



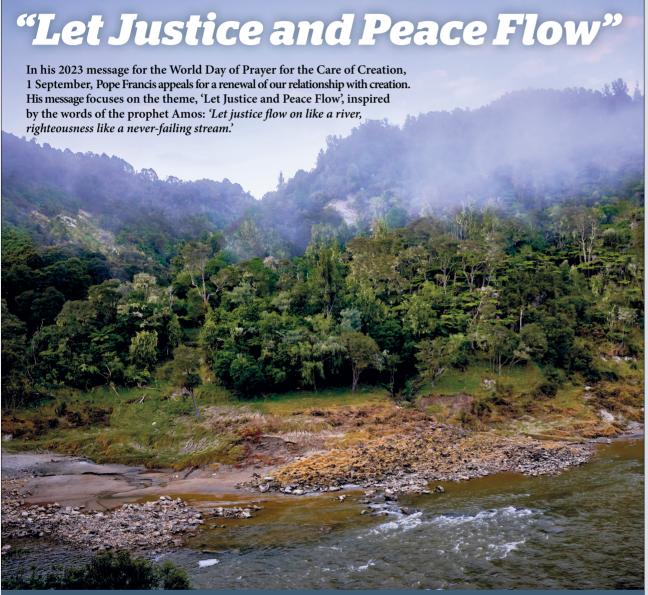
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**WelCom** 

A newspaper for the Wellington and Palmerston North Catholic Dioceses

WELCOM CELEBRATES TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI, 11-18 MAHURU 2023 | MĀORI LANGUAGE WEEK, 11-18 SEPTEMBER 2023 - KIA KAHA TE REO MĀORI



'Let Justice and Peace Flow' is the theme chosen for the 2023 Season of Creation, the ecumenical celebration held each year from 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology.

### 2023 - Season of Creation Prayer

Creator of All,

From your communion of love life sprung forth like a mighty river and the whole cosmos came into being. On this Earth of overflowing love, the Word was made flesh and went forth with the life-giving waters proclaiming peace and justice for all creation.

You called human beings to till and keep your garden. You placed us into right relationship with each creature, but we failed to listen to the cries of the Earth and the cries of the most vulnerable. We broke with the flowing communion of love and sinned against you by not safeguarding the conditions for life.

We lament the loss of our fellow species and their habitats, we grieve the loss of human cultures, along with the lives and livelihoods that have been displaced or perished, and we ache at the sight of an economy of death, war and violence that we have inflicted on ourselves and on the Earth.

Open our ears to your creative, reconciling and sustaining Word that calls to us through the book of Scripture and the book of creation. Bless us once again with your lifegiving waters so that the Creator Spirit may let justice and peace flow in our hearts and overflow into all creation.

Open our hearts to receive the living waters of God's justice and peace, and to share it with our suffering brothers and sisters, all creatures around us, and all creation.

Bless us to walk together with all people of good will so that the many streams of the living waters of God's justice and peace may become a mighty river all over the Earth.

> In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ.

> > **Amen**

Source: seasonofcreation.org

#### Whanganui River at Hiruhārama | Jerusalem.

Photo: David Lupton

>>> World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and Season of Creation 2023: 1 September-4 October, pp 14, 15, 19.

# Newly amalgamated Catholic Parish of Buller and Inangahua

#### **Tony Fortune**

It was a while in the planning... and Sunday 20 August 2023 was the day the two Catholic parishes in the Buller District reformed into one combined parish.

That weekend, Archbishop Paul Martin sm of the Archdiocese of Wellington was in Westport to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation to a group of pupils from St Canice's School. At the end of the ceremony two members of the former parish councils of St Canice in Westport and Sacred Heart in Reefton, Julie Hands and Bernadette Snowden, were on hand to receive a decree from Archbishop Martin. It stated the two parishes would merge to become the 'Catholic Parish of Buller and Inangahua'.

It was also decreed the churches of St

Canice, Sacred Heart, Holy Family in Karamea, St Peter Chanel in Murchison and St Patrick in Ikamatua, will retain their individual names. A new finance committee will be formed from representatives from both districts.

Up until the early 1970s the two parishes had an ample supply of resident priests administering to their parishes as well as a convent in the main towns of Westport and Reefton, which were served by the Sisters of Mercy. However, as the years passed by vocations to the priesthood and religious life began to dwindle, which left only one priest in both towns. As well as this, several parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Wellington were amalgamating to form somewhat larger parishes and it was on the cards that Reefton and Westport would follow suit.

The last remaining priest in Reefton left

at the beginning of 2022 and was unable to be replaced. At present Fr Dave Cruschow the parish priest of the new Catholic Parish of Buller and Inangahua - has a large area to administer to his flock and has to adjust the times of Saturday/Sunday Masses throughout the district for more realistic coverage.

The final words from our parish priest are, 'Goodwill, understanding and the knowledge we are together called to build up God's kingdom in the Buller and Inangahua districts will help immensely in our great understanding of our faith'.

Tony Fortune is a parishioner of the Catholic Parish of Buller and Inangahua' and he lives in Reefton. Tony has served on the Sacred Heart Parish Council since 1976 and was chairman for over 40 years.



**Archbishop Paul Martin with Bernadette** Snowden and Julie Hands, as he reads the decree proclaiming the newly amalgamated Catholic Parish of Buller and Inangahua.

Photo: Tony Fortune

**He Tirohanga | Insights** 2 MAHURU 2023 NAUMAI

# From the editor

#### **Annette Scullion**

Tēnā koutou Greetings to all.

This month WelCom celebrates Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, 11-18 Mahuru 2023 | Māori Language Week, 11-18 September 2023, with our name as NauMai on our cover masthead. Kia Kaha Te Reo Māori.

This issue also explores the theme of care for our natural environment in a number of ways. Our front page features a stunning photograph of the Whanganui River as it flows through Hiruhārama | Jerusalem surrounded by beautiful bush and early morning mists. The photograph, by Palmerston North photographer David Lupton, beautifully illustrates the theme for the 2023 Season of Creation: 'Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream'.

During the Season of Creation, there is much reference to Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato si', written in 2015. It is timely to re-read Laudato si', with Francis' messages resounding more loudly

than ever as the impacts of climate change are felt across the globe.

Such is the importance of Laudato si', the Pope has just announced that he intends to update his ground-breaking encyclical to cover recent events affecting our world. In making this announcement, he said: 'We must never forget that the younger generations are entitled to receive from us a beautiful and livable world, and that this invests us with grave duties towards the creation we have received from God's generous hands.'

The Pope's concern for young people was also very evident at World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, which an estimated 1.5 million young people attended. A hundred young pilgrims from Aotearoa New Zealand joined the huge gathering of young people to share their faith and listen to the Pope encouraging them to 'not be afraid to change the world'. The Pope's message is one we all need to take to heart, not just young people. Our report on this remarkable celebration of faith is on page 20.

Ngā mihi

#### October WelCom - Sunday 8 October

The October edition of WelCom will be published a week later than scheduled so we can bring news coverage of Bishop-elect John Adams' ordination and installation as the new Bishop of Palmerston North, which will take place at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, 11am, Saturday 30 September. October WelCom will therefore be distributed to parishes and schools for Sunday 8 October 2023.

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

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,  $\operatorname{GIF}$  or bitmap (BMP). Please include names for a caption.

Email to: welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz

#### Deadline for October 2023 issue: Monday, 18 September 2023.

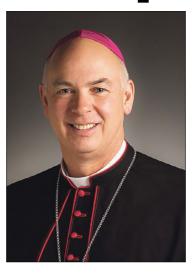
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# 'We need to be open to listening and respecting one another'



#### **Archbishop Paul Martin sm Archbishop of Wellington**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are entering an interesting time in our country and in our Church as this month of September begins. Here in New Zealand, we are in the midst of the campaign for the General Election planned to be held on 14 October 2023. We are hearing policies of various parties, politicians presenting their views, arguing for their positions and decrying the position of others. It can be a challenging time for us as we try and work out who we wish to lead us in the country for the next

As Christian people we have the responsibility to vote and to take seriously for whom we vote. Christians are called to be involved in society and to take our place and to speak to what is true. We have a right to ask our politicians what they believe in and to challenge them if there are areas where we do not agree. We do so though in a spirit of respect for them as people and with a willingness to listen to what they have to say. We need good people to come forward to be our representatives and one of the worries of our age is that we are making it very difficult for people to do this with the way we are treating one another. Our society will struggle if we make it so unappealing to be part of our parliamentary system that good people aren't willing to stand for parliament. I do encourage you to pray seriously for our country at this time and for the process we are going through.

As a Church we are also preparing for the Synod on

Synodality that begins in Rome on 29 September. Fr Dennis Nacorda from Levin and myself are attending from our archdiocese, along with Manuel Beazley from the Diocese of Auckland. We have been having preparatory Zoom meetings with the other representatives from Oceania to get ready for what lies ahead. There will be over 400 people gathering in Rome for this Synod and it will be unlike any synod of bishops that has happened before. Many of you have been contributors to this process through our parish, archdiocesan and diocesan gatherings. All of the information has been collated and we will be

session will be using the spiritual conversation process that we used in our meetings throughout the archdiocese and the Diocese of Palmerston North. We are trying to see where the Holy Spirit is speaking and what it might be saying to us. It is part of a process and like our election process we need to be open to listening and respecting one another as we go through this. Unlike the election there will not be a clear result at the end, but hopefully there will be signs of the Holy Spirit at work. You will see the prayer for the Synod below and I would ask that you pray it each day while the Synod is on for

### "Christians are called to be involved in society and to take our place and to speak to what is true."

looking at it in the context of the way the Church listens to its people and looks at the needs of the world and the teachings of the Church. This is the first of two sessions. After the first session is over there will be a chance for feedback once again from you on what comes out from the Synod.

It is important to remember this isn't about voting on what the Church should or shouldn't look like or how it is structured. This first those of us who are gathered and for the Church in general.

I am sorry I won't be here for the episcopal ordination of Fr John Adams at the end of this month, but I know you will pray for him and the people of the Diocese of Palmerston North as he takes up this call and as the diocese welcomes their new bishop.

Ngā mihi nui +Paul Martin SM

### **Adsumus Sancte Spiritus**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts. Teach us the way we must go and now we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

# Ordination of second Oceania Syro-Malabar Bishop

Hundreds gathered on 31 May in the first Syro-Malabar Bishop in for their ongoing assistance. Melbourne to celebrate the ordination Australia, and Bishop Remigius of Bishop John Panamthottathil cmi as the second shepherd of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle in Melbourne.

Bishops from India, Europe and the United States, as well as 20 members of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, were among those who attended the ordination and installation ceremony.

Cardinal George Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, served as Bishop Panamthottathil's principal consecrator. Bishop Bosco Puthur,

Inchananivil of Thamarasserry India, were the co-consecrators.

'The Eparchy of Melbourne is getting today a new pastor in the person of Msgr John Panamthottathil, Cardinal Alencherry said.

'May the Lord grant Msgr John Panamthottathil all the graces needed to exercise this important office in the Church.'

Cardinal Alencherry thanked the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for advocating for the establishment of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy almost a decade ago, and

Bishop Panamthottathil joins those bishops as a member of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. The Eparchy covers all of Australia, as well as New Zealand and the countries of Oceania.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, who invited Bishop Panamthottathil to serve in the Archdiocese of Brisbane from 2015 to 2020, preached the homily.

Bishop Panamthottathil said he will address tasks in his ministry with the help of God.

Source: CathNews Australia

# Catholic bishops say abhorrent abuse at Marylands and Hebron Trust should never have happened

The Royal Commission of Inquiry's case study report into abuse in the care of the Brothers of St John of God at Marylands School and Hebron Trust in Christchurch, was released on 2 August 2023. This case study is one of two the commission is publishing, and the only one concerning a Catholic or faith-based organisation. The other was the Lake Alice report published last December. This Royal Commission is an independent inquiry into abuse in state care and in the care of faith-based institutions in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The nature and scale of abuse set out in the report, released 2 August 2023, from the Royal Commission on Abuse in Care is abhorrent and should never have happened, says Archbishop Paul Martin sm, General Secretary of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference.

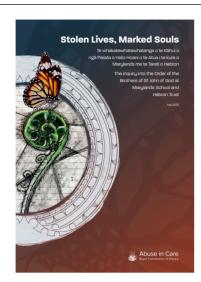
'We recognise the way those working in the name of the Catholic Church caused harm, and the enormous impact this has had on the lives of victims and their families,' said Archbishop Martin, on behalf of the bishops.

Archbishop Martin, the Archbishop of Wellington and former Bishop of Christchurch, was commenting on the Royal Commission's case study into abuse in the care of the Brothers of St John of God based at Marylands School in Halswell, Christchurch from the 1950s to the 1980s and at the Hebron Trust in Christchurch from 1986 to 1992.

Archbishop Martin gave evidence on behalf of the Diocese of Christchurch at the Royal Commission's Marylands-Hebron hearings in February last year.

'Today's [2 August] case-study report highlights the horrific abuse and suffering that took place, and the failure of individuals to ensure safety and manage redress adequately,' he said. 'Confronting these realities is a significant and necessary step as we all continue to transform the way we manage redress and ensure the safety of everyone in a Church environment.

