

WelCom

NauMai

A newspaper for the Wellington and Palmerston North Catholic Dioceses

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FREE

WINNER OF THE 2023 AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION (ACPA) AWARD FOR BEST LAYOUT AND DESIGN FOR A PRINTED PUBLICATION

St Mary's College Wellington produced the first contracted schoolgirl Black Fern, Dhys Faleafaga, and now the youngest ever schoolgirl Black Fern at 17, Justine McGregor.

New Zealand Rugby reported in February that the All Blacks Sevens and Black Ferns Sevens have welcomed new young talent into their programmes with their 2024 season in full swing.

Justine McGregor (Ngāti Porou/Ngāti Kahungunu) is among the newest faces to move to the national sevens base in Mt Maunganui.

At just 17 years old, Justine McGregor is the latest schoolgirl sensation to graduate into the Black Ferns Sevens, in her first year out of St Mary's College. With two seasons of Farah Palmer Cup under her belt, McGregor was also part of the Black Ferns XV squad and the New Zealand Under 18 Girls Sevens team in 2023.

Black Ferns Sevens Coach Cory Sweeney said McGregor has incredible promise.

'Justine has been a standout performer in the secondary schools' scene and has not taken a backward step since joining us. It's obvious she has had some great support and coaching in her conditioning and rugby; we are proud of how she has adapted in our environment and she's already putting her hand up for selection,' said Sweeney.

The Black Ferns Sevens also celebrate the return of Dhys Faleafaga to the squad. The powerful forward debuted in the black jersey in 2019 and returns to the team after the birth of her twin sons. Faleafaga, like McGregor, is also a former student of St Mary's College.

Both the All Blacks Sevens and Black Ferns Sevens squads are based full time in Mt Maunganui. They have a number of tournaments on the SVNS international series before the Paris Olympics in July.

Sources: St Mary's College Wellington; NZ Rugby; Club Rugby

Young women's rugby sensation Justine McGregor scores a try for St Mary's College Wellington (15) vs Manukura School Palmerston North (7), July 2023.

Photo: Andy McArthur



St Mary's College rugby sevens rising star

State of the Nation – successes but growing socio-economic challenges too

Amidst the country's deepening cost-of-living crisis, the Salvation Army's State of the Nation 2024 report pinpoints the growing socio-economic challenges facing New Zealanders.

The report, titled *Ngā Tukunga Iho – The Things We Inherit*, provides an annual snapshot of the country's social progress as a nation.

Now marking its 17th year, the report – released 15 February – looks at five specific areas: Children and Youth, Work and Incomes, Housing, Crime and Punishment, and Social Hazards. A section called Māori Wellbeing uses He Ara Waiora wellbeing framework to



look at those five areas specifically for Māori.

'The theme of the 2024 report reflects the fact the new government inherits both the achievements and the challenges from the previous government,' says Lt-Colonel Ian Hutson, director of the Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit at The Salvation Army.

'It also reminds us the actions taken today will affect future generations and how they will live.'

While the report acknowledges significant progress has been made in recent years – reductions in child poverty, an increase in social housing units, sustained low unemployment – it also points to concerning trends.

These include the deepening cost-of-living crisis hitting lower-income households hardest, rising rental costs outpacing inflation, overall increases in food insecurity and financial hardship.

Hutson says of the report: 'The new government needs to build on the progress made...and learn from what works.'

Key findings in the report include concern for Māori wellbeing, with ongoing inequities affecting Māori education, housing, employment, imprisonment and harm from alcohol and other drugs.

The Children and Youth section says child poverty reduction is a key achievement of the past five years. But large, unequal impacts of poverty on Pasifika, Māori and children living with disabilities means there's much work to do to in the coming years to achieve government targets for poverty reduction.

The Housing section indicates unaffordable housing and homelessness continue to haunt people on low incomes; exacerbated by a decline in new housing consents and a record high inward migration. The report calls for an

urgent increase in public housing supply.

On Crime and Punishment the report indicates an overall increase in reported and unreported crime and notes violent offences are increasing.

The Social Hazards section notes a positive decline in alcohol and drug consumption. But it points to rising gambling losses and signs of increased financial hardship.

