.

Photo: The Catholic Register/Michael Swan/CNS

- ✠ **Michael Dooley**, Bishop of Dunedin
- ✠ **Michael Gielen**, Bishop of Christchurch
- ✠ **Stephen Lowe**, Bishop of Auckland, Apostolic Administrator of Hamilton and NZCBC Secretary
- ✠ **Paul Martin sm**, Coadjutor Archbishop of Wellington.

The Joint Statement of the Dicasteries for Culture and Education and for Promoting Integral Human Development on the 'Doctrine of Discovery', is online in full at: [www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Vatican-30-March-Doctrine-of-Discovery-repudiation.pdf](http://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Vatican-30-March-Doctrine-of-Discovery-repudiation.pdf)

Sources: NZCBC; Vatican News

# From the editor

Annette Scullion

Tēnā koutou. Greetings to all.

This month National Vocations Awareness Week continues into the first week of May. For many parishes and communities the call for prayers for vocations continues throughout the month of May and the year.

We feature a generous insight into the life of a diocesan new priest, Fr Alfred Tong, ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese of Wellington in September last year. His story and prayers for vocations are on p 20.

The month of May is Mary's month and Fr James Lyons continues his new series about Mary on p 17.

The feast of Pentecost, preceded a week earlier by Ascension Day, are also celebrated this month. Fr Patrick Bridgman shares a reflection about Pentecost Sunday and the work of the Holy Spirit on p 16.

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has issued a new report about its work with its partners in Pacific and Asia regions supporting local people to develop growth initiatives in their communities. We feature the report and some of the work underway on pp 10 and 11.

Pope Francis has just completed a three-day pastoral visit to Hungary where he met

with the country's leaders and other European and world leaders, p 6. He issued some hardhitting challenges. The world is blessed to have a faith leader of such fearless courage, morality and commitment who gives hope to so many.

We are almost three months on from Cyclone Gabrielle and its trail of devastation on many areas across the North Island, particularly in Hawke's Bay and throughout the East Coast region. Hastings' St Vincent de Paul Council reports many families have suffered great losses. Family members, entire homes, homes which now require substantial rebuilding, livelihoods, crops, road access, change of schools, and the sense of security they once felt in their lives. Most of these families will feel the impact of this storm for many years and will require ongoing support.

The SVdP and Diocese of Palmerston North appeal online links are: [pndiocese.org.nz/news-and-events/cyclone-relief-appeal/](http://pndiocese.org.nz/news-and-events/cyclone-relief-appeal/) and [www.svdp.org.nz](http://www.svdp.org.nz) (see SVdP advertisement p 15).

Please continue your prayerful support for all who continue to work repairing the infrastructure and homes, for the support services, but most of all for those who have lost so much and are beginning the uphill journey of rebuilding their lives.

Ngā mihi.

# 'Where true Charity is dwelling, God is present there'



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

Many WelCom readers will know that for me, Easter 2023 was very different from all other Easters in my almost 47 years of priesthood. Just a few days before Holy Week I underwent surgery on my spine, and thanks be to God, it has been very successful and has brought about much relief from what I have had to contend with for the last 12 months. This did mean that I was on my own most of the time, which also meant that I could try to take more time for prayer and reflection.

I want to share with you a particular translation of the hymn 'Where There is Charity and Love'. I share with you the three verses of the hymn I reflected on as I prayed about Jesus at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday night. The words are slightly different to those we normally sing. I think they are a great challenge and can be prayed with, to ponder what it means to be part of a Christian community, a member of a Catholic parish, and as people who try daily to walk the way of Jesus, tell the truth of Jesus, and live the life of Jesus.

The words are:  
*Where true Charity is dwelling, God is present there*  
*By the love of Christ, we have been brought together*  
*Let us find in him our gladness and our pleasure.*  
*May we love him and revere him, God, the living*  
*And in love, respect each other with sincere hearts.*

*So, when as one we are gathered all together*  
*Let us strive to keep our minds free of division*  
*May there be an end to malice, strife and quarrels.*  
*And let Christ our God be dwelling here among us.*

*May your face thus be our vision, bright in glory*  
*Christ, our God, with all the blessed saints in heaven*  
*Such delight is pure and faultless, joy unbounded*  
*Which ensures through countless ages, world without end. Amen.*

**'I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.'** - John 13:15

I cannot go into details about each line of this hymn, but as I reflected on these words I did so in light of the fact that my time as Archbishop is drawing to a close. In that context I found the words of this hymn challenging and inspiring.

Do we always recognise and readily acknowledge it is Christ's love that has brought us together? Do we find in Jesus our gladness and our pleasure, or is parish life just what we think a parish should be? If every single time we gathered in our communities we came together with the intention to love and revere the living God, we would also respect one another, regardless of age, ethnicity, theological perspectives,

the length of time we have lived in a parish – we would 'in love, respect each other with sincere hearts'.

Do we rejoice in 'Christ our God dwelling here among us'? When we gather together as one in Christ, there is no place in our communities for division, strife, malice or quarrels. Over my 28 years as bishop, I have often quoted President Harry Truman who used to say, 'It's amazing what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit'. At the Last Supper Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then said, 'I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you' (John 13:15). We are called to serve others, it does not matter who gets the credit, who is seen as leader; what matters is that we try to live in charity, when we do we know 'where true charity is dwelling, God is present there'.

My time as your Archbishop is coming to an end, it has been a privilege to serve. It has been challenging and the issues to be dealt with have been relentless.

Thank you for your constant support and your faithful prayer. One of the most surprising and humble things has been meeting people in parishes, people I often do not know who say to me with great care and respect 'I pray for you every day'. Thank you, thank you all, for your love, prayers and constant support. I will pray for you.

*'May your face, thus be our vision, bright in glory*  
*Christ, our God, with all the Blessed Saints in heaven*  
*Such delight is pure and faultless, joy unbounded*  
*Which endures through countless ages world without end. Amen.'*

Cardinal John turns 75 on 5 May. Canon Law requires bishops to offer their resignations prior to their 75th birthdays. The Cardinal tendered his resignation in January but is yet to receive a response from the Holy Father. Once his resignation is accepted, there will be a formal installation of Archbishop Paul Martin sm as the 8th Archbishop of Wellington.



**"Charity isn't about pity, it is about love."**

**St Teresa of Kolkata**

## WelCom [www.welcom.org.nz](http://www.welcom.org.nz)

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### Sending articles to WelCom

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

Contributed 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 including your name, address and phone number. Articles may be edited for length or clarity at the editor's discretion.

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

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

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

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### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

During the month of May 2023 Pope Francis' intention is: *for Church movements and groups.*

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.



# ‘Government has ultimate responsibility for ensuring everyone has enough money to meet basic needs, and enjoy adequate housing’ – Archdiocese EJP Commission

**Jim McAloon**

The Wellington Archdiocese Commission for Ecology, Justice and Peace has been taking a close interest in the government’s forthcoming Budget, to be delivered on 18 May.

For a number of years, the Commission has made a submission on the preparatory Budget Policy Statement, and did so earlier this year. Rapid increases in the cost of living – especially in food, but also in rent and in other prices – have meant real hardship for many people. The Commission’s submission emphasised that dealing with the cost-of-living crisis must not be at the expense of the most vulnerable in our country.

Catholic Social Teaching includes the common good and the universal destination of goods. If the world and its resources are created for all people, then, to quote the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, ‘each person must have access to the level of well-being necessary for their full development’ [para: 127]. These principles, further, are, ‘an invitation to develop an economic vision inspired by moral values that permit people not to lose sight of the origin or purpose of these goods, so as to bring about a world of fairness and solidarity, in which the creation of wealth can

take on a positive function.’

Some economic commentators in recent months have suggested that a significant increase in unemployment is a necessary consequence of reducing inflation. The Commission disagrees with this, noting that the Church also emphasises the importance and the dignity of work. Unemployment, moreover, disproportionately affects Māori and Pacific peoples, further entrenching disadvantage. The Commission was pleased that the Budget Policy Statement recognises the importance of work, but was concerned that an increase in unemployment seemed to be acceptable. The Commission was also concerned that progress in reducing child poverty was expected to stall.

In short, the Commission’s view is that government has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring everyone has enough money to meet their basic needs, and enjoys adequate housing. In the current inflationary environment this is not easy, but the principles of solidarity and social justice demand nothing less, even if those with higher incomes and greater wealth are asked to contribute to this goal. Just as, to quote St Mark’s gospel [2:27], the sabbath was made for people and not people for the sabbath, so economic structures and policy must serve human needs.



**Jim McAloon.** Photo: VUW

We should not have to accept that ‘the economy’ requires poverty, unemployment, or poor housing.

*Jim McAloon is chair of the Wellington Archdiocese EJP Commission and is a professor of History at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington.*

The Archdiocese of Wellington Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission (EJP) is an advisory group to Cardinal John Dew. The Commission’s members meet bi-monthly to contribute to and participate in work for justice and peace inspired and informed by Catholic social teaching. The group responds to a range of social issues and supports engagement with voters and decision makers.

# Community in Mission: O’Shea Shield 2023

The prestigious and exciting O’Shea Shield competition has rangatahi from the 17 Catholic secondary schools in the Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses compete in eight separate events in public speaking, drama, and debating. Running since 1946, O’Shea Shield is one of New Zealand’s oldest intercollegiate competitions, and it involves almost 300 students each year.

The contest is dedicated to the memory of Wellington Archbishop Thomas O’Shea (1870–1954), a talented educator and role model for young Catholics.

Like many other school events, the O’Shea Shield competition has suffered disruption over the past four years, says Andrew Murray,

Principal of St Mary’s College, host college for the 2023 event.

‘This year, the O’Shea Shield was scheduled to be held in Napier, but the devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle made this impossible. St Mary’s College Wellington is proud to have picked up the hosting of the O’Shea Shield for 2023 over the weekend of 6 and 7 May.

‘This exciting weekend with a full programme of events begins with a pōwhiri at 8am on Saturday, 6 May, at St Mary’s College and concludes at the Mass and prizegiving on Sunday, 7 May at 12.45pm, at St Paul’s Anglican Cathedral, Hill St Thorndon.’

Go to [stmw.school.nz/Quick-Links/oshea-shield-2023-homepage-1](http://stmw.school.nz/Quick-Links/oshea-shield-2023-homepage-1) for more information.



**St Mary’s College students perform in the Religious Drama section at the O’Shea Shield competition, 2021.** Photo: WelCom

# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 21 May–28 May 2023

*Do good; seek justice.* – Isaiah 1:17

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an ecumenical Christian observance celebrated internationally. This year it is celebrated from 21–28 May 2023 in New Zealand.

Each year a group in a different part of the world is invited to develop resources for the Week. The World Council of Churches and the Holy See’s Dicastery for Christian Unity jointly oversee their preparation.

The final material is sent to Catholic bishops’ conferences and to WCC member churches and they are invited to translate the text and adapt it for their own use.

The theme for 2023 was chosen – and the materials prepared – by a group convened by the Minnesota Council of Churches in the United States.

The theme is ‘Do good; seek justice’ (Isaiah 1:17) and represents

the prophet Isaiah teaching us how we are to cure such ills as injustice, inequity and inequality. Pope Francis asks we each give thanks to the Lord ‘who faithfully and patiently guides his people towards full communion, and to ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten and sustain us with his gifts.’

The Order of Worship has been adapted for use in Aotearoa New Zealand by members of the National

Dialogue for Christian Unity (NDCU). Its member churches are Anglicans, Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

The resources are on the New Zealand Catholic bishops’ website and are available for parishes, schools, and any group to download and use. The resources include:

- Introduction to the Week of Prayer;

- Order of Worship adapted for Aotearoa New Zealand;
- Eight Days of Prayer – particularly suitable for individuals;
- Pope Francis’ opening and closing Homilies for Week of Prayer 2023;
- Jpeg slides for social media and similar.

[catholic.org.nz/resources/](http://catholic.org.nz/resources/)

**Rosary in May**  
*The month of May is a time when the People of God express particular love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home with the family.*

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**2024 Enrolments**  
 The Open Day tours for those interested in enrolling their son at St Patrick’s College for 2024 will be held on **Tuesday 20 June 2023** between 9.30am to 11.00am and from 12.00pm to 1.30pm and again on **Thursday 22 June 2023** between 9.30am to 11.00am and from 12.00pm to 1.30pm. Please visit our College website in early May to book a tour – [www.stpats.school.nz](http://www.stpats.school.nz)

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## Whānau Mercy Ministries launched



At the launch in March of Whānau Mercy Ministries the initial trustees (l-r) are Philip Alexander-Crawford (Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Rēhia, Ngāpuhi), Charlotte Cummings, Catherine Fyfe, Gerald Scanlan, Judy Whiteman, Michael Quigg, Denise Fox rsm (Chair), with Bishop Pat Dunn (Emeritus Bishop of Auckland), Sue France rsm (Congregation Leader, Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand), and Bishop Steve Lowe (Bishop of Auckland).

Photo: sistersofmercy.org.nz

Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand launched their new Whānau Mercy Ministries in March, at Auckland's Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph.

The celebrant Bishop Steve Lowe, the Bishop of Auckland, the new Trustees of Whānau Mercy Ministries, special guests and representatives from the Tiaki Manatū incorporated ministries, gathered with the Sisters of Mercy for a Eucharistic Celebration for the launch.

The new Ministerial Public Juridic Person (MPJP) – known as Whānau Mercy Ministries – is independent of Ngā Whaea

Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand.

The Whānau Mercy Ministries took up their responsibilities as a new charitable trust on 1 April, owning the incorporated ministries the Sisters founded as far back as 173 years ago.

As the number of sisters has diminished, need for change became obvious, the Sisters said in a statement. After discernment, preparation and a petition to the Holy See, the Sisters received approval to create this new canonical and civil entity.

'As sisters, we have discerned the need

for new levels of energy and expertise to see these works of mercy sustained and carried into the future.

'Led by lay people, the structure provides for long-term stable governance and the continuance of the Catholic identity and the mercy charism of the ministries.'

Established by decree on 27 November 2022, the Sisters say Whānau Mercy Ministries is the first MPJP of Pontifical Right for Aotearoa New Zealand.