'The abuse described should never have happened. Nor should any abuse happen. I want to restate categorically that the bishops of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand have zero tolerance for abuse. No form of abuse,



The Royal Commission of Inquiry Into Abuse in Care report outlined sexual, physical and spiritual violence at Marylands School and Hebron Trust, saying it was aware of no other institution where sexual abuse was so extreme.

misconduct or inappropriate behaviour is acceptable in the Church community.

'The Church must continue to confront the difficult truths of the past, including the inexcusable abuse and suffering described in the case study report.'

Archbishop Martin says the Catholic Church began putting formal procedures in place to respond to abuse in the 1990s. They have been subject to continual improvement since.

'Everyone working in the Church is required to adhere to them,' he says.

'We must continue to monitor and improve the practices put in place throughout the Church to prevent harm, as well as supporting survivors of abuse. We know there is more we need to do and we are committed to doing it.'

In a letter to the Archdiocese of Wellington, Archbishop Martin encourages all who lead or have particular roles within the Church or Church-based organisations to do everything possible to be up-to-date on safeguarding policies and practices the archdiocese now follows.

'We do not tolerate any abuse,' he writes. 'We want our Church to be a place where people are safe, receive support and are able to worship and praise God. Sadly this has not always been the case. We have to own our past, do what we can to help those who were not treated the way they should have been, and ensure that we are as safe as possible for all people into the future.

'We have been trying to work on this for the last 30 years. We know that we still have more to learn from the experiences of those who were abused and it was one of the reasons why the Church asked to be part of the inquiry by the Royal Commission. We want to be better at supporting those who have been abused while in our care and we want to ensure that we do everything possible to keep people safe.

'Jesus Christ came with the Good News and to show us what God is like. He came to a sinful world and what we are confronting here is the reality of that sin. One of the terrible consequences of the abuse of those in our care is that so often it affected their relationship with God too, because people who were supposed to be people of God were doing these things to vulnerable people.

'We also have to ensure that there is justice for those who have been harmed in this way and that those who have offended in this manner are not able to do so again. 'The sexual abuse of people, children and adults, within our Church community is part of our history. We cannot change the past but we can make sure that we make the present and future better for all in this area.

'May we support one another and continue to do all we can for those who have been affected by abuse,' Archbishop Martin wrote.

In a pastoral letter the Bishop of Christchurch Michael Gielen wrote, 'Just as we improve safeguarding and confront our history, so we must also assist those who have been harmed. We are committed to supporting victims of abuse. To this end, I urge victims who have not yet come forward to do so. Please contact the Police or the Church's National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS).

Bishop Gielen concluded his letter echoing the words of Pope Francis who, in 2018, said:

Looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated. The pain of the victims and

their families is also our pain, and so it is urgent that we once more reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of minors and of vulnerable adults.'

Marylands was a residential school primarily for boys with learning disabilities. The school, run by the Brothers of St John of God from 1955, was taken over in 1984 by the Ministry of Education. By then, claims of abuse were already coming in, the Royal Commission of Inquiry Into Abuse in Care report said, but were ignored. The Hebron Trust, also run by the Brothers of St John of God, was described by the inquiry as 'a residential programme in Christchurch from 1986 to 1993 for youth in need of safety, shelter and support, including "street kids".

The Order of the Brothers of St John of God, no longer operates any works in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Ownership and management of the facilities and works referenced in the case study report are now closed, or transferred to the state, or have been transferred to other entities.

The link to the Catholic Bishops' website section on confronting abuse is: catholic.org.nz/find-us/confronting-abuse/#section\_85

To report or make a complaint about abuse, please contact the National Office of Professional Standards (NOPS) on *prof.standards@nzcbc.org.nz* or 0800 114 622.

Te Kupenga–Catholic Leadership Institute runs a national safeguarding course called 'Safeguarding in the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand' (SCCANZ). This course is part of the Church's provision of training under the National Safeguarding Guidelines. Details: tinyurl.com/SCCANZ.

All staff working in New Zealand's Catholic dioceses are required to undertake mandatory safeguarding training. Safeguarding practices have become the norm in society for organisations that deal with children and vulnerable adults. It is about keeping everyone safe from harm, trauma and abuse, whether it be emotional, physical, or sexual. We are all responsible for developing safe practices at all levels within the Catholic Church.

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# St Patrick's College Wellington

New Zealand's oldest Catholic boys' college

At the Mother and Son Dinner held recently we were fortunate to have Helen Robinson, the Manutaki/CEO of Auckland City Mission speak. She shared the harsh reality of working with and alongside people in need, the marginalised, those seeking housing and/or food. She challenged us to think about what is important in life and for us to look into the mirror to remind ourselves that what we see is good enough!

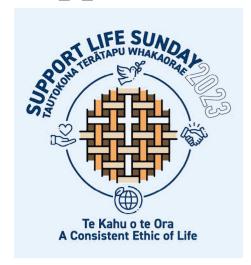
Sectare Fidem - Hold firm to the Faith





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# Support Life Sunday 2023 - 'A Consistent Ethic of Life'



#### Dr John Kleinsman

In 1983, six months after the US Bishops landmark letter, 'The Challenge of Peace', addressing the dangers of the nuclear age, Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago gave a famous lecture titled 'A Consistent Ethic of Life'. In this lecture, Bernardin reflected specifically on the way the peace letter linked the issues of abortion and nuclear warfare – something that, at the time, was both unique and controversial.

The idea of different moral issues being interconnected was taken up by our New Zealand bishops in 1997 when they published their own document on a consistent ethic of life. In that statement, titled *Te Kahu o* 

te Ora, the bishops explain that kahu was to the Māori a cape or garment, but that it also referred to the membrane enveloping a foetus. This inspired their choice of title, aptly translated as *The Garment of Life* – a clear link to Bernardin's reference to the 'seamless garment' of Jesus, which he used to explain his approach.

Twenty-six years on, much has changed regarding the environmental, political, technological, social and cultural context we live in. Nevertheless, the idea of a consistent approach to life – seeking the connections between the different moral issues we face – is as relevant as ever, especially at this time of reckoning for the Church as it deals with its own inconsistencies.

Thus, the bishops have commissioned a review of the 1997 document and will be reissuing it on **Support Life Sunday 2023 – 8 October.** 

As with previous years, the bishops' agency, the Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics, has been asked to work with the dioceses and the National Liturgy Office to develop messaging and liturgical materials around the theme of a consistent ethic of life. These will shortly be sent out to every Catholic parish and school.

John Kleinsman PhD is Kaitohu/Director, The Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics.

# Young Auckland organist wins Maxwell Fernie Dame Malvina Major Award

Musician Zosia Herlihy-O'Brien has been awarded the Maxwell Fernie Dame Malvina Major Foundation Award, worth \$10,000 over two years, to further her organ education in Europe.

The award honours the memory of acclaimed New Zealand and Wellington-based organist, conductor and teacher, Maxwell Fernie, who died in 1999. The Dame Malvina Major Foundation manages the Maxwell Fernie Trust and makes awards, in consultation with Maxwell's widow Greta Fernie, to support young keyboard artists to further their education or training in the organ.

The twenty-one-year-old Zosia Herlihy-O'Brien will take up a place this month in the prestigious Master of Music programme at the Royal Academy of Music (RAM) in London, specialising in organ, violin and conducting.

Zosia is much in demand as a solo, orchestral, and chamber musician and well-recognised organist, violinist and emerging young conductor in the Auckland choral and instrumental space.

'I feel so humbled and grateful to be the recipient of this award. It opens the doors to France for me, which I had felt was outside



**Zosia** Herlihy-O'Brien, recipient of the Maxwell Fernie Dame Malvina Major Foundation **Award to further her organ education in Europe.** Photo: Supplied

of my financial reach This support means that I can now take some time to indulge in exploring the French Romantic School of organ playing, which has always held much allure for me thanks to my beloved teacher Dr Philip Smith. To think I will be walking up the same steps in September that Maxwell Fernie himself did during his own studies at

RAM, is tremendously exciting.

'I am incredibly honoured to be the recipient of Maxwell's scholarship, and extremely humbled too the more I read about Maxwell, his life, his accomplishments, and the remarkable musical drive and gift for giving music that he possessed,' says Zosia.

Currently the Director of Music (Organist

and Choirmaster) at St Mark's Anglican Church in Remuera, Zosia has held Senior Organ Scholar roles at both Baradene College in Remuera and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell, where she played as an organist for the Consecration of the Cathedral in 2017.

Zosia teaches a small studio of young organ students at Sacred Heart College in Glendowie. She is also the current Conductor and Artistic Director of the Auckland University Students Chamber Orchestra, Concertmaster of the Auckland Youth Orchestra, and a regular speaker at local high schools to young people considering careers in music.

Zosia is a 2023 Conducting Fellow with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, a 2023 Michael Hill Violin Fellow, and in September this year begins her MMus studies (Organ, Violin, and Conducting) in London at the Royal Academy of Music.

Find out more about the Maxwell Fernie Dame Malvina Major Foundation Award at dmmfoundation.org.nz and maxwellfernie.com

Source: Dame Malvina Major Foundation

### Maxwell Fernie OBE (1910-1999)

Maxwell Fernie was a New Zealand organist, teacher and conductor. He was an authority on Gregorian chant, sixteenth century polyphony, organ construction and tonal design.

Born in Wellington on 25 April 1910, Fernie was initially schooled by the Marist Brothers in Newtown and later attended Wellington College. He became a leader in church music while still a young man, taking up the position of choir master and organist at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Wellington.

At the outbreak of World War II, Fernie served with the second New Zealand Expeditionary Force in Egypt and Europe. At the end of the war he stayed on in England to study at the Royal Academy of Music in London, gaining several prizes.

Fernie returned to Wellington in the early 1950s as the director of music for Catholic schools in the archdiocese, a position he held until 1953 when he was called back to London as organist and choir instructor at Westminster Cathedral.

After five acclaimed years of intensive organ playing, music making and teaching, he returned to New Zealand to become the Director of Music at St Mary of the Angels in Wellington where he supervised the building of the new organ constructed to his design. Fernie's development of sixteenth century polyphony at St Mary of the Angels became a model for Catholic Church choirs.

In the following years, Fernie schooled choirs, taught piano, organ and singing, and trained celebrated musicians. As well

as being a well-known broadcaster and lecturer, he founded and conducted the Schola Polyphonica Choir (specialising in 16th Century polyphony) in 1967. He was Wellington city organist for 27 years and played the Town Hall's massive pipe organ on numerous occasions for civic receptions.

He continued as Director of Music at St Mary of the Angels until his death on 22 May 1999.

Source: Wikipedia

# Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

New Zealand's professional safeguarding organisations work in close partnership with one another in their commitment to the protection of children. Every year through their partnership organisation safeguardingchildren.org they actively support Child Safeguarding Week.

Child Safeguarding Week is a campaign to promote individual, organisation and community action to prevent child abuse and neglect in Aotearoa New Zealand. It provides a platform to increase public awareness about child abuse and neglect, how it occurs and what can be done to prevent it.

The 2023 campaign, 4–10 September, has a spotlight on 'preventing child sexual abuse'. It aims to raise awareness of the issue,

to promote adults' responsibilities to prevent and protect, and to remind people of what help is available in the form of resources, services and advice.

Sr Catherine Jones smsm, Safeguarding Adviser for the Archdiocese of Wellington, encourages your awareness and support of Safeguarding Week, which helps children live a life free of abuse. Go to childsafeguardingweek.org.nz for more information



Te Kupenga–Catholic Leadership Institute runs a national safeguarding course, 'Safeguarding in the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand' (SCCANZ). This course is part of the Catholic Church's provision of training under the National Safeguarding Guidelines. <code>tinyurl.com/SCCANZ</code>.



Sr Catherine Jones, far right, is with Bernadette, Bonita and Margaret, Launch Out candidates for the archdiocese's lay pastoral leadership programme, at a Safeguarding formation day in August. Pamela Arthurs, of the National Office for Professional Standards, facilitated the day as an introduction to Te Kupenga's on-line safeguarding course. Also attending were parish safeguarding teams, chaplaincy leaders and priests.

# 'Build a better world', says Australian RE expert

#### **Michael Fitzsimons**

The gifts we have as Catholics are not just to build a stronger church but to help build a better world, says visiting Australian religious educator Professor Br David Hall

'We've been focused too inwardly and we need to remember that while religion and churches are an important part of a society, they exist to serve the society.

'We have fine young people in our schools who have an intuition for wanting a world better than

values and virtues about how to live a life which our society I think is intuitively inclined to.'

Br David was in New Zealand in August running seminars for principals, RE directors, and teachers in the four North Island dioceses. A Marist brother, he is Dean of La Salle Academy at the Australian Catholic University based in Sydney.

#### Genuine dialogue

A genuine dialogue between Church and culture is needed, says

'Vatican II was very keen that

### "Our biggest challenge is to speak against that message of self-interest and speak for the dignity of everybody and the value of the common good."

it is. And the new New Zealand Religious Education curriculum, called Good News, is a wonderful framework to suggest to them that's the way they could live their lives.