Under the heading Work and Incomes, the report highlights the continued high levels of employment but raises concerns about rising unemployment and persistent wage inequality affecting women and ethnic minorities. It says inflation is putting pressure particularly on low-income households. Food insecurity for households with children has increased.

Source: The Salvation Army Report: salvationarmy.org.nz/sotn2024

From the editor

Annette Scullion

Tēnā koutou katoa
Greetings to everyone.
The 40-day period of Lent 2024 began on 14 February, Ash Wednesday, and ends on Thursday 28 March. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and for personal reflection that prepares people's hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.

In this edition we feature a variety of reflections from people from our diocesan communities, including hearts and minds observations a year on from Cyclone Gabrielle from some of those in the affected Hawke's Bay and East Coast regions, p 3.

In his message for Lent this year, Pope Francis says Lent is a time of conversion and freedom. He invites the faithful to 'pause' for prayer and to assist our brothers and sisters in need, in order to change our own lives and the lives of our communities.

Cardinal Michael Czerny, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, presented the Pope's 2024 Lenten message at a Vatican news conference on 1 February.

'Traditionally, Lent is a time to review our lives and to individually face the need for personal conversion,' he said.

However, the Pope is challenging the faithful also to seek to change the world.'

As believers and as citizens Christians should ask, 'Where are we on the journey with so many siblings at home and worldwide who cry out and ask us to walk with them?'

'By embracing the gift of Lent, every Christian community can accompany its members in facing the challenges of our time,' because 'the hoped-for changes in the world begin with change in me and in you.'

The Pope insists on the need to counter a 'globalisation of indifference'.

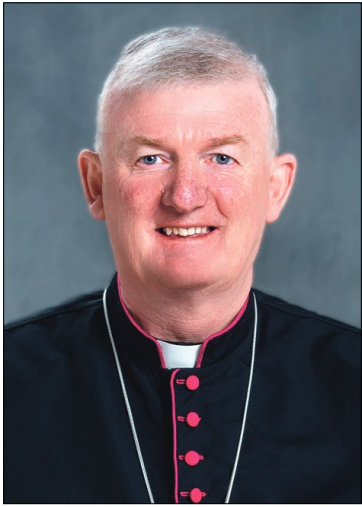
He added the Lenten journey involves a struggle. It is a time for action, but also a time 'to pause' – to pause in prayer and to pause 'in the presence of a wounded brother or sister.'

The Pope concludes his message with hope: 'To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope.'

WelCom wishes you a prayerful and reflective journey over this Lenten season and to quote again from the Pope's Lenten message: where 'we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken.'

Ngā mihi

Our intentions help form our moral character



Bishop John Adams
Bishop of Palmerston North

In recent times there has been a question in front of the western world, which has demanded our attention. Debates have been lively with strong opinions on both sides. Just recently, this same contentious issue flared up again, and once again there was plenty of public discussion about it. The issue: which is the better movie – *Barbie* vs *Oppenheimer*? Yes, it was all over our TV screens and social media. *Barbie* vs *Oppenheimer* the defining question of the age.

“We need places which foster and protect the great Catholic intellectual tradition, we need places that value the great heritage of Catholic learning...as an understanding of the Gospel that the world so desperately needs to hear today.”

I'm not sure where you may sit on this question. For me, I haven't seen either movie so I feel unable to deliberate. However, the recent release of *Oppenheimer* did prompt me to do some reading about the man at the centre of this movie, Robert Oppenheimer, the American theoretical physicist who is credited with researching and designing the first atomic bomb.

In the midst of my reading, I did of course stumble upon the genuinely important debate surrounding the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. You may know that the dropping of the first nuclear bomb was justified by the

then American president, Harry Truman, the 33rd President of the United States, who claimed the bombing of these two cities was justified by its bringing about of an early end to the Second World War.

Let's not delve too deeply into the veracity of that claim, some facts are clear; we know around 80,000 died instantly at Hiroshima, with tens of thousands of others dying later of radiation. Hiroshima was not a military centre, and lacked major war industries. There were some minor light industries on the periphery of the city. Those who targeted Hiroshima ensured the aiming point should be the centre of the city and not the outskirts, giving the lie to Truman's diary entry that 'The target will be a purely military one'.

