





MelCom

OCTOBER 2023 ISSUE 417



Nau*Mai*

A newspaper for the Wellington and Palmerston North Catholic Dioceses

www.welcom.org.nz





"Show us your light and your truth" - From Psalm 43

The episcopal ordination of the most Reverend John Adams took place on 30 September 2023, by Stephen Lowe (bishop of Auckland) as Principal consecrator and Owen Dolan coadjutor bishop of Palmerston North (1995–2004) and Peter Cullinane, first bishop of Palmerston North (1980–2012) as Principal co-consecrators.

>> Huge gathering for Bishop John's ordination, pp 10 and 11

Standing together on the altar of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit are the three Bishops of Palmerston North – Bishop Emeritus Peter Cullinane, newly ordained Bishop John Adams, and Coadjutor Bishop Emeritus Owen Dolan.

Photo: Brendan Lodge

Catholic bishops urge politicians to focus on real issues, not trivia

New Zealand's Catholic bishops want the politicians elected on 14 October to focus on issues that matter instead of the trivia and scandals that dominate public debate.

The 2023 New Zealand general election will be held on 14 October 2023 to determine the composition of the 54th Parliament of New Zealand.

Writing in their Election Statement for the 2023 general election, the bishops say more and more people are becoming disillusioned and feel disenfranchised because serious issues are treated as political footballs.

'We are concerned with the growing trivialisation of politics, with the focus of politicians and media being on mistakes, misdemeanours or scandals of individual parliamentarians instead of being on the scandals of poverty, mental health, and the diminishment of the sanctity and dignity of life,' the bishops say in their statement.

The statement is being distributed around the county's 470,000 Catholics in six dioceses and 194 parishes and is on the bishops' website *catholic.org.nz*

'We are concerned so many of the issues affecting all of us are treated as political

footballs. Successive election-season promises and the changing of policies in line with the agenda of each new government are not working.

'More and more people in our land are becoming disillusioned and feel disenfranchised. Our hope is the politicians who will form the Government. which voters elect on 14 October, will focus on the issues that beset us as a nation and work together across party lines to make real progress in finding genuine, lasting solutions.'

"New Zealand bishops urge Catholics to be informed and to look seriously at the policies of each party and the position of each individual candidate."

While writing their statement, the bishops discussed the rising levels of poverty and mental health, the lack of housing in the various dioceses, and the storms earlier this year.

'We lamented the growing indifference to the sanctity of life. We affirmed our commitment for Te Tiriti o Waitangi as offering us a pathway of unity for our nation. And we talked about the rapidly growing toxicity in our communities that is dividing us and that generates anger, hate and even violence. These are but some of the many issues we face.'

Citing Jesus' command to love your neighbour as yourself, the bishops acknowledge it can be difficult to find a party or candidates that subscribe to all that followers of Christ do. They urge Catholics to be informed and to look seriously at the policies of each party and the position of each individual candidate.

'At times we cannot find parties or candidates who subscribe to all we believe. When this happens, we make choices, informed by our conscience guided by the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, for the party or candidate which will bring forth the most common good, especially for the poor and vulnerable, and at the same time whose policies will bring forth the least moral harm.'

- >> The Catholic Bishops' 2023 Election Statement, p 14
- >> Safeguarding the common good, p 15



The Catholic bishops' 2023 election statement urges the politicians elected on 14 October to focus on issues that matter instead of the trivia and scandals that dominate public debate.

2 WHIRINGA-Ā-NUKU 2023 NAUMAI He Tirohanga | Insights

From the editor

Annette Scullion

Tēnā koutou

There was huge excitement and elation for the people of the Diocese of Palmerston North and wider New Zealand as the long wait for their new bishop came to an end on Saturday 30 September. At a huge gathering at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, The Most Reverend John Lewis Adams of Christchurch, was ordained the Third Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North.

Our warmest congratulations and supporting prayers to Bishop John on this new chapter for the Diocese of Palmerston North. We bring coverage of this wonderful occasion on our front page and a feature on pp 10 and 11.

WelCom also had the opportunity to interview Bishop John in depth about his life and journey towards becoming a priest and now a bishop. Bishop John has been warm and generous in sharing his story, featured on pp 10 and 11.

On this page is the first of Bishop John's columns for Wel*Com* as Bishop of Palmerston North. Bishop John and Archbishop Paul Martin sm, will alternate writing these monthly columns.

We are very pleased and proud to share the news that WelCom won an award at the 2023 annual Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA) conference and awards, held in Perth last month. The award was for Best Layout and Design for a Printed Publication – encompassing printed Catholic media across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

The judges' comments encapsulate the philosophy and mission of WelCom and what we aim to achieve each month, see p 3.

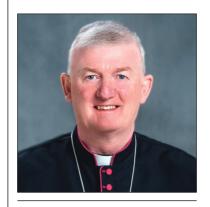
Our thanks to all who contribute to WelCom including our designers, writers, photographers, advertisers and readers to help earn the accolade we have been awarded.

The achievement coincides with this October edition of WelCom being my 100th production of this newspaper as its editor.

Please enjoy reading the articles and stories in this edition and continue to share your news with us.

Ngā mihi

'The Catholic Church continues to be a tremendous force for good in the world'



Bishop John Adams Bishop of Palmerston North Diocese

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I have a little litmus test when I meet someone who wishes to discuss the Catholic Church. I tend to start off by saying something like, 'I believe the Roman Catholic Church, has been, is now, and will continue to be a tremendous force for good in the world.' I then look and listen carefully for their response. My experience too often is that even those who profess a strong Catholic faith baulk at this statement – it appears to be too bold a statement.

I welcome this opportunity to contribute on a regular basis to this Catholic news publication, and my aim is to, over time, defend my love for the Church. I have given my whole life to her, I love her very much, and as you know have recently been ordained as one of her bishops. The following formed the basis of my recent first homily in the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Palmerston North. It has been based on a recent article from the US magazine First Things by John Duggan [free-lance writer, based in Surrey, England].

In the great capital city of Ireland, Dublin, all is not well. Almost unbelievably there has been a recent travel advisory from the American Government warning its citizens about Dublin. It gave the advice that American citizens should avoid going out at night or walking through the city alone. The advisory comes as a result of recent instances of tourists being violently attacked and, in some cases, suffering life threatening injuries. These attacks are in fact part of a wider trend - all over Ireland rates of assault by groups of young people are on the increase.

Dubliners are shocked by this and lament the decline of their international image as a people of an easy and gentle demeanour. In the Irish media, the tone surrounding this discussion shifts between the uncompromising 'Failure to address crime is handing control of our streets to thugs and louts' to the personal 'I am proud to be an Irish citizen, but Dublin is an embarrassment' and the more cerebral 'O'Connell Street represents a spectacular failure of what our Republic should be'. Residents of the housing complex near the most recent assault are reportedly afraid to come out of their apartments at night.

The political response has been predictable. At the top, government leaders are walking the line between acknowledging that something may

be very wrong while, understandably, stressing the need for perspective. Lower down the chain at local-body level the response has been more bullish: The Lord Mayor of Dublin is reportedly developing plans for 'a city of kindness'. The debate as a whole seems to be oscillating between, on the one hand, appeals for greater police presence on the streets and harsher enforcement of the law; and, on the other, calls for more investment in drug-treatment programmes and diversionary activities for young people.

I'm sure every Catholic person is aware the Catholic Church has far more to offer than simply a role as a moral policeman. No, once again, we are concerned with the issue of personal conversion and our interior disposition, a disposition that naturally orientates us towards the good. The Church teaches us further that there are goods beyond our individual appetites and these are articulated for us by the Church. Our natural desire for the good, whilst written on every human heart, requires us to also regularly make an

"Our natural desire for the good, whilst written on every human heart, requires us to also regularly make an act of our will to bring our search for the good, into the light."

This is not an attempt by me as a new bishop to score easy points by moralising, for surely the Church is at her worst here, but I do want to propose to you that this malaise has its roots at a deeper level than any of the aforementioned commentators have mentioned. In the end I think we are able to say these problems, in Dublin, or indeed here in New Zealand, are not likely to be remedied by political slogans or external fixes. No, something else is going on here – and it's at an interior level. You see, in the end, people are governed by a firm, inherited sense of right and wrong. And if that's the case, there is a question: where does a person find their moral compass, and better still, have this nourished?

Back to Dublin where various social commentators are voicing their views. Irish poet Theo Dorgan noted that the presence act of our will to bring our search for the good, into the light. Failing to do this we run the risk of this desire becoming permanently buried, as evidenced by the perpetrators of wanton violence.

I want to finish with the insight of a German man called Ernst-Wolfgang Böckenförde. He was a German constitutional theorist, a high-court judge, and a practising Catholic. Back in the sixties, he described a critical paradox at the heart of modern Western democracies: He said this: 'The liberal, secularised state lives by prerequisites which it cannot guarantee itself. This is the great adventure it has undertaken for freedom's sake.... As a liberal state it can endure only if the freedom it bestows on its citizens takes some regulation from the (human) interior, both from a moral



Statue of Our Lady at The Vee, Waterford, Ireland.

of the Catholic Church in Irish institutions and social mores was now 'smoke in a gale, dust in the wind'. However, there was a danger that with Catholicism would go 'the foundational ideals of justice, charity, compassion and mercy. We can already see the damage done in our country's short-lived flirtation...' with post-Christian society he comments. The people of Ireland, Dorgan concludes, 'would do well to begin thinking clearly, and very soon, about what we will choose for the moral foundations of a post-Catholic Ireland.

Sally Rooney the 32-year-old bright star of the Irish literary scene wrote recently, 'It seems to me that... free-market ideology has replaced Catholic ideology...but what has replaced the values we had on community, family and things like that? The free market has nothing to say about, no concern for, and in fact has even open hostility towards these things. To me, it doesn't seem like straightforward progress. We got rid of the Catholic Church and replaced it with predatory capitalism...'.

substance of the individuals, and a certain collective of society at large. On the other hand, it cannot by itself procure these interior forces....'

The liberal Irish state, and surely indeed our own country of New Zealand, may find itself, as Böckenförde would have it, more and more stripped of certain moral prerequisites among the population. Yet the state is at a loss to secure these prerequisites in any reliable way. Liberal states cannot instil moral force among their diverse, autonomous citizens; they must instead, in the words of Pope Benedict XVI, 'presuppose it and construct upon it.'

Roman Catholicism, as it has done for 2000 years, has a critical role to play in orientating society towards the good. She has this mission because her founder, Jesus, knew that mere proclamation of virtue would never suffice unless it was accompanied by a deep and ongoing conversion to Christ.

+ John Adams

WelCom

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 ${\it Editor: Annette Scullion.} \textbf{welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz}$

 $Advertising: Ph: O274\,800\,209. \textbf{welcomadvertisements@gmail.com}$

Catholic Centre, 22-30 Hill Street, PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140

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Sending articles to WelCom

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

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

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

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

Deadline for November 2023 issue: Monday, 16 October 2023.

 $\mbox{Wel}{\it Com}$ is published monthly and is available free at parishes and schools in the two dioceses.

Member of Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA).

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



New Zealand bishops publish expanded statement on the importance of respecting all life

New Zealand's Catholic bishops have updated and expanded for the 2020s, an important 1997 document that inspires the active protection and promotion of all life. NZ Catholic Bishops Conference President Stephen Lowe, the Bishop of Auckland, says the revised and expanded version of

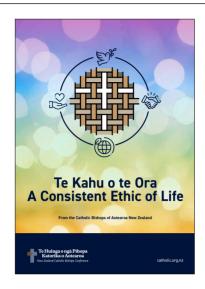
Te Kahu o te Ora - A Consistent Ethic of Life reminds us that all life is a gift of God.

understanding sacredness of all life guides us in making decisions in regard to human life in all its stages, our care for the vulnerable and our care of the Earth, he says.

The document was published on 27 September, as a 56-page booklet, ahead of the annual Catholic Church celebration of Support Life Sunday on the weekend of 7 and 8 October. This year's Support Life Sunday theme - A Consistent Ethic of Life - is taken from the title of the revised document.

Bishop Lowe says the revision of Te Kahu o te Ora is timely: 'While traditional human life issues continue to need our attention, we are now facing many new problems, all interlinked. The key message of Te Kahu o te Ora is that everything is connected, whether it is life in the womb or the life of the Earth.'

Bishop Lowe says Pope Benedict put it well some years ago when he said: 'There are so many kinds of desert. There is the desert of



poverty, the desert of hunger and thirst, the desert of abandonment, of loneliness, of destroyed love. There is the desert of God's darkness, the emptiness of souls no longer aware of their dignity or the goal of human life. The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast.

The original Te Kahu o te Ora was inspired by the concept of a 'consistent ethic of life' developed by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin (2 April 1928 - 14 November 1996) who was Archbishop of Chicago from 1982 until his death. Cardinal Bernardin's work grew from his observation that because all human life is sacred, we must act consistently. It was inconsistent to protect life in some situations but not protect it in others, he said. When life was considered 'cheap' or easily expendable in one area, eventually nothing was held as

The reference to 'kahu' in the title is a rich image in tikanga Māori. Kahu can refer to a cape or garment, but it can also refer to the protective amniotic sac membrane that surrounds the embryo, then fetus, before birth - the first garment that each of us is gifted with in the womb.

Dr John Kleinsman, director of the bishops' Nathaniel Centre for

Bioethics, expressed delight with the document's succinct overview of eight key moral areas, including a new section on information technology and artificial intelligence.

'I can see this becoming an important resource for classrooms, marriage school boards, preparation, parish groups such as Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults; indeed anyone interested in what we Catholics believe and why, Dr Kleinsman said.

Often, people know what the Church teaches on a particular topic, but it can be challenging to have an open informed discussion with other family or friends about why. Te Kahu o te Ora provides a great summary of key points which can give people greater insights into Catholic thinking.'

Dr Kleinsman said a guide to help people use the document as a formation tool was being planned.

Bishop Lowe says the bishops want every Catholic to read Te Kahu o te Ora: 'We are confident The reference to 'Kahu' is a rich image in tikanga Māori. "Bishop Lowe says the bishops want every Catholic to read Te Kahu o te Ora."

that reflecting on the document will foster hope-filled conversations that will lead to attitudinal change and positive action towards a better world in which all life is consistently treasured and protected.'