'My belief is that all people, of any faith or none, have an intuition for a more compassionate humanity. In this new RE curriculum, which puts forward the value of tradition and scripture, we have a set of

the Church continue to speak to the world, but in an advancement on Vatican II, under this current Pope, we now have the Church speaking to the world and the world speaking to the Church. The latter part is a new addition.

'The Church liked to talk to tell the world. And Vatican II was constituted because the world wasn't listening. But under this new

Pope and this new synodal way that he's calling us to, it's about a dialogue with the world.

'The world is good, not perfect. The world is seeking a better humanity and we have a way to achieve that. And that is in knowing the person of Jesus Christ and living

Care for the created world is one area where the Church has been more follower than leader.

'An emphasis on the totality of creation, as distinct from just humanity, hasn't been an emphasis of the Church. Really the Church has been awakened to the importance of the totality of creation by listening to the world and now we're attending to something that's always been part of our tradition but never been an emphasis that we brought to it.'

The biggest challenge for Catholic educators is to counter the individualistic, self-interested narratives that permeate our culture, says Br David.

'All of us, not just young people, are living in a global world driven by a global economy and we're moving into a much more individualistic, self-interested world. That's the subterranean message that comes

through our social media, our advertising, our broader media. It's a toxic message and is having quite an impact on us.

### **Biggest challenge**

'Our biggest challenge is to speak against that message of selfinterest and speak for the dignity of everybody and the value of the common good. What I notice among young people is the rising response to the human instinct for good. We have to educate young people to choose that over the strong messages of self-interest.'

Br David warns against being too narrow in judging the outcomes of Catholic education.

'Many of us are judging the outcome of Catholic schools on the basis of whether our young people are explicitly religious, which is one dimension we would like to see. But another critical dimension is 'are they compassionate human beings?

'And that's harder to measure. Over the decades I've been in Catholic education - and I don't think Australia is much different from New Zealand in this - I continue to engage with graduates of Catholic schools who are deeply decent parents and partners, who



Professor Br David Hall fms, visiting Australian religious educator. Photo: Supplied

are honest and hard-working people in their working lives. That's what we want.'

Br David noted the deep engagement of the people at the seminars he has been conducting in New Zealand and was very confident about the positive influence they will have in their schools.

He observed Catholic Education New Zealand worked very hard at ensuring that special character has a contemporary expression. He was impressed by the resources and priority it was given and the vigour of those working in the field.

# New Zealand Marist Rugby development tour – fostering unity, sportsmanship and community spirit

#### **Annette Scullion**

Every year, the New Zealand Marist Rugby Federation embarks on a development tour with a selected group of young players to foster both rugby talent and the Marist culture.

The nine-day tour brings together a diverse pool of players from the 32 Marist rugby clubs from across New Zealand.

'The selection of a player from each club not only showcases their skill but also highlights the unity and shared identity of the Marist community, says Rob McCoid, NZ Marist Development Manager.

The tours engage in high-stakes rugby matches against provincial teams as well as participating in an immersive cultural experience. The team focuses on the 15-aside game and is coached by high-ranking coaches - usually a mixture of ex-All Blacks and senior regional coaches.

NZ Marist Rugby has divided the country into seven regions and plays one region a year on a seven-year rotation. This year, from the end of July to the first week of August, the tour saw a squad of 26 players travel to Masterton, Palmerston North, Whanganui, and New Plymouth to play four matches. They won all four games against Waiarapa Bush Babarainans, Manawatu (under 19s), Whanganui Development and Taranaki Trojans.

The tour is more than just a rugby competition says Rob. 'It is an opportunity for these aspiring athletes to delve into the heart of the Marist ethos.

addition to facing formidable rugby opponents, the participants are exposed to the religious background and values that underpin the NZ Marist community. By visiting Catholic primary schools and embodying Marist behaviours aligned to school values, the young men become role models for the next generation, imparting the essence of teamwork, respect, and dedication.

'The squad's commitment to community engagement was exemplified by their visits to four Catholic schools where the players were warmly welcomed and had the opportunity to interact with students. They shared insights into the values Marist Rugby holds dear and performed their chosen team song, 'Sweet Caroline', followed by an awe-inspiring haka (Tika-Tonu). These interactions left a lasting impression on both the players and the students, reinforcing the positive impact that sports and role models can have on young minds.'

At St Marcellin School in Whanganui, the team shared prayer, song, haka and ball skills with the students, and how the school's Catholic character values are reflected when playing in team sports, such as rugby.

Principal Belinda Backwell said, 'The visit had a huge impact on both the children and the team. The children wrote thank-you letters to the team, and the Manager Rob McCoid replied thanking us for opening our doors to them and making their visit so memorable.'

The tour also encompassed spiritual and cultural experiences. On a Sunday morning in Masterton, the team attended a service at St Patrick's Church. Following the service, the parish hosted the squad to a heartwarming morning tea.



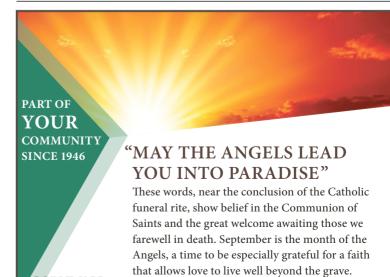
'This provided an opportunity for the players to connect with members of the congregation and immerse themselves in the local community's warmth and hospitality,' said Rob.

'Through this dual focus on rugby excellence and cultural enrichment, the NZ Marist Rugby Federation development tour not only prepares these athletes for the rigours of the sport but also for a lifelong connection to the enduring Marist heritage?

At St Marcellin School in Whanganui, the team shared prayer, song, haka, rugby skills and the values of Catholic character applied in team sports.



The NZ Marist Development team attended a Sunday service at St Patrick's Church in Masterton, where the players connected with local community's warmth and hospitality.



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# Kerry counting on Pope's 'remarkable leverage'

President Joe Biden's special envoy for climate issues is counting on Pope Francis' support to get nations attending the next UN climate summit, at the end of this year, to adopt bold measures to mitigate climate change.

'The Holy Father has an enormous ability to convene people, to help generate energy' on climate change, climate envoy John Kerry told reporters following a private meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican, 19 June 2023.

'My hope is that he is going to engage and be one of the people focused on this moment, which I think is almost equivalent to Paris,' he said, referring to the landmark 2015 UN climate summit in which 196 parties agreed to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The United States withdrew from the agreement in 2017 before re-joining it in 2021.

John Kerry, a practising Catholic, said Pope Francis has 'remarkable leverage' in drawing attention to climate change and that the Pope has 'constantly been an outspoken and engaged advocate' on climate

Kerry said he spoke with the Pope about the United States and China's roles in global emissions production. The two 'took note, together, of the fact that China and the United States represent about 40 per cent of all emissions, and discussed the responsibilities of both nations to reduce their carbon footprint. China 'has an ability to have more of an impact than any other nation in the world' in reducing emissions, he said.

John Kerry said caring for the environment 'goes to the heart of morality, of individual responsibility for your neighbours and for mother Earth.' He cited

the influence of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical Laudato si', On Care for Our Common Home, in defining life in relationship to God, to neighbour and to the earth.

Catholic **'Being** involves finding ways to live that out, in my judgment,' Kerry said, calling scepticism before issues of climate change on the part of Catholics 'a mistake?

The 2023 UN Climate Change Conference will convene from 30 November to 12 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Pope Francis and John Kerry, President Biden's special envoy for climate issues, during a meeting at the Vatican in June.

Photo: CNS /Vatican Media



# Don't be indifferent to migrant tragedies - Pope

Following yet another migrant tragedy in the Mediterranean, Pope Francis has expressed his sorrow and urged people not to be indifferent in the face of continuing migrant deaths during dangerous sea crossings.

In a post 10 August on X, formerly known as Twitter, Pope Francis referenced the sinking of a migrant boat off the shores of Italy on 9 August, which killed 41 people.

The vessel was transporting migrants from Sfax in Tunisia to Italy. Four survivors were rescued by a Maltese cargo ship and taken to Lampedusa by the Italian coastguard. The survivors, from Ivory Coast and Guinea, said that 45 people had been on board, including three children.

'With sorrow I heard about the news of the shipwreck involving migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. Let us not remain indifferent to these tragedies, and let us pray for the victims and their families,' the Pope said on his @Pontifex account.

According to Italian authorities, more than 90,000 people have reached Italy this year after crossing the Mediterranean Sea. That's more than double the number compared to the same time period last year.

They are fleeing conflicts in countries like Sudan and Ethiopia, insecurity in the Sahel regions and beyond, drought and famine in the Horn of Africa, and the climate crisis throughout the African continent that has devastated crops, herds, and livelihoods.

The route is also used by refugees fleeing persecution and violence in Afghanistan, Syria, and other Middle Eastern and Asian nations.

The International Organisation for Migration reports that the Mediterranean crossing is one of the most dangerous migrant routes in the world. It estimates that almost 28,000 people have gone missing trying to cross the sea since 2014.

who has Pope Francis, described the Mediterranean Sea as Europe's largest cemetery, has repeatedly appealed to leaders and policymakers to protect the lives and dignity of our brothers and sisters on the move.

Source: Vatican News

A wreath of flowers thrown by Pope Francis into the water off Lampedusa, Italy, in honour of migrants who died at sea, July 2013. Photo: Paul Haring/CNS

# Celibacy exemption for aboriginal priests

Married Indigenous men should be allowed to be ordained as Catholic priests and the centuries-old rule of compulsory celibacy will 'very likely' ultimately be changed by the Vatican, says Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

Speaking ahead of the October Synod on Synodality, Archbishop Coleridge has warned that the Church will need to 'look quite different' to flourish.

He has proposed an exemption for Indigenous priests and said it was necessary when there was 'no way you're going to recruit a celibate clergy in those cultures'.

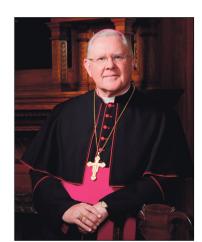
West Australian Labor senator Patrick Dodson, a foundational in the Aboriginal reconciliation movement, is the only Indigenous man ever to be admitted to the Catholic priesthood.

'And Pat Dodson ended up leaving after a relatively short time,' Archbishop Coleridge said.

'I think it's fairly bleak with regard to the Church generally now. So one of the things I have just floated is that: is there reason enough to say within Indigenous communities we will ordain married men?

'We have married clergy. I mean, some of the clergy who are from other Churches are married men...so it's not as if we don't know married clergy.'

The Pope appeared ready to test the water on celibacy after the Vatican Synod in 2019 recommended it be suspended



Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane.

in the Amazon region of South America to address a chronic shortage of priests there - only to retreat, with Francis saying further 'discernment' was required.

Backing Archbishop Coleridge's call for the change to start with Indigenous men, Bishop of Darwin Charles Gauci said: 'With Aboriginal people, we need to be respectful of culture. Pope Francis has said he is open in certain situations to ordaining married men; that is not off the agenda.

'The opportunity to have Indigenous priests ministering to their communities is one we aspire to. I would be open to discussing this matter if it arose.'

Source: The Australian



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# Pope Francis' **Prayer**



During the month of September 2023 Pope Francis' intention is: for people living on the margins.

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

# Euthanasia may force exit from aged care - Anglicans

A key Anglican organisation in Australia has warned euthanasia could become so morally corrupting for Church-run aged care facilities that it may have to exit the industry.

It has advised its aged-care homes to discourage residents from using voluntary assisted dying (VAD) when New South Wales' laws take effect this year.

In a report presented to its Synod, Anglican Community Services said it would adopt a strategy of minimum compliance: residential homes would adhere to the requirements of the act, such as allowing residents access to qualified doctors, but refuse any further assistance.

'The report challenges Anglicare Sydney to respectfully, in compliance with the law, seek to dissuade residents from accessing VAD by "deed and word", it said.

'The Board of Anglicare Sydney decided... VAD will not be available at its residential aged-care homes, and the organisation and staff will not actively participate in the provision of any VAD services,' said the report to the Synod.

From 28 November, terminally ill adults experiencing 'intolerable suffering' can apply to end their lives in NSW. Churches that opposed the law are grappling with how to balance legal obligations with religious

The Anglican report said its staff would not initiate discussions, provide information, or take an active part in a resident's euthanasia.

'It should be recognised that the existence of VAD may well become an intolerable corruption to the service, thus precipitating the need for withdrawal from residential aged care provision in the future?

Catholic Health Australia has also taken a minimal compliance approach in states where euthanasia is practised. 'VAD is not consistent with the care we provide. As a result, our NSW members will not facilitate VAD at any of their facilities, a spokesman said.

When residents wish to explore VAD, 'our members will always respond in a respectful and compassionate manner. That means we will not change the end-of-life care we provide to a patient or resident if they've expressed an interest in VAD or if they explore it as an option.'

Source: Sydney Morning Herald

### **Nuclear weapons protest**

Catholics marked the 78th anniversary of the United States' 1945 atomic bombings in Japan with calls for nuclear disarmament, prayers for peace and a protest at the White House. The Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House gathered about three dozen protesters for a vigil outside the White House on 9 August to mark the occasion with prayer, and to call on the US, the only nation that has used such weapons in war, to lead the way to a world where they are never again used. The group held a similar demonstration outside the Pentagon on 6 August.