A question for me was, at the time, was there any offering from a Roman Catholic standpoint, in the debate concerning moral good or otherwise of the decision to bomb those two cities?

It turns out that yes there was, the Catholic philosopher Elizabeth Anscombe authored a pamphlet entitled *Mr Truman's Degree*, strongly objecting to Oxford University's awarding of an honorary degree to the former president, because of her opposition to President Truman's decision

people as means to their further aim of bringing about Japanese surrender.

You see intentions matter: they help form our characters in a special, lasting way. This includes not only our ultimate intentions, but all the means we choose to achieve these. Causing bad side-effects is not always avoidable: in fact we all cause these by many things we do. However, intending certain bad effects is to be avoided. Most of us, I'm guessing, will concede there is a difference between war crimes such as the targeting of civilians, and the acceptance of the unavoidable loss of combatants in the theatre of war. Though even this latter concession must always be proportionate to the threat identified.

Many of you will of course be aware that this same consequentialist argument is being used today on several fronts, most obviously in defence of the military action currently taking place in Gaza and in the Ukraine. Innocent people are losing their lives because military and political leaders see them as being expendable in the light of a supposedly greater cause.

This is never morally acceptable. St Pope John Paul II was clear about this in his great encyclical *Veritatis Splendour*, in which he claims we can know, and apply universal moral norms. I am sure that this is true.

I mention all this to you today with a broader thought in the back of my mind – and it is this, we need places which foster and protect the great Catholic intellectual tradition, we need places that value the great heritage of Catholic learning, not as some museum piece but as an understanding of the Gospel that the world so desperately needs to hear today. For me personally the courage and Catholic insight of Elizabeth Anscombe has helped me enormously to negotiate the complex and so often flawed world of ethical consequentialist thinking.

Oppenheimer or *Barbie*, perhaps that question remains unresolved, is there a place for the Roman Catholic thought in the public square today? Yes, most certainly.

Source reference: *The Catholic Herald*, 24 July 2023.

New Rector for Holy Cross Seminary

Fr David Dowling has been appointed the new rector of Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland.

The appointment has been confirmed by the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelisation.

Fr David is at present the Human Formator at Holy Cross. He will take over the role in April from the present Interim Rector, Bishop Emeritus Colin Campbell.

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

Fr David is a priest of the Archdiocese of Wellington whose priestly journey began when he entered Holy Cross in 2001 after an 18-year career as a Customs officer. A born Wellingtonian

and proud supporter of the Hurricanes, he attended St Patrick's College, Wellington before his Customs career. He studied for the priesthood at Holy Cross from 2001 to 2007 and was ordained in Wellington on 1 September 2007 by Cardinal John Dew. He has a Bachelor of Theology degree from Sydney College of Divinity and a Graduate Diploma in Theology from Good Shepherd College.

Fr David says he is committed as Rector to following the example of Pope Francis in cultivating the joy of the Gospel with a sense of being part of God's people.

'I am inspired and encouraged by the teaching of Pope Francis, who sees priestly formation as service, not simply as the transmission of a body of teachings, but also the art

of concentrating on others, bringing out all their beauty and all the good that they carry within.

'I hope to help form our seminarians to understand what it means to live "generative service", which Pope Francis describes as "the identity card" of Christ's ministers.'

Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe, who is President of the NZ Catholic Bishops Conference, says the bishops are delighted with Fr David's appointment as Rector.

'He is a prayerful man, who has had a rich pastoral experience as a priest of Wellington and who has done an excellent job of being the Human Formator. These qualities will enrich his overseeing the forming of the new priests for our dioceses,' said Bishop Lowe.

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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.
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Community reflections - a year on from Cyclone Gabrielle

Throughout the Hawke’s Bay, Wairoa and Tai Rāwhiti districts, on 14 February 2024 thousands turned out for dawn hikoi, services, karakia and community events to remember the devastation Cyclone Gabrielle caused one year ago – turning lives, livelihoods and homes upside down – and the ongoing impact it has had on people. Members of affected parish and school communities share their reflections below.