A PDF copy Te Kahu o te Ora - A Consistent Ethic of Life can be accessed online at: tinyurl.com/ Consistent-Ethic-Life-Booklet

Resources for Support Life Sunday are on the bishops' website at: catholic.org.nz/resources/sls2023/

WelCom wins 2023 Australasian Catholic press award



Some of the 50 Catholic media and communications professionals who gathered in Perth for the 2023 Australasian Catholic Press Association Conference, Mass and Awards, with Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe sdb (centre), Vicar General Fr Peter Whitely (right) and Ballajura Parish Priest and ACPA member, Fr John Jegorow. Photo: Supplied

WelCom won the award for Best Layout and Design for a Printed Publication at the 2023 Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA) conference and awards, held in Perth last month.

The awards, held annually, recognise excellence in Catholic media across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

In their comments WelCom the judges stated: 'Very clear contemporary design with a great mix of images, text and advertising. This is how a print publication should be. designers have done a great job in drawing the reader in and helping

them to be at peace with wanting to read more. This what we should be doing - it is evangelising!'

ACPA comprises professionals working in print and digital Catholic publications, media and communications in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. There are over 100 members.

The Awards Night followed a two-day conference with more than 50 Catholic media and communications professionals from diocesan communications and publications across Australasia.

The Awards, held at The Westin in Perth, 7 September, were presented by ACPA President Neil Helmore and Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe sdb.

Several New Zealanders received awards including:

Annette Scullion, editor, WelCom, Wellington and Palmerston North - Winner Best Layout and Design. [Annette was also elected ACPA Vice President (NZ) at the AGM ahead of the conference.]

Tui Motu InterIslands Magazine, Dunedin - Winner Best Front Page (editor Ann Gilroy rsj).

Geremy Hema, Tui Motu, Dunedin - Winner Best Content Ecumenical and Interfaith.

Michael Otto, editor NZ Catholic, Auckland - Highly Commended Best Editorial Column/Blog.

Rose, designer, NZ Auckland Highly Commended Best Layout and Design, Print.

Lisa Beech, The Nathaniel Report, Wellington - Winner, Best Content; Faith Formation.

The Bishop Kennedy Award for Overall Excellence went to Archdiocese of Hobart's publication, The Catholic Standard.

ACBC Communications Director Gavin Abraham, NZ Catholic Editor Michael Otto and Jesuit priest Fr Andrew Hamilton sj were awarded Life Memberships.

This year's conference was built on the theme 'Speaking with the Heart: The Truth in Love (Ephesians 4:15)', from Pope Francis' 2023 World Communications message.

Francis' message encourages Catholic media professionals to communicate with an 'open heart and arms'.

WelCom is the official monthly Catholic newspaper for the Archdiocese of Wellington and the Diocese of Palmerston North on behalf of the two bishops.



St Patrick's College Wellington

New Zealand's oldest Catholic boys' college

Congratulations also to the following students who were awarded Scholarships for Year 9, 2024:

Academic Excellence Entrance Scholarships - David de Bruin from Newlands Intermediate and Jack McDougall from St Benedict's School, Khandallah.

St Patrick's College Senior Prizegiving will be held on Thursday 26 October at 7.30pm in the O'Shea Performing Arts Centre, and the Leavers Mass will be held on Monday 30 October at 10.30am.

Sectare Fidem - Hold firm to the Faith



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Ngā Pitopito Kōrero | News

Support still needed post-cyclone

Michael Fitzsimons

In the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, St Vincent de Paul in Taradale has been busy on the ground, helping the community and families in desperate need.

In mid-February Cyclone Gabrielle struck Hawke's Bay causing huge devastation to the region. Many land-based businesses and households were severely affected and people have struggled to get back on their feet.

In the months since the cyclone hit, St Mary's Conference in Taradale has been very proactive. Funds were provided from the St Vincent de Paul National Office for their work with cyclone-affected families.

An August report on the Conference's activities notes: 'Since March we have visited 59 families and gifted \$98,500 to them. We have heard about people in need by word of mouth, neighbour to neighbour,

through friends and families of those we meet.'

The Conference reports the issue now is not survival from flood waters and silt but people finding the resilience to pick up their lives and continue.

'Stress is very high in the communities, especially among the men. Their whole meaning and purpose for living has been wiped away. They have been busy with orchard and farm work all their lives and now there is nothing but debt, debris, loss – their lovely homes gone, vintage cars, some restored lovingly over the years, all gone and many of these people in their seventies. How do you find hope?'

In their visits the Vinnies have brought compassion and a readiness to listen, as well as funds.

'Our visits involve just sitting and listening, giving hugs which even these weather-hardened men relish – one man said I've learned how great hugs can be! We offer some funds for them to spend on themselves as they wish, and get some time away from the devastation. All those given funds send an email when received so we have a good paper trail for accountability.

They assure us it all helps.

'They appreciate knowing they are not forgotten. Again and again they say it really helps to be listened to with compassion. They are very grateful to SVDP and the people of New Zealand for their generosity.

'I've said this before and I continue to say it, we are so privileged to be in this position, it is so humbling.'

Meanwhile the Taradale Conference carries on with its regular work – supporting families, collecting food donations from church continues and delivering food to the Napier Family Centre.



The effects of Cyclone Gabrielle are still being felt many months later.

Photo: Annette Scullion/WelCom

Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge to address New Zealand Catholic priests at Rotorua assembly

Archbishop of Brisbane Mark Coleridge will be one of the speakers at a week-long assembly of 170 Catholic priests to be held in Rotorua in the second week of October.

The National Assembly of Diocesan Priests from 9 to 13 October will be the first such meeting of Catholic parish priests since the one held in Christchurch in 2018.

The assembly will let priests from the country's six dioceses and most of its 200 parishes talk about their work and hear speakers on topical subjects.

Archbishop Coleridge has been Archbishop of Brisbane since 2012. Before that he was Archbishop of Canberra-Goulburn (2006–2012) and an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Melbourne (2002– 2006). He was ordained a priest in Melbourne in 1974. He has sessions with the assembly in Rotorua on both the Tuesday and Wednesday mornings

Organising committee chair Fr Michael Hishon, parish priest of St Peter Chanel parish in Dunedin, notes the importance of holding the assembly in times of constant change.

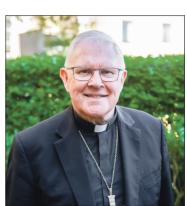
'We are meeting for inspiration as leaders in today's church, to enjoy the reunion of friends, and to have the opportunity of refreshment for one's mental and spiritual wellbeing,' says Fr Hishon.

We hope this gathering will serve to affirm the clergy in the commitment that they have made, to come away feeling renewed in their courage as leaders, and to continue to experience our loving God's constant support and guidance as we strive to serve God's people.'

The new Bishop of Palmerston North, John Adams, will also speak at the assembly. His ordination was on 30 September shortly before the assembly.

Other speakers include Auckland theologian Dr Therese Lautua and Wellington Archdiocese pastoral ministry adviser Lucienne Hensel, whose topic is 'Being called forth in synodality'. Rebecca Taylor-Hunt, Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre, will talk about the reimagining of the CEC currently taking place under her leadership.

James van Schie, General Manager of the Auckland Diocese, and his wife Hannah will talk about their faith practice and life as a Catholic couple.



Archbishop of Brisbane Mark
Coleridge will address New
Zealand Catholic priests at a
week-long assembly in Rotorua
this month.
Photo: Supplied

The assembly is being held in the Novotel Rotorua Lakeside Hotel.

Faithful worldwide invited to pray for Synod

In the lead-up to the start of the Synod of Bishops on 4 October, the Vatican has asked all baptised people to participate in October's assembly of the Synod of Bishops with their prayers.

In a letter issued 15 September, Synod secretary-general Cardinal Mario Grech asked the world's bishops 'to pray for the Synod and to urge every Christian community in your particular church, especially monastic communities, toward unanimous and incessant prayer'.

Grech wrote, 'To pray for the synodal assembly, to intercede for all of its members, firstly the Holy Father who so often asks us to pray for him, is to realise the highest level of participation.'

The cardinal identified four modes of prayer for people to join themselves to the synod: listening, adoration, intercession and thanksgiving.

Archbishop Paul Martin sm along with New Zealand's other bishops received the letter from the Secretary General of the Synod Office with prayers and blessings to be prayed in the weeks before and during the Synod in Rome, giving everyone the opportunity to participate. Parishes and groups in the dioceses have received information to encourage everyone's prayerful participation.

>> 'What you need to know about the Synod on Synodality', p 16.

Wellington Sexual Abuse HELP

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

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

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

Male Survivors Wellington

The Road Forward Tāne Whai Ora

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

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

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

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 Pre Arranged
- No charge to set up Pre Arranged funerals or Pre Paid funerals



Ngā Kōrero | Feature WELCOM OCTOBER 2023 5

New stewardship for Catholic Enquiry Centre

The Catholic Enquiry Centre is the New Zealand Catholic bishops' agency for evangelisation. The CEC has provided information and support to enquirers into Catholic faith for over 60 years. **Rebecca Taylor-Hunt** became its new director in January this year and reflects on her first few months into the job.

They say you should never redecorate your house within the first year of moving in. You have to figure out where the light hits before you can choose what colour to paint the walls. It's a little like that when you begin a new job, especially when you find yourself at the helm of the deeply loved organisation within the Catholic community of Aotearoa New Zealand.

My first six months as the Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre were spent absorbing the culture of working for the Church, and learning about the special role the CEC has nationally. I explored what evangelisation looks like today and thought deeply about who we are trying to reach.

"We are speaking to people who are hesitating at the threshold of Catholicism and encouraging them to take the next step."

This time was important as it would impact how we go about our work, the presentation of our website, and our resources, for years to come. I met with a lot of people around the country who have been working in this field for years, garnering thoughts and opinions. I visited with our advisory committee, and I especially enjoyed a coffee with Fr Allen Jones who had been the CEC director for ten years. He had a wealth of wisdom to impart. I also attended Mass most days and

prayed for guidance.

Changes were inevitable, and a few felt urgent. For example, a frustration when I started the role was how to juggle two names. Are we The Catholic Enquiry Centre or are we Catholic Discovery? Catholic Discovery had been set up as a digital identity for wider appeal online. However, people were quite vocal about their confusion regarding the two identities.

Hopefully, I have found a solution in our new logo and branding, which simply incorporates two already recognisable images into one. Catholic Discovery NZ remains the name of our website

Catholic Enquiry Centre
Tühuratanga Katorika

Catholicdiscovery.nz

With its new logo, Catholic Enquiry Centre – Tühuratanga Katorika, has produced new posters, bookmarks and leaflets, utilising the theme of 'Mā te Waharoa', or 'Through the Door'. and our TikTok account, as they potentially have an international reach. However, the name of the organisation is very much The Catholic Enquiry Centre, as this name holds mana in New Zealand. This is also the name of our Facebook and Instagram accounts, so that people can see the work we do more clearly and know who to ask for support.

"In the months ahead, I want to visit as many parishes around the country as possible to raise awareness of our work."

With the new logo, we have produced new posters, bookmarks and leaflets, utilising the theme of 'Mā te Waharoa', or 'Through the Door'. Waharoa is the entranceway to a marae, so the space you enter beyond is sacred; this isn't just any door. We are speaking to people who are hesitating at the threshold of Catholicism and encouraging them to take the next step. A new section of the website shares this purpose.

The most important aspects of the Catholic Enquiry Centre have not changed, nor should they. Among the many questions people have, I receive all sorts of enquiries from individuals across the land who want to join the Catholic Church, and a significant part of my role is helping them through the threshold and into Church. This is a privilege, an honour, and a



Rebecca Taylor-Hunt, Director, Catholic Enquiry Centre – Tühuratanga Katorika: 'I receive all sorts of enquiries from individuals who want to join the Catholic Church, and a significant part of my role is helping them through the threshold and into Church.' Photo: Supplied

joyous aspect of our ministry.

We still send out many boxsets of our legendary What Catholics Believe booklets. They remain popular and are a free resource to enquirers. If you would like a set, please contact us and we can send them to you. In the months ahead, I want to expand our reach on social media, continue to develop the website, and visit as many parishes around the country as possible to raise awareness of our work.

I remain slightly dazed that I landed this incredible job. I am grateful that all the random skills and pockets of experience I have accumulated over the years are

566 3103 anytime

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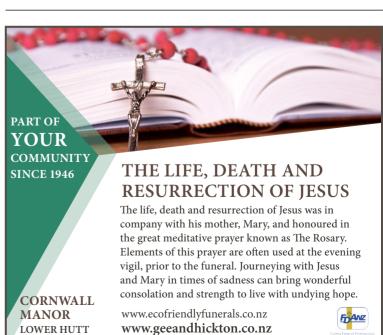
UPPER HUTT

finally being put to good use and that I can serve the Church in such a unique and interesting way.

To find out more about the Catholic Enquiry Centre, visit our website *catholicdiscovery.nz* or call us on (04) 385-8518. We are on Facebook and Instagram as Catholic Enquiry NZ, and on TikTok as Catholic Discovery NZ. Please – Like, Follow and Share!

Rebecca Taylor-Hunt, originally from the UK, has lived in New Zealand for 18 years. She now resides in Lower Hutt with her husband and their three teenage daughters.





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'Voice' issues moral, not just political

Australia's Catholic bishops say the issues surrounding the proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice referendum 'are not just political', but are also 'moral and ethical'.

The 2023 Australian Indigenous Voice referendum, which will be held on 14 October 2023, will give voters the opportunity to enshrine a First People's Voice in the Australian Constitution. This would give indigenous communities a means to inform policy and legal decisions that impact their lives.

In their statement, Towards the Referendum, the bishops encourage Australians to educate themselves and to listen to others' hopes and fears.

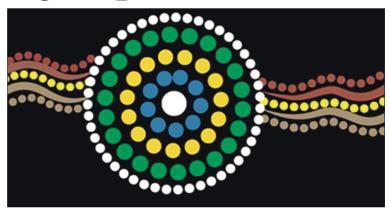
As with statements the bishops made earlier this year, there is no advice on whether people should vote Yes or No on the referendum. The bishops instead call for people to consider and seek to understand the country's past, present and future.

'We need to see the truth of what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have suffered and the disadvantage many experience to this day. Justice demands that we seek to rectify this disadvantage, the bishops write.