### Gen Xers' decline in church practice

The percentage of Gen Xers (people aged 39 to 57) in the US who attend a church service either in person or online is now as low as among millennials, at 28 per cent. This is a fall from 41 per cent in 2020 and a sharper decline than for other age groups. The survey of 2,000 adults was conducted by the Cultural Research Centre at Arizona Christian University.

### Bishops file class action suit

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference has initiated a class-action suit against a global mining company on behalf of current and former miners who turned to the Church for help after contracting incurable lung diseases. An application for certification of a class action accuses the mining company, South32, of failing to provide workers with adequate training, equipment, and a safe working environment. The application alleges the company failed to create procedures and protections required by law and asks the court to order compensation to be paid to those workers. South32 is a multibillion-dollar metal mining company based in Perth, Australia, that operates in six countries.

## **Violence against Christians condemned**

Israeli president Isaac Herzog has condemned attacks by Jewish extremists against Christian places of worship in the country. Mr Herzog said he was committed to the full protection of freedom of religion and worship in the State of Israel.

'In recent months we have seen very serious incidents against the Christian denominations in the Holy Land, our brothers and sisters, Christian citizens who feel attacked in the places of prayer, in the cemeteries, on the street. I view this phenomenon extremely seriously; it is unacceptable in any way, Mr Herzog said.

# Sudan 'beyond breaking point'

After months of protracted fighting, violence in Sudan continues to spread across the country, causing millions to flee their homes.

The ongoing conflict has put pressure on already scarce resources, with many people facing a lack of water, sanitation, food, shelter and safety, resulting in an urgent need for humanitarian assistance for people displaced within Sudan and in neighbouring countries.

Armed clashes began in April 2023 and as violence spread, more than three million people have been forced from their homes, including over 350,000 children, with 24.7 million people now in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

More than 1000 people have been killed,



Merowe, a remote village in Sudan.

Photo: Shutterstock

and over 12,000 injured in the fighting with the impact felt by the most vulnerable. A staggering 75 per cent of people affected by the conflict are women and children.

Thomas, Caritas Australia's humanitarian lead, said immediate needs are growing fast in Sudan, with so many people forced from their homes and the rainy season approaching.

'For a long time, Sudan has been a host for refugees from neighbouring countries; these refugees are now forced to uproot and flee once more,' Ms Thomas said.

'Important aid work has been happening in refugee camps for many years with limited resources. This new wave of conflict is pushing the country beyond breaking point.'

Source: Caritas Australia

# Major construction project for 2025 Jubilee Year

In anticipation of the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee Year, the city of Rome has announced a major infrastructure project that will create a pedestrian pathway from St Peter's Square to Castel Sant'Angelo. Construction began in August.

The city's mayor is calling the project an 'embrace' between Italy and the Vatican.

The infrastructure developments are in preparation for an estimated 35 million pilgrims headed to the eternal city for the year-long 'Jubilee of Hope.' When the Vatican announces a Jubilee Year, the faithful are invited to take part in the spiritual benefits offered by the Church, including passing through the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome - which only the Pope himself opens in order to receive an indulgence.

The proposed infrastructure developments will focus on the Piazza Pia, just down the road from Vatican City. The project will include the 'redevelopment and pedestrianisation' of the piazza, which will connect the Castel Sant'Angelo to the famous road leading to the Vatican, the via della Conciliazione, costing approximately 70 million euros (US\$77m).

Castel Sant'Angelo is a historic structure located on the edge of the piazza. It was formerly a mausoleum commissioned by the Roman Emperor Hadrian and later became a papal fortress connected to St Peter's.



The Castel Sant'Angelo in Rome.

The city has plans to undertake almost 90 other projects, costing approximately US\$ 2 billion, according to Andreas Thonhauser, EWTN Vatican Bureau chief.

Rome's Mayor Roberto Gualtieri said in the release that 'the project we are presenting today is perhaps the most important from

Image: Thomas Wolf, Creative Commons

a symbolic point of view, because it aims to bring back together two fundamental sites in the city, which have always been a vital axis: St Peter's and Castel Sant'Angelo.'

Source: CNA News

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#### MAHURU 2023 NAUMAI

# Strengthening climate change resolutions

#### John Feeney

A small and enthusiastic group of parishioners gathered in St Anne's Church Hall Newtown, Wellington, on Sunday 23 July, for an interactive workshop led by Peter Lang of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand.

The theme was about the need to strengthen our understanding of the connections between the cry of the environment and the cry of

Peter highlighted the effects of climate change in Wellington and the Pacific, especially Fiji and Kiribati. Sr Ruth Coleman from the archdiocese Ecology Justice and Peace Commission led prayerful reflections.

The group discussed some actions individuals can do now. Noting New Zealand's coming general election they discussed the importance of using opportunity to challenge politicians about issues such as deep-sea mining, mitigating carbon emissions and sustainable recycling. The group agreed we need to make ourselves aware of each party's policies on ecology and addressing the climate crisis. They also noted it is encouraging to see young people's passion in facing up to and challenging decision makers to address climate change.

Other considerations and actions discussed included:



Members of Wellington South and St Mary of the Angels social justice group discussed climate-change issues and resolutions at an interactive workshop in July.

encouraging clergy to bring a focus from Laudato si' into the Sunday liturgies; supporting the Season of Creation programme as a focus

change; getting involved with local initiatives, for example pest eradication, beach and river cleanups, community gardens, curb-side

green waste recycling, planting native trees and shrubs, reducing waste; and the longer-term need to welcome climate-change refugees.

# **Mercy Sisters farewelled**

#### **Ethne Maher**

St Mary's Parish in Palmerston North will, with some sadness, soon say 'Goodbye' to two of the Sisters of Mercy who have served in Palmerston North and the wider diocese for many years. Sr Joan Manson rsm and Sr Pamela Ward rsm are moving to Upper Hutt to join other Sisters at 'Villa Joseph'.

Sr Joan and Sr Pam have made a huge contribution to St Mary's Parish, the city of Palmerston North and the Palmerston North Diocese of the Holy Spirit.

Sr Joan worked in education and taught at all three of the Catholic primary schools in the city. She was a founding teacher at St James' Catholic School and is looking forward to celebrating the school's 65th anniversary with the community on 9 September, just a few days before she leaves for Upper Hutt. After retiring from teaching Sr Joan presented 'Retreats in Daily Life' throughout the diocese.

Sr Pam was the first Sister of Mercy to train as a Community Nurse at the Palmerston North Hospital. She worked at 'Mercy Hospital' in the 'Catherine Wing' and in addition she took charge of the laundry.

While Srs Joan and Pam have spent short periods of time in



Sr Joan Manson (1) and Sr Pam Ward (r) are soon to be leaving friends and parishioners in Palmerston North after many years of faithful Photo: Supplied

other parts of New Zealand, the majority of their time has been here in Palmerston North. After they retired from teaching and nursing they continued to be involved in the parish and the wider community.

The Sisters are well known for their hospitality and visitors have always been welcomed into their home. Their presence at daily Mass, where Pam enjoyed being a Reader, has been a great example to others and they enjoyed seeing the school children at Mass on a Friday morning. They have

joined Prayer Groups, often hosting them in their home, Passionist Family Groups, and Joan has really enjoyed being a member of the local Rebus group [worldwide organisation that provides fellowship and services to 'Seniors'].

Thank you Srs Joan and Pam, we will miss you. God Bless you and love from all of us here in Palmerston North.

Ethne Maher is a parishioner at St Mary's, Palmerston North.

# Abrahamic group returns to Kopua

#### Nick Polaschek

from Wellington's group Abrahamic Council visited the Cistercian monastery at Kopua in Hawkes Bay for a weekend in May.

For some in the group, it was their second visit to Our Lady of the Southern Star Abbey, located in the rolling hills of Central Hawkes Bay. Members of the Council first visited two years ago and some were keen to return.

Ten people spent the weekend at the guesthouse, sharing the monastic environment and participating in the liturgies with the monks who live at the monastery.

The group spoke with Fr Nicho Verkley ocso, the senior monk, on the Sunday morning. Fr Nicho said hospitality to the guest is integral to the life of the Cistercian monastic community. 'They [guests] are to be welcomed as if they were Christ himself. The monastery is to be a spiritual sanctuary for all who come.'

Hospitality is foundational in all the Abrahamic traditions, with Abraham the first exemplar in providing hospitality for three strangers and thus the Lord himself.

As with their first visit to

Kopua, the time the group spent in conversation provided an opportunity for sharing in a way we don't have in our normal schedule of meetings.

Members also had opportunity to share a little of their own spiritual practice in the Jewish and Muslim traditions an enriching experience for the others in the group. The devotional character of these practices, novel in this Christian environment, was striking. It complemented the experience of the monastic communal liturgy and the time spent sitting in silent meditation with the monks.

In practice and thinking, each of the Abrahamic faith traditions embodies an authentic response to the divine Word by the people living within it, made in terms of their own cultural framework. Recognising this, we can learn from one another about different aspects of our shared faith in God, our creator and sustainer. We come to appreciate more deeply we are all truly reflecting the divine Word in the different enculturated responses within our own traditions.

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### **Collegial evening for** marriage educators

archdiocese's Marriage Ministry group of educators met recently with Archbishop Paul Martin sm for an evening of fellowship, reflection and shared experiences. It was an opportunity to learn from one another and to enhance their impact on the lives of couples they work with.

The group supports Marriage Ministry's mission across a range of its initiatives, such as the 'Commit' programme, 'Love is a Decision' course, 'Engaged Encounter' weekends and the St Valentine's Mass. In alignment with the ministry's mission - to nurture and guide couples through the journey of marriage, fostering love, commitment and spiritual growth - their work supports couples and promotes strong, healthy and faithcentred marriages.



Members of Wellington's Abrahamic Council enjoyed a weekend of shared faith practices, discussions and meditation at Kopua Monastery. Pictured (l-r) are: Rito Triumbarto, Muslim; Dave Moskovitz, Jewish; Tahir Nawaz, Muslim; and Fr Nicho Verkley, Monastic Superior.

# From hilltop to marketplace

**Lucienne Hensel** of the Institute for World Evangelisation (ICPE Mission) and the Archdiocese of Wellington Church Mission team, lived in community at St Gerard's Monastery for many years, raising her young family there and calling it home. Lucienne reflects on moving from the hilltop to new fields.

You can't miss it. An imposing structure overlooking Oriental Bay, the huge white cross symbolising everything it stands for. For 30 years, St Gerard's was home to the ICPE Mission, who followed in the footsteps of [the previous owners] the Redemptorists. The building now has new owners. Plans for its future are unknown, and many wonder what St Gerard's will become, and what the future holds for the ICPE Mission.

It was a combination of Covidclosed borders and a looming deadline to strengthen the heritage building that led the ICPE Mission to enter a period of prayerful discernment seeking the way forward. The outcome was

difficult but necessary. Like the

Redemptorists before us, we needed

recently, I came across newspaper

clippings from the eighties, when

the Monastery was first put up for

While clearing the Monastery

to let go.

cannot be hidden." - Matthew 5:14



Lucienne Hensel.

people rather than bricks.'

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill

sale. Redemptorist Fr Humphrey O'Leary is quoted: 'It's sad, but it's not our job to look after nice buildings. Our job is working with

The Redemptorists' mission

continues, and this, too, is our

hope. ICPE is a community on

mission. We have lost our building,

but we have not lost our calling -

to be missionary disciples wherever

we are sent.

It was time to leave the hilltop and come down to the marketplace.

We are now a 'Community of Companions', living the ICPE charism of worship and evangelisation in daily life. We meet in each other's homes and are involved in parishes and ministries around the archdiocese. For some, who until just weeks ago were still living at St Gerard's, this has been a huge transition. But we continue to experience God's divine providence as we trust Him to open new doors for jobs, homes, and ways to continue to serve.

The sense of loss is real – with all its quirks, the place was home and we loved it. Our children grew up there. We met wonderful people who became dear friends. We saw countless lives being touched and transformed by our loving God. We feel so privileged to have called St Gerard's home. Emptying it has been heartbreaking, but we did it with grateful hearts and are glad we could pass the blessings on to others. We wish to thank everyone who has prayed for us and helped us in practical ways. God bless you.



Photo: Annette Scullion

Wellington landmark St Gerard's Monastery has been bought for just under \$5 million according to a *Stuff* report in August.

The 115-year-old monastery overlooking Oriental Bay was sold in March and is now owned by a recently incorporated company, St Gerard's Limited. While the rateable value (RV) from the council was \$15.5 million the property sold for \$4.6m. The \$10 million difference is indicative of the capital required to restore the historical building. It is a Category 1 Historic Place, which Heritage New Zealand has described as 'one of Wellington's most distinctive and significant landmarks'.

The monastery has not held Mass since 2021 when it was deemed earthquake prone.

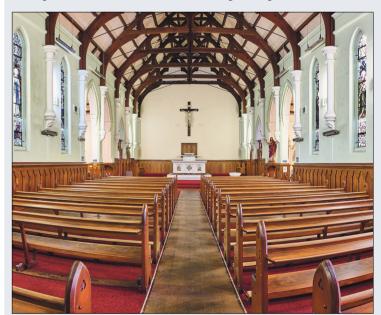
St Gerard's former owner, the Institute for World Evangelisation (ICPE Mission), has found new homes for furniture and other items after selling the earthquake-prone buildings in March. Particular attention was given to sacred items, many of which have historical value to the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington.