Wairoa - Br Denis O’Brien sm, assistant to parish

Wairoa is a town of two halves, south of the river to the sea was virtually untouched by the flooding that inundated the northern side of the town, North Clyde. But all were impacted by the isolation caused by lack of any means of communication and power for days as well limited road access out for weeks. Since the cyclone there have been many road closures after heavy rain and people worried by threats of rain.

Over two hundred houses are still red stickered in North Clyde, most uninsured, uncertainty over future land classification and the slow tedious work on trying to rehabilitate all these. Our marae, Tawhiti A Maru is looking at a complete rebuild and work needs to be done on our church St Theresa’s [at the marae]. While we would like remediation to start, there is a long process of plans, resource consents and applications

for funding to do the work. So, our Catholic Māori community will be without a home for quite some time. Schools are finding children have been affected by the experience of the flooding and displacement from their homes. Many of the families that have lost their homes are living with other families and that brings stress of its own on both families.



A dawn hikoi in Wairoa marked the first anniversary of Cyclone Gabrielle as over 250 people journeyed along the path where the flooded waters engulfed the land a year ago. They reflected on the past year, progress made and challenges still ahead. Photo: Wairoa District Council Facebook

Hastings - Fr Marcus Francis, Parish Priest, The Catholic Parish of Hastings

The cyclone which ravaged the East Coast and Hawke’s Bay in February 2023 fortunately did not affect suburban areas of the CPH. Nevertheless, individuals and families living in those areas adjacent to rivers suffered the loss of property and were affected physically and emotionally by the ordeal. Jake Smith from St John’s College illustrated this powerfully with his Junior Prepared Speech from the O’Shea Shield [2023] at a combined Ash Wednesday and remembrance of the cyclone service at St John’s College. His testimony of the

life-threatening flood, courage of rescuers and sense of gratitude clearly resonated with the staff and students. Mike and Sharon Flynn, regular parishioners at CPH, also had their house ruined in the cyclone. Mike, rather than dwelling on the loss and the ongoing struggle to rebuild, speaks of the witness given by the community to reaching out. This was not centrally organised but arose spontaneously: many phone calls from fellow parishioners offering both practical and prayerful support, the delivery of food and beverage for people assisting in the

cleanup, an offer of assistance from teaching staff from St John’s College involving students, local St Vincent De Paul overwhelming financial support to remediate essential infrastructure to the property, then assistant priest [Fr Trung Nguyen] helping with the cleanup, ongoing genuine enquiries as to progress of remediation and continued prayers. As a result, one year on, much remains to be done but the fruit of charity and solidarity are also manifest.

Hastings - George Rogers, Principal, St John’s College

One year on and life for many is still filled with uncertainty. On 14 February, we recognised the anniversary of Cyclone Gabrielle and it is evident feelings are still raw for many. One student who delivered a speech last year at the O’Shea Shield competition shared that with us during the service. Unrelated to the cyclone, there will be upcoming road closures for ten days, which have a significant impact on transport for our staff and students from Napier to Hastings; this reminds me of the difficulties we faced for much of last year. It was very stressful for the entire community.

That being said, it is great to be back at school, and to see the students and staff settling in to a new academic year. In many ways this reflects a new beginning for us all. We are now able to experience events that were cancelled last year, and through these experiences, we are getting back to what is deemed to be normal. We will never forget the impact the cyclone had on our community, we will never lose sight of those who continue to be impacted, but we will remain strong knowing we are able to navigate through difficult times as a community.

Napier - Maria Neville-Foster, Principal, Sacred Heart College

Sacred Heart College was filled with aroha as students came together to commemorate the first anniversary of Cyclone Gabrielle. The cyclone devastated the region, with a number of students, teachers, and the wider school community personally impacted. The Napier Community Commemoration Service at the Soundshell, which I attended with our student leaders, was a poignant occasion where we stood together as a region to remember and reflect. We acknowledged the deep

losses felt across our communities, including whānau who lost loved ones, and those whose lives, livelihoods, homes and communities were impacted. Back at school, a minute of silence was held, followed by a prayer service and shared reflections. The day coincided with Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lent. The Gospel of Matthew reminds us when we help those in need, we help Christ. This was evident last year, when those in need received ‘aroha’ from around the country,

particularly from the Catholic school community and from the Palmerston North Diocese, which we remember with gratitude. As a community we continue to support those impacted from the cyclone. While the bridges are fixed, and we can move freely between cities we recognise the hearts and minds of some members in our community remain broken. I hope the remembrance day will become a day of love moving forward and always be a day of love.