With Whānau Mercy Ministries established, the board of Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Tiaki Manatū Sisters of Mercy Ministries Trust will cease. The Sisters of Mercy, in creating this independent entity, will become known as the sponsor Congregation.

The Whānau Mercy Ministries trustees applied to and were selected by Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Tiaki Manatū Sisters of Mercy Ministries Trust. The new trustees serve a term of three years.

The incorporated ministries that will move into the new structure are in healthcare, education, community development and affordable housing for seniors.

'For us as a Congregation, this is a profound moment of change. A seminal moment in our history and it has been a very important decision. The decision marks a shift in our journey as vowed mercy women in Aotearoa,' said Sr Sue France rsm, the Congregation Leader of Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand.

'In many ways, the shift has been made over time and now this is the final step, and we know it is the right one,' she said.

Source: Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand

### New website for Catholic Enquiry Centre

The Catholic Enquiry Centre has a new website. Visit it to find out about faith, explore Catholicism, order booklets or to make a donation: [catholicdiscovery.nz](http://catholicdiscovery.nz)

### Mary MacKillop's 125th arrival anniversary marked

The 125th anniversary of the arrival of Mary MacKillop, and her Sisters of Joseph in Port Chalmers, Dunedin, was celebrated on Sunday 19 March, St Joseph's Day.

Organised by parishioner and ex-pupil of St Joseph's School, Carol Meikle QSM, the event featured the unveiling and blessing of a commemorative Sacred Heart statue by Dunedin's Bishop Michael Dooley.

MacKillop spent several months in Port Chalmers in 1898. The Sisters of St Joseph maintained a presence in the community from 1898 to 1979.

MacKillop was a strong and determined woman whose work benefited thousands of children. She was canonised a saint in October 2010.

Source: ODT

## Royal Commission extended as new evidence emerges

The Government announced on 12 April 2023 that the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care must deliver its final report and recommendations by 28 March 2024. The previous deadline was 30 June 2023.

The extension is necessary as more evidence emerged in the past year, the Commission says.

'The scale of abuse is beyond what anyone had ever imagined at the start of this inquiry,' said Inquiry Chair Coral Shaw.

Significant amounts of new evidence has been received and report writing is well underway.

'More time ensures our final report and recommendations are impactful and meaningful for survivors. They must demand transformational change in the way we nurture and protect tamariki, rangatahi and adults in care,' said Shaw.

'Up until registrations closed on 21 March 2023, survivors continued to come forward to be heard. We also continue to receive new evidence. We have received 400,000 new evidential documents recently, held 133 days of public hearings and undertook many survivor engagement hui across the motu.

'We are now focused on analysing this information, testing and refining our findings and recommendations to ensure they will affect meaningful change to prevent abuse in care happening again.

'The granting of this extension is a welcome acknowledgment of the enormity of this inquiry and the importance of getting it right, but we also know that survivors have been waiting a long time for recognition of the abuse and neglect that they suffered in the care of the State and faith-based institutions,' she said.

It is with this in mind the Royal Commission will continue to work hard to ensure its final report is impactful and, importantly, creates change.

Over the coming weeks, the Commission will begin testing recommendations with survivors, iwi, Māori, Pacific community, mental health sector, disability sector, rainbow community, faith leaders and Government. Some sectors may require more time than others for testing, while some ideas will need more time to refine.

A case study report on St John of God's Marylands School will be released later this year.

## Bishop Colin Campbell appointed interim rector of seminary

Retired Catholic Bishop of Dunedin Colin Campbell has been appointed Interim Rector of Holy Cross Seminary.

Bishop Emeritus Campbell has accepted the interim role until a permanent appointment is made to replace Fr Mathew Vadakkevettuvazhiyil, who has left.

Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland is the national seminary for the education and formation of diocesan priests for the Catholic Church in New Zealand.

New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference Vice President, Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe, says the bishops expect the interim rector to be in the role until the end of 2023, to allow time for Rome to appoint a permanent rector.

Bishop Emeritus Campbell was Bishop of Dunedin from 2004 to 2018, when he retired. He was formerly Rector of Holy Cross Seminary from 2001 until his appointment as a bishop in 2004.



Bishop Emeritus Colin Campbell.

Photo: CathNewsNZ

Bishop Lowe also expressed the bishops' gratitude for Fr Vadakkevettuvazhiyil for his contributions to the seminary.

'The bishops are very appreciative of Fr Mathew for his time with the seminary and

his passion for the preparation of seminarians for priesthood,' Bishop Lowe said.

Before his seminary appointment Fr Vadakkevettuvazhiyil was widely known as a parish priest in the Auckland Diocese, was Deputy Chair of the diocese's Justice and Peace Commission, and a member of the Council of Priests and College of Consultors.

Before coming to New Zealand Fr Vadakkevettuvazhiyil, a Salesian of Don Bosco, was a missionary, teacher and administrator at Salesian education institutes in Tanzania and Kenya and an assistant parish priest and administrator in Kenya.

Bishop Lowe said Bishop Emeritus Campbell's past experience as Rector of Holy Cross Seminary makes him an ideal candidate for the interim role.

Sources: NZCBC; CathNewsNZ

## Home of Compassion hands over much loved rest home

St Joseph's Home of Compassion in Silverstream was formally handed over to private provider Heritage Lifecare in March.

About 30 sisters from the Island Bay congregation gathered to formalise the handover of the Upper Hutt rest home.

The home, known for taking in what were once called 'incurables', was forced into a change of hands late last year, due to a severe staff shortage.

Sr Margaret Anne Mills dolc said the home had always been a special place and although saddened by the change of ownership, she was heartened by the new owners' attitude.

'The spirit of Sister Aubert will live on and continue to keep an eye on the residents of the St Joseph's Home of Compassion, Sr Margaret Anne said.

Heritage Lifecare has been managing the facility since August 2022, which it has since

purchased. Heritage Lifecare chief executive Norah Barlow said seeing the home close would have been a shame.

'Losing this home and the vital aged-care services it provides would have been a huge loss to the community.

Lifecare had the resources to deal with the staff shortage that had threatened the future of the home.

When it became clear last year the home had an uncertain future, the community rallied behind it and Barlow said that had impressed her.

'Now with the purchase, St Joseph's will continue to serve the community. We will be working to ensure the kaupapa of the sisters continues,' Barlow says.

Sources: CathNewsNZ; Stuff



The ownership of St Joseph's Home of Compassion rest home is now changed from the Sisters of Compassion to Heritage Lifecare.

Photo: Home of Compassion

# Bill Tito: master craftsman and book repair specialist

Annette Scullion

Bill Tito has been repairing books, Bibles, certificates, postcard collections and other paper-based treasures for 50 years. Working from his home studio, overlooking the bush-clad hills of Akatarawa Valley in the Tararua Ranges north of Upper Hutt, Bill says there isn't a day he doesn't want to go to work. 'Never in my life have I not

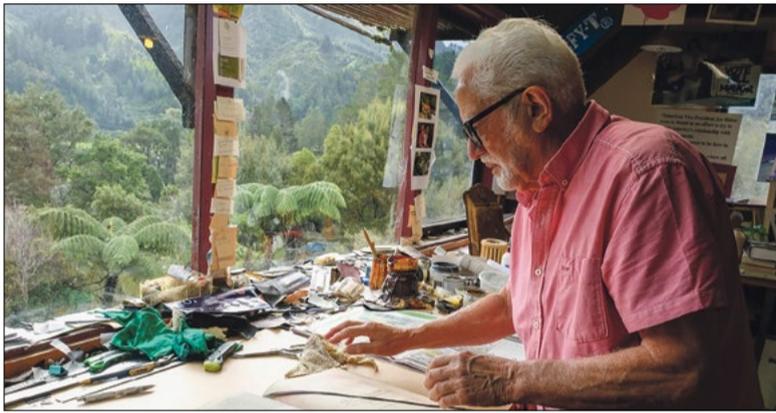
polishing. No problem is too big. Bill tackles and repairs moulded pages, broken spines and ripped and tattered leaves.

'In fact the worse the better,' he says. 'If I can't sort something out, I go away, have a think about it and begin again the next day.'

'I know I'm giving a lot of pleasure to people when I see their reactions. Just like on *The Repair Shop* on TV, people cry and are delighted. It's what I do.'

diagnosed with dyslexia, which had made learning for him at school difficult. In 1963 his father got him an apprenticeship as a book binder with the Government. His parents drove him down to Wellington to begin his job. 'But the day I started work, Queen Elizabeth II was visiting, so I go the day off,' he says.

Bill worked at Parliament Buildings for his first year, then got seconded to Government Print. But he says the noise was terrible and



Craftsman and book repair specialist Bill Tito at work in his studio repairing treasured Bibles and books. The items are treasured by their owners and Bill treats them with due respect and tenderness. Photos: Annette Scullion

wanted to go down to the studio every day,' he says, 'even if only for couple of hours.'

He says not many people do what he does, 'repair and transform valued and special books.'

Bill's specialised craft requires intense focus and attention to detail. He takes on documents that are hundreds of years old, dilapidated Bibles with historical documents and personal family items between the pages, and prized but damaged books and makes them all readable and beautiful again.

'One guy drove down from the Hawke's Bay the day after the floods in February with his family's Bible to be repaired and I have been able to restore it.'

The work can take days, weeks or even months. The process involves drying, dismantling, sewing, puncturing, taping, cornering and

Bill attended Hato Pāro Catholic Māori Boys' College in the late 1950s and early 1960s, following in the footsteps of his two older brothers Maurice and Nat. 'For almost 10 years, one of the brothers in our family was at Hato Pāora,' he says.

It wasn't until Bill attended the Hato Pāora College reunion last year that he learned Maurice had been head prefect and captain of the first XV rugby team. 'I saw his name up on the honours board.' His other brother Nat went into the SAS after leaving Hato Pāora – one of only two students from the college to have done so thinks Bill.

'I'm very proud of my brothers and what they have accomplished.'

Growing up in Ōpunake, on the west coast of Taranaki, Bills says his family's household was 'filled with food and love.'

In his later adult years, Bill was

realised he didn't want to work with machines.

'Working here in my studio the only noise I hear is the birds.'

Bill says he's always busy and has never not had work.

Not one for social or digital media, he doesn't have a cell phone and says he doesn't know what Facebook is. His work speaks for itself and his business grows through word of mouth from satisfied and delighted customers.

'People care about what I do. I had a card recently saying, "Thank you very much for doing such a beautiful job."

'I'm not important' Bill says, 'but what I do is. It's a very pleasant job – getting pieces put back together for customers.'

You can contact Bill on (04) 526-6977.

# Hands up for New Zealand Sign Language

New Zealand Sign Language Week, from 8–14 May 2023, is organised by Deaf Aotearoa to raise awareness of the language and culture of New Zealand's Deaf community. The theme for NZSL week 2023 is: 'Together we can make NZSL thrive' and the tagline is: 'Hands up if you're ready to sign with us!'



Lyneen Allen. Photo: Supplied

## Lyneen's story

My name is Lyneen Allen and I'm profoundly Deaf. I work for Wellington Catholic Social Services as Navigator Kaiwhakatere. In my role I work as part of a team with the Social Worker and the Community Facilitator. My work with clients is to assist them to achieve their goals and aspirations. In a practical way I help clients with medical, educational, employment needs attending WINZ, and housing-related appointments with them. I also collaborate with the Community Facilitator on some of CSS projects.

I have worked in the disability and mental health sectors for over 25 years. I am passionate about the rights of people with disabilities especially around the use and recognition of New Zealand Sign Language. During New Zealand Sign Language Week, Catholic Social Services are hosting several workshops on Deaf culture and to celebrate the use of NZSL.

The workshops will recognise

the experience of Deaf people and the ongoing struggle for recognition even though NZSL is one of the two official languages of Aotearoa New Zealand. In spite of this, Deaf people still have limited access to interpreting funding, many struggle to access education, and employment, and experience feelings of isolation, which can lead to poor mental health outcomes.

Starting in July, I will be running workshops once a month for people from the Deaf community, to help combat isolation currently experienced by many from the Deaf community. The workshops will educate them on what is available to them in the community. We will also invite people from government agencies to spend time with members of the Deaf Community in the hope they will come to better understand the many challenges we face.



Catholic Social Services' director Kamau Holland says having Lyneen on the CSS team has been a huge learning curve for everyone at CSS. 'Having Lyneen as part of our team is a constant reminder that many people with disabilities struggle to find meaningful work. Lyneen is a passionate advocate for her community and proof that people with disabilities can and do work well in the workplace.'

To learn more about New Zealand Sign Language and to download NZSL Week resources go to [nzslweek.org.nz](http://nzslweek.org.nz)



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## Pope appeals for an end to violence in Sudan

Pope Francis has called for an end to violence in Sudan and a return to the path of dialogue.

In remarks following the Regina Coeli, Sunday 23 April, Pope Francis invited everyone to pray 'for our Sudanese brothers and sisters'.

Violence erupted earlier last month as Sudan's regular army forces battled the paramilitary 'Rapid Support Forces' in a struggle for power in the beleaguered nation. Hundreds of people have died in the fighting, with thousands more injured. In his remarks at the Regina Coeli, Pope Francis appealed for an immediate end to violence 'and a return to the path of dialogue'.

The Pope also looked ahead to his Apostolic Journey to Hungary, which he also visited in 2021 for the International Eucharistic Congress. Pope Francis noted, 'it will also be a journey to the centre of Europe, over which the icy winds of war continue to blow,' with the resulting movement 'of so many people puts urgent



**People looking for water in Khartoum North.** Photo: Vatican Media

humanitarian issues on the agenda.'

The Pope said he was looking forward to his visit with the Hungarian people and he asked everyone to accompany his journey with prayer, not forgetting 'our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, still afflicted by this war.'

The Holy Father mentioned several other issues close to his heart including Earth Day, observed throughout the world on 22 April. 'I hope that the commitment to care for creation will always be united with an effective solidarity for the poorest.'

## Women to vote in Synod assembly for first time

The Synod of Bishops will include female voting members for the first time, Synod organisers revealed last month in a landmark development for the Church's Synod process.

The Secretariat for the Synod announced that 70 'non-bishop members' appointed directly by the Pope – half of whom will be women – will be able to vote at the Synod General Assembly in October.