ICPE has donated the altar from the main church to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, on Hill St, currently closed for renovation and earthquake-strengthening.



Members of ICPE Mission community after their closing Mass celebrated in the chapel, June 2023.

Photos: Supplied



St Gerard's Church, a heritage for many. ICPE Mission have donated the altar to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

Photo: David Lupton



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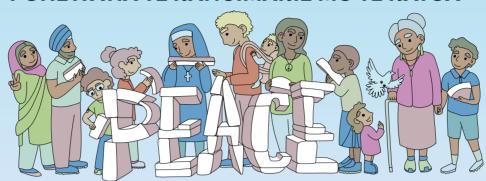


# Te Wiki o te Whai Tika Social Justice Week

# IMAGINE PEACE FOR ALL

### POHEWATIA TE RANGIMĀRIE MŌ TE KATOA





Social Justice Week 2023 is taking place from **Sunday 3rd September** – **Saturday 9th September**. This year, Caritas presents an exciting new initiative: for the first time, Social Justice Week will feature a three-year overarching theme! The theme is Imagine Peace For All, with a focus on building peace and responding to conflict. In today's world, this topic holds great relevance, from a personal level all the way to a global scale. Our aim is to support parishes, schools, and individuals to grow their understanding of peace each year and gain deeper insight into how we can all build peace in our lives.

Catholic social teaching demonstrates that the promotion of peace is an essential component of social justice, based on respect for human dignity, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of human rights. It calls for a transformation of social structures and systems that perpetuate violence, inequality and injustice, and for the promotion of a culture of peace that values dialogue, reconciliation, and nonviolent conflict resolution. By building peace within ourselves and with God, we take the first crucial steps toward cultivating peace in our communities and the wider world.

Personal peace is the focus of this year's resources because, as the Social Justice Week 2023 tagline states, 'Peace begins with you!'. Pope Francis points out that the peace we can give to others does not come from our own abilities but is rather a manifestation of the grace of Christ, which we need to accept into our hearts. Only by understanding and experiencing God's peace within ourselves can we effectively promote peace in our surroundings.

# Social Justice Week in Schools

We've created a collection of resources that are ideal for learning about peace as a central component in social justice. These materials will challenge and encourage students and teachers to become peacebuilders, by starting with themselves! These resources include the following items:



Background notes for teachers



Daily prayers



A peace placemat



Promotional poster and an attachable 'Peace begins with you!' brick



Learning activities



Action templates



Liturgy

# Te Wiki o te Whai Tika Social Justice Week

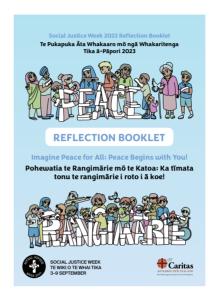
# Social Justice Week in Parishes

The resources we've designed for parishes and communities this year are:



### **A Liturgy Guide**

This guide has been designed for Social Justice Week and includes a statement from the New Zealand Catholic Bishops, reflection on the Gospel readings, suggested prayer of the faithful, and a liturgy outline for children.



### **A Reflection Booklet**

This booklet features seven sessions which explore different ways we can build peace in our lives:

- 1. What does peace mean to you?
- 2. Peace in our hearts
- 3. Peace in our relationships
- 4. Peace in our communities
- 5. Peace in creation
- 6. Peace in our work
- 7. Peace begins with you!

# Promotional poster and an attachable 'Peace begins with you!' brick



Building personal peace looks different for everyone, and we've tried to reflect this in the resources we've created this year. Whether for one day, a week, seven weeks, or a whole year, we encourage you to use this booklet to guide your journey towards peace in all areas of your life.

Find all our Social Justice Week 2023 parish resources on the Caritas website!

www.caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week

# We want your input!

For Social Justice Week 2024, we'll be looking at responding to conflict as the second part of our Imagine Peace for All project. An important part of becoming a peacebuilder is learning how to engage in respectful conversations, listening to others, and celebrating our differences even when it can seem difficult.

We'd love to make our Social Justice Week resources collaborative and reflective of diverse communities in Aotearoa as building peace requires input from all of us. Please send in your own prayers, activities, stories and ideas about peace and conflict to **education@caritas.org.nz** and we'll try to include them in next year's resources!







# Young Catholics

# **Catholic Education News**

Chief Executive of New Zealand Catholic Education Office, **Dr Kevin Shore**, provides an update on some of the many developments underway in the Catholic Education sector.



Dr Kevin Shore, CEO, NZCEO.

Kia ora.

It has been pleasing to see the secondary teacher's union, the PPTA, has settled its long running pay dispute with the government. It is imperative the efforts of our teachers in supporting the growth and development of ākonga [students] are recognised and that the sector can continue to attract quality applicants to the profession both now and into the future.

One of the biggest challenges for school boards and principals in the current education environment is finding teachers to fill teaching vacancies and this challenge should not be underestimated. Whether we like it or not, renumeration is an important aspect in attracting the best caliber candidates to the profession and so it is pleasing to see an agreement reached. Our students will appreciate a more settled second half of the year.

NZCEO has enjoyed our part in bringing Professor Br David Hall of Australian Catholic University to speak to Catholic educators in the diocese of Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North and Wellington. Br David is a gifted presenter and is well regarded by New Zealand Catholic audiences. His presentation was linked to one of the key themes of the New Zealand Education curriculum developed by National Centre of Religious Studies Tō Tātou Whakapono - Te Rongopai - The Good News. Br David provided

insight and learning around Church tradition and scripture, interpretation of Gospel passages and how our understanding of this provides the Good News that can be lived out in our lives and the lives of the students we nurture. A key message was that God seeks us and if we understand and listen, we can have a powerful encounter with God. NZCEO thanks Br David for his generosity in taking time away from his role at the Australian Catholic University and spending two weeks with us in Aotearoa. [See WelCom interview with Br David Hall, p 5.]

NZCEO is starting to advance our planning for the National Catholic Convention in 2024. The date for the conference has been determined as Wednesday 19 June through to Friday 21 June 2024. NZCEO has chosen a group of potential keynote speakers and our organisation is now approaching these individuals to see who is available and can be contracted for the event. The same venue as used in the last event in 2018, the TSB Arena in Wellington, has been booked and our staff are working with conference organisers to develop all the resources and systems needed for registration and running this event. We look forward to hosting our Catholic education community and stakeholders in 2024.

Ngā manaakitanga Kevin Shore

# Nelson music teacher a TikTok sensation

#### **Maureen Phillips**

Life in education always has new learning adventures on the horizon, some alongside children and others alongside fellow teachers. The latest is one we hadn't expected. Our music teacher, John Phillips, has become a TikTok sensation.

John has been teaching music for 34 years and writing children's songs for over two decades. One morning earlier this year, he came to school and casually mentioned his daughter had rung him to say people were uploading videos to TikTok using a clip from his song Bad Hair Day. As staff we were excited, watching the viewings and videos as they went from hundreds to thousands then into the millions. I believe they are now over a billion.

At the same time John was starting to get calls from across Aotearoa and globally with magazines, newspapers and TV shows requesting interviews. It got even more exciting when the local radio station and newspaper came out to interview John and photograph St Paul's children performing their version of Bad Hair Day. When their performance was uploaded to TikTok, our students and staff shared a moment of fame

John remembers writing Bad Hair Day 'really quickly' one morning 20 years ago. 'My son had really curly hair, and one day it just looked like this big mess - a big "fuzznut", which is where the lyric comes from.' John sat down and started writing - he had the bad hair day concept, he landed on a hook 'and away I went', he recalls. The song soon became a staple of Kiwi kids. When a social media thread reminiscing about favourite school songs took off recently, John's track started to feature heavily. 'It blew up from there. The kids who listened to that song growing up and now in their twenties, started posting themselves singing and dancing to it on TikTok. It spiralled.

John's music has been widely known in New Zealand schools and parishes for the last 20 plus years. Favourites from the school setting are My Dad Loves His Rugby,



TikTok sensation composer and teacher John Williams and St Paul's students in bright-coloured wigs and neon glasses, performing Bad Hair Day at their school hall. Photo: Supplied

Lost Property Box, and The Wobbly Tooth. In our parish setting his songs include God's Love, Through The Breaking of This Bread, Jesus is My Rock and At Your Feet.

John is also well known in the Nelson/Tasman area for bringing Rock da House to our region. It is a musical extravaganza getting students together from schools from all over the region for concert events.

Many positives have come from John's TikTok moment of fame. We have always known he is incredibly talented, but it is exciting to see this shared globally. And, it has also been great seeing the positive side of TikTok when often in the educational setting schools can experience the negative side of social-media platforms. To see the Bad Hair Day videos bringing joy across the globe has been fun for all of us.

John is pretty modest about his talent. He and his family have deep

faith and share a lot of musical gifts, which they recognise as God given. Perhaps best known are Broods, the brother and sister musical duo from Nelson, who are John's niece and nephew.

It is a privilege for us to work alongside this talented, humble and faith-filled man. We are grateful John generously shares his gifts with our students and the wider community. When we celebrate family Masses each term, I see the smiles on the faces of our parishioners as they enjoy our students' talents fostered by John.

You can watch St Paul's School performance of Bad Hair Day on TikTok at: tiktok.com/@johnphillipsnz/ video/7202530263409151233

Maureen Phillips is principal, St Paul's School, Richmond, Nelson.

# Tertiary study scholarships

The Catholic Foundation offers eight scholarships to students living in the Archdiocese of Wellington and who are in their final year secondary education. The scholarships, worth \$2,000 each, are to help with study in a student's first year of tertiary education.

Applicants are invited to apply online by 30 September.

Go to catholicfoundation.org. nz/grants-and-scholarships/ to read the scholarship conditions and information, and to apply.



For more information, please contact the Catholic Foundation secretary at admin@ catholicfoundation.org.nz or ph 021



Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt hosted the 30th annual regional Vinnies Mass on 20 August to celebrate the young people's work in their communities. Fr Patrick Bridgman led the Mass attended by Vinnies from seven Catholic secondary schools, teachers and SVdP members. Wellington District President Andrew Bridgman spoke about Vinnies' links to the calling of Jesus and, together with Charles Bell, Hutt Valley District President, gave out badges to the Vinnies. Words and photo: Paula Davies

# Rangatahi Katorika

# Sabbatical to Ireland for Sacred Heart College principal

Sacred Heart College Napier principal Maria Neville-Foster has headed back to her homeland of Ireland for a sabbatical, through the Ministry of Education.

Mrs Neville-Foster plans to visit a cross-section of schools, as well as reconnecting with her Irish culture and family, all of whom remain in Ireland.

'It's been four years since I've been home and that's the longest period of time I've ever been disconnected from my family and from my homeland,' she said.

Prior to immigrating to New Zealand in 2006, Mrs Neville-Foster taught science and chemistry at Hazelwood College in Ireland for two years.

During her time in Ireland, she will visit several schools including Hazelwood College, and her alma mater, Crescent College Comprehensive sj, formerly the College of the Sacred Heart, to learn about what they're seeing as a result of four years of Covid-19.

'As principals, we have been working our way through the pandemic over the last three to four years and I think it would be naive of us to think there isn't going to be effects. And so therefore, it makes sense to ask questions in a country that, the whole way through, has been at least six, if not 12 months ahead of us in terms of the trajectory of the pandemic.



Sacred Heart College Principal Maria Neville-Foster (middle) with students Nastassjah (l), Tiare and Hineraukatauri holding poi made for students in Ireland.

Photo: Supplied

'I'll also be talking to the principals about what they see are the key skills required in a leader, to develop my own leadership.'

She will also visit Luttrellstown Community College in Dublin and Príomhoide (principal) Siobhán Moran, who sent a care package to Sacred Heart College in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle in February.

'We had a package arrive at the school from the equivalent of Year 9 students in her school. Siobhán had told them what had happened in New Zealand, and they'd written all these beautiful cards and sent a whole load of Irish sweets to give to

our students here.

'I presented them to some of our Year 9 classes, and they wrote cards back and sent pineapple lumps and some iconic New Zealand lollies for the kids in Ireland.'

Sacred Heart's Year 9 Te Reo class has made poi, which Mrs Neville-Foster will present to the college, and teach the students how to use it.

While she will miss her students and staff, Mrs Neville-Foster says they will be in good hands while she is away, with deputy principal Marysia Airey stepping into the role of acting principal.



Congratulations to Reyon of St Mary's Catholic School, Palmerston North – Te Kura Katorika o Hato Heemi – who recently won a Fire and Emergency colouring competition and won himself a ride to school in a Fire Truck along with a Lego Fire Truck. There was high excitement as the whole school was anticipating Reyon's arrival at school in the truck.

Photo: St Mary's Facebook

# Hīkoi to Far North to be annual college pilgrimage

#### Myra Coley Tumuaki, Chanel College

In May Chanel College's Year 13 students embarked on hīkoi, setting out from Masterton towards Hokianga in the Far North. They were on a mission to explore the history of the beginnings of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

It was the furthest north many had travelled, with school and Church lessons about Bishop Jean Baptiste Francois Pompallier – this country's first Catholic bishop – being their only learnings about Hokianga.