On 13 February 2024, the eve of the Cyclone Gabielle commemorations, Bishop John Adams wrote a pastoral letter of prayer to those in the Diocese of Palmerston North impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. Bishop John’s letter in full is on the Palmerston North Diocese website: pndiocese.org.nz St Vincent de Paul’s ongoing work in response to Cyclone Gabrielle in Hawke’s Bay and Wairoa will be featured in April WelCom.

Central Hawke’s Bay - Donna Te Amo, Parish Secretary, Holy Trinity Parish

A year on ... it has been a time of emotions, reflections, contemplation, frustration, sadness, anger but also a sense of hope. Our small rural community was impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle in ways we would not have imagined 13 months ago. The small community of Porangahau was affected the most with people losing their homes and businesses as the floods washed away their possessions and memories. Waipawa’s river burst

its banks taking with it homes and affecting businesses. Farms and rural properties lost stock, fences and land. Our people came together to help each other out in their time of need – rescuing those who did not have a chance to escape the rising river levels, the removal of silt and mud, cleaning properties and businesses, food donations, donations of clothing and furniture, insurance claims and guiding people through the process of moving

out of homes and into temporary accommodation. We are considered the lucky ones, as we did not lose anyone to this disaster. We thank those officials and community members who worked tirelessly during those months after the cyclone and who continue to do so. I think this whakatauki sums it up perfectly. He waka eke noa, kia eke panuku, kia eke Tangaroa We are all in this waka together, through our efforts, we will succeed.



St Patrick’s College Wellington

New Zealand’s oldest Catholic boys’ college

During this Season of Lent we ask all our whānau to pray, fast and give. Let us focus on deepening our faith and relationship with God. Making sacrifices to improve our life and doing all we can to support those in need. As a community of faith let us pray for one another.

Sectare Fidem – Hold firm to the Faith



Waitangi at Pukekaraka 2024

Throughout New Zealand on Waitangi Day, 6 February, Masses were celebrated to mark this special day to reflect on the meaning of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its significance for our country. **Pā Phil Cody** describes the Waitangi Day Mass celebrated at Pukekaraka, Ōtaki.

The faith community at Pukekaraka, Ōtaki, celebrated Waitangi Day with a Eucharist on the marae atea of Hine Nui o Te Ao Katoa.

The setting before the Shrine of Mary of Lourdes ensured calm and focus.

About 55 parishioners gathered to pray for all involved with Waitangi. Several shared comments about ‘how moving it is to peacefully share and experience a unity of pupose in a deep respect for different cultures’.

That experience was evident in the use of both te reo Māori and English in Readings of the Word, Prayers of the Faithful and the Eucharist itself.

A very moving beginning set the tone in the reading of prayer that a Ngāmanu of the North composed after he signed the Treaty. It was read by a descendant of Ngāmanu, Wawata Johnson, and then the English read by his wife, Oriwia Raureti. One part of it reads:
*Nau mai e Te Tiriti o Waitangi
Haere mai me ngā hua kei roto i a koe
Emerge O Treaty of Waitangi
Enter our realm with the bountiful gifts within you.*

In his homily Pā Pita Healy sm spoke of the Treaty as a ‘Covenant’, written, translated, discussed and signed in a Christian context. ‘It

is a Sacred Relationship which demands trust, affection and mutual care, a joining under God to be nurtured and protected,’ he said.

The theme of Treaty as a Covenant was further developed and discussed by our Anglican neighbours at Rangiatea with talks by the Reverend Rangi Nicholson and Hamish MacLean.

Beautiful but telling Prayers of the Faithful supported that. For example:

*Lord, grant us the humility to acknowledge the past,
the courage to confront present challenges,
the hope to envision a future where we walk hand in hand,
celebrating the beauty of diversity and the strength that comes from living together in peaceful relationships.*
E Te Ariki....

The Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation was used to further seek from God a blessing of peace and harmony and growth in God’s bringing Peace to us and our world.