'We urge all Australians to listen to the hopes and fears of each other. We urge people to act in a way that commits to redressing disadvantage suffered by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and will allow them to reach their potential, thus promoting reconciliation for the good not just of some, but of the whole nation?

In May, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference issued a statement on the Voice, calling for the debate to be conducted civilly and respectfully. They acknowledged that Australians have differing views on the referendum and the expected outcomes were it to succeed.

The bishops' 2023-24 Social



An image from the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement.

Statement, published in August, called for a 'new engagement' with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, 'an engagement which involves a commitment to listen to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sisters and brothers and to learn from them'.

Recent research by National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC), found that the Voice referendum sits on a knife's edge with 56 per cent definitely or likely to vote yes, and 44 per cent definitely or likely to vote no, with age as the biggest differentiating factor.

Source: CathNews Australia; Roy Morgan

Online survey

Roy Morgan Update September 26, 2023: The Voice, Federal Vote & Consumer Confidence

The results of the latest Roy Morgan online survey of Australians reported that 39 per cent said they'd vote 'Yes' down 7 per cent since late May.

Now more Australians, say they'll vote 'No' than 'Yes' (44 per cent to 39 per cent). Seventeen per cent are still 'Undecided'.

Roy Morgan's survey shows only one State, Tasmania, now has a majority in support of 'The Voice' at 56 per cent.

More Victorians say 'Yes' than 'No' (46 per cent cf. 42 per cent).

In every other State the 'No's' outweigh the 'Yes's'.

Civilisation 'at a crossroads', warns Pope

Amid rising tensions among European leaders over to respond to a new influx of migrants, Pope Francis arrived in the French port city of Marseille on 22 September 2023, warning that civilisation is at a crossroads. We must choose between the 'fanaticism of indifference' or solidarity with those seeking welcome on new shores, said the Pope.

'On the one hand, there is fraternity, which makes the human community flourish with goodness; on the other, indifference, which bloodies the Mediterranean,' Pope Francis said during a meeting with religious leaders outside a memorial to migrants lost at sea.

'We find ourselves at a crossroads of civilisation,' he cautioned, gazing out from the memorial over the Mediterranean, where more than 27,000



Four children and a young man give Pope Francis gifts while French Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne looks on. Photo: CNS/Vatican Media

migrants have died attempting to reach Europe since 2014.

Migration has been a central issue to Francis' papacy. Despite mobility issues and a preference for avoiding travelling to major European countries, the 86-yearold Pope made a brief overnight

visit to participate in a gathering of Catholic bishops and young people to discuss migration concerns.

'We cannot be resigned to seeing human beings treated as bargaining chips, imprisoned and tortured in atrocious ways,' said the Pope. 'We can no longer watch the drama of shipwrecks, caused by the cruel trafficking and the fanaticism of indifference.'

'People who are at risk of drowning when abandoned on the waves must be rescued,' Francis pleaded. 'It is a duty of humanity; it is a duty of civilisation!'

Over the last year, according to UN data, over 178,500 new arrivals have crossed the Mediterranean seeking refuge in Europe. This year alone, more than 2,500 have died

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Source: Vatican News

planning guide

Laudate Deum'to be title of Pope's Apostolic Exhortation on climate

The title of Pope Francis' next Apostolic Exhortation will be Laudate Deum, the Pope revealed, while addressing participants in a meeting of Latin American university rectors in the Vatican, and as he vehemently warned against a throwaway culture.

The Holy Father shared this on 21 September when addressing some 200 participants in the two-day meeting on the theme 'Organising Hope'.

The Pope reflected on various issues raised by the educators, including climate change, migration and the culture of waste. The Holy Father urged them to be creative in the formation of young people from today's realities and challenges.

In his reflection, the Pope announced the name of his next Apostolic Exhortation - Laudate Deum, to be published on the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, 4 October: 'a look at what has happened and say what needs to be done,' he said.

Source: Vatican News

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Pope's critics risk heresy and schism

The incoming Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has warned that bishops – both progressive and those from traditionalist groups – who think they have a 'special gift of the Holy Spirit to judge the doctrine of the Holy Father' are on a road to 'heresy' and 'schism'.

Speaking in response to a question on accepting Pope Francis' magisterium, Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández said the Pope not only has a duty to guard and preserve the 'static' deposit of faith, but also a second, unique charism, only given to Peter and his successors, which is 'a living and active gift'.

'I do not have this charism, nor do you, nor does Cardinal [Raymond] Burke. Today only Pope Francis has it,' said Cardinal Fernández, who took over from outgoing Spanish prefect Cardinal Luis Ladaria Ferrer in September and was elevated to cardinal at a consistory on 30 September. Cardinal Burke recently wrote the preface of a book that was sharply critical of the upcoming Synod on Synodality and has often expressed concerns about some teaching of this pontificate.



Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, incoming Prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Photo: National Catholic Register/CNA

'Now, if you tell me that some bishops have a special gift of the Holy Spirit to judge the doctrine of the Holy Father, we will enter into a vicious circle (where anyone can claim to have the true doctrine) and that would be heresy and schism,' he said.

The Argentinian cardinal, who reportedly ghost-wrote Francis' 2016 apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* and has contributed to several other major papal documents, addressed several concerns in an interview with the National Catholic Register, namely that pastoral practice is being separated from sound doctrine, the issue of 'modernising' the Church, and his stated openness to same-sex Church blessings.

He said he would not use the term 'modernise' to apply to the Church.

"Modernise" is a category more appropriate to corporations or other institutions; it does not apply to a supernatural reality such as the Church, which has eternal elements. Recent popes have used the word "reform" in the belief that there are aspects of the Church that can change, but always without renouncing a permanent humus (Latin for "soil" or "ground") that goes beyond the passing of time, the different epochs and the superficial aspects of the world.'

Source: National Catholic Register

Letter shows Pope Pius knew about Nazi death camps

Newly discovered correspondence suggests that World War II-era Pope Pius XII had detailed information from a trusted German Jesuit that up to 6000 Jews and Poles were being killed each day in German-occupied Poland.

The discovery undercuts the Holy See's argument that it couldn't verify diplomatic reports of Nazi atrocities to denounce them.

The documentation from the Vatican archives, published in Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, is likely to further fuel the debate about Pius' legacy and his now-stalled beatification campaign.

Historians have long been divided about Pius' record, with supporters insisting he used quiet diplomacy to save Jewish lives while critics say he remained silent as the Holocaust raged.

Corriere reproduced a 1942 letter from the German Jesuit priest to Pius' secretary, which is contained in an upcoming book about the newly opened files of Pius' pontificate by Giovanni Coco, a researcher and archivist in the Vatican's Apostolic Archives.

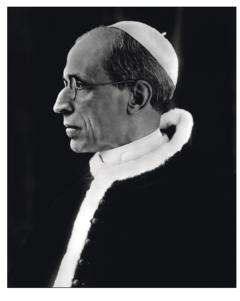
Mr Coco told *Corriere* that the letter was significant because it represented detailed

correspondence about the Nazi extermination of Jews from an informed Church source in Germany who was part of the Catholic anti-Hitler resistance that was able to get otherwise secret information to the Vatican.

The letter from the priest, Fr Lothar Koenig, to Pius' secretary, a fellow German Jesuit named Fr Robert Leiber, is dated 14 December, 1942. It reports that the Nazis were transporting up to 6000 Jews and Poles daily from Rava Ruska, a town in pre-war Poland that is today located in Ukraine, to the Belzec death camp.

Pius' legacy, and the revelations from the newly opened Vatican archives, are to be discussed at a major conference at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University this month.

Source: Sight Magazine, CathNews Australia



Pope Pius XII in the 1940s. Pope Pius XII was head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from 2 March 1939 until his death in October 1958.

Photo: Alamy

Soccer legend Ronaldo baptised



Ronaldo is baptised at São José parish, São Paulo, Brazil. Photo: Instagram/Ronaldo

Brazilian soccer legend Ronaldo Luís Nazario da Lima, nicknamed 'The Phenomenon', has received the sacrament of Baptism.

After the ceremony at São José Parish on São Paulo's west side, Ronaldo, 46, shared his experience on social media, highlighting the importance of the momentous moment in his life: 'Today is a very special day. I was baptised.'

'The Christian faith has always been a fundamental part of my life, since I was little, although I had not yet been baptised. With the sacrament I feel truly regenerated as a child of God, in a new, more conscious and

deeper way, the Brazilian star wrote on his Instagram account on 12 September.

In his message, Ronaldo also renewed his commitment to 'follow the path of good, of my own free will, believing in the love of Jesus, in supportive love.'

In June 2022, he demonstrated his growing closeness to the Catholic faith by fulfilling his promise to make the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage on a bicycle.

Source: The Catholic Leader

Climate change displaces two million children

The humanitarian organisation, Save the Children, has reported close to two million children in sub-Saharan Africa were displaced in their own countries last year due to climate change-related disasters, nearly doubling the number of the previous year.

According to Save the Children, at least 1.85 million children in sub-Saharan Africa were left displaced by climate induced disasters at the end of 2022, compared with one million children left displaced by similar crises in 2021. All of these children were still living away from home by the end of the year, whether they had been uprooted from

their homes numerous times or just once, in camps, with relatives, or in other temporary arrangements – losing ready access to healthcare, education, food and safety, as well as the building blocks for mental and emotional stability and well-being.

This is the highest annual number of new displacements from climate disasters ever reported for the region, reports Save the

'These figures are enough to bring anyone to a standstill and hopefully spur leaders at Africa Climate Week [ACW] to wake up to the experiences of children across the region,

acknowledge the climate crisis is having a disastrous impact on their lives, and act urgently to factor in children's needs and rights into the much-needed response,' said Kijala Shako of Save the Children's East and Southern Africa Regional Office.

ACW 2023 took place 4–8 September in Nairobi, Kenya, alongside the Africa Climate Summit (ACS), for African leaders, to build momentum ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference COP 28 in Dubai, 30 November–12 December 2023.

Source: La Croix International

Mother of two is ICP's new dean of theology

The Institut Catholique of Paris (ICP), the largest French-speaking faculty of theology in the world, has appointed the first-ever layperson to be dean of its famed Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies. Anne-Sophie Vivier-Muresan, a 45-year-old theology professor and mother of two, was elected by her peers to the three-year post.

Historic visit to Mongolia

Last month Pope Francis, aged 86, made the first-ever visit of a pontiff to Mongolia, a country with a tiny Catholic population, sandwiched between Russia and China. The country has just 1,500 Catholics in the entire country. The Pope ended his fiveday mission with a stop to inaugurate the House of Mercy, which provides health care to the most needy in the Mongolian capital as well as to the homeless, victims of domestic abuse and migrants.

Jesuit property confiscated

The Nicaraguan Government has removed the legal status of the Society of Jesus in the country and said it will confiscate its assets. The Government announced that it had cancelled the official registration of the 'Association Society of Jesus' and that its property would pass to the state. The confiscation notice claimed the Jesuits had not provided financial statements for the years 2020–2022 and that its board's term of office had expired, violating transparency laws.

The spokesperson for the Central American Jesuits, Fr José María Tojeira, said the Nicaraguan Jesuits had in fact submitted the required documents but that the ministry had refused to accept them without giving any explanation. Fr Tojeira said that the purpose of the 'Association Society of Jesus' was to hold and transfer funds to support retired Jesuits.

Peace envoy visits China

Italian Cardinal Matteo Zuppi (pictured) has been to China as a papal ambassador to support humanitarian initiatives and search for ways that can lead to a just peace in Ukraine. Following earlier visits to Kyiv, Moscow and Washington, the cardinal went to Beijing on 13–14 September to meet with Chinese government officials. Cardinal Zuppi is the Archbishop of Bologna and President of the Italian Episcopal Conference.



Horrendous injustice

Ecological injustice 'has robbed food from the plates of millions of children in poor countries and snatched water from their thirsty mouths', says Myanmar's Cardinal Charles Maung Bo. Cardinal Bo, president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference, said that 'farmers have lost their seeds and forests have lost their topsoil'. He described poor countries as being 'strangled with an existential crisis'.

The 74-year-old cardinal condemned rich nations who plunder resources from the global south and called it 'horrendous injustice. Never in history have so many millions suffered for the egoistic enjoyment of a few,' he said.

RIP Marguerite Osborne

It was with sadness Deacon Danny Karatea-Goddard of Wellington shared the news that friend to many Marguerite Osborne (Ngāwati) had passed away on Monday 25 September, 2023.

Danny wrote on 26 September: te mareikura, e te

poutokomanawa o te whakapono, e moe ki te Ariki.

Tēnā koutou.

Sharing the sad news of the passing of our good friend Marguerite Osborne who died last night. Marguerite was active for many years in her parish in Kāpiti.

She also chaired the Archdiocese of Wellington Māori Pastoral Council, Te Kahu o te Rangi. She moved home to the north several years ago. She will be missed by our communities.

E te Ariki hoatu ki ā ia te okiokinga pūmautanga. Ka nui te

E te titi, e te kaka ka tangi hotuhotu kia koe e te kui whakapono.

Very pouri indeed to hear of her passing and will be sadly missed.

Kei te tangi.'

- Henare Walmsley

'Marguerite was a beautiful woman. God bless her. Ka nui te aroha?

- Sr Margaret Anne Mills dolc



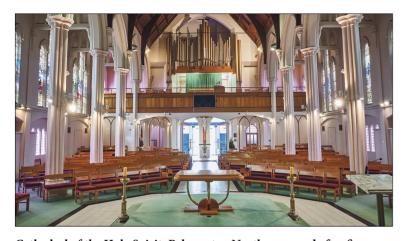
A Requiem Mass was held at St Francis Xavier Parish, Whangarei, on Wednesday 27 September for Marguerite. Following the Requiem Mass, whānau travelled with Marguerite to Te Rito Marae where she lay until Friday 29 September. She was buried at Wahamiti Urupa, Moerewa, Northland on Friday afternoon.

May she rest in peace. Kia okioki i runga i te rangimarie.

Marguerite Osborne. 'Kua haere ia

ki tōna moengaroa - rest in peace.'

Photo: Annette Scullion/WelCom



Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North reopened after fire damage repaired. Photo: David Lupton Lea, 2020

Catholic cathedral clean-up complete

North's Palmerston Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Spirit reopened last month after an arson attack in April closed it for several months.