The trip – planned and organised by myself, Assistant Principal Morgan Bunny, HoD Hauora Thomas Campbell and Tuakana Timothy Ale – was a first for the college. It was a special and spiritual experience for the staff and students.

The idea came after staff were inspired reading about the Ngā Tapuwae pilgrimage organised by the Auckland diocese earlier this year. Thomas and I both whakapapa to Te Rarawa ki Hokianga and by making connections with our whānau, we were able to make the trip north an affordable opportunity for the group. Marist Brothers who reside in the Far North also supported the hīkoi.

After reaching Cambridge on the first day, the following day the group continued on to Russell – also known as Kororāreka. There they visited Pompallier House and Waitangi across the bay.

From there they travelled to and based themselves at Matihetihe Marae in Mitimiti. Sr Magdalene greeted and spoke to the group at Mass at Hata Maria Church just up the road in Motuti. She explained a lot about Bishop Pompallier and how the church now contains his

remains. The group later travelled to Cape Reinga for the day.

Each day began and ended with prayer and reflection. The students were in awe of the beauty and wairua of the sacred spaces. They spent reflective time and prayer at Hato Hemi Church nestled next to the marae, on the hilltop looking out at the Hokianga Harbour, beside a monument erected to pay respects to early migrant miners from China who were lost at sea, and they gathered around a glowing beach fire sharing songs and stories from kaumatua.

This unforgettable experience has begun what will now be an annual trip to Hokianga for Chanel College Year 13 students.



Chanel College Year 13 students outside Hata Maria – St Mary's Church at Motuti (1899), Hokianga Harbour, Far North. The church holds the remains of Bishop Jean Baptiste François Pompallier, the country's first Catholic Bishop.

Photo: Supplied



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# World Day of Prayer for the Care

# Season of Creation 2023: 1 September-4 October Let Justice and Peace Flow

"But let Justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!' - Amos 5:24

Pope Francis has established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home. The day is inspired by his landmark encyclical *Laudato si'*, which calls on 'every person living on this planet' to care for our shared Earth.

The Holy Father first instituted 1 September for this day serving as a way to encourage the faithful to pray for our common home. The annual day also marks the beginning of an ecumenical outreach bringing Christians to pray and work together in the Season of Creation, which lasts till 4 October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The origins also go back to Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios who proclaimed 1 September as Creation Day for the Orthodox in 1989, followed by other Christian European Churches in 2001, and by Pope Francis in 2015.

# Message of the Holy Father for the celebration of the World Day of Prayer for Creation

In his message for the 2023 World Day of Prayer for Creation, Pope Francis appeals for a renewal of our relationship with creation. Released on 25 May 2023, his message focuses on the theme, 'Let Justice and Peace Flow', inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: 'Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.'

The Pope begins by noting, 'God wants justice to reign; it is as essential to our life as God's children made in his likeness as water is essential for our physical survival.'

Recalling his apostolic journey to Canada in July 2022, and in particular his visit to the Indigenous People on the shores of Lac Ste Anne in Alberta, the Pope reflected on how so many of the people down through the ages have found 'consolation and strength' from these waters, likening the natural beauty there to the 'maternal heartbeat of the earth. And just as the heart of a baby in the womb beats in harmony with the mother, so also 'we need to harmonise our own rhythms of life with those of creation, which gives us life'.

And decrying the fact too many of our brothers and sisters

are prevented from drinking from that mighty river, the Pope says, 'Let us heed our call to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, and to put an end to the senseless war against creation.'

Pope Francis decries the greed and selfishness today that disrupts the planet's water cycle. The threats to our planet and water sources are many, he notes: fossil fuels and the destruction of forests that contribute to climate change; the depletion and pollution of freshwater sources through extreme practices such as fracking or uncontrolled mega-mining projects and intense animal farming.

We need to act urgently, to create a more sustainable and just world, the Pope notes also referring to grave warnings from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. And he stresses it is possible to prevent the worst from happening if we all unite to come up with more sustainable ways to live now and for the future, and he reiterated that much can be done if we come together.

In looking especially at Christian communities, the Pope writes we can all contribute to change for good by 'resolving to transform our hearts, our lifestyles, and the public policies ruling our societies.'

Transforming our hearts is a key starting point and this 'ecological conversion' involves 'the renewal of our relationship with creation so we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator.'

Next, we need to change the way we live, he notes, and 'starting from grateful wonder at the Creator and his creation... Let us adopt lifestyles marked by less waste and unnecessary consumption, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable.

'Let us be as mindful as we can about our habits and economic decisions so all can thrive – our fellow men and women wherever they may be, and future generations as well,' he says.

The things we can all do are many, he continues, such as using resources with moderation, recycling waste, using available products and services that are environmentally and socially responsible.

Finally, we need to look at our public policies, especially 'economic policies that promote







"Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. We have inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert for our children." – Joint statement from Pope Francis, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury and several other faith leaders in 2021, ahead of COP 26, the UN climate summit in Glasgow.

scandalous wealth for a privileged few and degrading conditions for many others, as they mean they gravely threaten peace and justice.

Issuing an appeal to make our voices heard to halt this injustice towards the poor and the future generations who will bear the worst effects of climate change, the Holy Father asked for action in conformity of these perspectives on society and nature.

Recalling the Synod on Synodality that will open its first session in October, just after the closing of the Season of Creation on 4 October, the Pope writes, 'the entire People of God is being invited to an immersive journey of synodal dialogue and conversion.'

He upholds the strength of communion of countless local Churches, each of whom has a unique and irreplaceable contribution to make, and he prays that the Holy Spirit may guide our efforts to 'renew the face of the earth'.

He concluded, that 'our synodal Church must be a source of life for our common home and all its inhabitants...sowing justice and peace in every place it reaches.'

Sources: Vatican News; seasonofcreation.org



### **SEASON OF CREATION 2023: 1 SEPT-4 OCT**

The World Day of Prayer falls at the beginning of the Season of Creation, which runs until 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology. It is an ecumenical season dedicated to prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

The theme for the Season of Creation 2023 is Let Justice and Peace Flow. An accompanying symbol of a mighty river has also been created,

inspired from Prophet Amos's quote, 'But let Justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!' (Amos 5:24). Together, the 2023 theme and symbol call for everyone to 'join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity'.

'Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.' – Isaiah 43:19

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with God our Creator and all creation. Caring for creation is living out our Catholic faith. The Church, following the teachings of Jesus, throughout time has exhorted believers to work for the common good, which calls for dignifying life in all its forms, caring for our common home, and committing to the construction of more just, supportive, fraternal and peaceful societies.

Individuals and communities are invited to participate through prayer, sustainability projects and advocacy.

For more information and resources visit: laudatosimovement.org/ season-of-creation/ and seasonofcreation.org Ngā Kōrero | Feature Welcom September 2023 15

# of Creation 2023: 1 September

# 'Era of global boiling has arrived'

The era of global warming has ended and 'the era of global boiling has arrived', the UN secretary general, António Guterres, said after scientists confirmed July 2023 was set to be the world's hottest month on record.

'Climate change is here. It is terrifying. And it is just the beginning,' Guterres said. 'It is still possible to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C [above pre-industrial levels] and avoid the very worst of climate change. But only with dramatic, immediate climate action.'

Global temperatures in July shattered records, according to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the EU's Copernicus Earth observation programme, stoked by the burning of fossil fuels and spurring violent weather.

The steady rise in global average temperatures, driven by pollution that traps sunlight and acts like a greenhouse around the Earth, has made weather extremes worse.

'Humanity is in the hot seat,' Guterres told a press conference. 'For vast parts of North America, Asia, Africa and Europe, it is a cruel summer. For the entire planet, it is a disaster. And for scientists, it is unequivocal – humans are to blame.

'All this is entirely consistent with predictions and repeated warnings. The only surprise is the speed of the change. Climate change is here, it is terrifying, and it is just the beginning. The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived.'

Guterres urged politicians to take swift action. 'The air is unbreathable,

the heat is unbearable, and the level of fossil fuel profits and climate inaction is unacceptable. Leaders must lead. No more hesitancy, no more excuses, no more waiting for others to move first. There is simply no more time for that.

'It is still possible to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C and avoid the very worst of climate change but only with dramatic, immediate climate action. We have seen some progress – a robust rollout of renewables and some positive steps from sectors such as shipping – but none of this is going far enough or fast enough. Accelerating temperatures demand accelerated action'

Source: UN News; The Guardian



Family watching a wildfire in the distance in the summer of 2020.

Photo: Caleb Cook on Unsplash

# 'It's what we know together that will solve the crisis'

#### **Catherine Gibbs**

Laudato si' is Pope Francis' letter to the world. Published in 2015, it resonates with people of many faith traditions because it calls for the moral value of care. It continues to transform millions of lives and to inspire people both inside and outside of the Church to commit to a life of care for creation and for our vulnerable sisters and brothers.

Laudato si' encourages us to see how everything is connected. The way we treat the Earth, our common home, is a reflection on how we treat one another. Caring for each other means caring for the home we share. The most vulnerable of our sisters and brothers are burdened with the worst impacts of the ecological crisis. We are called to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor and to respond.

Last year the Vatican released a documentary film called *The Letter*. The Catholic Church was reaching out to serve humanity in bringing

together science and faith to face the crisis on our planet – rapid climate change and biodiversity loss. Building on *Laudato si'* the documentary shares the real stories of five people from around the world who come together on a transformative journey to Rome and beyond using the 'Pope's media megaphone'.

The five non-Christian voices represent expressions, not often heard, through the stories of: a young adult from Senegal – voice of the poor; a chief from Brazil – voice of indigenous peoples; a teenager from India – voice of youth; and two scientists from Hawaii – voice of wildlife.

The Letter uses statistics to wake us up to the crisis we face. For example, 1.2 billion people will be displaced by the effects of climate change by 2050. Indigenous communities are stewards of 80 per cent of biodiversity.

I urge each of you to view *The Letter* at *theletterfilm.org* for the following reasons. You can organise a screening in your parish.

• Understand the relationship between ecology and evangelisation – Pope Francis calls on 'all people of good will' to undergo an ecological conversion, 'whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them' (LS 62, 217). We can discover God in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick, aware the life of the Spirit is not disassociated from worldly

in society' (LS 208).

Consistently support the call to build alliances – our response to the climate crisis is an exercise in human relations – internationally, nationally and locally. Scientist Greg states: 'It's not what I know and what you know. It's what we know together.'

realities. This will help us to

'overcome individualism [and]

develop a different lifestyle to

bring about significant changes

The true nature of hope as agency
 we create hope by creating

meaning. The documentary visually enhances the meaning of *Laudato si'* through storytelling. We can 'see and hear' the cry of the poor, the young generation and the creatures we share our home with. We gain insights into how technologies can provide key information to help us understand what is happening.

• Touching the sacred – *The Letter* shows the beauty of nature 'where the veil between heaven and earth is gossamer thin'. We are re-introduced to St Francis' 'Praised Be' prayer providing a transcendent reason to care for all creation.

I'm on this challenging journey and I invite you contact me at *cmgibbs543@gmail.com* if you would like any help with your own journey of eco conversion.

Catherine Gibbs is co-director of the National Liturgy Office and a member of Te Awakairangi Catholic Parish, Lower Hutt.

## Pope updating Laudato si'

Pope Francis is writing a second part to his 2015 environmental encyclical *Laudato si'* to cover current issues. He announced this intention at the Vatican at the end of a speech on 21 August 2023 to lawyers from the Council of Europe member states that signed the Vienna Declaration on the Support of the Rule of Law in 2022.

Thanking the lawyers for their care for the common home and their advocacy of environmental protection laws, the pope announced he was writing another document on the environment. He provided no further information.

'It must never be forgotten,' he said, 'that future generations are entitled to receive from our hands a beautiful and habitable world, and that this entails grave responsibilities toward the natural world that we have received from the benevolent hands of God.'

Source: CNA, CathNews Australia



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Ngā Pitopito Kōrero | News 16 MAHURU 2023 NAUMAI

### Cathedral corner:

# **Exchanging cookies for cookies brings success for** monthly bake sale





Fr James Lyons, Priest of the archdiocese.

Fundraising for the restoration of Sacred Heart Cathedral has taken many forms over the five years since its closure.

Direct donations have been supported by an on-line auction, book sales, raffles, school-ground parking, two Chris Skinner concerts and, last month, a luncheon

combined with an auction at The Pines, an iconic establishment on Wellington's south coast. Covid forced the postponement and then cancellation of a planned formal dinner.

The Samoan Aulotu/Community of Wellington South parish recently presented Archbishop Martin with \$15,000, gifted by families and friends at specially organised social evenings for the Cathedral. (See accompanying article and photo.)

The most enduring effort is the monthly bake-sale after Sunday Masses.