The national anthem, E Ihowā Atua, was our final hymn.

Then of course our day was enriched by enjoying one another’s company over hand-made scones and tea!



About 55 parishioners from the faith community at Pukekaraka, Ōtaki, celebrated Waitangi Day with a Eucharist on the marae atea of Hine Nui o Te Ao Katoa. They gathered to pray for all involved with Waitangi.
Photo: Phil Cody



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The Debate: It’s better to be sporty than naughty

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Caritas: the agency of peace

Pope Francis denounced the killing of civilians amid ongoing conflicts around the world, including in Gaza and Ukraine in an address in January to diplomats accredited to the Vatican. He said, ‘modern wars no longer take place only on clearly defined battlefields, nor do they involve soldiers alone.’ The Pope delivered a warning to aggressor nations: ‘In a context where it appears that the distinction between military and civil objectives is no longer respected, there is no conflict that does not end up in some way indiscriminately striking the civilian population,’ he said, adding, ‘the events in Ukraine and Gaza are clear proof of this.’

Mena Antonio
Kaiwhakahaere Matua | Chief Executive, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

‘The sheer brutality of this war has left no corner untouched, and the streets echo with the cries of those who have lost their loved ones. In this humanitarian crisis, the stories streaming from Gaza show suffering beyond comprehension.’

So reads the most recent account from our partners Caritas Jerusalem working on the ground in Gaza.

Jesus wept. The shortest scripture depicts the deepest pain and suffering. I weep.

As a woman of faith, a mother, a human, an employer, a witness processing the horror of women giving birth in inhumane situations; of mothers not knowing whether their children are alive or will ever return. I weep.

I’m mindful of our staff, especially the younger ones, working directly on this cause. I turned off social media four weeks ago, but I hadn’t advised staff to do the same. To witness is harrowing, but the guilt of not doing so is heavy – every day we hear the pleas from the Holy Land not to turn our gaze away.

I also recall my recent visit to the Old City in Jerusalem. The women of Jerusalem once wept at the Eighth Station of the Cross. Now women of the world weep for the women of the Holy Land. A Palestinian Christian



Mena Antonio
Photo: Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

woman retold her story when pregnant she was forced at gunpoint to go through x-ray body scans repeatedly at checkpoints, and then refused entry into Israel. An Israeli women lauded the dividing walls that kept her family safe because they lived every day with fear of terrorist attacks. The degradation, humiliation and fear people live with daily, in the same lands Jesus lived and ministered, stays with me. This war has forced humanity to new, unfathomable and dark places.

How do we respond?
How then can we judge what is happening in Gaza? There are diverse views among our staff; Justice and Peace Commission members; Church community members who contact us. This diversity can make it difficult to reconcile with one another. The Holy Land has a complex history

with multiple narratives, yet we cannot hide behind this complexity in the face of tragedy.

We hear we cannot take sides, as we must remain apolitical and neutral to provide aid to the poor and vulnerable. Yet at the same time, we know that standing with the poor and supporting them is inherently political. How then can Caritas as the social justice agency fulfil its mandate?

Ultimately, we do take a side – the side of peace, of justice, and of the poor. And it is from this position we must decide how to act, guided by Catholic Social teaching principles:

Human dignity and the protection of life – understands that everyone one of us is in made in God’s image. Our common humanity requires that we respect and uphold each

and every human being. The notion that each life has value is shared with International Human Rights which are also universal, inviolable and inalienable. Thus, all prisoners and hostages held without just cause must be released. Most of all, we call for a permanent ceasefire. We have called for humanitarian corridors to be opened to relieve the suffering – this is the immediate critical need for the essentials of life, medicines, water, food; and the preservation of life – a dignified life.

We advocate for all peoples of the Holy Land – including the people of the West Bank to live with dignity and the means to do so.

We do not take political sides – each word is carefully crafted for publication. The weight of responsibility to convey our

messages of hope, peace and solidarity is palpable.

Solidarity and the promotion of peace – we seek not just a ceasefire, but an enduring political solution. The call for lands where all people can live without fear, freedom of movement, safe future for children and stable government. Access to essentials of life.