The changes mean 75 per cent of the voting Synod assembly this October will be bishops and 25 per cent non-bishops.

The changes were presented by Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Secretariat for the Synod, and Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, the Synod's General Relator.

'This is not a revolution but an important change; they specified at a press conference at the Holy See Press Office on 26 April.

These 70 individuals will include lay people, 50 per cent of whom shall be women and among whom shall be included several young people. All 70 will enjoy voting rights at the Assembly, which will consist of around 370 voting members out of more than 400 total participants.

The 70 non-bishop members will be chosen by the Pope from a list of 140 prepared by the seven International Reunions of Bishops' Conferences and the Assembly of Patriarchs of

Eastern Catholic Churches.

Pope Francis has approved changes to allow lay women, including religious sisters, and lay men, to take part as full members of the Synod summit in October, emphasising it restores a model of the Church as the 'People of God' and where the hierarchy is in close relationship with the laity.

Pope St Paul VI established the Synod of Bishops in 1965, at the end of the Second Vatican Council, and since then its gatherings have been made up of bishops, ordained presbyters and male religious.

Women have only ever taken part as 'auditors' or observers without the right to vote on its outcomes.

The changes are seen as a move by the Synod away from a gathering of the hierarchy towards a Synod of the people.

Pope Francis launched a global 'Synod on synodality' process in October 2021, which has seen an unprecedented consultation of the worldwide Church and will culminate in two Vatican summits in October 2023 and October 2024.

The latest decision comes as the Synod completes the continental phase of the process, with a working document for the October 2023 meeting expected to be released at the end of May.

Source: Vatican News

## Pope visits in Hungary rallying for a unified, welcoming Europe

Pope Francis began his three-day visit to Hungary last month, praising the country for its traditional values and making a forceful appeal for European unity, decrying the rise of nationalist populism he faulted for a breakdown in multilateralism.

He also advocated on behalf of migrants in a country with a strict closed-door policy, saying the Christian attitude is one of acceptance and welcome.

After landing in the Hungarian capital of Budapest on 28 April, the pope held private meetings with Hungarian President Katalin Novák and Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, with whom he has often butted heads over the migration issue.

There has been a thaw between the two over Hungary's willingness to welcome Ukrainian refugees, however, there is still tension of Hungary's broad anti-migration policy, which some have argued has opened the door to traffickers while authorities look the other way.

Later, speaking to Hungarian authorities and members of the diplomatic corps Pope Francis noted that this year Budapest is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1873 through the unification of three former cities, Buda, Obuda, and Pest.

'The birth of this great capital in the heart of the continent invites us to reflect on the process of unification undertaken by Europe, in which Hungary plays a vital role,' he said, noting in the post-war era, Europe along with the United Nations committed to forging stronger international ties so as to avoid further conflict.

A staunch advocate of European unity, he called for the recovery of 'the European spirit' and urged

leaders to embrace 'the excitement and vision of its founders'.

The pontiff recalled the lofty ideals behind the EU bloc's founding and lamented that rising nationalism and 'adolescent belligerence' had replaced them.

The pope said the dangers Europe is currently facing 'are many indeed' and pointed specifically to the war in Ukraine, which shares some 85 miles of border with Hungary, asking, 'where are creative efforts for peace?'

Referring to 'the Europe of the 27', referring to the member states of the European union, the pope said it was 'built to create bridges between nations' and requires 'the contribution of all, while not diminishing the uniqueness of each'.

'That is the unity we need: the harmony of a whole whose parts are not blandly homogenised, but fully integrated,' he said.

Pope Francis thanked Hungary for its generosity in assisting Christians facing persecution and hardship around the world, specifically through its financial assistance to countries such as Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq.

However, he also made a strong appeal in favour of a more

welcoming policy on migration, invoking a letter from the country's first king, St Stephen to his son, in which he said strangers ought to be welcomed 'with benevolence' and held 'in esteem, so that they prefer to be with you rather than elsewhere'.

'For those who are Christians, our basic attitude cannot differ from that which St Stephen recommended,' he said, saying St Stephen's position is based on Jesus's own welcome of the stranger in need in the Gospels.

Pope Francis said it is urgent that Europe 'work for secure and legal corridors and established processes for meeting an epochal challenge that is ineluctable and needs to be acknowledged, in order to prepare a future that, unless it is shared, will not exist.'

'This challenge especially calls for a response on the part of those who are followers of Jesus and wish to imitate the example of the witness of the Gospel,' he said, and closed his speech assuring his closeness to all Hungarians.

During his pastoral visit, Pope Francis also met with some of Ukraine's 30,000 refugees in Hungary.

Source: Crux



**Pope Francis greets a group of children and young people from a parish dedicated to San Laszlo in Budapest, waiting for him with prayers and songs.**

Photo: Vatican Press Office

## Pope gifts True Cross relic to King Charles

Pope Francis has given King Charles III a relic of the True Cross of Jesus as a personal gift ahead of the King's coronation this month.

The relic has been incorporated into the Cross of Wales, a new



**At the centre of the new Cross of Wales is a relic of the True Cross, a personal gift from Pope Francis.**

Photo: The Tablet

processional cross presented by the King as a centenary gift to the Church in Wales. The Cross of Wales will lead the Coronation procession at Westminster Abbey on 6 May.

The Church in Wales described the gift from Pope Francis as 'a significant ecumenical gesture'. The Cross was blessed last month by the Archbishop of Wales, Andrew John.

Made from recycled silver bullion, the Cross was commissioned by King Charles when Prince of Wales to celebrate the centenary of the Church in Wales. It includes a shaft of Welsh windfall timber and Welsh slate. It is inscribed with words from the last sermon of St David: 'Byddwch lawen. Cadwch y ffydd. Gwnewch y

*Pethau Bychain*: 'Be joyful. Keep the faith. Do the little things.'

At the centre of the new Cross of Wales is a relic of the True Cross, a gift from Pope Francis.

The Catholic Archbishop of Cardiff and Bishop of Menevia, Mark O'Toole, said, 'With a sense of deep joy we embrace this Cross, kindly given by King Charles, and containing a relic of the True Cross, generously gifted by the Holy See.'

'It is not only a sign of the deep Christian roots of our nation but will encourage us all to model our lives on the love given by our Saviour, Jesus Christ.'

Source: The Tablet

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# Pope Francis upholds 'Billings Revolution'

Pope Francis has called for a 'new revolution' in today's way of thinking human sexuality, by refocusing on its connection with the fundamental vocation of each person, which is the 'gift of self'.

In a message to participants in the WOOMB International Congress Rome on the Billings Method, Pope Francis highlights its ongoing contribution to the understanding of human sexuality and to a fuller appreciation of the relational and procreative dimensions of the couple, saying use of methods based on the natural rhythms of fertility should be encouraged. The Congress was hosted by the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome, 28-29 April.

The Pope wrote, 'We need to discover the beauty of human sexuality by once again turning to the great book of nature, learning to respect the value of the body and the generation of life, with a view to authentic experiences of conjugal love'.

WOOMB is a US-based organisation founded in the 1970s to help spread the Billings Ovulation Method for natural family planning, which was pioneered in 1953 by Australian physician John Billings and his wife Evelyn as an alternative to artificial contraception. This method is endorsed by the Catholic Church, and it is approved by the World Health Organisation.

Pope Francis noted over the past seven decades the Billings Method has continued to prove 'timely and challenging, since it has led to serious reflection on a number of essential areas'.

These include 'the need for education in the value of the human body, an integrated and integral vision of human sexuality, an ability to cherish the fruitfulness of love even when not fertile, the building up of a culture that welcomes life and ways to confront the problem of demographic collapse'.

Citing Pope St Paul VI's Encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (1968), Pope Francis reiterates the need to keep in mind 'the inseparable connection the unitive and procreative



meanings of the conjugal act' against the 'relativistic and trivialised view of human sexuality' prevailing today.

'We are tending to lose sight of the connection between sexuality and the fundamental vocation of each person, the gift of self, which finds particular fulfilment in conjugal and family love.'

Hence the importance of educating young people on the truth of human sexuality as a genuine expression of self-giving.

Pope Francis also underscores the 'pastoral value' of promoting knowledge of fertility and natural methods in that they help 'couples to be more conscious of their marital vocation and to bear witness to the Gospel values of human sexuality'.

Therefore, he concludes, 'the use of methods based on the natural rhythms of fertility should be encouraged'.

Source: Vatican News

## NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC BISHOPS SUPPORT BILLINGS LIFE NZ

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference have given their support to a Billings Life NZ project promoting natural pregnancy planning and have encouraged parishes to include publicity about the project in their newsletters. Billings NZ is hoping to create enough interest to train Billings educators in each diocese and eventually each parish.

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Billings in New Zealand comes under a registered charity, WOOMB NZ (World Organisation Ovulation Method Billings New Zealand).

# Christian leaders appeal for peace in Papua

In a rare gesture, Catholic and Protestant leaders in Papua have come together to appeal to Indonesian President Joko Widodo to stop military operations in the crisis-hit province following the latest move to implement a 'combat alert operation'.

'We don't want any civilian casualties,' Jayapura Catholic Bishop Yanuaris Teofilus Matopai You said.

'Therefore, we respectfully ask the President of the Republic of Indonesia to withdraw troops and take steps for negotiations and a humanitarian approach,' Bishop You said at a press conference on 26 April, along with other Christian leaders.

This is the first time the Catholic Church has joined hands with Protestant leaders against the military build-up in Papua, which has intensified in recent months.

Bishop You, 72, who was installed bishop in February, was accompanied by senior faith leaders from the Evangelical Church in Indonesia, the Communion of Baptist

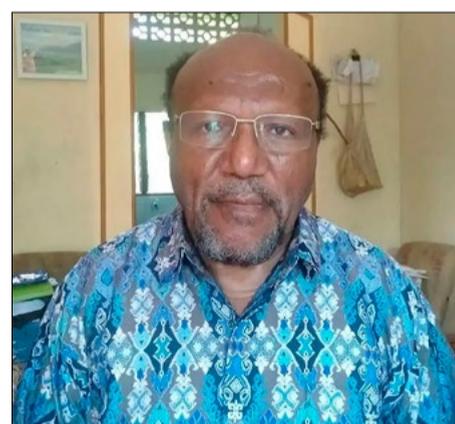
Churches of West Papua, the Kingmi Synod in the Land of Papua, the Synod of the Indonesian Christian Church in the Land of Papua and the Papua Church Council.

Their call came in response to the military's move last month to beef up combat operations in the region following the killings of five soldiers by the West Papua National Liberation Army, which the Indonesian government has labelled as an armed criminal group.

The soldiers were killed during the efforts to free New Zealand pilot Phillip Mehrtens, who has been held hostage since February this year.

A former Dutch colony, Papua declared itself independent in 1961, but neighbouring Indonesia took control two years later, promising to have an independence referendum. The subsequent voting in favour of staying as part of Indonesia was widely considered a sham.

According to data from the advocacy



Bishop Yanuaris Theofilus Matopai You.

Photo: UCA News

group Imparsial, the number of soldiers in Papua is currently at 16,900, most of them with combat qualifications.

Source: UCA News



## Maps in braille in Rome's churches and videos for the Deaf

Tactile maps and illustrative panels in braille are planned to be installed in several churches in Rome, for which short videos translated into LIS (Italian Sign Language) will also be available. The objective of the protocol of agreement, signed in April, is to enable interactive access of Deaf and blind people to some churches in Rome's historical centre. Thanks to an MOU agreement – stemming from the Apostolic Movement of the Blind – itineraries of faith and art will be created so that places of worship are effectively accessible to the sensory disabled. Specifically in churches, illustrative panels will be placed with descriptions in braille, maps in high relief and QR codes that refer to contributions in video and audio.

## Church must bring people together

The leader of the Irish Church has said more must be done on reconciliation in Northern Ireland and Church leaders must bring people together. In an interview with The Irish Times, the Archbishop of Armagh Eamon Martin spoke about growing up in Derry during the Troubles and the challenges for the Catholic Church around Republican funerals. Priests, he said, were caught in the middle. In Spring 1987, all republican funerals were banned from St Eugene's Cathedral in the city by the Bishop of Derry, Edward Daly. However, talks between the bishop and Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness resulted in a compromise. Archbishop Martin also recalled that Martin McGuinness was a regular at a Mass in Irish at Derry's Nazareth House, which he said as a diocesan priest.

## Fourth Kennedy to run for White House

Robert F Kennedy Jr has become the fourth member of his family to run for the Democrat presidential nomination, launching his campaign in Boston to loud cheers from Democrats gathered. Nephew of assassinated former president John F Kennedy and the son of Bobby Kennedy, gunned down on the campaign trail in 1968, the scion of America's most famous political dynasty spoke for almost two hours before a 1000-strong audience. 'During this campaign and during my administration, my objective will be to make as many Americans as possible forget that they are Republicans or Democrats and remember that they are Americans,' Mr Kennedy said.



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# Catholic outreach around Hastings

## Waipatu Māori Catholic Club

Helen Barlow

Waipatu Māori Catholic Club, are a local group, generally based out at Waipatu Marae, north of Hastings, and we are about to celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. We too are the organisers for our annual hui aranga for 2024 to be held here in Heretaunga or Napier. We are currently looking to secure a venue.

A hui aranga is a Catholic gathering held at Easter to celebrate the Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This event was established over 75 years ago and is held at many different locations in Aotearoa. The event has been held here in Hawke's Bay at several locations such as Te Aute College, Karamu High School, Flaxmere College, Colenso College, Tomoana Showgrounds and further afield in Wairoa.

The Waipatu Māori Catholic Club have followed this event since its conception.

We are looking to reconnect and



**2023 Easter hui aranga celebrations hosted by Te Puna Tauranga moana at Te Puna.**

Photo: Supplied to connect with those organisations where we can make future bonds in sharing and strengthening of our Catholic Faith, not just in our future hui aranga but the local events of the area.

We have just recently returned from our 2023 Easter hui aranga celebrations hosted by Te Puna Tauranga moana at Te Puna, in the Bay of Plenty.