The fire, lit inside the day chapel, caused minor damage and nobody was hurt. However, the short-lived fire coated much of the inside of the building with a thin layer of ash.

After months of hard work, the cleanup is complete and the cathedral reopened with an early Mass on Sunday, 10 September.

That Mass began with a blessing, which continued at a second Mass and just in time for the St James' Catholic School 65th jubilee celebrations.

Every nook and cranny of the cathedral had to be cleaned, so scaffolding was required. The work started on the wooden ceiling and progressed downwards.

Parish manager Steph Grantham says the scaffolding has been removed and a final 'big clean' was carried out during the week before the reopening.

The pews and other items that had been removed for the mammoth cleaning task have been put back. The carpet was also cleaned.

'Now you wouldn't know if you didn't know [about the fire]. Some items, big curtains and other things have been sent off for cleaning.'

While the biggest tasks have been completed, Steph says many smaller things will take their place on the parish 'to do' list.

The cost of the cleaning is covered by insurance.

Source: CathNews; Stuff

St Bernadette's Naenae 75th jubilee celebrations

St Bernadette's church and school community of Naenae, Lower Hutt, celebrated their 75th jubilee year in August.

The story of St Bernadette's began with little more than a 'swampy paddock and an empty purse'. The first church was a chapel transported from the Trentham army camp, which doubled as a school during the week.

Our church and school community are pioneers in many ways. In 2006, the parish welcomed Barbara Rowley, as among one of the first Lay Pastoral Leaders of the Archdiocese of Wellington. Fr Patrick Greally took on a new role as priest in sacramental ministry, which he carried out until his passing in 2020.

The community has weathered many changes and challenges, which would have earned them the title of 'water walkers' from the Gospel reading (Mt 14:22-



St Bernadette's community members with parish priest Fr Patrick Bridgman at the Jubilee celebrations.

33) of 13 August, the day of the Jubilee celebration. Everyone came together for a multicultural Mass presided over by parish priest Fr Patrick Bridgman, followed by a celebration of bountiful kai and colourful performances the Samoan, Filipino, Tokelauan, Sudanese and Pakeha communities, with a moving rendition and closing prayer from Fr Alfred Tong.

St Bernadette's School celebrated its Jubilee on the feast of the Assumption, 15 August.

Today our church community New Zealand's cultural diversity and vibrancy. St Bernadette's also symbolises the resilience and spirit of Kiwis from all walks of life. In this Jubilee year, our community remembers our past with gratitude, offers thanksgiving for the present, and makes the Jubilee celebration a springboard to continue our mission to be Good News to the world.

Barbara Rowley, Lay Pastoral Leader

Farewell to Sr Cecily Finucane

Ethne Maher

The Sisters of Mercy's presence in Palmerston North for many years will come to an end when Sr Cecily Finucane rsm moves to Villa Joseph in Upper Hutt. She will join Srs Joan Manson and Pamela Ward who also recently moved there from Palmerston North.

Sr Cecily taught at St Peter's College from 1977 to 1984. She contributed significantly to the community through her involvement in organisations such as Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Society (PARS), the Palmerston North Interfaith Group and English Language Partners.

Sr Cecily became a prison chaplain and supported some of the most vulnerable in the community. Sr Cecily was a member of the Palmerston North Interfaith Group and supported



Sr Cecily Finucane rsm is moving to Villa Joseph in Upper Hutt.

migrants and former refugees through the 'Women's Group' in the city. She also became a home tutor helping migrants and former refugees wanting to learn English.

Sr Cecily also found time to play golf with a friend. She is well known not only in the Catholic community but also the wider Palmerston North area. Thank you, Sr Cecily.



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Karori choir invites new members

'Those who sing pray twice,' said St Augustine.

The choir at St Teresa's Church, Karori, Wellington, is looking for new members. Under the directorship of Douglas Mews, besides leading the congregational singing, the choir sings a variety of liturgical music: Palestrina motets, plainsong hymns, Māori waiata, Gelineau psalms as well as modern repertoire.

Practices are on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm in the church at 301 Karori Rd; and on the first and third Sundays of the month the choir sings at the 10am Mass. At Christmas the choir sings carols to lead into the 10pm Christmas Eve Mass, and at Easter the choir plays an important part in the Holy Week services.

Douglas Mews says that 'as a church musician since 1970, when my father (Dr Douglas Mews) roped me into playing the organ at St Pat's Cathedral in Auckland, and made me write a "Holy, holy" and "Lamb of God" – which congregations sang for many years – I have developed strong ideas on liturgical music'.

'I believe music should, above all, help us to understand the text. Sometimes the music can be simple, allowing the words to be heard without ornament, and at other times, the music can "paint a picture" to illustrate the text. At St Teresa's, the choir sings a variety of styles.'

After ten years as organist and assistant choir director at St Pat's, Douglas spent a similar period at St Mary's in Nelson, plus a couple of years at the English Speaking Roman Catholic Parish in The Hague, Holland, before becoming organist and choir director at St Teresa's, Karori in 1993.

As a keyboard player, Douglas began with piano and organ lessons from his father before undertaking study at Auckland University with Tony Jennings as his organ and harpsichord teacher. 'This was followed by two years harpsichord study with Bob van Asperen at the Royal Conservatorium in the Hague. Since then I have taught at Victoria University for nearly 40 years while playing in various orchestras and chamber groups, and accompanying many choirs,' Douglas says.

If you would like to join the choir at St Teresa's please contact Douglas Mews at: douglasmews@gmail.com

There is a recording of the choir on YouTube: *youtube.com/watch?v=tfjQrjWDW8s*



New members are invited to join the choir at St Teresa's, Karori, under the musical direction of Douglas Mews.

Photo: Supplied

MSP Premier Women's team scoops awards

John Holden

The Marist St Pat's Rugby Football Club Premier Women's team have cleaned up at the famous club's annual prize-giving. Along with Team of the Year honours, Monica Tagoai, a St Mary's College Old Girl, became the first woman player to win Marist St Pat's Paul Donoghue Cup for Sportsperson of the Year. The Vice-Captain of the all-conquering Marist St Pat's side was also the Vice-Captain for the Wellington Pride and a feature of the Hurricanes Poua side.

Premier Women's team coaches Ryan Setefano, St Patrick's College Old Boy, and Norm Broughton, Hato Pāora Old Boy, were awarded the Ah Kuoi Pacifica Family Cup and the Poutawera Whanau Cups, respectively.

On the non-playing awards, the WM O'Connor Cup, presented by family member Mons Gerard Burns for Marist St Pat's most outstanding club member – the highest honour for a non-playing club member – was awarded to tireless club captain Lourdaiz Ah Chong, a Sacred Heart

Auckland Old Boy.

For Marist St Pat's RFC, the 2023 season followed the history-making 2022 season when the team first qualified for the Women's Division 1 final. During 2023, the Women's Premier team won every trophy available to them. The trailblazing Premier Women created history by winning the Division One Women's Rugby final – the Tia Passi Memorial Cup but the team had already won the Rebecca Liuúana Cup and continued to hold the Challenge Cup throughout the 2023 season.

The Premier Women's Final is



played for the Tia Passi Trophy. Tia Passi, a former St Catherine's College student, died in 2018 from illness aged 48 and her Requiem Mass was held at St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie. Tia was a loose-head prop and represented the Wellington Pride in over 50 appearances and represented her country as a Black Fern.

Marist St Pat's expects to field two Women's teams in the 2024 season. For more information check out the club's website at *msprugby.co.nz*.

John Holden is president, Marist St Pat's RFC.



Left: Marist St Pat's Sportsperson of the Year, former Black Fern Monica Tagoai, with Marist St Pat's President John Holden.

Photo: Supplied Right: The championship Marist St Pat's Women's Team.

Wellington Catholics at CLC World Assembly

Maureen McKillop and Sarah Dench, two Wellington members of Christian Life Community – an Ignatian Lay organisation, attended the five-yearly World Assembly – in Amiens, France.

They joined more than 200 CLC delegates from 87 countries at the 10-day assembly in August. A highlight was the installation of CLC New Zealand as a full member of the World Community.

The World Community priorities and missions are ecology, family, globalisation and poverty, youth, and spirituality.

'The assembly theme, Discerning Paths for Hope, drew on apostolic initiatives by CLC communities around the world,' said Sarah.

'Members spoke about their various projects such as improving local environments; working with disadvantaged groups; supporting marriage preparation and enrichment; providing programmes to strengthen families; and sharing

Ignatian spirituality with wider communities.'

The assembly involved reflection, prayer, spiritual exercises and silent retreat.

'The assembly was an extraordinary and fruitful encounter with the Ignatian charism. Our CLC community

at home is looking forward to Maureen and I sharing the spiritual nourishment we have brought back,' said Sarah.

To learn more about CLC and Ignatian Spirituality visit *clc.org.nz* or contact Sarah at *sarahdench@yahoo.com*



CLC New Zealand delegates Sarah Dench and Maureen McKillop, left, with CLC Australia delegates celebrate acceptance of New Zealand as a full member to World CLC.

Photo: Supplied

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10 WHIRINGA-Ā-NUKU 2023 NAUMAI Ngā Kōrero | Feature

Huge gathering for Bishop John's ordination

The Most Reverend John Lewis Adams was ordained and installed as the third Bishop of Palmerston North in a vibrant and prayerful, 130-minute Mass on Saturday, 30 September 2023. Around 700 people attended the Mass in a crowded Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Over a thousand more tuned in remotely to watch the livestream.

Eight bishops. present and retired. took part in the Mass with Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe as presider. Many of Bishop John's friends and family members including his mother Joan were there, many having travelled from Christchurch, where he had been parish priest of St Peter Chanel Parish in North Canterbury.

Bishop John's ordination marked the end of four years of Palmerston North Diocese being without a bishop, following the resignation of Bishop Charles Drennan on 4 October 2019.

'It's been a long journey,' Bishop Lowe said in his welcoming remarks and turning to Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa with a smile, noted that the Diocese of Hamilton was waiting for a new bishop.

In his homily, Bishop Steve spoke of the significance of the Gospel reading that Bishop John had chosen (John 15: 9-17).

'The words the Lord Jesus spoke to his disciples are rightly addressed to you, Bishop John, as you live out the command to love God, love neighbour and love self,' he said.

Bishop Lowe said more than anything, a bishop was a man of prayer. New Zealand's bishops were truly men of prayer, including Bishop-elect Adams.

'Often as bishops we're expected to be all things to all people. But we rapidly learn that we are called to be men of humility. 'This is our task as bishops, in a world that is so fractured. To be a bishop is to love your brother priests, to love your people, the people that you serve as their shepherd. To be able to say, then I call you friends.'

During the Rite of Ordination, His Excellency Novatus Rugambwa read out the Apostolic Letter of Appointment, the official document from Pope Francis appointing John Adams as bishop and held it aloft.

Next came the Promise of the Elect, where Bishop John was questioned by Bishop Steve on his resolve to uphold the faith and to discharge his duty.

Afterwards Bishop John prostrated himself in front of the altar while the Litany of the Saints was sung, followed by the Laying on of Hands by his fellow bishops.

The open Book of the Gospels was then held over his head, to symbolise the primary duty of the bishop to preach the Gospel.

The final parts of the rite are the Anointing of the Head with holy chrism oil, the Investiture of the bishop's ring, mitre and crozier, the Seating of the Bishop, where he is led to his Cathedra (Bishop's chair), and the Kiss of Peace from all the bishops.

Towards the end of Mass, the newly ordained Bishop John approached the lectern for his address, resplendent in gold vestments and mitre, with a korowai from the Rangitāne people around his shoulders.

'Becoming a bishop means I also inherit a new family, the priests and people of Palmerston North Diocese. The past few weeks have been a busy but hugely reassuring time for me due to the warmth of the welcome I have received. I want to thank you all for this.

Bishop Adams acknowledged the two

retired Palmerston North bishops who had taken part in his ordination, Bishop Owen Dolan (coadjutor 1995–2004) and Bishop Peter Cullinane (1980–2012). This day of ordination was also Bishop Emeritus Dolan's 95th birthday. He also thanked Msgr Brian Walsh and Fr Craig Butler who had acted as diocesan administrators while Palmerston North waited for a new bishop.

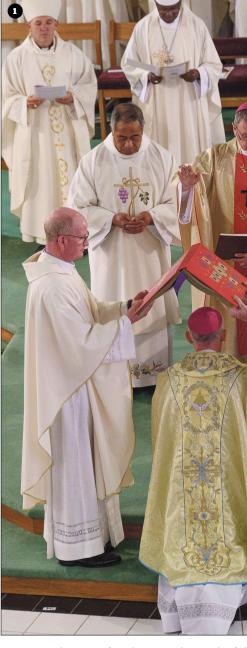
'I want you to know that I'm confident in my ability to lead you in this task,' he said. 'My confidence should not be considered arrogant, for I'm confident not because of my abilities – surely they are modest – but I am confident because, with the Holy Spirit, as Luke's gospel reminds us, anything is possible for God.'

He continued with an emotional tribute to his family, before going on to offer thanks to the people of Palmerston North who have been so welcoming, as well as friends and colleagues in Christchurch he has left behind.

'As you might expect, a call from the Papal Nuncio brings a certain mixture of both honour and trepidation,' he continued, speaking of the phone call he received with the news he'd been appointed Bishop of Palmerston North. 'For me it came around the same time that I got the news that I would need to have open heart surgery. During that operation my heart was stopped for about ninety minutes.

"What is the Lord doing?" I remember asking myself, until I discovered that the word "Manawatu" means "to have a still heart".

Finally, he gave thanks to his fellow bishops. The already seen the multiple demands that you must bear behind the scenes. I look forward to working with you in the future and sharing something of that happy burden,



1. During the Rite of Ordination the Book of the chrism oil, the Investiture of the bishop's ring, members of Christchurch Cathedral Choir san ordained Bishop John, resplendent in gold vest out the Apostolic Letter of Appointment, the o

Excited by that 'Catholic breadth'

Michael Fitzsimons talks with the new bishop of Palmerston North about his dramatic conversion of the heart and his hopes for a church of urgency and vitality.

Bishop John Adams, the new 59-year-old bishop of Palmerston North, comes to the role with a vivid sense that God works in mysterious and at times deeply disturbing ways.