Through the grappling, the pressure to take one side over another, the dilemmas, the enormity of it all, we are steadfast that peace is the answer. Peace is never non-political, but it stands above and beyond politics. We are the agency of Peace. We are charity. Pope Francis has described Caritas as the tenderness of the Church. Peace is our firm stand.



Palestinians evacuate the area following an Israeli airstrike on the Sousi mosque in Gaza City on October 9, 2023.
Photo: Caritas Australia



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Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention



During the month of
March 2024 Pope Francis’ intention is:
for the new martyrs

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



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MODELS OF FAITH


Two celebrations leap out from the Catholic calendar this month: St Patrick (17th) and St Joseph (19th). These great models of faith and courage speak across the centuries to every heart open to ponder the mystery of life. They offer humour and wisdom and the comfort of companionship to every traveller for every step of the way.

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Church concerned about rise of far-right parties

The Catholic Church in Germany has expressed its concern over the rise of far-right, anti-Semitic, and anti-democratic groups that are gaining increased support among the German electorate ahead of the European Parliament elections in June, and other important regional and local polls to be held this year.

Of particular concern are radical groups such as the III Way, Heimat, and AfD (Alternative for Germany), a German nationalist, euro-sceptic, and anti-immigration party. Bishops, men and women religious and lay Catholic organisations have stated that they cannot accept the ideology of these parties, saying it is incompatible with Christian and democratic values.

Anti-far-right demonstrations have gained momentum in Germany in the past weeks after a report was released that said neo-Nazi leaders had met in Potsdam on 20 November 2023 to discuss the deportation of millions of immigrants, reawakening dark memories of the rise of National Socialism in the Thirties.

Large crowds of people have been taking to the streets in several major German cities, including Hamburg and Aachen, asking for

the AfD to be banned.

Demonstrations, which culminated on 27 January, Holocaust Remembrance Day, were joined by Church leaders, including bishops from Lower Saxony. Bishop Heiner Wilmer of Hildesheim called on citizens to uphold democratic values, stating that ‘our democracy is alive because many in Germany are committed to it.’

Bishop Franz-Josef Overbeck of Essen noted the ‘AfD has departed from democratic principles’ and that ‘Catholics cannot vote for this party’.

German men and women religious and Catholic lay organisations have taken a similar stance. The Executive Board of the Conference of Superiors of Germany (DOK), representing 14,300 religious, expressed horror at the news of the so-called ‘remigration’ plan discussed in Potsdam, saying it overtly contradicts the principle of equal dignity of all people, and the fundamental values of a free and democratic society.

Source: Vatican News



Protesters against racism and far-right politics take to the streets on 28 January, 2024 in Hamburg. Photo: AFP

Synod on Synodality resumes in October

The next session of the sixteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops – the Synod on Synodality – will take place in October this year.

The General Secretariat of the Synod has announced that the session will begin with a two-day retreat from 30 September to 1 October, followed by three-and-a-half weeks of official discussions on 2–27 October.

Delegates will address topics drawn from the synthesis report from last October’s session, with the 2024 discussions set to focus on the practice of synodality at all levels of Church life, according to the synod secretariat.

In a chirograph (a direct papal instruction) issued the same day, Pope Francis directed the secretariat and the Vatican’s dicasteries to coordinate ‘by mutual agreement’ a series of study groups to reflect on some of the synod’s themes.

It instructs ‘the dicasteries of the Roman Curia [to] collaborate, according to their respective specific competences, in the activity of the General Secretariat of the Synod, forming study groups that shall begin, following the synodal method, an in-depth study of some of the themes that emerged’.

The chirograph did not detail what the groups would study. Subjects where the synod delegates did not reach a consensus in the 2023 session were listed as ‘matters



Bishops in St Peter’s for the closing Mass of the first session of the Synod on Synodality in October 2023. Photo: Vatican Media/CNA

of consideration’ in the synthesis report, and included norms on priestly celibacy and the prospect of ordaining women to the diaconate.

Last month a Spanish nun who took part in the two most recent meetings of the Pope’s Council of Cardinals – the ‘C9’ – said that Francis was very much in favour of the female diaconate’ but was ‘still trying to understand how to put it into practice’.

Sr Linda Pocher, a Salesian theologian, contributed to two C9

meetings on the role of women in the Church.