Initiated three years ago by Sacred Heart parishioner, Geraldine Irinco, the tables laden with home-made delights are very keenly anticipated. Though shut down for a few months by Covid it is now bigger than ever.

baking selling for \$5 each has grown to a huge array, catering for all tastes, including cinnamon rolls, shortbread, sausages, cupcakes, bacon and egg pies, curry and rice and even chili oil. Geraldine now has a circle of friends who regularly boost the food on offer.

sale is usually a Wednesday to Saturday commitment. That's spare-time work, as Geraldine works fulltime as an 'IT' consultant. She explains: 'I put one kind of

for baking week!'

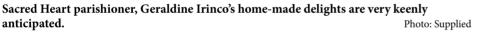
donation to the Cathedral project, instead of spending considerable time and money on the baking, Geraldine said she had always enjoyed baking and felt a 'food court' might

long, has disrupted parish life, she said. 'I thought this might be a way of encouraging conversation, joy and generosity among parishioners.

The idea has certainly paid dividends. After a tentative beginning, sales have grown to nearly \$1500 each month and brought in a total of close to \$20,000 - as well as a great measure of goodwill and community

Would she do it again?

with the parish sacramental programme and other voluntary service.



Thank you, Geraldine!

What began with a few packs of home

The week leading up to the monthly cookies aside for a totally different kind!'

And she adds, 'It's pretty much a family affair, with Rom (husband) on laundry duty

Asked why she didn't simply make a cash help bring the community together.

'The Cathedral, being closed for so

Certainly, says Geraldine, who also assists

'The help I receive makes the effort worthwhile and, when the bake sale's on, there's a great atmosphere after Mass. I think we've got the recipe right!'

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)

## Samoan aulotu makes generous donation to Cathedral

The Samoan aulotu/community of the Catholic Parish of Wellington South leadership team from St Anne's, Newtown, met with Archbishop Paul Martin sm in July. They presented to him and the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Parish a donation of \$15,000 to assist with the building fund of the cathedral restoration work.

The team included: Mr Leota Peni Leota, President; Kalala Lui, Vice-President; Malia Vito-Tupai, Treasurer; and Melania Luka-Lui, Secretary as well as chairperson for the CPWS parish council. Archbishop Martin thanked the CPWS Samoan community for their generosity and assistance.

In recent months, the Samoan families within the CPWS aulotu and parish community, the youth, visiting families from Auckland and from around Wellington with their regional chaplaincy catechists, Vaueli and Veronika Tolova'a FKS, have gathered for a couple of 'Tausala' evenings over fun, music, entertainment and generosity to help create the gift towards the cathedral project.



From l-r: Kalala Lui, Leota Peni Leota, Archbishop Paul Martin and Malia Vito-Tupai. Photo: Supplied

#### **Big boost from Government**

The Government has contributed a further \$2.2m to the cathedral restoration campaign through the Crown Infrastructure Partners Contingency Fund.





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Whakaaro | Reflections WELCOM SEPTEMBER 2023 17

# A Litany Revisited

Fr James Lyons continues his presentation of Marian titles from within the 16th Century Litany of Loreto. Our use and understanding of 'Tower' are explored and related to our devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

# Tower of David

Known throughout the world, the Tower of London has stood for nearly 1000 years. Built immediately following the 1066 invasion by William the Conqueror, this tower was erected to dominate the skyline and control the inhabitants of a defeated land.

Even today, it retains its attraction as a secure castle and a guardian of all things royal, from families to crown jewels and other regal possessions. Visitor brochures describe the Tower of London as 'a visible symbol of awe and fear' - for during its history it has also served as a prison.

This is a good starting point towards an appreciation of the title given to Mary of Nazareth as Tower of David.

Through the ages, towers have been built as lookouts (watchtowers). Friends or foes could be identified long before they arrived at the gate, giving those within time to know whether to welcome or defend. Towers were early warning systems in pre-radar, electrical or digital times.

A lighthouse is also a tower. Its

purpose is to guide ships to safe harbour and an indicator that the shore with its hidden dangers was near. The light at the top of the tower was also a welcome sign to weary sailors – a sign that they were not far from their destination.

Mary fits the image of a tower for her protective role as Mother of Jesus and Mother of the People of God, the Church. She is also our guiding light, showing with the clarity of her life and the strength of her love the way to Jesus.

While she is not a prison, holding people against their will, those attracted to her are caught by her qualities of goodness and faithfulness and are encouraged to be part of her witness.

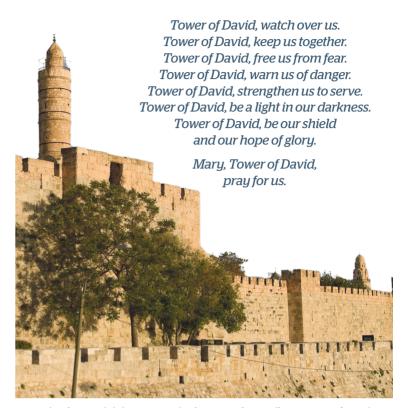
Mary and Joseph are of the Davidic line. Their royal ancestor is likened to an impregnable tower and a beacon of strength for the people. The Bible, in the Song of Songs (or the Song of Solomon), romanticises him as the neck of a beautiful woman: Your neck is like the Tower of David, built with elegance; on it hang a thousand shields, all of them shields of warriors. [Song of Songs, 4:4. Life Application Bible, New International Version]

The Messiah was to come from the House of David. Jesus is given the title, Son of David, in recognition of the fulfilment of God's promise. Mary, as Mother, is the Tower within which Jesus is conceived, born, nurtured and prepared to become a Tower and a Light for all.

In the Book of Psalms, many of them attributed to David, the awesome strength and beauty of God can be also compared to a tower that stands tall, a faithful guardian, reliable, secure, forever watching over the people under its protection.

Psalm 61:3 - For you, O God, have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

There is power and magnificence, wonder and awe, in those images. It is easy to see why popular devotion has found the Tower of David a most fitting description of Mary of Nazareth, Mother of the Lord.



Jerusalem's Citadel, known as the 'Tower of David' is a magnificently restored archaeological structure that bears witness to thousands of

# Tower of Ivory

Ivory has long been a symbol of beauty and purity, making it an ideal image for Mary of Nazareth, Mother of Jesus, the Christ.

Highly valued by carvers and decorative artists for making ornaments and figurines, ivory has also been sought after to inlay furniture and for piano keys. In traditional medicine, a powdered form of ivory has been used as a healing element.

The demand for its use created a profitable trading business and, despite protective legislation, elephants are still killed for their tusks. The annual trade in ivory is worth many billions of dollars.

In modern idiom, to live in an Ivory Tower, is to live in a world of your own, a dreamer, detached from reality!

these seemingly contradictory images related to ivory detract from the title Christians give to Mary? Not at all!

The beauty and purity of Mary in her personality and bearing are proclaimed in the first words of the Angel Gabriel: Hail, Mary, full of grace - most favoured one - [Luke

"As a title of the Mother of Jesus and part of the Litany dedicated to her, the Tower of Ivory invites the believer to have enormous trust in Mary's intercession."

Beauty and purity are to be treasured and protected wherever they are found. They are qualities greatly admired and, like ivory, highly valued. Jesus alluded to this in three of his parables concerning the 'kingdom of heaven', or the 'reign of God', which the Gospel of Matthew has grouped together in Chapter 13. One of them tells of a trader who finds a 'pearl of great value' and gives away everything he has to buy it. [Vs: 45]

Mary as a 'Tower of Ivory' portrays an image of strength and watchfulness as well as one of outstanding beauty and value. A tower 'towers' above any settlement, guarding its approaches and providing a sense of security and well-being for the inhabitants.

Built of ivory, this tower is beyond price, shining and glorious. To be in its presence, under its protection, is to be both safe and grateful.

As a title of the Mother of Jesus and part of the Litany dedicated to her, the Tower of Ivory invites the believer to have enormous trust in Mary's intercession. As one of us in her humanity, she knows our needs, recognises our fears and understands our uncertainty as we journey through life.

A tower constructed of ivory is no ordinary tower. It must hold something far above the value of itself. Mary is Mother of the Christ Child, the most blessed of all women [see Luke 1:42]. She is the beautiful. pure container, carrying the one Christians believe is Son of the Most High, the Saviour of the World.

This is no 'ivory tower' experience. Mary has her feet firmly on the ground. Reality is her realm. At the foot of the Cross, at the centre point of terrifying torture, Jesus gave her into the keeping of the Apostle John who accepted her on behalf of all who follow the Way of the Cross [see John 19:26-27]. This is real. Her Motherhood is our Tower of Ivory.

Ornaments and figurines carved in the beauty of ivory can never match your splendour Mary, our Mother. One of us, yet so much more. Lifted high, just like the Cross. You stretch out your hands in blessed welcome. A tower rich in beauty shining through the darkness of our fear to safeguard, to honour and to announce the presence of Jesus.

Mary, Tower of Ivory, pray for us.



Photo: WelCom

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Loaves & Fishes Hall, Hill Street Thursday 21 September, 7:30pm Contact: David 027 447 7280

#### **Palmerston North**

St Mary's Church foyer, Ruahine Street Tuesday 19 September, 7:00pm Contact: John 027 688 7750

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# Gospel Reading: Sunday 3 September 2023

#### TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MATTHEW 16:21-27

I urge you, then, brothers, remembering the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, dedicated and acceptable to God; that is the kind of worship for you, as sensible people.

Do not model your behaviour on the contemporary world, but let the renewing of your minds transform you, so that you may discern for yourselves what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and mature.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to

Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be put to death and to be raised on the

<sup>22</sup> Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, 'God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you.'

23 But Jesus turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.'

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wishes to be a follower of mine, must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

<sup>25</sup> Anyone who wishes to save his life will lose it; but anyone loses his life for my sake will find

<sup>26</sup> What then, will anyone gain by winning the whole world and forfeiting his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?

<sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father's with his angels, and then he will reward each one according to his conduct.'

# **Our Wellington** Catholic Future



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# Gospel Reflection for 22nd Sunday Ordinary Time: Matthew 16:21-27

#### **Br Kevin Dobbyn fms**

A precursor to today's Gospel reading Mt 16:21-27 is Mt 16: 16-20.

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter said in reply, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. 17 Jesus said to him in reply, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. 18 And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' 20 Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah.

Who likes to be criticised, especially when having done something good or generous? Any criticism can take us back to childhood when a mother or father, hassled with many other issues, might have told us off or given a stern, dismissive look that

Here in just a few verses before (vv.16-19) Peter has had one of those 'aha!' moments in recognising that the rabbi who had called him (it was usually students who attached themselves to a rabbi) was the Messiah they'd all been waiting for. Jesus speaks of Peter being the rock and the faith he expressed as the foundation of the church (the ecclesia - the gathering) that he was building.

Thinking his leadership was to protect this Messiah and to establish politically powerful kingdom, Peter rebukes Jesus but gets a sound telling off from the One he regards as his Lord.

Peter was expecting the longawaited Messiah to overthrow Rome and establish a Messianic kingdom. So ingrained was this expectation in the minds of the disciples, including the mother of James and John (Mt 20:20), that Peter could not conceive of the kingdom Jesus spoke of as he explained to them, for this first time, the suffering, indifference and death he was to endure in Jerusalem (Mt 16:21).

In saying to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan', Jesus heard not Peter so much as Satan, the adversary who had infected Peter with values that were contrary to those of the Reign of God. Taking up the way of the cross was God's way, the way of sacrificial love. Peter has not yet understood the true purpose of Jesus' coming, so missing the whole point of what the Reign of God is

In one way or another through its history, the Church at times has also misunderstood Jesus' message, for instance, when so infected with clericalism's abuse of authority - a disease not peculiar only to the ordained. Peter believed he was right, even certain. Jesus' rebuke is a severe warning to us not to be seduced into a corporation-like model of Church with its rules, regulations and certainties.

The criticism and critique we receive can restore our humility; and so, with synodality we return to Jesus' idea of church: that we are all brothers and sisters as the Pilgrim People of God (Mt 23:8-9), at home with doubt and uncertainty through which we together discern the Spirit's navigating wisdom calling us to become Christ for the



#### Credo

Is it not time after all these years, to sort out what you believe, after a lifetime of believing,

time to lift the words clean off the page, tattoo them on your chest, feel their burn, their rocket truth, their sheltering roof, their trail of crumbs, their personal sun, visible to nobody but yourself,

so when you step out the front door, by the olive tree, you have something to take with you,

something sustaining, like a cut lunch.

- Michael Fitzsimons



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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* including the name of the event, date, time, location and contact.

#### **Thursday 31 August**

Pre-Social Justice week – explore how Church's social teaching challenges society's status quo. Free online Zoom event, speaker Lyn Smith, Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College, 6pm–7.30pm. Registration: tekupenga.ac.nz/uncategorized/challenging-the-status-quo/

#### Friday 1 September

Day of Prayer for Care of Creation and Season of Creation 1 September–4 October. (See pp 14, 15 and this page.)

#### Sunday 3-Saturday 9 September

- ➤ Social Justice Week see pp 10 and 11.
- Six-day guided retreat facilitator Jill McLoughlin rsj, Josephite Retreat Centre, Whanganui. Registration pam. hopper@sojs.prg.au or ph (06) 345-5047 extn 3.

#### Monday 4-Sunday 10 September

Child Safeguarding Week – see p 4.