With the responsibility of

running a hui aranga, comes the caring of a treasure (taonga) that we describe as the essence (mauri) – the statue of Our Lady Mary the Mother of Jesus. Every Tuesday at 7pm, we gather as a club and a family to pray the Rosary in Her presence. This is presently being held at 9 Burton Cres, Flaxmere. You are all welcome to join with us. I must make mention we are not all Catholic. We have been open to any and all other followings you may belong to.

A path we would like to strengthen is the First Holy Communion for our members and those who need to make this Sacrament. Also to teach those willing followers to learn more and to draw nearer to our Catholic Church and our Catholic Faith and its teachings.

And, we are often followers at the Immaculate Conception Pakipaki.

To connect with Helen Barlow, outreach Community Correspondent for Waipatu Māori Catholic Club, please email Helen at kairakau12@gmail.com

## Christian mothers' group

Marie Russell

The Young Christian Mothers group was formed in the Sacred Heart Parish of Hastings in 1974 with the help and support of Fr Paul Shannahan sm. Although the group was Catholic based, they opted to use the word Christian rather than Catholic to reflect their wish to be inclusive, particularly for non-Catholic women who had Catholic husbands. The group was active for about 10 years but friendships that came about because of the group

have, in many cases, been lifelong.

In March this year, 29 women who had been Young Christian Mothers – and who are now Much Older Christian Mothers – gathered for lunch to celebrate the friendships and support that has been so much a part of the group. The gathering was enjoyed so much, it has been decided to make it an annual event to be celebrated every March.

Anyone who was not contacted for this year's gathering is invited to send their contact details to the Catholic Parish of Hastings, ph (06) 878-7774 or email [admin@hastings.parish.nz](mailto:admin@hastings.parish.nz) with 'Young Christian Mothers' in the subject line, to be included in next year's gathering.



**Catholic Parish of Hastings' Christian Mothers gathered to celebrate long years of friendship and support.**

Photo: Supplied



**The second Sunday in Lent saw the return of the Filipino Choir in force for this post-Covid reunion at Sacred Heart Church, Rongotea – a small rural village near Palmerston North. Choir members and locals present resulted in few empty seats! Sacred Heart was established in 1895.**

Words and photo: Ashley Burrowes

## Anzac Day – in the spirit of peace

Sue Seconi

There was a spirit of deep gratitude to all those killed in both World Wars when parishioners from the Catholic Parish of Whanganui – Te Parihi Katorika Ki Whanganui gathered around the altar to mark Anzac Day at morning Eucharist.

'Jesus was very clear in our role as Christians to actively seek peace, but as the lasting peace Jesus died for,' said homilist and celebrant Fr Craig Butler. 'And not to vaguely pray for peace, but to actively seek peace in our lives and when there is conflict, to seek reconciliation.'

The Ode of Remembrance, the Last Post and a minute's silence were deeply felt as we recalled our ancestors and others who

never returned home, as well as military men and women currently deployed in conflicts around the world for peace's sake.



**Parishioner Heather Laurie created the Anzac Day focal point before the altar.**

Photo: Supplied

## Annual Pasifika celebration day attracts thousands in Levin

Fale Pasifika Horowhenua held its annual Pasifika Celebration Day on Saturday, 11 March, at the Levin Domain. An estimated 4000 people enjoyed cultural performances from Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and Tonga.

Local church groups put on spectacular performances, including Samoan AOG Levin Life Church, Samoan Methodist, Samoan Catholic Youth and Siasi 'o Tonga Tau'atāina.

The crowd also enjoyed performances by Taitoko School Poly Group and Horowhenua College's Loto Taha. Guest group, the Shades, wowed the crowd with their mix of opera, blended with Pacific songs and comedy.

A feature of the event was the interactive cultural village



**Playing the ukulele during Pasifika Celebration Day 2023 in Levin.** Photo: Horowhenua Chronicle

where people were able to watch a traditional ava ceremony, one of the most important customs of Samoa.

Fale Pasifika Horowhenua chairperson, Aleni Feagaiga was over the moon with the turnout saying 'we could not have had a better day, there were plenty of stalls offering a range of food and the performances were outstanding.'

The aim of the event is to share in Pacific Island culture, cultural identity and bringing cultures together. Feagaiga said 'the family-friendly environment was one of connectedness showing a strong community. The happiness and smiles said it all.'

Source: Horowhenua Chronicle

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The retreat is open to all and will be held at Cardinal McKeefry School, 66 Albermarle Road, Wilton, Wellington, over five Sunday afternoons from 1.30pm (registration) for a 2pm start, finishing at 4pm. Dates: 11, 18, 25 June, and 2, 9 July 2023.

The cost of the retreat is \$50, and the cost of the book if required is \$25. Sponsorship is available if the cost would prevent you from attending.

**To register or for further information please contact Sarah Dench on 021 0814 4424 or email [christianlifecommunitywgt@gmail.com](mailto:christianlifecommunitywgt@gmail.com)**



# New Catholic Parish of Buller and Inangahua

**Fr David Gruschow**  
Parish Priest

Two of the oldest parishes in the archdiocese are amalgamating. Sacred Heart parish, founded 1874 and based in Reefton, and St Canice's parish, founded 1867 and based in Westport, are to become the 'Catholic Parish of Buller and Inangahua.' The canonical process for amalgamation has been completed and now we look forward to the formal signing of the necessary decree by the archbishop.

The new parish structure will be an umbrella for five local faith communities. Holy Family church community is based in Karamea. St Canice's church community, including St Canice's School, is in Westport. Sacred Heart Church community, including Sacred Heart School, is based in Reefton. St Peter Chanel is in Murchison and St Patrick, on a southern boundary of

the archdiocese, is in Ikamatua.

Each church community is largely rural in nature. Although Westport and Reefton are sizeable towns, they both have an extensive country hinterland where a number of parishioners live. Each church community is largely self sufficient in liturgical and pastoral terms, one happy result of historical realities where priests were not always readily available.

Pastoral care and liturgical leadership are usually provided from within each country community with me as the Pastor, visiting on a regular schedule.

Sr Lusiana Raratini dolc undertakes much of the pastoral care and some liturgical ministry in the Westport community and has a valuable outreach into the wider community, some of whom are still recovering from the devastating floods of nearly two years ago.

While conversations are ongoing about the details of amalgamating



**Sacred Heart School, Reefton, celebrated Holy Week with re-enactments of Palm Sunday, Washing of the Disciples' feet and The Last Supper. Pictured: Jesus (Isobel Webb) washes one of the disciple's (Sam King) feet.**

Photo: Rose O'Connor, teacher, Sacred Heart School

the two parishes, already we have a shared newsletter organised by parishioners and a new Mass schedule has been implemented.

We look forward with the optimism of faith to new endeavours in our beautiful part of Aotearoa.



**Sr Lusiana Raratini dolc is photographed at the O'Connor Rest Home chapel Westport where she often conducts liturgies of Word and Holy Communion, as well as taking Holy Communion to some of the residents.**

Photo: Supplied

## Pukekaraka Ōtaki

Over the last couple of years the Archdiocese of Wellington has been talking with Ngāti Kapumanawawhiti (Ngāti Kapu), whose ancestors made land available at Pukekaraka, Ōtaki, for the Catholic Mission in 1851. For some time, a group of local Māori have been meeting with Cardinal John Dew and the archdiocese's general manager, John Prendergast, to explore what it means today for Ngāti Kapu to share their land for the purposes it was offered – sharing the faith, nurturing Catholic life and the education of the young.

The process took on a new meaning with parish priest Fr Alan Roberts going on a year's sabbatical while at the same time helping Palmerston North diocese

by locating to Stratford Parish. In the meantime the group of local people involved in the discussions, including Frs Phil Cody sm and Peter Healy sm, have formed a team to lead the parish.

Cardinal John commissioned this team at an outdoor Mass at Pukekaraka on 29 January this year. Work continues on how Ngāti Kapu can be more involved in the life of the parish and how the parish can be more connected with Pukekaraka. Ngāti Kapu have plans to establish a Health Centre – and already have a couple of doctors committed to giving time – working on *Laudato si'* and transforming some of the land behind the church and marae for the community.



**Cardinal John Dew commissioned the parish leadership team at Pukekaraka at an outdoor Mass in January.**

Photos: WelCom

## Wellington's St Gerard's Church and Monastery sold

St Gerard's Monastery on Mt Victoria has been sold to new owners.

The landmark heritage building went on the market on 24 February. The category one, heritage-listed church and monastery building, which had been listed with a declared RV of \$16.9 million, was sold in March after three weeks on the market.

Confirming the sale, real estate agent James Copeland, said settlement on the property is at the end of June.

The future of the building, a landmark on Wellington's skyline, was yet to be revealed after it was sold to the new owner, reported to be an ex-pat New Zealander.

The buildings had previously sold in 1990 for \$540,000 to the Institute for World Evangelisation – ICPE Mission, which used them as a retreat and training centre for missionaries.

They were closed almost two years ago after the organisation failed to raise enough funds to carry out the required earthquake-strengthening work.

The buildings are rated just 25% of the building standard and need significant work to bring it up to current standards.

ICPE Mission director Silvana Abela told media at the time that they started to feel a moral responsibility towards the safety



**Wellington's iconic St Gerard's Monastery and Church on Mt Victoria has been sold to new owners.**

Photo: WelCom

of people and so it would remain empty until it could be fixed.

The final Mass was held on 23 May 2021 and the church has since been deconsecrated.

James Copeland said while Wellingtonians had been devastated to learn several years ago that it was being closed down as a church, he believed they understood it needed someone to step in and carry out the earthquake strengthening and refurbishing.

'It is a heritage building so it will

be up there on the hill looking the same way that it does, it may not be serving the same purposes, but it will be up there looking the same way that it does for the next 100 years.'

The church was built in 1908 and the monastery several decades later in 1932. Both were designed by the city's most well-known architects of the time, John Swan and Frederick de Jersey Clere.

Sources: CathNews; OneRoof NZ



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## Supporting Thriving Lives - He Oranga Taurikura

### First year report on the programme

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has released its first report on its ambitious programme to build thriving lives across seven countries in the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

*He Oranga Taurikura - A Thriving Life* is a five-year integrated development programme working through established community organisations to provide food and water security, build healthy lifestyles, and strengthen agriculture and income-earning opportunities to be more resilient in the face of climate change and other challenges. The Caritas programme is supported by New Zealand donors and the New Zealand Aid Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The report, covering July 2021 to December 2022, shows Caritas' grassroots partners have been highly adaptable through the impact and disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises and disasters. The Social Empowerment and Education Programme (SEEP) in Fiji completed its part of He Oranga Taurikura - promoting healthy, organic food preparation - in the first six months of the programme. Another Fiji partner, the Tutu Rural Training Centre supplied its region with 50,000 extra seedlings and cuttings above its normal output in June 2022, while HAFOTI in Timor Leste secured a government contract to supply more than 14,000 jars of virgin coconut oil to supermarkets.

Overall, the programme aims to reach more than 90,000 people in Cambodia, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga in the five-year period ending June 2026.

The report is available on the Caritas website at: [www.caritas.org.nz](http://www.caritas.org.nz)

*Na tō rourou, Na tāku rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.*  
*With my fruit basket and your fruit basket, our people shall thrive.*



*He Oranga Taurikura - A Thriving Life.* The cover of first year report: July 2021-December 2022, on the partnership of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and the New Zealand Aid Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### Martin de Jong Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

Out of the lingering economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in the face of the growing impact of climate change, Caritas partners across the Pacific and Asia regions are working to provide food and water security, build healthy lifestyles, and strengthen agriculture and income-earning opportunities.

This is being done through He Oranga Taurikura - A Thriving Life, a five-year integrated development programme between Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and the New Zealand Aid Programme.

The Caritas programme is supported by New Zealand donors and the New Zealand Aid Programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. For every dollar Caritas supporters provide to the programme, the New Zealand government will match it with three dollars.

Working through nine established community organisations, the programme aims to reach over 90,000 people in Cambodia, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Tonga.

Caritas has just released its first report on the programme, covering July 2021 to December 2022. It shows Caritas' grassroots partners have been highly adaptable through the impact and disruptions of the COVID pandemic and other crises and disasters. The report is available online through the Caritas website: [www.caritas.org.nz](http://www.caritas.org.nz)

***“Working through nine established community organisations, the programme aims to reach over 90,000 people in Cambodia, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Tonga.”***

An important part of the programme is recognising and supporting local and indigenous ways of being and measuring its impact. Underlying the approach of the programme is the whakatauki:

***“Na tō rourou, Na tāku rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.***

***“With my fruit basket and your fruit basket, our people shall thrive.”***

This proverb encapsulates many things. Among them is the recognition that for a community, an environment or an individual to thrive, an integrated and collective effort is needed.

Case study examples of the impact and aspirations of the programme are shared on these two pages.

## Fijian farmers adapting to face challenges

Tutu Rural Training Centre on Taveuni Island in Fiji is recognised as a national leader in providing agricultural, business and life-skills to young men and women farmers, with an underlying Marian spirituality.

Tutu student Apakuki formed a group of six young farmers from his home village. Each of these young farmers initiated a planting programme for cash crops yaqona - used to make kava - and dalo (taro), based on what Apakuki had learned at Tutu.

Pate from Korotasere in Vanua Levu had both his parents return to his village after living in Suva. His mother had lost her job as a sports journalist. When schools reopened, his parents returned to Suva with their younger children. But while in the village they planted 1,000 cassava plants, with the harvested cassava expected to be sent to the family in Suva.

John from Naweni in Vanua Levu also experienced village returnees coming back from tourist and urban areas. Many focused on short-term crops for cash. He



**A meeting midway through last year of young farmers at Tutu RTC highlighted the ongoing economic and social impacts of COVID-19, and how rural areas were supporting people returning from urban areas.**

wanted to teach the new farmers things he had learned at Tutu such as time management, crop calendars, and budgeting.

‘We got together as a group to help clean up these blocks together - so everyone starts together.’ He said it is good that people are working together and sharing knowledge.

All three of these young farmers

agreed that a lot of people are falling into the trap of thinking about quick money, which they did not consider was good. The COVID-19 crisis has taught them they need to have many baskets and not rely just on one thing such as tourism. They concluded, ‘people before used to look down on us as farmers, now we are the ones who the people from the urban areas look up to.’



**Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia - a smallholding farmer demonstrates use of equipment used in chicken-raising for He Oranga Taurikura DPA Integrated Community Development (ICD) programme manager, Lay Sophea.**



**Mondulkiri Province, Cambodia - a farming couple explains mushroom propagation through a system developed with specialist training, mentoring and assistance with inputs from He Oranga Taurikura Cambodia.**

# Taurikura es in the Pacific and Asia



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Ratanakiri, Cambodia – supporting Indigenous Khmer-Loeu performing arts. This group, attached to a recently developed cashew-nut processing activity, demonstrates traditional music and dance. The group has been invited to travel and share aspects of their Bunong culture across other provinces in Cambodia.



Baucau HAFOTI group leader Mana Maria Joana da Silva demonstrates her own innovation of a five-tiered system for filtering virgin coconut oil. This system is being implemented across all centres producing coconut oil.

## Finance and sewing skills for women in Solomon Islands

Saroeurn Rachna has worked He Oranga Taurikura Solomon Islands is working to strengthen training provided by 10 rural training centres through the umbrella organisation Solomon Islands Association of Vocational and Rural Training Centres (SIAVRTC).

In one example of 'training the trainers', 20 women attended a combined financial literacy and sewing course in the capital Honiara in mid-2022. Training was provided for 10 life-skills' teachers or instructors from the remote Rural Training Centres along with 10 women from the community near each centre.

In the first week, the women learnt basic financial knowledge and skills to manage their finances and those of the organisation they represent. The second week was devoted to elevating their knowledge and skills in sewing, such as learning about pattern making, measurement and making complete products such as dresses and shirts.

SIAVRTC's report on the training concluded:

*'Caritas and SIAVRTC have given these 20 women the skills for their lifetime. This is because they learn how to spend money and create opportunities to get money. Furthermore, the second week made them very active by making things possible for them to learn skills in sewing that they require to share with students and the community they represent.'*



Women community members learn to sew shirts at the Ngaligaragara Rural Training Centre, from two trainers who attended the Honiara training.

## 'The more I stand higher, the more I can help others'

Saroeurn Rachna has worked for Caritas' Cambodia partner Development Partnership in Action (DPA) for seven years. She now oversees other staff, leads planning and staff development, develops budgets and monitors expenditure, and helps with data collection and report writing, among many other tasks.

Rachna says, 'DPA is a non-profit, local organisation with a good reputation and good policies. And what I like most about DPA is working for the poor, especially vulnerable people... I love working to help the poor to improve their livelihood through access for their products to market. When they get money from selling their products, they smile from their heart and on

behalf of community development worker, I am also excited and feeling proud of myself and my powerful team for working from heart to make changes.'

Rachna began working for DPA as a community development facilitator in Mondulkiri province. 'Although, now I become an assistant provincial project manager,...I still dream bigger than this because I think the more I stand higher the more I can help others. ...I want to become a policy maker for the poor and vulnerable to help them from hunger, ensure a good standard of living and wellbeing. Others say, "It is hard work, more responsibilities, less time for yourself..." But for me, I live to move forward and help others as much as I can.'



Saroeurn Rachna (left) visits Srov Sophea, a female head of household from a rice producer group at Pu Traeng village, Mondulkiri province.



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# Young Catholics

## St John's College Junior Canoe Polo team crowned national champs

St John's College, Hastings, Junior Canoe Polo team were crowned national champions, and its senior team captain won top scorer at the 2023 New Zealand Secondary School Championship and Cup held in Hawke's Bay, 24-26 March.

Year 11 student Josh Street, who's been in the team for three years, said, 'The boys' communication on the water was good and everyone was playing as a team.'

Of the eight games they played over the three days, the team won six and drew two. They beat Palmerston North Boys' High School 5-2 in the final.

Both teams were unable to play in the regional tournament a few weeks prior due to Cyclone Gabrielle. During the time regionals was hosted, the college had a blanket stand down from all sport while it helped with the cyclone recovery efforts within the community.

Trainings were disrupted said Josh. 'We were lucky they accepted us into Nationals because

you need to qualify at Regionals to play.'

The senior team came fifth place, beating Hastings Boys' High School 5-4 in overtime.

'It was our first time playing together as that team but over the weekend we came together well and towards the end, we were playing really good polo,' Captain Khan Smith said.

Khan, in Year 12, plays Guard and Centre and was crowned top scorer of the tournament. The 16-year-old is also part of Palmerston North Club, Raiders, where he plays National B Grade.

Canoe Polo Coach Jason Pearson, Head of Physical Education, says it was great to see the boys out on the court together. 'There had been significant disruptions to the programme and the efforts some players went to was outstanding. The growth throughout the tournament for both teams was testament to working hard off the court.'



St John's College Junior Canoe Polo Team and national champs (l-r): Jai Smith, Jayden Parker, Campbell Thompson, Joshua Street, Taine Smith, Corban Hocking and Ollie Danes.

Photo: Supplied

## Stratford Taranaki Shakespeare Festival

The SGCNZ University of Otago Sheila Winn Shakespeare Festival takes place annually. [SGCNZ is the Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand.] Hundreds of students take part in regional events around the country.

A number of 15- and five-minute scenes from Shakespeare's plays are presented. From each region only one 15-minute and one five-minute scene is selected to go through to the National Festival, which takes place over a weekend in Wellington - this year, 1-5 June. The festival includes workshops run by industry professionals and two days of the best performance pieces from around Aotearoa.

The Taranaki regional is held in Stratford, where students perform on the grand King's Theatre stage, which has been in operation since 1919. Students from New Plymouth's Sacred Heart Girls' College Senior Drama class and St Frances Douglas College participated.

'For 21 students and one teacher, it has been a very busy term of editing, refining, rehearsing and polishing to get four performance pieces ready for public staging,' says Heather Ashton, Drama teacher at Sacred Heart. 'The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Taming of the Shrew and Romeo and Juliet were all 15-minute entries performed in a comic style and Macbeth was a five-minute, serious entry. Three of these pieces have been invited to go down to the Nationals.'

'Students thoroughly enjoy the National Festival and even those not invited to participate in it will attend to watch and support the performances and take part in the workshops. A testament to the event's success

is that students request to re-enter this festival from year to year and to include it in their course curriculum.'

Gabriel Gerente, of Francis Douglas Memorial College, won the 2023 direct entry selection for Taranaki Region. Gabriel will have an opportunity to perform in October with a view to selection to travel to the Globe in London next year.

Go to [www.sgcnz.org.nz](http://www.sgcnz.org.nz) for more information about the National Festival.



St Francis Douglas Memorial College students perform a scene from a Shakespeare play on Stratford's King's Theatre stage.



Students from Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth, perform a scene from Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

Photos: Supplied

# CHALLENGE 2000

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### INTERNSHIP PROJECT 2



## PROJECT DATES

Project 2:

2 August - 15 December

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<https://www.challenge2000.org.nz/youth/gap-year/>

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# Rangatahi Katorika

## Challenge 2000 - growing young potential

Challenge 2000 is a Catholic, Gospel-based professional and dynamic youth development, community and family social work agency. The Challenge whānau of over 40 staff work mainly throughout the Wellington region, providing services and programmes to children, young people, families and community groups.

Each year Challenge takes on a group of interns within its Challenge Marist Gap Year programme to help them gain first-hand experience and grow as individuals wanting to make a difference walking the steps of Christ. Here are two current interns' stories two months into this year's programme.

*"I first learnt about Challenge 2000 from my aunty Sophia who is a member of the St Francis of Assisi parish. I was living in Sydney and at uni there but thought I needed to be clearer about my career choices and get some real-life skills. So after a family chat I was on a plane to Wellington, questioning how and why my life was about to change so fast as I began my*

*internship on the Challenge Marist Gap Year. These past two months I've worked with more children and young people than a 19-year-old could imagine.*

*I've been tutoring maths and English to young people who school doesn't suit, given guitar lessons and I've taught children about their Christian faith on a sacramental programme. I've enhanced my music skills and worked with other young people on Tuesday Liturgies for St Brigid's School and the Holy Thursday Mass and Anzac service.*

*As part of the intern programme we also learn a lot about Aotearoa New Zealand, bi-culturalism, personal development and community building. A highlight for me was a visit to Pukekarakara in Ōtaki where we learnt a great deal about Te Ao Māori, the whenua and the history of the Catholic Church in that area.*

*So far it has been an eye-opening experience and, although I miss my friends and family in Sydney, I feel I have grown as a person exponentially in the past two months."*

- Mitch Cheu

*"Talofa lava. I'm originally from the beautiful island of Samoa and arrived with my family to live in Marton when I was six. I attended St Peter's College in Palmerston North where I was a Special Chapter Prefect, finishing up there last year. Some Church leaders there suggested I apply for the Challenge Marist internship project and so I shifted to Wellington in February and live in a Challenge Youth House now.*

*So far there have been many different opportunities offered me. I help at the Challenge foodbank getting parcels ready for families, work at St Brigid's School one day a week as I am thinking about teaching as a career, do different youth ministry activities, am beginning NZQA Youth work papers, sitting my restricted licence, doing after-school programmes, care for children and just do anything to help and serve that comes my way. All these opportunities are preparing me for the many challenges that will come my way in the future."*

- Kasileta Seko



**Interns Mitch Cheu (back left) and Kasileta Seko (front right) helping rangatahi.**

Photo: Supplied

To find out more or to get involved contact Challenge 2000 at: [challenge2000.org.nz](http://challenge2000.org.nz) or email: [info@challenge2000.org.nz](mailto:info@challenge2000.org.nz) or ph (04) 477-6827.

## 'Moving it' for Caritas

**Donna McDonald**  
Principal, St Theresa's School

On 4 April, St Theresa's Catholic School in Plimmerton was able to 'move it' for our Caritas Challenge. It was a beautiful day with the sun shining. Thank you to our Year 6 Caritas Leaders - Jorja-Maree, Dante, Bella, Alisa, Izzy and Mila - who led each class and made sure there were children walking non-stop throughout the day, including morning tea and lunchtime. The whole school gathered at the end of the day and were excited to hear they had raised \$765.70 for Caritas.

We are also very proud of one of our students Jacob Song who went busking with his violin in Wellington and raised \$133.30. Jacob donated all of this money to Caritas. Thank you, Jacob! You are a wonderful example of how to live the Gospel values.



**Jacob Song went busking with his violin in Wellington and raised \$133.30 for Caritas Challenge.**

Photo: Supplied

## Showing mafana - care and love

'For those fatigued following the floods, may you lean on the strength of loved ones to carry you into another day.'

To help be that strength and wanting to show mafana - care and love - for people who had suffered during Cyclone Gabrielle, Holy Family School, Porirua held a non-uniform day. Students were asked to gift a gold coin. We raised \$437 which we donated to Kidscan. Kidscan are wonderful supporters of our school and we hope this money can go to a school in the areas affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. Our alofa and aroha go out to all who have been affected.



**Holy Family School staff got in on the act and wore uniform for the day, while students wore non-uniform.**

Words and photo: Suzanne Goodin, Principal

## Student-led youth programme in Wellington

**Maria John**  
Yafa Leader for St Mary's College

Yafa - 'Youth Allowed, Faith Aloud' - had a successful first session for 2023 last month, hosted by St Mary's College. Over 200 students attended.

Yafa is a gathering for students from the Catholic colleges around Wellington to meet, socialise, eat together, pray together, and become closer to their faith. The session focus 'Pūaroa' - support - included students presenting skits with this value in action. This was really evident when each school performed their school Haka with the support and encouragement of the other schools.

Everyone had a good laugh, talk and some kai, and we're looking forward to the next session at St Catherine's College, early Term 2.



**Students from Wellington Catholic colleges gathered at St Mary's College Hall to socialise, pray together, and become closer to their faith at their first Yafa meeting for 2023.**

Photo: Supplied

## Caritas Challenge: 'Live It, Sweat It, Move It, Stop It'

Caritas Challenge is an annual event for schools and youth groups across New Zealand to raise awareness of social justice issues and the extreme challenges faced by people living in poverty. Participants take part in a fun, practical experience where for a limited time, and in a safe and small way they get to experience the hardships faced by people in their daily lives.

Four challenges provide the backdrop for this event. Young Catholics can either take part in one, a combination of, or all the challenges. In the process they get to 'Live It, Sweat It, Move It and Stop It'. This year all fundraising goes towards supporting communities in Fiji and every dollar raised will become \$4 through matched funding!

Groups can hold a Caritas Challenge event at any time during the year. For more information and to be inspired watch the promo video at: [youtube.com/watch?v=RwUa4GeQKNA](https://youtube.com/watch?v=RwUa4GeQKNA) or visit: [caritas.org.nz/caritas-challenge](http://caritas.org.nz/caritas-challenge)



**St Peter's College in Palmerston North had 152 students take part in a 'Live It' Challenge where they had to 'Survive a Slum'.**

Photo: Supplied



**The archdiocese youth ministry team held a leadership day in March for a group of Year 13 students at Garin College, teaching them skills for Catholic leadership in their school. Around 30 students attended, with graduates from last December's Young Catholic Leadership (YCL) camp helping to facilitate sessions and activities and putting their learnings into practice.**

Photo: Supplied

## Caritas events

**YCC Day** - Friday 30 June, help 800 plus students at Oecusse School in Timor-Leste, whose school doesn't have working toilets. Resources early Term 2: [caritas.org.nz/ycc-day](http://caritas.org.nz/ycc-day)

**Competitions**  
**KAITIAKI2SHARE:** Act Today for a Better Tomorrow. Closing date 13 June.  
**SINGout4JUSTICE:** Closing date 1 August.

More info: [caritas.org.nz](http://caritas.org.nz)

## Cathedral corner: Living through change



Fr James Lyons,  
Priest of the archdiocese.

Sacred Heart Cathedral is no stranger to change.

In her 122-year history, the mother church of the Wellington Archdiocese has been altered in shape and colour and furnishing, as well as in response to liturgical reforms.

There has been change for safety, change for growth and change for aesthetics.

Change and life go together.

The removal of the earthquake-risk bell towers (pictured below) was in 1942. The re-shaping of the sanctuary in the late 1960s followed reforms called for by the Second Vatican Council.