I ask him where it all began for him and he takes us way back:

'I don't mean to be taking the spiritual high ground straight away, but there's a beautiful sense for all of us people of faith that we have been in the mind of God before the creation of the world. We are knit together in our mother's womb, as the psalmist says. There's something beautiful about that.'

Typical student

The family returned to Christchurch where John went to state primary schools and onto St Bede's College. He drifted into Canterbury University, where he did a science degree based on subjects that didn't have lectures on Mondays or Fridays! He enjoyed snooker, drank plenty of beer and led a typical student life. Science degree completed and not knowing what to do with his life, he headed to London in pursuit of adventure.

'I travelled Europe extensively. I did parachute-jumping, sang for the London

"We are custodians of the greatest love story ever told and that ought to instil in us a certain joy and a certain confidence."

Rather more immediately, Bishop John was the oldest child in the family. His father left school at the age of 12 because of financial pressure and shined shoes in Courtenay Place, Wellington. In time he became an excellent snooker player, becoming Wellington professional champion in his early 20s.

'He went on to play snooker for New Zealand. He played Jimmy White in the first round of the 1980 world amateur championships, on live Australian TV. Dad won the first frame. There's a little claim to fame for our family.'

His mother had quite a different trajectory in life. She spent five years training to be a religious sister and left just before final vows. She came to Wellington and met John's father who was hustling snooker for a living, 'winning and losing large amounts of money every day'.

Choral Society and played a reasonable quality of cricket. I did a motor racing course at Brands Hatch. I arrived back in the mid 80s, still not knowing what on earth I was going to do with my life.

After a stint working for a big manufacturer in Christchurch, he headed to Christchurch Teachers College. As a teacher, he discovered he had an aptitude for teaching in the special education field and ended up working with children with behavioural problems. His only significant connection with Church life at this time was as a member of the Catholic Cathedral Choir in Christchurch.

'My love of the great choral tradition of the Catholic Church was developed there, but my faith remained tepid at that time. My primary motivation for attending Mass was my love of singing.'

All that however was about to change

dramatically when he signed up for the Catholic summer school, Hearts Aflame, held at St Pat's College Silverstream.

'That was the year when I woke up mysteriously to my faith. I thought the Church was irrelevant, behind the times and somewhat dull. But after Hearts Aflame I realised that I was irrelevant, behind the times and dull. In fact the Church was very beautiful and she had something absolutely profound to say to the world. I really had an intellectual conversion at Hearts Aflame.

'My life at that stage was going along a predictable path. I was going out with a nice girl, had just bought a house in Christchurch and had been offered a job promotion. But after Hearts Aflame, such was the power of my waking up that I realised I was going to give all that away and perhaps become a priest.'

Powerful conversion

'It was a very strong conversion. I was as shocked as anyone. I had the unusual feeling that this was somewhat inevitable and yet I hadn't chosen it.'

And so, led by an invisible hand, he found himself knocking on the door of Bishop John Cunneen. 'All the priests I'd ever met seemed to be grumpy and unhappy people. And yet, there I was about to join them. I later came to learn that priests are in fact joyful and generous people.

'Bishop John said, "why do you want to be a priest?" I said, "I don't know, I'd rather get married and have children." He sent me to a psychologist.

'The psychologist said, what do you want

to do with your life? I said, well, I guess I'll get married, have children, I've got a house, I'm going out with a nice girl. I thought that was the answer for not going to the seminary but in fact it was the correct answer for going to the seminary. The best priests might make the best husbands and fathers. I hope that's the case and so I found myself in the national seminary. That was my journey.'

Painful twists and turns lay ahead for the future priest and bishop. As it turned out, he did take on the role of tour manager for the choir and orchestra as the tour coincided with the seminary holidays. On tour 'I met who I thought was the girl of my dreams. It was a marvellous time for me and I ended up coming back from that overseas tour, convinced that all along I'd been called to family life.'

He went to talk with Bishop Cunneen and together they decided that while his vocation was still an open question, he would go back to the seminary for six months and finish his theology degree.

'I did a postgraduate degree in theology but during that six months my life turned to absolute custard. I couldn't get out of bed in the morning, couldn't go to sleep at night, couldn't stand the company of other people, couldn't stand my own company, stopped eating.

'I was in no man's land. Instead of going to spiritual direction once a month, I was going every week and crying like a baby. I was in a state of paralysis.'

It was in the midst of this crisis, in his fifth year at the seminary, that he realised he had never actually said 'yes' to God's call, he had Ngā Kōrero | Feature Welcom October 2023 11















ne Gospels was held open over Bishop John Adam's head, symbolising the primary duty of the bishop to preach the Gospel. 2 & 4. Parts of the rite are the Anointing of the Head with holy mitre and crozier, the Seating of the Bishop, where he is led to his Cathedra (Bishop's chair), and the Kiss of Peace from all the bishops. 3. The combined Choir of Palmerston North and g beautifully throughout the Ordination Mass. 5. Towards the end of Mass, accompanied by principal celebrant Bishop Steve Lowe and Bishop of Christchurch Michael Gielen, the newly ments and mitre, with a korowai from the Rangitāne people around his shoulders, blessed members of his family and others in the congregation. 6. His Excellency Novatus Rugambwa read fficial document from Pope Francis appointing John Adams as bishop. 7. The Rangitāne people and Palmerston North Diocesan staff sing the waiata 'Te Rau Aroha'.

Photos: Brendan Lodge; Bernie Velasco; Annette Scullion

never actually responded.

'I hadn't made an act of the will, a classical insight from Thomas Aquinas. I hadn't actually decided that this was actually what I was going to do, so everything fell apart that year.

'When you are reduced to that sort of state – someone who's reasonably confident and able – it is very humbling. Looking back on it, it was the best thing that could have happened to me. It wasn't quite St Paul falling off his horse, but it was something like that.'

'A beautiful, joyful life'

And so he stayed the course as a seminarian and spent a year with Fr Steve Lowe [now Bishop of Auckland] in Timaru. His faith strengthened and grew. He had a conversion of the heart, not just of the intellect, which led him to ordination day and 'a beautiful, joyful life' as a priest.

He has worked in a number of parish ministries in the Christchurch diocese. All the priests he has been put with have had a certain genius, he says. Parishes have included Riccarton Greymouth, Burnside, Papanui and most recently Rangiora.

'My time at Rangiora has been a marvellous time of parish renewal. I think I've finally learnt what it is to be a leader. I've had some coaching in leadership and I've seen the possibilities of parish renewal. I'm really excited about it.'

So what model of leadership can we expect from the new bishop of Palmerston North?

'A collaborative model of leadership,' he says. 'But the point I would make about

collaborative leadership is it's not about divesting oneself of the legitimate authority that's been entrusted to you. It's about recognising where your weaknesses are and operating out of the team.'

Priorities

And what are his priorities as Bishop?

'At a fundamental level, to remind people that we are custodians of the greatest love story ever told and that ought to instil in us a certain joy and confidence. I think the Church in New Zealand lacks a certain confidence and it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

'The other thing I'm keen to explore in this diocese is the reality of parish renewal.

mis-hits, you know. It's a pretty toxic culture out there when you're trying to spread the Gospel. I think I'm realistic about the reality of the mission fields.'

There's no longer any space for lukewarm Catholicism, says Bishop John.

'It's got to be vital. It's got to be fed out of the great spiritual traditions of the Church, which has watered the seeds of faith for 2,000 years. It also has to be a Church that's reasonably clear and unafraid of its identity. Acquiescing to the culture is no answer – there are plenty of groups who have tried that and they've been decimated. So I've got no problem with the Church being distinctive.

'I think we've been rather too captured by

"It wasn't quite St Paul falling off his horse, but it was something like that."

'I see three keys to parish renewal. One – the primacy of evangelisation, the move away from a maintenance model to a missionary one. Two – greater docility to the Holy Spirit, greater acceptance of the charismatic nature of the Church. And three, let's foster the best of leadership. Let's seek out our leaders, let's train them, let's set them loose in the parish environment.

'In the parish in Rangiora where I have been until a few weeks ago, we're running leadership training for around 40 people. We're spending our money on getting in professional leadership coaches. A parish with 10, 20, 30 leaders who want to do something great for the Church, that's a great parish to be a priest in. That's really exciting.

'There are disappointments of course and

the thought of being relevant. The Church is in the world, but she's not of the world. That's a difficult dynamic, by the way. I'm not meaning to sound clichéd about it. I think the Church is in a transition from a rather untested Catholicism which has not stood up well to the rigours of modern society.

Apostolic age

'The other thing I'd say is we're now leaving the age of Christendom and we're moving forward into an apostolic age where the Church is going to have to be more urgent.

'I've been rather captured by the Divine Renovation movement which is about getting out there and preaching the Gospel. There are two great commissions of course. "Do this in memory of me" which I think, as best we can, we do adequately. But the other great commission is to go out and make disciples, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. I think we've been rather remiss there.

'The last thing I want to concede to you, at heart I'm a conservative theologically. For instance, because of a pastoral situation in Christchurch a few years ago, I started saying the old Latin Mass. I'm not sure that this necessarily is the way of the future, but I discerned that there was a pastoral need there and I wanted to provide for and experience for myself that sense of continuity with the past.

'So in my parish in Rangiora, once a fortnight we had the Latin Mass, and we also had charismatic praise and worship. I'm excited by that Catholic breadth.

'The big word at the moment is inclusion, but it tends to only go one way. Traditional Catholics have a terrible time of it at the moment. There's not much inclusion heading in that direction, it seems to me.

'So that's part of the recipe for the future. Let's become truly Catholic again. Let's be docile to the Holy Spirit. Let's restore some of the beauty of the old liturgy. But let's also be open to the charismatic gifts, prophecy, praying in tongues, words of knowledge, all those things. I don't think it should be either or. We've been trapped into that thinking far too often.'

Young Catholics

Challenge 2000 through the winter months

Steve O'Connor

Challenge 2000 - Wellington's Catholic-centred Youth Development, Community and Family Social Work Agency - have had a busy and change-filled time over winter. Since June, Director Damian Dempsey left to become the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference Executive Officer and Kitty McKinley returned as acting CEO. Kitty who founded Challenge in 1988 knows our mahi and charism well.

We have a team of 40-plus staff, numerous volunteers and many partners and benefactors.

Economic, mental health, anxiety and other pressures in the community have led to a greater demand for our services and programmes. It appears more young people are not attending college and

growing requests for an alternative education service have resulted in us providing a 'mini' intensive education programme. Jacob Bang our counsellor is providing this service to local Catholic schools, colleges and the community.

Sr Marie Roche and Hine Hough work tirelessly in our Food Bank to provide food and resources for those in need.

Our Marist Challenge Internship project is a standout programme. Mitchell Cheu said at his graduation: 'Challenge is about Felise [Challenge youth worker] and the Mission team's hardworking attitude; being dragged out of bed to run a liturgy at St Ben's and St Bridget's early in the morning; packing hampers in our foodbank and mentoring and tutoring young people who have



Challenge's Petrina Foaese supporting young people with their Photo: Challenge 2000 education.

had a rough life. It's about change and transforming our community. I thank Challenge and Marist for providing the programme and this opportunity.'

A visit to us in Johnsonville last month from Prime Minister



Challenge welcomed Prime Minster Chris Hipkins and local MP for Ohariu Greg O'Connor in September. Photo: Challenge 2000

Chris Hipkins and Greg O'Connor local MP for Ohariu provided an excellent opportunity to speak about the needs and aspirations of people in our country and community. Chris Hipkins was approachable, friendly and interested in what our staff and young people had to say.

It was a valuable opportunity for our rangatahi to meet the country's leader and expand their worldview in the lead up to the general election.

Contact us at challenge2000.org. nz or info@challenge2000.org.nz or ph (04) 477-6827.

Wellington South Holy Communion celebrations

The Catholic Parish of Wellington South's two churches, St Anne's and St Francis de Sales, were full on Sunday 17 September, with the 52 children and their families who participated in this year's Sacramental programme of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

Parish priest Fr Doug Shepherd

spoke to the families encouraging them to not let their First Communion be their last.

Thanks to the coordinators Fran Peters and Christine Amundsen for all their hard work preparing the children, to the Liturgy teams, the music groups and to everyone for their prayers and support.



First Communion at St Francis de Sales Island Bay.

Photo: Supplied

Young people invited to work with young people

Tuākana Youth Minster Lavinia Foliaki (Nia), pictured front third from right, at a World Youth Day event in Wellington, 6 August, where Nia organised her sisters, youth group and students from St Catherine's College to take on roles for the day. Joining the group, in the back row, is Archbishop Paul Martin sm. Nia says one of her one of her passions is building community, 'so people become active outside their own immediate faith communities'.

The Archdiocese of Wellington has vacancies for its 2024 Tuākana Youth Ministry programme and invites young adults to apply. The appointed Tuākana will each be assigned to a Catholic college in the archdiocese for 2024, where they will work with the Director of Religious Studies and walk alongside



young people at their college.

The archdiocese has been running this programme since 2020, in which the Tuākana Youth Ministers are given training to support and accompany young people to express and grow in their faith.

Tuākana are part of the archdiocese's Young Church Ministry team and will be given training and support for the 2024 school year.

The Tuakana are paid, part-time roles, with positions available across the Wellington region and Nelson.

To apply go to: catholic.org.nz/ adw_community/tuakana-youthministry-programme/





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Rangatahi Katorika

Tongan Language Week at Bishop Viard College

Last month, Bishop Viard College celebrated Tongan Language Week, 3–9 September, starting with a whole-school Mass at the Holy Family Parish in Porirua as students and whānau began celebrations together.

The theme for Tonga Language Week 2023 | Uike Lea Faka-Tonga 2023 is 'E tu'uloa 'a e Lea faka-Tongá 'o ka lea'aki 'i 'api, siasí (lotú), mo e nofo-'a-kāingá; which means the Tongan Language will be sustainable if used at home, church

and in the wider community.

The school and Tongan community came together on the Monday to raise the Tongan flag. Charles, a year 7 student, read aloud his Tongan poem.

On Tuesday the college welcomed special guest Lupeti Finau, who played Uncle Siale in the film 'Red, White, and Brass'. He spoke about his experience on set and his enthusiasm for his Tongan culture.

Later in the week staff and

students dressed in cultural attire and participated in activities and performances throughout the day. They were joined by St Mary's College students sharing their enthusiasm for Tonga's culture.