#### Saturday 9-Sunday 10 September

65th jubilee – St James' Catholic School, Palmerston North invites all past and present students, staff, families, and supporters. \$10 registration, no charge to current school families. Register at office@stjamescatholic.school.nz, more information at: pndiocese.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/SJS2.jpg

#### Sunday 11-Sunday 18 September

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori | Māori Language Week – celebrating Māori language and culture: Kia kaha te reo Māori.

#### Saturday 23 September

Creative card making – Julia Martin, 10am–12.30pm and 1.30pm–3.30pm, \$10 per session, Josephite Retreat Centre, Whanganui. Registration *pam.hopper@sojs.prg.* au or ph (06) 345-5047 extn 3.

#### Sunday 1 October

Venerable Suzanne Aubertcelebration day in Catholic churches throughout New Zealand: suzanneaubert.co.nz/venerablesuzanne-aubert-celebration-day-

Friday 13-Sunday 14 October Centenary – St Anthony's Catholic School, Seatoun, invites past and present students, staff, families and supporters. Register online: tinyurl.com/St-Anthony-Seatoun-Centenary or St Anthony's School Centenary Facebook Page. More information and book tickets and tables at trybooking.co.nz/OUW or centenary@stants.school.nz or contact Julie O'Brien on 021 377 192.

#### Saturday 14-Sunday 15 October

125th jubilee weekend – St Joseph's Catholic Church, Dannevirke, 125 years of parish celebrated throughout 2023. Jubilee Mass and luncheon Saturday 14, and Mass Sunday 15. Past and present parishioners, families, and supporters invited. Please register interest at *stjodvke@xtra.co.nz* by 10 September.

# 'Let Justice and Peace Flow'

The Archdiocese of Wellington's Ecology Justice and Peace Commission's Integral Committee has created resources to support parishes celebrate the Season of Creation. Resources and events updates: wn.catholic.org. nz/adw\_community/season-of-creation-2023/

The National Liturgy Office resources and links to liturgical elements for the World Day of Prayer for Creation, 1 September, and the Season of Creation: News and Events at *nlo.org.nz* 

The Holy See and the Stockholm Environment Institute joint initiative: 'A guide to caring for our living planet': sei.org/publications/ ourcommonhome

The official Season of Creation global website has resources and online events: SeasonofCreation.org



Become a member of the Integral Ecology Committee in your diocese

People with knowledge and expertise about the environment are invited to become members of the Integral Ecology
Committee. In Wellington it's part of the archdiocese Ecology
Justice and Peace Commission.
Activities include supporting parish formation on Laudato si', responding to government climatechange proposals, organising
Season of Creation events.
Contact Deirdre Meskill
d.meskill@wn.catholic.org.nz

For the Diocese of Palmerston North contact Nick Wilson nwilson@pndiocese.org.nz Season of Creation events

#### September

- 1: Global opening prayer service join online prayer service in celebration of caring for creation: SeasonofCreation.org
- 2: Stations of the Cross for Care of Creation, St Thomas More Church, Wilton, 7pm, all welcome: office@otariparish.co.nz
- 10: Kaitiaki at Ōtari, Ōtari Wilton Bush – 2pm, join Church communities on reflective walk, starting Cockayne Lawn, next to Ōtari School. Bring kai for afternoon tea: office@otariparish.co.nz
- 24: Ecumenical prayer walk –
  Te Awa Kairangi | Hutt River from
  Harcourt Park, Upper Hutt to
  Petone foreshore. Walk all or section
  of trail. All welcome. Pre-walk talk,
  1pm-3pm, Sunday 10 September,
  Lower Hutt, guest speakers will
  talk about their work on river
  protection and restoration.
  Facebook: Te Awa Kairangi Prayer
  Walk (public group) or email
  Martin de Jong:
  kesyoung@gmail.com
- **30:** Together Gathering of the People of God Taizé ecumenical prayer vigil in Rome in presence of Pope Francis and representatives of different Churches: *together2023.net*

#### October

- 1: Season of Creation Miha, Home of Compassion, 11am all invited in bringing together kaupapa of ecology, justice and peace and Celebration Sunday for Suzanne Aubert Meri Höhepa: wn.catholic. org.nz/adw\_community/season-of-creation-2023/
- 4: St Francis Feast Day inspiration and guide for protecting creation, and last day in Season of Creation. Global online event for faithful prepared by Season of Creation Ecumenical Youth Committee to celebrate month-long journey: SeasonofCreation.org and social media.

# Archdiocese to participate in Church Life Survey

The Archdiocese of Wellington will be taking part in the New Zealand Church Life Survey (CLS) 2023 from 9 to 26 September.

CLS is a national ecumenical survey being adopted for the first time by all New Zealand Catholic dioceses.

Earlier this year the New Zealand Catholic bishops decided the CLS will take place across the country in 2023. Up until this year only the Auckland Catholic diocese had participated.

The survey is administered separately by each diocese, with the CLS organisation. The Diocese of Palmerston North parishes carried out their survey in June.

This ecumenical initiative enables parishioners to offer

feedback and contribute to data related to the local and national Church.

Data collected will provide a parish with a snapshot of who they are, informing priorities and helping with decision-making.

The survey is complementary to the synodal process, contributing to understanding of who we are as a parish, diocese, and at national level.

The CLS covers topics such as demographics, growth in faith, commitment to each parish's vision and community, and relationship to society, reaching out to others, caring for young people, and attitudes towards leadership.

The survey is easy to use, and parishioners can take part digitally, or by using pen and paper. Each parish will receive a unique code for security. Information will be available at parishes.

It is expected that parishes will make the results available to their communities once the survey is completed.

The 2023 Church Life Survey NZ is administered by the Christian Research Association of New Zealand, in partnership with the Wilberforce Foundation and Auckland Church Network. The aim is to strengthen and support the Christian Church across New Zealand by equipping leaders with high-quality research and data.

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#### **Church dates September**

5: St Teresa of Kolkata – feast

8: Birth of Mary – feast 9: St Peter Claver – memorial

14: Triumph of the Cross – feast 15: Our Lady of Sorrows – feast

15: Our Lady of Sorrows – f27: St Vincent de Paul –

memorial **29:** Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels – feast





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Ngā Kōrero | Features 20 MAHURU 2023 NAUMAI



# World Youth Day 2023 - Lisbon, Portugal

'Mary arose and went with haste' (Luke 1:39) - theme for WYD 2023

The 37th World Youth Day Catholic festival in Lisbon, Portugal, 1-6 August 2023, got underway with Mass celebrated by Cardinal Manuele Clemente, Patriarch of Lisbon. The openair Mass in Eduardo VII Park provided hundreds of thousands of young people from all over the world their first opportunity to share their faith journey. Pope Francis arrived in Portugal on 2 August to attend WYD for five-days. Thousands lined the streets to greet Pope Francis with a raucous welcome as he made his way to the WYD welcoming ceremony in Lisbon, on 3 August.



Pope Francis waves as he arrives to lead the Way of the Cross during World Youth Day at Eduardo VII Park in Lisbon.

Photo: Bob Roller/OSV News

# 'Don't be afraid to change the world'

An estimated 1.5 million young people gathered in Lisbon's Tejo Park in temperatures reaching 40 degrees to celebrate the World Youth Day Vigil and Mass with Pope Francis.

At the huge gathering on 5–6 August, Pope Francis told the passionate young pilgrims not to let their 'great dreams' of changing the world be 'stopped by fear'.

Speaking to the hushed crowd, he said: 'Let's all repeat this phrase in our hearts: "Don't be afraid. Jesus knows the hearts of each one of you, the successes and the failures, he knows your hearts,' Pope Francis said. 'And today he tells you, here in Lisbon for this World Youth Day: "Don't be afraid"."

Reflecting on the Gospel of the day, Pope Francis called on young people to shine, to listen, and to be unafraid. The Gospel reading recounted the event of the Transfiguration, where Jesus appeared to His three closest disciples with His face shining like the sun and His clothes gleaming white, precisely in order to prepare his disciples for the dark hours they would face at Gethsemane and

'We, too, need light, a burst of light that is hope to face so much darkness that assails us in life,' the Pope said. That light, he explained, 'is Jesus, because He is the light that does not go out, the light that shines even in the night.' It is Jesus, he said, 'that enlightens our eyes, enlightens our heart, enlightens our mind, enlightens our desire to do something in life, always with the light of the Lord.'

At the same time, he warned that 'we do not become luminous when we focus the spotlight on ourselves.' Instead, 'We become luminous, we shine, when, welcoming Jesus,

we learn to love like Him. To love like Jesus: that makes us luminous, that leads us to do works of love.'

#### Listen to Him

Continuing reflection his the Transfiguration, Pope Francis noted the words of God the Father to the Apostles, commanding them to listen to His beloved Son. 'It's all here,' the Pope said, 'all that is to be done in life: Listen to Him. Listen to Jesus, every secret is there.'

He explained if someone is unsure about what God is saying to them, they can read the Gospels to hear what Jesus says and listen to what He says in their hearts. 'For He has words of eternal life for us. He reveals that God is the Father, and He is love. He teaches us the path to love.'

Finally, the Holy Father reminded his youthful listeners of the last words of Jesus to his disciples during the Transfiguration: 'Get up, and do not be afraid!'

The Pope acknowledged the fears of young people, who 'have great dreams' but fear they might not come true, who may be tempted by pessimism or discouragement, or who feel that their efforts are not enough. But he encouraged them, saying it is good for them to want to change the world, to fight for justice and peace. The world needs you, he said, 'like the earth needs rain'.

#### He knows us

He assured them that Jesus Himself is looking out on them: 'What is more, I tell you something very beautiful: It is no longer me, it is Jesus Himself who is looking at you, at

this moment. He is looking at us. He knows you, He knows the heart of each one of you, He knows the life of each one of you. He knows your joys, He knows your sorrows, your successes, and your failures. He knows your hearts, and He says to you today, here, in Lisbon, at this World Youth Day, "Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. Take heart, do not be afraid."

At the end of Mass, the Pope announced the next World Youth Day would take place in 2027 in Seoul. He also invited young people to travel to Rome for a youth celebration during the Holy Year 2025.

Speaking after the Mass, the 86-year-old Francis urged the young people to take the fraternal experiences of the six-day jamboree back home and apply them to their daily lives.

'Dear friends, allow me, this old man, to share with you young people a dream that I carry within me: it is the dream of peace, the dream of young people praying for peace, living in peace and building a peaceful future, Francis said.

'As you return home, please continue to pray for peace. What is more, you are a sign of peace for the world, showing how different nationalities, languages and histories can unite instead of divide. You are the hope of a different world,' he said.

Sources: Vatican News, CNA News

More than 100 young pilgrims from Aotearoa travelled to Portugal on a 21-day journey of a lifetime. The group included over 30 young travellers from the dioceses of Wellington and Palmerston North. Supported by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Council for Young People, they visited spiritual sites and monasteries in France before arriving in Portugal for World Youth Day 2023.



Rain Forest, youth minister from Whanganui: 'Attending WYD was an incredible experience, which has already impacted my faith. A highlight was hearing from Pope Francis about hope, God's love for us, the missionary nature of joy, and to follow in the example of Mary to arise and go with haste to share the message of love with others.'



Miriama Allen from Wellington: 'WYD 2023 was a vibrant gathering that brought together thousands of young people from across the globe in a spirit of unity, celebration and a unique platform for cultural exchange, religious exploration and personal growth. A highlight was welcoming Papa Francisco and seeing the thousands of haka Tika Tonu in Pampilhosa and in Lisbon. people share the one common love of The Lord.'



The Aotearoa pilgrimage included 'Days in the Dioceses', where the visitors were invited to experience the Church in Portugal and meet with people from the 17 dioceses across Portugal. Our pilgrims visited Pampilhosa Da Serra, Janeiro de Baixo, Fajão and Coimbra and performed the

Photos: Supplied

# Young people lead World Youth Day Wellington event

About 200 young people gathered at Bishop Viard College, Porirua, for the archdiocese's World Youth Day event on 6 August. They came from parishes, colleges, and chaplaincies across Wellington to celebrate faith and reflect on Pope Francis' WYD message.

Tuākana Youth Ministers - Nia Foliaki, Timothy Ale, Sofia Mendoza and Nick Meli - led the day's events and Fr Alfred Tong celebrated Mass. Representatives from chaplaincies and communities spoke in their first language for the Readings and Prayers of the Faithful. The Samoan Chaplaincy Youth took on roles at Mass, including the Enthronement of the Bible.

'It was important for our WYD event to reflect the many communities in our archdiocese, and to connect to the celebrations

in Portugal bringing people from all around the world together,' Nia said.

Workshops explored WYD themes including the main session: 'Mary Arose in Haste' about navigating life and faith journeys as young people. Archbishop Paul Martin sm joined this session with his own story and concluded with a guided meditation prayer.

Artists and musicians Timothy Ale

and Nick Meli created spaces for people to celebrate their faith in creative ways, with an art table for prayer intentions and other inspirations. They facilitated music performances by groups from St Pius X Titahi Bay, St Joseph's Levin, St Patrick's Wainuiomata, St Michael's Taita, Holy Trinity Parish and Wellington South Parish.