Outside Sacred Heart Cathedral, a film crew is on the parapet and hundreds lined Hill St, Thorndon, for the funeral of Archbishop Frances William Redwood sm, who died aged 95, 3 January 1935. Appointed Bishop of Wellington in 1874, and Archbishop of Wellington and Metropolitan of New Zealand in 1887, he remained Archbishop for over 50 years until his death in 1935.

Photos: Supplied

You can donate to the Cathedral Restoration Fund by Internet Banking to: Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish A/c: 02-0506-0138488-025  
Particulars (your surname and initials)  
Code (your phone no) Reference (Reopen)

The 1930s photo of the Cathedral interior, as well as showing the original sanctuary, captures the side altars honouring St Joseph (left) and Our Lady (right). These were removed in the 1950s together with the paintings above them.

Major change in the 1980s brought strengthening to the outside walls, the construction of the Foyer, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Courtyard, Connolly Hall, and interior redecorating.



The Cathedral interior, 1930s.

Change now underway, following the Cathedral's closure in 2018, includes necessary earthquake strengthening, deferred maintenance, restoration of the historic Hobday Organ and some original stonework.

Throughout these many interruptions in her lifetime, Sacred Heart Cathedral has preserved outstanding acoustics. This feature has caught the attention of orchestras, recording artists and choirs both local and national and their support has helped meet the considerable costs involved.

But it is the Catholic community that benefits most from having a Cathedral that is not only secure and functional, but a landmark historically linked to the beginning of the Archdiocese.

As the current changes near completion, contributions are more urgently sought to enable our Cathedral to be reopened debt free.

>> Fr Chris Skinner fundraising concert, 11 June, p 19.

## Oceania bishops publish response to Synod of Bishops' document

The Catholic bishops of Oceania say their people's reflections for the global Synod of Bishops for a Synodal Church have left them feeling 'peace and joy' but also called them to be prophetic and ready to 'model ourselves on the love we proclaim'.

The bishops met in Fiji from 5-10 February for the quadrennial assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO) and as part of the continental stage of the synod on synodality. They spent part of that gathering considering the region's response to the Synod's Working Document for the Continental Stage, titled *Enlarge the Space of Your Tent*.



response to the Synod Secretariat in Rome at the end of March. It was published in April [[tinyurl.com/Oceania-Bishops-Synod](https://tinyurl.com/Oceania-Bishops-Synod)].

The FCBCO comprises the episcopal conferences of Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific and Papua New Guinea/Solomon Islands.

**"We do not want to build a different Church, but rather to renew and revitalise the Church which we love." - Oceania bishops**

The Oceania response was drafted by a writing and discernment group, which synthesised reports from the four bishops' conferences and the local Eastern Catholic Churches. The bishops reviewed and refined the document 'in a context of prayer and contemplation'.

The FCBCO's executive council approved and submitted the

Archbishop Paul Martin sm of Wellington and Bishop Michael Dooley of Dunedin took part as New Zealand's representatives on the FCBCO executive.

Bishop Anthony Randazzo of Broken Bay, Australia, who was appointed president of the FCBCO at the February assembly, said while the report captured the voices of Catholics across Oceania,



Bishops process into Mass during the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania assembly in Suva, Fiji.

Photo: ACBC

the bishops felt the need to offer a pastoral response.

'One of the key works of a bishop is to teach. Gathered as the shepherds of the people of Oceania, we wanted to share our prayerful and considered thoughts on what we had heard,' he said.

'As we bishops wrote, through this Synod process: "we do not want to build a different Church, but rather to renew and revitalise the Church which we love". That starts with each and every one of us - all the baptised - individually, but also in communion with one another.'

The Oceania report outlines the fruits of the discernment that took place in response to *Enlarge the Space of Your Tent*, drawing together common themes, issues and insights. It also highlights tensions and differences, and it identifies priorities and calls to action.

The document concedes the responses gathered represented only a small proportion of the Catholic population, and did not always contain the breadth and depth of local lived experiences.

'The document captures the hopes and concerns of our people, and this might give the impression that the Church is in disarray,' the bishops' pastoral reflection says.

'However, it is precisely in places and times of pain and suffering that Christ reveals Himself. This confidence and faith in His presence can guide us in our response.'

Regional bishops' conferences around the world were invited to prepare responses to the *Working Document for the Continental Stage*, with the seven submissions helping to shape the working document (*instrumentum laboris*) for the first of two sessions of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, to be held in Rome this October. The second session is scheduled for October 2024.

'We pray - and we believe - that Oceania's hope-filled contribution will help the work of the Synod move forward in fidelity to the Holy Spirit,' Bishop Randazzo said.

Source: NZCBC

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# International Nurses Day and Hospice Awareness Week

International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every year on 12 May, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday. The theme for 2023 is Our Nurses. Our Future. Hospice Awareness Week in Aotearoa New Zealand is from 15-21 May 2023.

## Called to Care

**Dr Mark Jones**  
President and Chair Nurses  
Christian Fellowship New Zealand

Whilst the contribution of other nurse leaders was significant to the development of the profession here in Aotearoa New Zealand, most nurses acknowledge Florence Nightingale as a having an influence on nursing in our country and worldwide. We all know most of Florence's story but the key thing her writings tell is that on February 1837, at 17 years old, she heard God's voice calling her into 'service', eventually leading her into nursing. Our profession has never been the same since.



**International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every year on 12 May, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birthday.**

Image: IND2023, International Council of Nurses

As we come to celebrate International Nurses Day on Florence's birthday, May 12, Nurses Christian Federation New Zealand (NCFNZ) remembers God's call to relaunch the organisation on that very day back in 2015, and recall some of our history. On Anzac Day just gone we acknowledge nurses facing challenges of conflict abroad and in making their contribution to the development of the country, including our profession. They stood on their commitment to Christ in doing so. Part of this commitment was to carry on Nightingale's Christian mission by establishing in 1924 a national organisation to support Christian nurses in their work – the Nurses Christian Union (NCU). Director

of the Division of Nursing at the Department of Health (similar to our modern-day Chief Nurse at the Ministry) Jessie Bicknell was the first patron of NCU and a committed advocate of Christianity as the foundation of our practice.

Eventually the 'Union' became the 'Fellowship' to effectively link with similar organisations worldwide as part of Nurses Christian Fellowship International. In time just about every hospital in New Zealand had a branch of NCF with meetings packed out on a regular basis. Every organisation has its season though and in the late 90s the profile of NCF became less obvious. In 2015, 90 years since nurse leaders of Aotearoa acknowledged their faith as underpinning a commitment to caring, NCFNZ once again proclaimed the centrality of God to the work of our profession.

In times of high work pressure, challenges to delivering quality care outcomes, and of course earning sufficiently to keep going with a struggling economy, we could be forgiven for wondering whether a call to care such as Florence's still has validity. However, if any profession can be seen to represent the attributes of selflessness and caring for our neighbour as instructed by Christ, it would have to be nursing. Of course not all nurses are Christians, but thousands are. NCFNZ is growing in strength once more and we offer Christian nurses a place where they can gain support and encouragement sharing their commitment with others and drawing upon each other's strengths whilst being open and honest about any perceived weakness they may feel working in our health care system today. And for those nurses who are not Christians we are so keen to help them on a journey to find out how and why our faith can be foundational to their practice.

Nursing can be a fun, dynamic, rewarding and exciting, but often wearisome, challenging and absolutely exhausting. Strength does come in numbers though and if you are a nurse or know a nurse who wants to understand more how their profession and faith can intertwine with amazing results, then you know where to look: [www.NCFNZ.org.nz](http://www.NCFNZ.org.nz)

### 'Reflect' conference 2023: 'Imago Dei – Mirroring God's image within healthcare'

NCFNZ is running their annual 'Reflect' conference in partnership with their friends at the Christian Medical Fellowship New Zealand: Auckland, 20 May; and Dunedin 27 May 27, to connect and inspire Christian healthcare professionals across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Go to: [www.cmf.nz/reflect\\_2023](http://www.cmf.nz/reflect_2023) for information and to register.

## Embracing Catholic Social teaching and Hospice philosophy

**Sr Mary Scanlon lcm**

*"I have come that every person may have life and have it to the full." – John 10.10*

As a Sister of the Little Company of Mary, I learned as a young Religious to embrace wholeheartedly the founding principles of both Catholic Social teaching and the Hospice philosophy. They have framed my life span. Jesus' superb declaration above states unequivocally the intrinsic dignity of every human being, whatever their origin or orientation. And both Florence Nightingale and Venerable Mary Potter enshrined that sentence in their respective manifestos.

This May, we nurses around the world celebrate the birthday of Florence Nightingale and, in Hospice Week, the inspiration of the Hospice movement, in which Mary Potter paid a vital part in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Along with human dignity, we honour the following essential values:

- commitment to the Common Good, in which we think of and work always for the welfare of all humanity and not our own interests;
- solidarity with God's people who are poor, disadvantaged, sick or dying;
- subsidiarity, in which any problems are best solved at the level of their occurrence.



**Sr Mary Scanlon lmc, QSM.**

Of course, my daily prayer, standing in the waterfall of God's unconditional love, is my anchor, and offering my own sufferings for the eternal benefit of those suffering, dying and grieving around me. In a word we faith-based nurses are called to birth to life God's Love in the many sufferings and dyings of our world, thus honouring both our social teachings and our Hospice philosophy. 'Venerable Mary Potter life and spirit continue to inspire me, and her legacy frames my daily prayer,' Sr Mary says.

*Sr Mary was invested with a Queen's Service Medal in 2016 in recognition for her services to Wellington's Mary Potter Hospice. Now retired, Sr Mary lives with her LCM community in Christchurch.*

## Hospice care in the community

Hospice is a holistic wrap-around service of care and support available to anyone with a life-limiting illness. Whilst hospice care is primarily focused on the person who is dying, services are also for the family and whānau both before and after their loved one has died. All hospice services and support are provided free of charge. As an essential health service, the majority of funding comes from Government, the remainder comes from community fundraising. Just over \$77m needs to be raised nationally each year to bridge the gap.

Volunteers are needed for an hour or two to help collect funds around Wellington, Porirua and Kāpiti for Mary Potter Hospice's Street Appeal on Thursday 18 and Saturday 20 May, 2023.

Every person helping to collect, helps to raise more funds for the work Mary Potter Hospice does. Your support helps to ensure services remain free-of-charge for patients and their families or whānau.



Collectors need to be 14 years or older or be accompanied by an adult.

Please contact Phillip at [street.appeal@marypotter.org.nz](mailto:street.appeal@marypotter.org.nz), or go to [marypotter.org.nz](http://marypotter.org.nz) to sign up as a volunteer.

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# Awesome work of the Holy Spirit

## Pentecost Sunday - 28 May 2023

Pentecost occurs 50 days after the death and resurrection of Jesus, and ten days after his ascension into heaven. Because Easter is a moveable feast and Pentecost depends on the timing of Easter, Pentecost can fall anywhere between 10 May and 13 June. This year, Pentecost Sunday is 28 May.

### Patrick Bridgman

At the Easter Vigil, 50 days before Pentecost, the Church calls upon the power of the Holy Spirit to come down into the fullness of the font of baptism. In the prayer of blessing the Church invokes the same Spirit who in the first moments of the world's creation hovered over the waters. The same Spirit who guided the children of Abraham to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea, the same Spirit who was seen in bodily form as a Dove as Jesus was baptised, the same Spirit in whom the candidates are baptised, 'in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'

While we recall the events of the appearances of the Risen Lord through Eastertide, the liturgical season of Easter, we are given a generous period to reflect upon the presence of the Risen Lord to the disciples and the gifting of his Spirit to them, and to us, the Church.

At the Vigil Mass for Pentecost, the Presider addresses the faithful gathered with words which recall the nature of our 'waiting' for the Spirit as well as the fruits of having received the Spirit. 'We have now begun our Pentecost Vigil, after the example of the Apostles and disciples who with Mary, the mother of Jesus, persevered in prayer, awaiting the Spirit promised by the Lord.' And 'Let us meditate

***"This same Spirit who hovered over the waters of creation, was with Mary following her 'yes' and brought Jesus into the world. This same Spirit is at work in our lives too."***

on how many great deeds God in times past did for his people and let us pray that the Holy Spirit, whom the Father has sent as the first fruits for those who believe, may bring to perfection his work in the world.'



***"Pentecost is a wonderful opportunity for us to meditate on the many great deeds God has done for us, God's people, both collectively and individually."***

Pentecost is a wonderful opportunity for us to meditate on the many great deeds God has done for us, God's people, both collectively and individually. We know that in the fullness of time, having sent the Holy Spirit upon the prophets of old, God sent his Spirit upon Mary of Nazareth following her, yes! This same Spirit who hovered over the waters of creation, was with Mary, and they brought Jesus into the world. This same Spirit is at work in our lives too.

May we take time to notice, to remember, and to celebrate when the Spirit is with us, and when we participate in divine life through invoking the Spirit's presence in

our days. This may be through the simple blessing of our daily food, it is in the epiclesis of the Mass, when the Spirit is invoked, it may be when we lay our hands over our children and ask a blessing upon them, it may be when we ask for the Spirit's guidance as we discern a future decision or path. It is the same Holy Spirit who is at work today, as was at work at the dawn of creation. This is an awesome reality. We are awesome realities, for through baptism received we are Temples of this Holy Spirit! The One who sanctifies dwells in us. And in our gestures and in our words as we enfold the life of Jesus in this day, we participate in the divine mission entrusted to God's people. Happy Easter! Happy Pentecost!

*Patrick Bridgman is parish priest of Te Awakairangi and Liturgy Adviser in the Archdiocese of Wellington.*

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

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### Living Liturgically

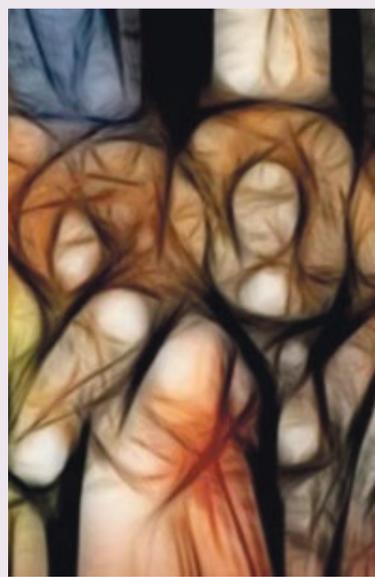
Bringing the Liturgical Year to life in the rhythm of the parish. This interactive workshop led by Fr Patrick Bridgman is for everyone involved or interested in Liturgy.