Festivities concluded with Tongan Kainga preparing a feast demonstrating generosity and hospitality.

Source: Tatau/Bishop Viard College



Bishop Viard College welcomed special guest Lupeti Finau who spoke with students about his enthusiasm for his Tongan culture. Photo: Tatau #83



On Sunday 27 August, eight children from St Joseph's School, Öpunakë, received their First Holy Communion from Fr Vui Hoang. It was a proud moment for their families and all of our community as the children take the next step in their sacramental journey. The children enjoyed a special First Holy Communion feast and cake after Mass.

Photo and words: Ryan Fleming, Principal, St Joseph's School

Master chef cooks up a storm for Whanganui students

Belinda Backwell Principal

Master chef extraordinaire, Brett McGregor, the original MasterChef NZ winner, visited St Marcellin Catholic School in Whanganui last month and cooked up a storm for the students.

Brett's visit was part of the Healthy Lunches in Schools programme, to educate students on the future of food systems, waste and where to go from here. He demonstrated to the students how to cook and eat together, focusing on bringing tastes and cuisines from around the world.

Brett talked about food preparation and safety and prepared a delicious Mexican nacho meal



Mills Marshall, Yr 8, conducts a taste test for master chef Brett

McGregor. Photo: Supplied/Whanganui Chronicle

for the students. Given the empty plates at the end, it was a meal their discerning taste buds enjoyed!

Brett is from Auckland and is a brand ambassador for Compass, which provides school lunches at St Marcellin School, promoting healthy eating and balanced diets. He is the executive chef at Auckland International Airport's Strata Lounge.



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The election gives us all a voice and a responsibility

He hōnore he kōroria ki te Atua, he maungarongo ki te whenua, he whakaaro pai ki ngā tāngata kātoa. Tihei mauri ora! Honour and glory to God, peace upon the land, and goodwill to all people. Ki a tātou, ngā mokopuna o te Atua, ngā ākonga o te Ariki, to all the children of God, followers of Christ. Tēnā ano tātou kātoa kei Aotearoa. He mihi tautoko tēnēi. Greetings to all the people of this land.

The 2023 general election is a time to reflect on our nation and our hopes for its people. In this pre-election statement, we are writing our reflections, for those who are standing for political office, and to all voters who are invited to reflect and make their voices heard as we go as a nation to the polls.

As bishops we have reflected together in the light of the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching on the issues affecting our country. We have discussed the rising levels of poverty and mental health, the lack of housing in our various dioceses, and the storm events that have beset our islands as global climate change impacts on us and so many in our world. We lamented the growing indifference to the sanctity of life. We affirmed our commitment for Te Tiriti o Waitangi as offering us a pathway of unity for our nation. And we talked about the rapidly growing toxicity in our communities that is dividing us and that generates anger, hate and even violence. These are but some of the many issues we face.

At the same time, we are concerned with the growing trivialisation of politics, with the focus of politicians and media being on mistakes, misdemeanours or scandals of individual parliamentarians instead of being on the scandals of poverty, mental health, and the diminishment of the sanctity and dignity of life. We are concerned that so many of the issues affecting all of us are treated as political footballs. Successive election-season promises and the changing of policies in line with the agenda of each new government are not working. More and more people in

our land are becoming disillusioned and feel disenfranchised. Our hope is that the politicians who will form the Government that voters elect on 14 October will focus on the issues that beset us as a nation and work together across party lines to make real progress in finding genuine, lasting solutions.

As we approach the election, we, with many of you, are asking, "Who will I vote for?"

As Christians we believe in the right relationship, the whanaungatanga, that is found in Jesus' commands to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and your neighbour as yourself (cf. Matthew 22:37-39). These commands unfold throughout the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching and point us to a care and concern for our neighbours, especially the poor and vulnerable. We are reminded to have a love of the creation to which we belong and which is God's great taonga entrusted to us for the well-being of all people. We remember that as life in all its stages is sacred and every life is sacred, so too we must love our foes and pray for those who persecute us, a teaching that reminds us that charity must be extended to those whose views are different from our own. So many of our nation's issues are a fruit of not being in that right relationship.

With the ballot papers we are being asked to have our say in the future leadership of our country. We recognise it can be difficult to find a party or candidates which subscribe to all we do as the followers of Christ. In considering who you will vote for, we ask you to be informed and to look seriously at the policies of each party and the position of each

individual candidate in your electorate in light of the various issues that are important to us all. At times we cannot find parties or candidates who subscribe to all we believe. When this happens, we make choices, informed by our conscience guided by the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, for the party or candidate which will bring forth the most common good, especially for the poor and vulnerable, and at the same time whose policies will bring forth the least moral harm.

This election campaign reminds us as a nation that we all have a voice and a responsibility. May that voice and responsibility be guided by Christ who calls all people to unity, justice and peace, and the fullness of life.

We end as we began: He honore he kororia ki te Atua, he maungarongo ki te whenua, he whakaaro pai ki ngā tāngata kātoa. Honour and glory to God, peace upon the land, and goodwill to all people.

₱ Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Auckland, Apostolic Administrator of Hamilton and **NZCBC President**

₩ Paul Martin SM, Archbishop of Wellington and NZCBC General Secretary **™** Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin and **NZCBC Vice-President**

™ Michael Gielen, Bishop of Christchurch **¥** John Adams, Bishop of Palmerston North (from 30 September)

Authorised by Bishop Stephen Lowe. President, NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, 30 New St, St Mary's Bay, Auckland 1011 [21 September 2023].

Bishops'Prayer for Election 2023

God of Nations

bless our nation as we approach our election in these uncertain times. As we discern our choices, guide us with your Spirit. Grant us humble Parliamentarians of integrity who seek to serve for the common good.

E Ihowa Atua

Unite our nation in the desire to protect the sanctity and dignity of every human life in all its stages.

Help us recognise our families as a treasure and enable us to support those families that struggle Make us mindful of those in need in our communities and ready to work together for a just community. May we always delight in the beauty of your creation and ensure this beauty is enshrined for our children's children.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen



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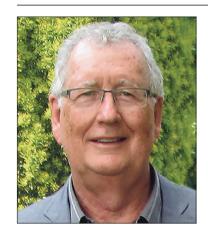




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Safeguarding the common good

The 2023 New Zealand general election will be held on 14 October 2023 to determine the composition of the 54th Parliament of New Zealand. In preparation for the upcoming election **Ian Munro**, a member of the Archdiocese of Wellington's Ecology, Justice and Peace (EJP) Commission, encourages us to reflect on which policies can deliver for the common good.



Ian Munro

Photo: Supplied

Now retired, Ian Munro spent his working life engaged in secondary and tertiary education as a school counsellor, university liaison officer and NZQA manager. He is also a writer and columnist. For 21 years he wrote a weekly newspaper column on parenting and family matters for the Otago Daily Times and more recently wrote for Marist Messenger. Ian is a member of the EJP Commission Integral Ecology Committee and Tawa's Our Lady of Hope Parish in Wellington.

This time, three years ago, I wrote about Pope Francis' view of politics as 'a lofty vocation' and how the world's politicians were being judged on their management, or mismanagement, of the turmoil of the pandemic.

Three years on, it seems that turmoil hasn't lessened but grown - a war in Europe with nuclear undertones, unrest elsewhere including growing tensions in our own sphere of interest, the global creep of autocracy, ongoing issues with social media, fake news and 'alternative facts', and the recent advent of yet another threat, an out-of-control or misuse of artificial intelligence.

play related to the common good than in 2020 and they're all relevant to the decision to be made on election day.

So it seemed a re-read of Evangelli Gaudium was called for and that focused me on financial issues because, without money, no government will be able to adequately fund education, health, law and order, defence, infrastructure of all kinds, housing, climate change mitigation, and welfare safety nets.

The market

For the last 40 years we've been exposed to an approach that involves 'the market' being assigned a sizeable part of the task of delivering on the common good. Pope Francis has made some hardhitting comments about this.

'...some people continue to defend trickle-down theories which assume that economic growth, encouraged by a free market, will inevitably succeed in bringing about greater justice and inclusiveness in the world. This opinion, which has never been confirmed by the facts, expresses a crude and naive trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power and in the sacralised workings of the prevailing economic system. Meanwhile, the excluded are still waiting.22

The free market is really an artificial construct that only looks after itself and those who manipulate it for their own ends. It follows, therefore, that by itself and because of its very structure it can't possibly deliver on the common good. Francis refers to this approach as 'resorting to magic theories' that don't resolve issues facing the common good but 'give rise to new forms of violence threatening the fabric of society.3

Fundamental to these theories

Recently, Inland Revenue released the results of its survey of the 311 richest New Zealand families. The rich are effectively paying less than 10 per cent tax. Once all sources of income are taken into account, the wealthiest Kiwis are taxed at a rate of 8.9 per cent, according to the IR and Treasury report. Image: iStock

at a rate of less than 10 per cent, demonstrates exactly what Pope Francis is saying. The free market is essentially a con job. Money rarely trickles down. Money mostly trickles up. There are those who would argue that, while the personal wealth of a few families

class, but that everyone is entrusted in good faith to be faithful builders of society. He noted that, done well, taxation 'must favour the redistribution of wealth, looking out for the dignity of the poorest who risk always ending up crushed by the powerful.⁷

"The free market is essentially a con job. Money rarely trickles down. Money mostly trickles up."

does increase enormously, it also allows for businesses to be set up to provide employment and generate income for workers and the government. But that income is actually generated by those employees, the very people who have no opportunity of avoiding being taxed at the full, legal rate, such as care workers earning \$27 an hour taxed at 17 per cent.

Francis suggests that political leaders should ponder the words of St Saint John Chrysostom. 'Not to share one's wealth with the poor is to steal from them and to take away their livelihood. It is not our own goods which we hold, but theirs.'5 Money, Francis adds, must serve,

When parts of society are left on the fringes, when the poorest people pay effectively much higher tax rates than the wealthiest, such unjustness and inequality is bound to provoke a violent reaction from those excluded no matter how much is spent on law and order and locking people up. 'Just as goodness tends to spread, the toleration of evil, which is injustice, tends to expand its baneful influence and quietly to undermine any political and social system, no matter how solid it may appear.'6

A fairer system

Earlier this year, I came across a report on an address by Pope Francis to a delegation from Italy's tax agency that I thought was relevant. In that address he is reported as saying that a fair taxation system affirms that no citizens are better than others based on their social

The fragility of world systems in the face of the pandemic has proven beyond doubt that not everything can be resolved by market freedom or the small-state. It has exposed those who have, globally, bent democracy to their own ends, privatising anything they can with the money going to their pockets and not the common good. In part, the fallout has been cash-strapped social services and the limited resources governments have been left with to manage the pandemic and the post-pandemic world.

The pandemic has also shown that, in addition to recovering a sound political life that is not subject to the dictates of the 'market', 'we must put human dignity back at the centre and on that pillar build the alternative social structures we need.8

Pope Francis believes that to do this, to make the necessary financial reforms, will require a vigorous change of approach on the part of political leaders. 'I urge them,' he says, 'to face this challenge with determination and an eye to the future...to the return of economics and finance to an ethical approach which favours human beings?

I think Michael Winters, of the Catholic University of America's Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies, responding to Evangelli Gaudium puts it quite nicely. 'This is a pastor's voice. He's saying, "If we are serious Christians, we need to be kneedeep in this stuff".10

So, it's now on me, and you, to hear our pastor's voice and wade into this stuff over the remainder of the campaigning and consider seriously the sort of policies and government that we feel can deliver for the common good after 14 October.

Endnotes

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- Rome, 2013.
- Ibid., 54. Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti, 168, Rome,
- 2020.
- Evangelli Gaudium, 56.
- Ibid., 57.
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This article was first published in 'Stories of Hope', July 2023, (Our Lady of Hope Catholic Parish in Titahi Bay and Tawa newsletter) and has been republished in WelCom with permission from the

"There are so many more factors in play related to the common good than in 2020 and they're all relevant to the decision to be made on election day."

If that wasn't enough, there's the financial strife brought about by continued supply-line difficulties, inflation, and the increasing number and severity of climatic disasters all contributing to cost of living issues.

In 2020, the pandemic focused our leaders on keeping us safe and limiting the financial impact, which was quite a juggle. In 2023, with many, many more balls in the air to be juggled, the imperatives are much the same - keeping us safe and limiting the financial impact of the turmoil enveloping us.

It brought back to mind something Pope Francis wrote in Evangelli Gaudium that I had noted in 2020: 'It is the responsibility of the State to safeguard and promote the common good of society.'1

As campaigning for this election began to ramp up, I felt some uncertainty about what I might want from the next government. There are so many more factors in is the rejection of the right of the state to exercise more than a minimal form of control, the 'small-state' philosophy. 'A new tyranny is thus born, invisible and often virtual, which unilaterally and relentlessly imposes its own laws and rules....The thirst for power and possessions knows no limits. In this system, which tends to devour everything which stands in the way of increased profits, whatever is fragile, like the environment, is defenceless before the interests of a deified market?4

Money rarely trickles down

As the earnings of the minority who control the market grow exponentially, so social imbalance increases. Recently, Inland Revenue released the results of its survey of the 311 richest New Zealand families. That so few people have accumulated so much wealth, \$85 billion in fact effectively taxed



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16 WHIRINGA-Ā-NUKU 2023 NAUMAI Ngā Kōrero | Feature

What you need to know about the Synod on Synodality

The first Vatican assembly for the global Synod on Synodality will begin in October bringing together clerics and laity alike for nearly one month of discussions. Here is what you need to know writes **Courtney Mares**, Catholic News Agency, Rome, September 2023.

What is the Synod on Synodality?

The Synod on Synodality, initiated by Pope Francis in October 2021, is a multi-year, worldwide undertaking during which Catholics were asked to submit feedback to their local dioceses on the question 'What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?'

The Catholic Church's massive synodal process has already undergone diocesan, national, and continental stages. It will culminate in two global assemblies at the Vatican. The first will take place 4–28 October 2023 and the second in October 2024 to advise the pope on the topic 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission'.



What does synodality mean?

Synodality was defined by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's International Theological Commission in 2018 as 'the action of the Spirit in the communion of the Body of Christ and in the missionary journey of the people of God'.