**When:** Saturday, 20 May, 10am-12noon. Tea and coffee available from 9.30am.

**Where:** St Francis of Assisi Parish Church, Johnsonville.

**Register:** Contact Chris Walkerdine, c.walkerdine@wn.catholic.org.nz or (04) 496-1706.

**Presenter:** Fr Patrick Bridgman, Liturgy Adviser, Archdiocese of Wellington.



### Prayer for Ascension Day

**Dear Lord Jesus Christ,**

**Right before your Ascension into Heaven you told your apostles to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth upon receiving the Holy Spirit. May I be similarly inspired to spread your Gospel message in word and deed, according to your will for me. And may I do so prudently and joyfully, with your help, your guidance, and your grace! And remembering this glorious event, help me to seek what is above, Heaven, where you are seated at the right hand of God the Father!**

**Amen.**

# A Litany Revisited

Last month, WelCom began a series of exploring titles of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the Litany of Loreto which dates from 1531. The first was Mary as 'Mirror of Justice'. Here are two more, placed in a context relevant to the experiences and aspirations of today's Christians, by **Fr James Lyons**.

## Seat of wisdom

**James Lyons**  
Priest of the archdiocese

One of the Bible's stories of wisdom is the judgement of Solomon in deciding the real mother of a child claimed by two women [1Kings 3: 16-28].

Solomon, coming to the throne after the death of his father, David, asked God for a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil (1 Kings 3: 9). He was blessed with wisdom because he had not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies [vs 11].

Solomon's praise of his gift is recorded in The Book of Wisdom: she is a breath of the power of God; pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; hence nothing impure can find a way into her; she is a reflection of the eternal light; untarnished mirror of God's active power; image of his goodness. Wisdom 7: 25-26 [also Wisdom 7:10-11].

We usually understand the word 'seat' as a chair or a place to sit and rest. It also refers to a throne, a symbol of authority or status. A chairperson is the title of one who controls a meeting. The seat of Government is the city or region where a nation's governing authority is located. The word 'cathedral' is from the Greek 'kathedra' or chair, and names the church in which is held the bishop's symbol of leadership – the bishop's chair.

Catholic tradition has looked to

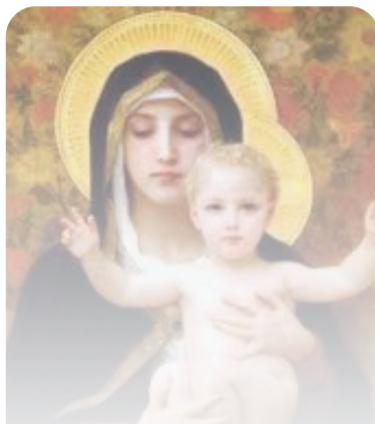
Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as *Seat of Wisdom* – the centre point of courage and good judgement who guides the followers of Jesus with gentle strength and wise counsel.

The Christian scriptures provide several examples of Mary's wisdom. She had great discernment and knew how to reserve judgement, to wait for God. *Let what you have said be done to me* [Luke 1:38] is her statement of trust in God, a willingness to let God's plan take its course.

The English poet, John Milton [1608–1674] writes that 'Wisdom's best nurse is contemplation'. Mary gladly treasured and pondered events and conversations in her heart, nursing them when their immediate meaning was beyond her [Luke 2: 20]. This practice led her to know Jesus better than any other. Confident in that knowledge, she had no hesitation in telling the Cana wedding servants to *Do whatever he tells you* [John 2: 5].

Later, in the panic and fear that followed the death of Jesus, she encouraged the apostles and, as they came to terms with his dying and rising, she gathered with them in prayer, re-uniting them after their abandonment of Jesus [John 19: 26-27; cf Acts 1: 14].

Mary is *Seat of Wisdom*, 'image of the goodness of God'. She is the strong, inspiring, enabling comforter who understands our pain, heals our doubts, supports us in our weakness and encourages us to remain close to Jesus. She leads us to God through her own lived experience with God, in Jesus.



*O Wisdom,  
A gift from contemplation  
Flowering into a tree of life  
Harbouring uncertainty  
Transforming doubt  
With branches strong and true  
Holding light with shade  
A shelter for all.  
Mary, Seat of Wisdom,  
pray for us.*

### Cause of our joy

Joy has many causes. Success in exams, a friend's visit, a thank you note, a job offer... Whatever contributes to our happiness, our security, our peace of mind, or heart, should also bring us joy.

Joy disperses worry and opens wide the door for hope.

The Christian story announces joy in its opening paragraphs. The angel brings news of great joy to shepherds during their night-time watch over the sheep. This joy, the

shepherds are told is to be shared by the whole people. A child has been born, a saviour, and will be found wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. [cf Luke 2: 10-11]

In his 2013 Encyclical Letter, *The Joy of the Gospel – Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis stresses the universal goal of this news of great joy. It is 'news' which is 'full of joy' because it is meant for everyone. Those who respond to this news as Mary did, know they cannot keep it to themselves.

Our 'joy' comes through her acceptance of God's call. She is, indeed, the cause of our joy and our inspiration 'to go forth and preach the Gospel to all: to all places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance or fear'. [EN n.23]

Pope Francis prays: [EG n.288]

*Filled with Christ's presence,  
you (Mary) brought John the Baptist,  
making him exalt in the womb of his  
mother.*

*Brimming over with joy,  
you sang of the great things  
done by God.  
Standing at the foot of the cross  
with unyielding faith  
you received the joyful comfort  
of the resurrection,  
and joined the disciples awaiting  
the Spirit  
so that the evangelising Church  
might be born.*

*Give us the courage to seek new paths  
that the gift of unfading beauty  
may reach every man and woman.*

As an adult, Jesus would speak of the joy of childbirth being so great as to render the mother's earlier pain and anguish irrelevant. But his own birth signalled a joy for the whole world, not just his immediate family.

During the night that heralds Easter, the Church sings the *Exsultet* – a great hymn of praise honouring the Paschal Candle whose flame pierces the darkness of this holy night and announces the resurrection of Jesus:

*The power of this holy night  
dispels all evil, washes guilt away,  
restores lost innocence, brings  
mourners joy.*

Mary is Cause of our Joy for she is the mother of the one who is: the Way to the Father the Truth that sets us free the Life that makes our joy complete.



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### Mary month of May

Throughout May, the month dedicated to the Blessed Mother Mary, many images of Our Lady are visited in dedicated garden settings in places around the world.

Many believe the reason is because, in the Northern Hemisphere, the month of May is the height of spring. Gardens everywhere are alive with blooming flowers and trees are filling their branches with leaves. This new beginning and new birth in nature reminds us of the life Mary gave to Jesus.

It is a Catholic tradition in many places to honour Mary during the month of May by crowning her statue with flowers. The reason is summed up by Pope St Paul VI who wrote in 1965 that May is an occasion for a 'moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world pay to the Queen of Heaven'. The crown symbol is attributed to Mary because she is the Mother of the Son of God, our Heavenly King.

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<b>Wellington</b> Loaves & Fishes Hall, Hill Street Thursday 18 May, 7:30pm Contact: David 027 447 7280	<b>Palmerston North</b> St Mary's Church foyer, Ruahine Street Tuesday 16 May 7:00pm Contact: John 027 688 7750
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'As for me and my house we will serve the Lord' - *Joshua 24:15*

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## Blessing of the Oils during Holy Week

During Holy Week at special Chrism Masses in diocesan cathedrals and churches around the globe, oils to be used in the Sacramental life of the Church, are blessed and distributed to representatives to take back to their parishes and faith communities.

Chrism Masses were celebrated in the Archdiocese of Wellington and the Diocese of Palmerston North on 3 and 4 April.

Archbishop Paul Martin sm presided at the Masses for the parishes of the archdiocese's lower North Island at St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral in Karori and for parishes at the Top of the South Island, at St Mary's Church Blenheim. The South Island area includes vast tracks of land stretching from Kaikōura across to Westport and up to Karamea, Takaka, Farewell Spit crossing over to Motueka, Richmond, Nelson and returning to Blenheim.

Archbishop Paul explained in his homily, 'Each of these oils will be prayed over by me, as Bishop and point of unity for our diocese, we will call upon God's blessing on them, and they will then be collected by you, representing all the people of faith in our diocese from different parish and faith communities, and you will take them out to be



**Chrism oils packaged in kete for parishes in the Top of the South Island. There was good representation of the various faith communities in attendance at the Chrism Mass including four out of five pastors present.**



**Parishioners from the Catholic Parish of Napier receive the holy oils from Fr Craig Butler.**

Photos: Supplied

used when people are baptised, confirmed, ordained and seeking healing. These are holy moments

when God is made present and the oils are used to mark that. These are treasured and sacred signs of God's presence with us.

'This Chrism Mass calls us again to refocus on the promises we have made to be faithful children of God, to serve as his ministers, to receive his grace and strength through the Sacraments, captured in the presence of these holy oils. May we grow closer to God by what we do this night, and may we be witnesses and signs to the world of what it is to know and love the God who made us, the one who gives us life so that we might live it to the full, both now and for eternity.'

The Chrism Mass for the Diocese of Palmerston North was celebrated at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit by Fr Craig Butler along with several other priests and Bishop Peter Cullinane, who gave the homily and blessed the oils.

Bishop Peter said that Holy Week is a privileged time in which to deepen our relationship with Jesus, by conversing with Jesus about his experience of it. He explained how the oils are blessed in the cathedral of every diocese at this time. 'I invite you to notice the prayers that the Church prays for those who will be anointed with these oils.'

## Gospel Reading: Sunday 7 May 2023

### FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – JOHN 14:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.'

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way?'

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From this moment on you do know him and have seen him.'

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and then we shall be satisfied.'

Jesus said to him, <sup>9</sup> 'Have I been with you all this time Philip and you still do not know me? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father, so how can you say, "Show us the Father"?'

<sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak of my own accord: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his works.

<sup>11</sup> You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least, believe it on the evidence of these works.

<sup>12</sup> Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.'

## Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life

### Dr Mary Nash

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.*

*In my Father's house there are many dwelling places."* – Jn 14:1

In East Anglia – in the East of England – there is a very old Church in the grounds of Hengrave Hall, where I went to school. It is dedicated to St John the Baptist and St John the Apostle. My school was a convent school and we worshipped there every day. My mother was Catholic and my father was Church of England and their mixed marriage was a source of distress to my father's side of the family. Every night, we children said our prayers and I prayed Dad would one day become a Catholic. I found the possibility that he might not be very disturbing lest he be consigned into everlasting fire. Therefore, the words inscribed at the entrance to this little church,

which had survived the reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, were very comforting to me. They still are, though, with my adult mind they open the doors to far more faith groups than I could have imagined. I still find it very comforting and beautiful to consider these encouraging words: *'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.'* Jn 14:1

And yet how were the followers of Jesus to get to the Father's house? Thomas wanted to know where Jesus was going and said they had no road map and did not know the way. But Jesus turns serenely to him and tells him that yes, they do know the Way, for He himself is the Way and not only that but also the Truth and the Life. Over the centuries, many Christians have argued about this, claiming that it means only the favoured few followers of Christ can find the Way. Others have been prepared to take a more loving

approach to the finding of the Way.

Just as the Apostles looked to Jesus as the Way, so we may follow his example, as also seen in the examples set by the saints, especially those who live amongst us now. Often, I suspect, today's saints are people who can be very annoying as they break rules in order to shower loving-kindness on the lonely and the helpless who we also know, but perhaps avoid. Washing their feet, going to their celebrations and healing their wounds are all steps on the Way to our Father's house, where our hearts will not be troubled and we know there is room for all of us.

*Dr Mary Nash – a Catholic, a grandmother and a PhD in social work – joined the parish of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in 1978, when she came to live in New Zealand from North Wales. She has been a member of the Manawatu Catholic Worker group for the last eight years.*

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**DATES AND EVENTS – WHAT’S ON**

If you would like your event listed free on this page, please email an outline to [welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz) including name of event, date, time, location and contact.

**Monday 1 May**

Feast of St Joseph the Worker.

**Saturday 6 May**

Retreat for mothers – ‘In the Potter’s Hands’, 10am to 3.30pm, Our Lady’s Home of Compassion, Rhine St, Island Bay. Register with Lucienne Hensel, [l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz) or ph (04) 496-1715 or 021 164 5800.

**Monday 8–Sunday 14 May**

New Zealand Sign Language Week: ‘Together we can make NZSL thrive’. Visit [nzslweek.org.nz](http://nzslweek.org.nz) to learn more. (See p.5.)

**Friday 12 May**

XLT 2023 – come and join young Catholics for Worship and Adoration, 7pm, St Anne’s, Newtown. Open to all teenagers and young adults. Dates for rest of the year, same time, same place: 9 June; 7 July; 11 August; 8 September; 6 October; 10 November. Follow on Instagram [@xltwellington](https://www.instagram.com/xltwellington)

**Saturday 13 May**

Our Lady of Fatima, Feast.

**Sunday 14 May**

Maltese Mass – the Maltese community are holding a Mass, on Mother’s Day, 12 noon, Our Lady of Fatima Church, Tawa, Wellington, to remember

members of their community who have passed away in New Zealand. Fr Michael Bellizzi is the celebrant. Please contact Tony at: [malta\\_assn@hotmail.com](mailto:malta_assn@hotmail.com) or (04) 232-4809 for further information.

**Monday 15 May–Sunday 21 May**

Hospice Awareness Week and Mary Potter Hospice Street Appeal, Thursday 18 and Saturday 18 May, Wellington, Kāpiti, Porirua. (See p 15.)

**Saturday 20 May**

Living Liturgically – interactive workshop for everyone involved or interested in Liturgy. (See details this page.)

**Sunday 21 May**

> Archdiocesan Young Church Mass – come and meet other young people from across the archdiocese. Mass hosted by Life Teen Hutt Valley, 5.30pm, Sacred Heart Church, Petone.

> Ascension Sunday

**Sunday 21–Sunday 28 May**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Do good; seek justice.’ – Isaiah 1:17. (See p 3.)

**Sunday 28 May**

Pentecost Sunday. (See p 16.)

**Monday 29 May**

Mary Mother of the Church, Feast.

**Wednesday 31 May**

Feast of the Visitation.

**Sunday 4 June**

Trinity Sunday.

**Saturdays 10 and 17 June**

Passionist Family Group Movement – 35th Anniversary in New Zealand. Saturday, 10 June: St Mary’s, Paeroa, Eucharist celebration at 6pm, followed by potluck dinner. Saturday, 17 June: St John’s, East Coast Bays, Eucharistic celebration at 5.30pm, followed by Karaoke, 7pm, Bar Africa, 1B William Pickering Drive, Rosedale. All PFG current and past members, parishioners and anyone who would like to attend are invited. For more information please contact: Paul Traynor, National Coordinator, 021 357933; Maggi and Charlie Gribble, Paeroa, 027 5618999; and Lindsay Brand, East Coast Bays, 021 0829560.

**Sunday 11 June**

Sacred Heart Cathedral Fundraiser – ‘An afternoon with Chris Skinner’. (See details this page.)

**Sundays 11 and 18 June**

‘Love is a Decision’ – programme for engaged couples. (See details this page.)

**Saturday 18 June**

World Refugee Day – celebrations, South Wellington Intermediate School, Berhampore. (See details this page.)

**Thursday 3 August**

Safeguarding formation day – St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall, Boulcott St, Wellington. (See details this page.)

**‘Love is a Decision’**

‘Love is a Decision’ is a programme, offered to engaged couples over two consecutive Sundays in June, by the Archdiocese of Wellington’s Marriage Ministry’s Church Mission Team. The course covers theories in family culture, personality development, relationship dynamics, goal setting, intimate communication and problem solving, with the aim being to support couples to reflect together and build strong foundations for a lasting marriage.

**Dates:** Sundays 11 June and 18 June, 10am-4pm.

**Venue:** Staffroom at St Patrick’s College, 581 Evans Bay Parade, Kilbirnie.

**Course facilitators:** Sarina and Aaron Pratley.

**Cost:** \$130 per couple.

**Contact:** Please email Mely at [marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz) for more information or to enrol.



**Building a climate of hope**

The Religious Diversity Centre (RDC) action committee is organising a webinar series in June and July, from 7.30 pm on Wednesday evenings, to further raise awareness to a diverse audience about:

- the social and environment impacts of climate change in the Pacific region;
- the range of actions people of faith can undertake individually and collectively to address these climate impacts; and
- building an intergenerational perspective on these climate impacts and potential responses.

Dates and speakers:

Date	Topic	Speaker
14 June	Hope for an Endangered Planet	Dr Jane Goodall
21 June	Hope for Aotearoa New Zealand, 2050+	Rabbi Shapiro and climate experts
28 June	Hope for our Pacific region	Pacific Climate Warriors
5 July	Hope for our World	Rt Hon Helen Clark

Anyone can register for the series. The webinar registration details will be available in next month’s WelCom.

‘Our faith traditions call us to act justly, tread gently on the Earth, and care for one another.’



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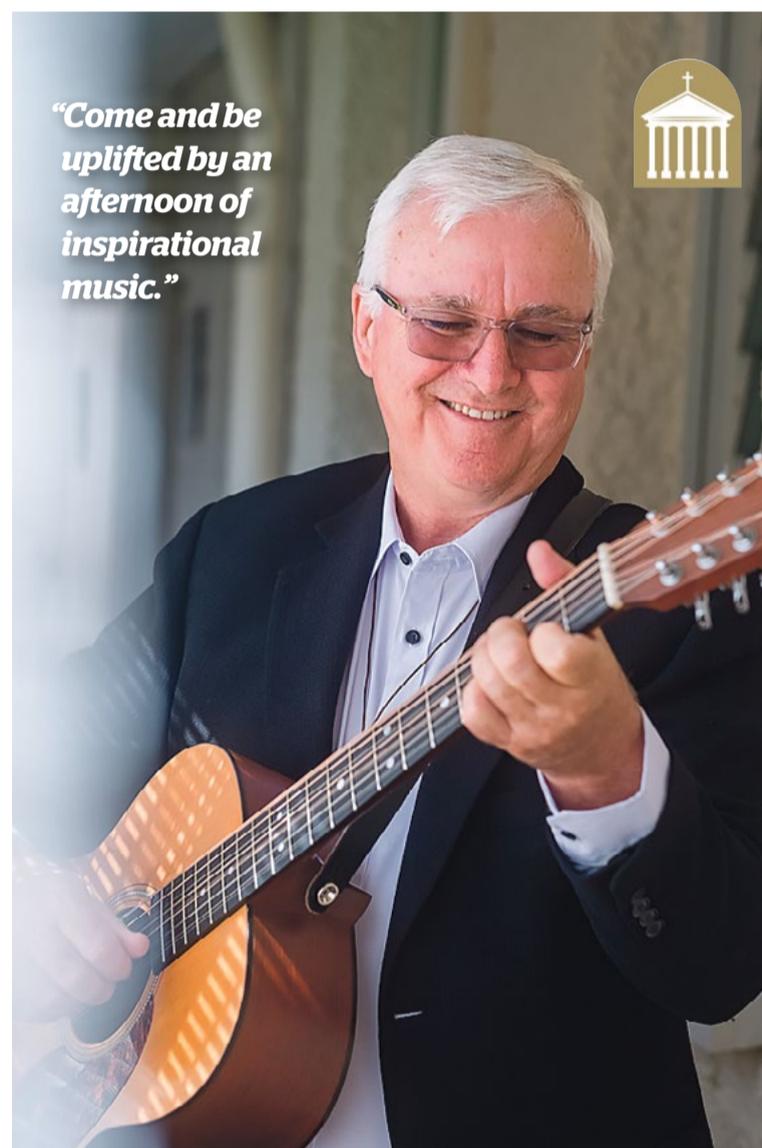
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**World Refugee Day celebrations**

Changemakers Resettlement Forum invites you to join celebrations for World Refugee Day, Saturday 18 June, 11.30am–3.30pm, at South Wellington Intermediate School, 30 Te Wharepōuri St, Berhampore. Children’s activities, cultural food, photo exhibition, craft and ethnic products on sale and interactive cultural performances. Free entry and food. Buses are available from Porirua, Upper Hutt and Lower Hutt. Contact Lui Perez on 022 505 7741 to book your seat. With support from Changemakers, Catholic Social Services, Red Cross, Host International, Wellington City Council.



“Come and be uplifted by an afternoon of inspirational music.”



**Sacred Heart Cathedral Fundraiser**

Winter concert with Fr Chris Skinner sm, 2pm–4pm, Sunday 11 June at Ss Peter and Paul Church, Lower Hutt. Tickets \$30 plus booking fee online at [www.trybooking.co.nz/NHZ](http://www.trybooking.co.nz/NHZ)

**Safeguarding formation day**

Thursday 3 August 2023, 9.30am–4.30pm, St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall, Boulcott St, Wellington Central.

This is an opportunity to learn about safeguarding in the Catholic Church. Safeguarding is about promoting an environment of relational safety, which respects the dignity of each person, focused on the protection of children and vulnerable adults from abuse or harm.

This formation day is an introduction to the Te Kupenga

Course: Safeguarding in the Catholic Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. Pamela Arthurs of the National Office for Professional Standards will be the facilitator. Enrolment in the SCCANZ course is a pre-requisite for this day. More information will be sent to parishes in the coming weeks. Contact Sr Catherine Jones smsm, Safeguarding Adviser, Archdiocese of Wellington, [c.jones@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:c.jones@wn.catholic.org.nz) or 021 195 8307 for further information.

# National Vocations Awareness Week

30 April-6 May 2023

National Vocation Awareness Week is an annual week of the Catholic Church dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew prayers and support for those considering these vocations.

Last month, to mark Good Shepherd Sunday - the Day of Prayer for Vocations - and the beginning of National Vocations Awareness Week, WelCom featured an insight into life at Kopua from a novitiate in a Cistercian Monastery. This month, we feature a personal reflection from new diocesan priest, **Fr Alfred Tong**, almost a year into his life as an ordained priest. Fr Alfred was ordained at St Joseph's Church, Upper Hutt last September - the city in which he grew up and went to school.

## A reflection into the first year of my priesthood

**Fr Alfred Tong**  
(BTh, BPharm, PhD, GradDipTh, DipGrad, PGCertPharm, ATCL)  
Assistant Priest, Parish of Te Awakairangi - Lower Hutt, Avalon, Naenae and Taita

*"If you knew the Gift of God..." - Jn 4:10*

Having been ordained last September to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Wellington, these past months have not only been life-changing, but surprising, joyful, meaningful, fulfilling, satisfying, comforting, exciting and affirming. But also, at times, filled with sadness, uncertainty, frustration, tiredness, and the times when I am like 'gosh, am I a priest?'

As you can tell priesthood in its entirety is a vocation with all its richness that often fails upon description. In my first month at Te Awakairangi, I still remember one morning waking up on the wrong side of the bed and thinking 'how can I do this for the rest of my life?' To front up to the many engagements, weekday and Sunday Masses at the parish's four Mass centres, sometimes not feeling I can deliver a 'good' Mass justly deserved by the people of God - or thinking I've just said a 'dud' homily. It dawned on me that it seems an impossible task living up to the vocation. As with any calling and honest lifelong relationship, there were

certain adjustments, conflicts and tensions, which I only discovered after ordination - including being available for certain people in certain ways around the parish, and getting the appropriate feedback if things needed improvement! In modern crises of identity for many people, it is all too easy to want to pack it in and try another 'job'. But just when the self-belief wanes, the waxing affirmation presents itself in surprising ways.

I recall recently receiving a hand-drawn Easter card from a young parishioner - it is amazing how many of these we as priests get - that read 'Dear Fr Alfred, Happy Easter'. With the plethora of images featuring Easter eggs, bunnies, the three Crosses on Calvary, it read inside 'thank you for being a good priest'. Well, I don't always believe I am, but somehow the amazing thing I realised is, just by being the priest for the immediate needs of whatever comes up, people believed I am. After Mass one time, someone said to me, 'hey, you turned up to my mum's hospital bed. God must have listened because she was dying to receive an anointing. You were sent by God!' How does one even comprehend the fullness of what happened here? And as I was just doing my usual chaplaincy slot at Hutt Hospital on Fridays, it is a mystery to how a routine anointing of the sick often evokes the deep sense of peace and floods of tears that speak of something beyond. And in another

instance, 'you were so good with my brother when he died, the funeral you did just made us love him even more'.

I have received the gift of priesthood now, but knowing what the gift of what this vocation provides is only something I am beginning to appreciate, in new and surprising ways. Sure, priesthood can be a challenging vocation at times - like accompanying a mother who is crying profusely for a stillborn baby - there was nothing more painful than feeling for her at that moment. And nothing more I can do to get rid of the pain. I don't think the priesthood will ever solve the world's age-old problems with the role priests have. The priesthood never provides others with 'magical, swift' solutions. But perhaps, it's the immediate presence of someone like me that, like the big elephant in the room, just shouts the obvious message to those most in need of God's comfort in the crossroads of their life - God's gift of eternal life is readily there for you and me.

I would like to encourage all who are pondering a vocation to priesthood or religious life to not be put off by what you think you can or can't do, or be. Your openness to how God shapes your life in all its uncertainties will be a clear sign of God's visible love for others, who will in their own eyes, see it for themselves that truly, Jesus is the 'Saviour of the World'.



### Parish Vocation Cross Programme

**Br Jonathan Craven**  
Kopua Monastery

Vocations to the religious life and ordained ministry don't grow on trees. They are nurtured in families! For that reason, prayer for vocations should include prayer in the family. One practical way to get families to pray for these vocations is to start a Vocation Cross Programme in the parish.

A cross (provided by the parish or diocese) is circulated throughout the parish, with each family hosting the cross for one week. During that week the family prays every day - usually before the evening meal - for vocations to the ordained ministry and religious life. The cross is put in some prominent place in the house so that family members are reminded of its presence throughout the week.

[scanzspac.org](http://scanzspac.org)



1. Fr Alfred Tong celebrates Mass at his ordination last year at St Joseph's Church, Upper Hutt. 2 and 3. Fr Alfred gives Communion to his sister Anita Tong, with his nephews Jacob and Ryan Lu; and to his father Antony Moon Chi Tong. 4. Fr Alfred leads the closing procession from his ordination Mass. 5. Fr Alfred greets parishioners after his ordination Mass. 6. Fr Alfred's pastoral work involves working with young people in the archdiocese and Catholic schools in his parish. He is pictured above, centre front row, with Catholic college students at the Young Catholic Leader's programme.

Photos: Annette Scullion/WelCom and supplied

### Family Vocation Prayer

*Jesus,*

*You are the Good Shepherd who is always mindful of your Church.*

*Watch over those who are baptised in your name, and grant peace and harmony to all families.*

*Bless all parents, and help them to find peace and happiness through their vocation.*

*We ask you to help all children and young adults to discover the vocation that will enable them to live life to the full*

*as they become their best selves in the service of God's kingdom.*

*We make this prayer in your name. Amen.*

### Pope Francis' prayer for vocations

*LORD of the Harvest, BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.*

*Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.*

*INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving-for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.*

*INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.*

*UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.*

*- Pope Francis*

### Please pray for the archdiocese's seminarians



**Matthew White**

Matthew is on pastoral placement at Ōtari Parish. He is originally from Te Ngākau Tapu Parish, Porirua.



**Kinh Nguyen**

Kinh is on pastoral placement at St Joseph's Parish, Upper Hutt. Kinh is originally from Vietnam.



**Emilio Capin**

Emilio is in his fourth year of seminary formation. He is originally from the Philippines.



**Gerson Badayos**

Gerson is in his third year of seminary formation. He is originally from the Philippines.

Called to serve  
[wellingtonpriests.org](http://wellingtonpriests.org)

2023