The 2021 synod preparatory document described synodality as 'the form, the style, and the structure of the Church'.

The latest document* published by the Vatican adds that synodality can also be understood as something that 'does not derive from the enunciation of a principle, a theory, or a formula but develops from a readiness to enter into a dynamic of constructive, respectful, and prayerful speaking, listening, and dialogue'.

'At the root of this process is the acceptance, both personal and communal, of something that is both a gift and a challenge: to be a Church of sisters and brothers in Christ who listen to one another



Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich (r), relator general of Synod on Synodality, speaks to the media on 20 June, 2023, at the temporary headquarters of the Holy See Press Office in Vatican City. Beside him is Cardinal Mario Grech, the Secretary General for the Synod of Bishops.

Photo: Daniel Ibáñez/CNA

and who, in so doing, are gradually transformed by the Spirit,' the document says.

Pope Francis has said that he envisions the Synod on Synodality as 'a journey in accordance with the Spirit, not a parliament for demanding rights and claiming needs in accordance with the agenda of the world, nor an occasion for following wherever the wind is blowing, but the opportunity to be docile to the breath of the Holy Spirit'.

What are the main questions that the Synod on Synodality will try to answer?

There are three overarching questions for the upcoming synod assembly as defined by the 2023 synod assembly's guiding document called the *Instrumentum Laboris*:

- 1. How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?
- 2. How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?
- 3. What processes, structures, and institutions are needed in a missionary synodal Church?

The main objective of the first session in October will be to design a plan of study in a 'synodal style' and to indicate who will be involved in those discussions, according to the *Instrumentum Laboris*. Discernment will be 'completed' in the 2024 session of the synod.

*[XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops - For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission Instrumentum Laboris

What are some of the topics that could be addressed in the synod assembly?

The Instrumentum Laboris document guiding the discussions at the October synod assembly suggests discernment on questions regarding some hot-button topics, including women deacons, priestly celibacy, and LGBTQ outreach.

The document also highlights a desire for new institutional bodies to allow for greater participation in decision-making by the 'people of God'. One of the proposed questions for discernment for the synod of bishops asks: 'What can we learn about the exercise of authority and responsibility from other Churches and ecclesial communities?'

How does the Synod on Synodality differ from past synods of bishops?

A synod is a meeting of bishops gathered to discuss a topic of theological or pastoral significance in order to prepare a document of advice or counsel to the pope.

For the first time, the Synod of Bishops in 2023 will include voting delegates who are not bishops. Nearly a third of the 364 voting delegates were chosen directly by Pope Francis, including laypeople, priests, consecrated women, and deacons. Fifty-four voting members are women.

The October assembly will be held in the Paul VI Hall, instead of the Vatican's New Synod Hall, with delegates sitting at round tables of about 10 people each. The latter

part of the October gathering will focus on deciding the Church's next steps and 'the necessary in-depth theological and canonical studies in preparation' for a second assembly in October 2024.

What other events are happening leading up to the October Vatican assembly?

The 2023 Synod on Synodality assembly at the Vatican will begin with a three-day retreat for the Catholic bishops and participants 1–3 October led by Dominican Fr Timothy Radcliffe, who has drawn criticism from some for his statements on homosexuality.

Pope Francis also announced an ecumenical prayer vigil to take place in St Peter's Square as part of the Synod on Synodality on 30 September. The prayer vigil, organised by the Taizé Community, will entrust to God the work of the October synod assembly.

Who has participated in the Synod on Synodality?

The General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops has reported that the initial diocesan listening phase concluded with the participation of 112 out of 114 of the world's Catholic bishops' conferences.

Who are the key organisers of the Synod on Synodality?

Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, the 64-year-old archbishop of Luxembourg, is one of the leading organisers of the ongoing Synod on Synodality as the relator general. The Jesuit was recently added to Pope Francis' council of cardinal advisers. Hollerich said in an interview in March he believes that a future pope could allow women priests and that he finds 'the part of the teaching calling homosexuality "intrinsically disordered" a bit dubious.

Cardinal Mario Grech, the secretary general for the Synod of Bishops, is the former bishop of Gozo, Malta. He was one of two authors of the Maltese bishops' controversial pastoral guidelines on *Amoris Laetitia*, which stated that divorced and remarried Catholics, in certain cases and after 'honest discernment', could receive Communion. Last year, Grech decried the public criticism of the German 'Synodal Way' as 'denunciation'.

Is there a prayer for the Synod on Synodality?

The *vade mecum* for the synod published the following 'Prayer for the Synod on Synodality':

"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 how 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."

It will be difficult for the work of the first session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to produce conclusive guidelines on many of the topics and questions that emerged from the consultation of the People of God. This is why the Holy Father has decided the Synodal Assembly will be held in two sessions. The main objective of the first session will be to outline paths of in-depth study to be carried out in a synodal style, indicating the relevant actors to be involved and ways to ensure a fruitful process in service to the discernment to be completed in the second session in October 2024. Proposals on how we can grow as a synodal Church will then be presented to the Holy Father.

 $Source: Instrumentum\ Laboris\ for\ the\ First\ Session-October\ 2023.$



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for the First Session (October 2023)]

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'As for me and my house we will serve the Lord' - *Joshua 24:15*

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Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

During the month of October 2023 Pope Francis' intention is: *for the Synod*.

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

Whakaaro | Reflections Welcom October 2023 17

A Litany Revisited

The 16th century Litany of Loreto contains several titles given to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. These are being explored by **Fr James Lyons** for Wel*Com*. This month we meet two kinds of dwellings, house and ark.

House of Gold

Golden lie the meadows; Golden run the streams. [George Meredith 1828–1909]

Our Sacred Scriptures describe the temple build by King Solomon as a house of gold [see 1 Kings 7:48-50; 2 Chronicles 4:19-22]. The altar, the lampstands, the cups, the dishes, the doors in this 'most holy place' were all of pure gold. This was the House of God, demanding only the best of precious metals; it was a house filled with 'the glory of the Lord' [2 Ch. 5:14].

golden house, a temple of the Lord, for she not only carried Jesus to birth but 'housed' him in her heart and home, nurtured and raise him to adulthood.

Chosen to be the mother of the Saviour of the world, Mary is likened to the tabernacle within the temple, the Holy of Holies, the sacred space of the presence of God. Its walls were overlaid with gold.

In honouring Mary as *House* of *Gold*, we recognise her unique vocation. As the one closest to Jesus, she is indeed a holy temple and

"As the one closest to Jesus, she is indeed a holy temple and 'gold' is the best word we humans can find to describe the beauty, value and dignity of this house."

The Blessed Virgin Mary's title, *House of Gold*, traditionally refers to her womb in which the Son of God took human flesh. The prologue to St John's gospel announces, 'And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth' [John 1:14].

Mary herself can be seen as a

'gold' is the best word we humans can find to describe the beauty, value and dignity of this house.

'Golden' in the poem quoted above depicts the wonder, magnificence and tranquility of a scene. The reader instinctively knows this from that one word. It conveys peace, strength and awe. There is a completeness about

'golden' that is quite breathtaking.

In this regard, Mary's title, while unique, is not exclusive. Every baptised person is a golden house! Baptism creates anew; the baptised 'put on Christ' and the Holy Spirit makes a home in them.

With Mary's help and guidance, we can each give witness to a way of life proper to our golden dignity as Christians – making the life that is your 'house' truly golden, by being what you would expect any house to be: a shelter and a haven, a warm, healing and faithful presence, a comfort in darkness, a joy in welcome, a proven friend.

Right: Madonna (1410), by Lorenzo Monacho, Palazzo Davanzati Florenz, Italy. Image: Public Domain



House of Gold, treasured home **Creating memories** of life to hold. A timeless journey from room to room Sheltering love against the cold. A peaceful presence everywhere Enriched by young, enjoyed by old. Simple blessings coloured with care A golden home, a house of gold.

Mary, House of God, pray for us.

St John Henry Newman explains the name *House of Gold* that Christian tradition has given to the Mother of God. She is compared to gold because it is the most precious metal. 'Therefore it is that Mary too is called golden; because her graces, her virtues, her innocence, her purity, are of that transcendent brilliancy and dazzling perfection? She is more than this; she is a *House of Gold* or *Golden Palace* because 'She is the house and the palace of the Great King, of God Himself?' Jesus was born in this holy house; he took his flesh and blood from this house.

Ark of the Covenant

This title finds an echo in the previous one, *House of Gold*. Gold features in both. They point to Mary's role as the one who brought Jesus to birth, 'housed' him in her womb, enabling God to become present among us in human form.

The Ark of the Covenant, however, has a special relationship to Mary's ancestry, the Hebrew people. From the time of Moses, the Ark accompanied the people and marked the presence of God in their midst. The Ark was a visible reminder of their agreement with God, the covenant sealing an unbreakable bond: 'I will take you as my people and I will be your God.' [Exodus 6:7; Genesis 17:7; See also Exodus 19:7]

His awareness of the Ark's sacredness and his own unworthiness, caused King David to hesitate before accepting it in his own house: 'How can the ark of the Lord come into my care?' [2 Samuel 6:1-11]. This can be put alongside Elizabeth's greeting to Mary: '...why has this happened that the mother of my Lord comes to me?' [Luke 1:39-45]

According to the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews [9:1-5], the Ark was '...overlaid on all sides with gold, in which there were a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant...'

The contents of the Ark were crucial items relating to the salvation of the people. Manna fed the people on their journey; the rod, symbol of the power of God that secured their freedom from slavery; the stone tablets signaled

the establishment of the covenant.

Mary's womb held Jesus, the Bread of life and Saviour of the world. The new covenant, bringing freedom from the slavery of sin, was announced through his presence and life, and established through his passion, death and resurrection.

"We seek Mary's intercession as one closest to God. We seek to imitate her holiness by gifting ourselves, as she did, to the will of God. She represents God's agreement (covenant) to be always with us. May we, as Mary did, proclaim the greatness of God and the great things God has done for us. [Luke 1:49]"

We approach Mary as *Ark of the Covenant*, the woman who held Jesus the Christ, Son of God and Saviour of the world.

We seek her intercession as one closest to God. We seek to imitate her holiness by gifting ourselves, as she did, to the will of God. She represents God's agreement (covenant) to be always with us. May we, as Mary did, proclaim the greatness of God and the great things God has done for us. [Luke 1:49]

For the Hebrew people, the *Ark* gave assurance of both the presence and protection of God. For Christians, Mary, as Ark, gives that same assurance.



Ark of the Covenant
Shrouded in mystery
Announcing a Presence
Commanding respect
Dispelling fear
Uniting a people
Urging them forward
Unbinding fetters
Welcoming life

Mary, Ark of the Covenant, pray for us.

'Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.'

- Pope Francis, 25 March 2022



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Whakaaro | Reflection 18 WHIRINGA-Ā-NUKU 2023 NAUMAI

Rosary an interactive prayer method with our senses, and the world beyond our souls

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. The liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on 7 October. Senior contributor to Crux Catholic media, Fr Jeffrey F Kirby, a US Catholic priest, moral theologian, and Papal Missionary of Mercy, explains the importance of the Rosary as a prayer method.

In the heart of every person, there is a desire to be in union with God. Such a union is realised and deepened by a life of prayer. Such a summons to prayer is as necessary and essential to human flourishing as breathing and eating. If we neglect prayer, our souls suffocate and starve. If our souls are depleted, they cannot perform the functions for which they were made. These functions include showing faith, preserving in hope, and labouring to love others.

As Christians, we have a supersized call to prayer since we know that God became a man and dwelt among us. He showed us what it means to be a person of prayer. He has offered us his Spirit to lead us in a life of prayer.

St Paul teaches us: 'Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.'

In our openness to the workings of the Holy Spirit, we are directed to the spiritual treasury of the Church. Within this Church's vast treasury, we find her cherished prayer methods. Such methods have made saints, mystics, and spiritual masters out of ordinary people just like us. The methods work when they're used.

The prayer methods of the Church are countless, however, there are certain favoured methods in the history of the Church. One of the favoured prayer methods is the rosary. Of the principal prayer methods, it's the only one that involves both mental and oral prayer.

The rosary involves the spiritual imagination in a way similar to the composition of place method. In most instances, the rosary is usually composing events from the Bible, which means the key distinction between the composition of place and the rosary is the rosary's use of repetitive oral prayer. In a unique fashion, the rosary calls for the use of our voice and hearing as we pray its prayers out loud – as well as touch as we move through the beads of the rosary. The rosary, therefore, is a very interactive prayer method with all of our senses and with the world beyond our own souls.

The rosary is also one of the more structured prayer methods in the Church. For most of the prayer methods, a general template is given and souls navigate the method as needed or directed by the Holy



The rosary's rhythmic praying of the Hail Mary can be soothing and a means of relief to any soul.

Spirit. In comparison, the rosary is very systematic and calls for souls to follow its directive course of prayer. Both approaches are needed, and sometimes the formality of the rosary can be a great consolation and help to a tired or distracted soul. Its rhythmic praying of the Hail Mary can be soothing and a means of relief to any soul.

In times past, monks faithfully chanted the 150 psalms of the Old Testament. The laity wanted to be involved in the chant of the monks. Because of the duties of their state in life, and the fact that many members of the laity were not able to read or formally chant, they could not actively participate in the psalmody. And so, the laity began to pray 150 Our Father's or Hail Mary's. In the course of time, and through the influence of apparitions to various Dominican saints, the Hail Mary became the principal form of the prayerful repetition.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains: 'Medieval piety in the West developed the prayer of the rosary as a popular substitute for the Liturgy of the Hours. In the East, the litany called the Akathisto and the Paraclesis remained closer to the choral office in the Byzantine churches...'

The rosary begins with some introductory prayers, such as the Sign of the Cross, the Apostle's Creed, an Our Father, three initial Hail Mary's, a Glory Be, and then a series of five decades (which is ten Hail Mary's) based on various events in the life of the Lord Jesus or the Blessed Mother. There are four rotations of decades focusing on joyful, sorrowful, luminous, and glorious mysteries in the life of the Lord and Our Lady.

For each decade, we're asked to spiritually compose the event in their spiritual soul while simultaneously praying aloud ten Hail Mary's. There are times in which the mental prayer is stronger than the oral prayer (which at times can also be optional), just as there are times in which the oral prayer is stronger than the mental prayer, especially among those who might be new to prayer or who are distressed or mentally tired.

There is more to be said about the rosary, but it is a cherished prayer form within the Church's rich spiritual treasury.

This article appeared in Crux on 17 September 2023 and is republished with permission.



Fr Jeffrey Kirby is a Papal Missionary of Mercy and the Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Indian Land, South Carolina, USA. He holds a doctorate in moral theology from the Holy Cross University in Rome and a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Arts in Philosophy from the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Fr Kirby serves as an Adjunct Professor of Theology at Belmont Abbey College in Charlotte, North Carolina.

recitation of 150 Psalms. The

approved in the Church by Pope Sixtus IV in the 15th century and structured by Antonio Ghislieri (later Pope St Pius V) around the meditation of fifteen mysteries. In 2002, St Pope John Paul II added five new mysteries - the luminous mysteries.





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The Rosary prayer and devotion with its core prayers of Our Father and Hail Mary – has been in use through the centuries, from the time of the apostles and disciples to the present.

The saying of 150 Hail Marys in the Rosary has its roots in the present form was received by the Church in the early-13th century through St Dominic de Guzmán. Our Lady gave it to him 'as a powerful means of converting the Albigensians and other sinners'.

The Rosary was officially

Gospel Reading: Sunday 8 October 2023

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - MATTHEW 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 33 'Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and he went on a journey. 34 When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the tenants seized the servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Next he sent some more

servants, this time a larger number than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way. 37 Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, "They will respect my son."38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' 41 They answered him,

"He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times." 42 Jesus said to them, 'Did you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and we marvel at it? 43 Therefore, I say to you then, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce

Gospel reflection: Results from the vineyard

Tom Gibson

While Jesus is talking to the chief priest and elders of the people, he tells them another parable. A landowner had a vineyard and farmed it perfectly. He planted it, fenced it and then dug the wine press, before renting it out and travelling abroad. After a considerable time, when harvest time drew near, his farm tenants rejected the harvesters he sent to harvest the grapes. They beat one, killed another and stoned a third. So the landowner sent another group of harvesters who were rejected the

same way. The landowner decided he would send his only son, thinking they would not reject him. But they killed him as well. The landowner's farm tenants thought that now the harvest would be theirs.

Jesus asks the chief priest and elders, 'What is going to happen to those people who killed his son?' The chief priests know they have killed the prophets in the past and are planning to kill Jesus whenever they can. Jesus' parable reveals that he knows what they are up to and this makes them even more motivated to kill Jesus.

What can we learn from all this? Very few people today are guilty of directly throwing out Jesus' word, but many of us have a lukewarm approach to what Jesus teaches us. However, the opportunity always exists for us to do exactly what Jesus wants us to do. We are very fortunate. Compared with other countries, our New Zealand is like the land of 'milk and honey'. We are indeed blessed.

Do we acknowledge this?! Are we thankful? To whom? And should this thankfulness generate a response? What should we do?

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

Archbishop Martin to receive pallium in Wellington

Archbishop Paul Martin sm is to receive his pallium at a special ceremony in Wellington from Papal Nuncio Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, on Sunday, 5 November, at the 5pm Mass, St Mary of the Angels. The New Zealand bishops will be present.

The pallium is a distinctive liturgical garment. It consists of narrow, white woollen bands, approximately two inches wide, adorned with 12-inch pendants.

The pope confers the pallium upon archbishops and bishops with metropolitan jurisdiction, as a tangible representation of the unity between Rome and the local church.

This local presentation marks a departure from the tradition of archbishops travelling to Rome to receive the pallium directly from the pope.



Sacred Heart Metropolitan Cathedral, the spiritual home for many Catholics in New Zealand, has been closed for earthquake strengthening and restoration for over five years.

The restoration budget was approximately \$14 million to complete the project. We have a shortfall of approximately \$1.8 million.

There are a number of fundraising initiatives in place and we ask for your support at a level that suits you. Here's one:

The Sacred Heart Cathedral **RESTORATION CHRISTMAS** RAFFLE

PRIZES:

1st, 2nd & 3rd each \$1,000 New World Gift Card 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th each \$500 New World Gift Card

Ticket Price: \$5 per ticket | 3 for \$10 | a book of 8 for \$20

TO BUY TICKETS:

email bobhouston@xtra.co.nz

Tell us your requirements, we will forward you the pay-in account details and send your tickets to you.

To make a donation online: www.cathedralcampaign.org.nz

Authorised by the Sacred Heart Cathedral Restoration Committee

Cathedral corner:

Connolly Hall - a needed sanctuary





Fr James Lyons, Priest of the archdiocese.

The closure of Sacred Heart Cathedral in 2018 did not cancel worship.

Connolly Hall, the social centre at the side of the cathedral, quickly became the Mass centre for the parish, for weekday and Sunday Masses.

There are also two Sunday Masses for the cathedral at St Thomas More Church, Wilton, in the Catholic Parish of Ōtari.

The hall, named after Sacred Heart's former administrator, Monsignor Connolly, has proved an ideal setting. With only minor adjustments, it serves remarkably well as a chapel and is more than adequate for the smaller

weekday and Sunday evening congregations.

The location has enabled the daily lunchtime Mass to continue its attraction for many Thorndon office workers, retired parishioners and nearby Sisters of Mercy.

Parish volunteers, known 'Guardians', who held responsibility for welcoming visitors to the cathedral and caring for its environment, provide similar services at Connolly Hall. They also attend to preparations for Mass and, on occasions, lead Liturgy of the Word celebrations.

One family has committed to ensuring fresh floral arrangements bring colour and warmth into the mix, completing an atmosphere suited to prayer and reflection.

Having been closed for more than five years, the re-opening of the cathedral next Easter is eagerly anticipated. Even so, there will be some sadness at leaving the sanctuary Connolly Hall has become.



Connolly Hall, the social centre at the side of the cathedral, has become the Mass centre for the parish, for weekday and Sunday Photo: Supplied

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

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.

Sunday 8 October

> Support Life Sunday – (see p 3).

➤ Blessings of Pets – St Francis of Assisi Church, Stoke, 8.30am Mass, all parishioners' pets' welcome.

Monday 9-Friday 13 October Safeguarding workshops -Wellington South and Central parishes; and Fridays 3 and 13 November North-West South Island; Holy Family, Our Lady of the Bays and Westport-Reefton. Contact Sr Catherine Jones smsm at c.jones@wn.catholic.org.nz for information.

Friday 13-Sunday 14 October Centenary - St Anthony's School, Seatoun. Book tickets at trybooking.

Saturday 14-Sunday 15 **October**

125th jubilee weekend - St Joseph's Catholic Church, Dannevirke. Jubilee Mass and luncheon. Information stjodvke@ xtra.co.nz

Saturday 28 October Advent Liturgy interactive workshop - 'History... Sounds and images... Relevance to today's world...' led by Fr Patrick Bridgman, 10am-12 noon, St Bernadette's Hall, 190 Naenae Rd. For all involved in organising parish Advent celebrations or wanting to learn more about this Church season. Please email c.walkerdine@ wn.catholic.org.nz to register.

Wednesday 1, Thursday 2 **November**

All Saints Day and 2 All Souls Day – Commemoration Masses for the Dead in some parishes to remember beloved dead and pray for their eternal repose.

Saturdays 5 and 12 November Love is a Decision – preparation course for Sacrament of Marriage for engaged couples. Visit Archdiocese Marriage Ministry at wn.catholic.org.nz for information or email Mely Lau at marriage@ wn.catholic.org.nz or visit website bit.ly/3knqjD8 to register.

WHIRINGA-Ā-NUKU 2023 NAUMAI Ngā Kōrero | Feature

World Mission Sunday - 22 October 2023

World Mission Sunday is held on the second-to-last Sunday every October with Mass celebrated especially for Catholic missionary activity worldwide. It was created by Pope Pius XI in 1926 as the day of prayer for missions and is held in every Catholic community. Donations collected for Mission Sunday go to support Catholic missionary work throughout the world. In 2023, World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, 22 October. The following story is about an Australian missionary nun and doctor whose life's work and legacy have her on the pathway to become Australia's second saint.



Pope Francis' message 2023 World Mission Sunday 2023, released in January this year, has the theme Hearts on fire, feet on the move (Lk 24:13-35).

Pope Francis said the theme was inspired by the story of Jesus and the disciples on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection. He says coming to know Jesus through the Scriptures and the Eucharist should fill Catholics with enthusiasm to joyfully share the

Gospel with others.

Pope Francis encourages people around the world to renew their commitment to spreading the Good News and to support missionary work. He reflects on the resilience everyday missionaries demonstrate in their life-giving work and the burning passion for God and people that inspires their hearts. Dedicating their lives to others, in partnership with communities, missionaries aim to create a positive

change through spiritual care and the implementation of grassroots projects, such as healthcare and education, reaching far beyond Catholic communities.

World Mission Sunday 2023 will be celebrated during the assembly of the Synod of Bishops, and Pope Francis also used his message to talk about the missionary profile of the synod.

'The urgency of the Church's missionary activity naturally calls

for an ever-closer missionary cooperation on the part of all her members and at every level. This is an essential goal of the synodal journey that the Church has undertaken, guided by the key words: communion, participation, mission?

Read the Pope's 2023 Message in full online at: tinyurl.com/ Francis-World-Mission-Day

India's largest voluntary healthcare network Australian founder on path to sainthood

Sr Mary Glowrey, a Jesus Mary Joseph nun and Australian missionary, founded in 1943 the Catholic Health Association of India to provide curative care to the poor, especially women and children.

The Catholic Church is investigating the cause for canonisation of the first Catholic religious sister to practise as a doctor who was also an Australian missionary nun who founded India's largest non-government healthcare network.

Sr Mary Glowrey's cause for canonisation opened in 2010 and, declared a Servant of God in 2013, her position is now before the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. The initial phase looked at her work and writings her religious life and now progresses to the next phase for possible beatification.



Of Irish descent, Mary was the third of nine children born into a loving and prayerful family.

An outstanding humanitarian and medical professional, the Catholic Church has put Dr Glowrey on the path to becoming Australia's second saint, after the canonisation of Sr Mary McKillop in 2010

In 1920 Sr Mary, the Australian sister-doctor landed in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, in southern India, where she joined the Dutch order of religious sisters called the Congregation of the Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In 1943 she founded along with 15 sisters what is now the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), covering today's India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The association worked to promote the Christian use of medicine in the midst of World War II and later established a Catholic Medical College in India to train



Sr Dr Mary Glowrey treating a patient with leprosy, Guntur, India, circa 1926.

Photo: Courtesy Catholic Health Association of India

health professionals both in medical care as well as in Catholic ethics, teachings and the understanding of the inviolability of human life. Today, CHAI is a network of 3,572 healthcare and social service institutions across India, annually serving 21 million patients (approximately 1.5 per cent of India's population), most of them poor, especially women and children.

Employing more than 76,000 health professionals, the network undertakes medicine, surgery, dentistry, midwifery, pharmacy, psychology, nursing or allied health professions. Much of its work is done in rural and remote areas of the country and it has been



In 1920 Mary gave up her career as a doctor in Australia to take up a calling to India to care for vulnerable women and children. She joined the Congregation of the Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, and was the Founder of the Catholic Health Association of India.

successful in implementing a wide variety of projects in communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, disaster intervention and strengthening of the healthcare system. Its key focus areas are community health, palliative care, children affected by HIV/AIDS, and disability. During 2018–2019, CHAI reached out to 2.8 million people and over 540,000 households through awareness activities.

Radiating Christ by word and example

Mary Glowrey was born in 1887 in the small town of Birregurra in regional Victoria, Australia. She won scholarships to secondary school and in 1904 she was awarded a scholarship to Ormond College to study for a Bachelor of Arts. She switched to medicine in early 1906, a time when there were few female medical students at the University of Melbourne.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in Medicine in 1910 and began her medical career at the newly founded Clinical School at St Vincent's Hospital. At the time, no medical residency positions were available for women in Melbourne so she moved to New Zealand, where she became the first female doctor at Christchurch Hospital and one of the first two women appointed to a residency position in New Zealand.

When Mary returned to Victoria, she focused on improving the health of underprivileged women and children, supporting this work herself through her appointments at St Vincent's Hospital, the Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and her private practice. She treated the unemployed and impoverished free of charge.

She founded the Catholic Women's Social Guild and in 1916 became its first General President – now the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga.

She undertook higher medical studies, graduating with a Doctor of Medicine in 1919 in obstetrics, gynaecology and ophthalmology from the University of Melbourne.

After reading about the appalling death rate among babies in India, in 1920 Mary gave up her career as a doctor in Australia to take up a calling to India to care for vulnerable women and children. She became a religious Sister with the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph in Guntur and



served as a Sister doctor in Guntur, in India's rural southeast. She directly and indirectly ministered to hundreds of thousands of patients who would not otherwise have received care. She would stay working in India until her death from cancer in 1957, in Bangalore, southern India, at 69 years of age.

Testimony from those who knew her, show that Mary's intellect, love for God and sensitivity were evident from a young age and that she regarded medicine as her first vocation, having prayed for guidance as to what to study, at a time when many viewed the medical profession as unsuitable for women. Throughout her life she was said to radiate Christ by word and example and according to those who knew her she initiatives were always undertaken first praying to the Holy Spirit.

Mary Glowrey was known as the first Catholic religious nun to practise as a doctor, receiving permission from Pope Benedict XV in 1920. This was before canon law allowed women religious to be doctors. In her 37 years of service, Sister Mary oversaw the treatment of hundreds of thousands of patients, viewing care for bodies as equal to care for souls.

A humanitarian, advocate for women's rights and a systems thinker, Mary devoted her life to improving healthcare in India, where she expanded a small mission into a full hospital that cared for 637,000 patients between 1927 and 1936. She went on to establish health care systems and institutions that now look after more than 21 million people annually.

Inspired by the Church's teachings on social justice, Mary sought to change society not just through prayer but action. Her profound faith, compassion for others and brilliant intellect, juxtaposed with a humble and shy nature, led her to push the boundaries of the roles that women could play in society.

Sources: La Croix, September, 2023; Vatican Media

Mary Glowrey was a gifted doctor at St Vincent's Hospital and founding President of the Catholic Women's League in Melbourne.

Photos: Courtesy of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga Inc. ${}^{\odot}$