Speaking after the meeting on 5–6 February, Pocher said the Pope was already changing ways ‘of thinking and living the difference between ordained ministry and the baptismal priesthood, extending to all the baptised some rights that until recently belonged to bishops, priests, or religious’.

Source: The Tablet

Humanity on ‘brink of the abyss’ – Pope

Pope Francis says today’s wars and conflicts have put humanity on the brink of the abyss and has called for a global ceasefire.

‘I will never tire of reiterating my call, addressed in particular to those who have political responsibility: stop the bombs and missiles now, end hostile stances everywhere,’ the Pope said in an interview with Italian newspaper *La Stampa*.

‘A global ceasefire is urgent: either we do not realise it or we are pretending not to see that we are on the brink of the abyss,’ he said.

Asked specifically about the situation in Israel and Palestine, the Pope said that the Oslo Accord is ‘very clear with the two-state solution. Until that agreement is implemented, real peace remains distant’.

The Pope said the thing he fears most is a ‘military escalation’ in which the conflict might ‘further worsen the tensions and violence that already mark the planet’.

However, he said he is also hopeful because ‘confidential meetings are taking place to try to reach an agreement. A truce would already be a good result’.

A key figure in the Vatican’s efforts concerning the Middle East, he said, is Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem. ‘He is trying with determination to mediate.’

‘The Christians and the people of Gaza – I don’t mean Hamas – have a right to peace,’ the Pope said.

He said he connects daily on the video platform Zoom with the Holy

Family Catholic Parish in Gaza to speak to them. Some 600 people sheltering in the parish compound are ‘living their lives looking death in the face every day’.

The other priority remains the release of the Israeli hostages, he added.

The Holy See continues with its diplomatic efforts regarding Ukraine, particularly through the papal envoy, Italian Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, who is working to ‘build an atmosphere of reconciliation,’ the Pope said.

Source: Catholic News Service

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First Catholic leader for Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland, known for its entrenched Protestant majority, saw a monumental shift as Sinn Féin's Michelle O'Neill secured the necessary cross-community votes to become the region's first Catholic leader.

This marked a significant departure from the past, where leaders openly identified with Protestantism.

In a poignant moment at Stormont Parliament Building, O'Neill, representing the Irish Catholic community, pledged to serve as a leader for all, extending an olive branch to her unionist counterparts.

'To all of you who are British and unionist, your national identity, your cultures, your traditions are important to me. Let's walk this two-way street together, let's meet one another halfway. I will be doing so with an open hand and also with heart', O'Neill said.

'This is an assembly for all – Catholic, Protestant and dissenter', O'Neill added. 'Despite our different outlooks and views on the future constitutional position, the public rightly demands that we cooperate, deliver and work together.'

Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All



Newly appointed Northern Ireland First Minister Michelle O'Neill made history 3 February 2024, by becoming the region's first Catholic and first Irish nationalist leader.

Photo: CNA

Ireland, extended his prayers and blessings to the newly appointed First Minister Michelle O'Neill, Deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly, members of the Northern Ireland Executive, and MLAs.

O'Neill's road ahead is fraught with challenges, particularly concerning the presence of paramilitary groups and lingering tensions from past conflicts. Despite progress since the Good Friday Agreement, these groups still threaten stability, undermining reconciliation efforts.

Despite Sinn Féin's historical

association with Irish Catholics, O'Neill and the party are at odds with Church teaching on several issues. Sinn Féin supported the increase in access to abortion, and the party supports children having access to transgender drugs.

The appointment of O'Neill, achieved through painstaking negotiations and agreements, signifies a renewed commitment to governance and stability.

Source: Catholic News Agency

Pope to visit Venice Biennale

Pope Francis will travel to Venice on 28 April to visit the local Church community and the 2024 Venice Art Biennale.

During his one-day pastoral visit to the Italian city, the Pope will make a stop at the 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia 2024. While in Venice, he will visit the Holy See Pavilion at the Biennale's exhibit in the Giudecca Women's Prison.

Entitled *With my eyes*, the pavilion is dedicated to the theme of human rights and people living on the margins of society.

It is curated by Chiara Parisi and Bruno Racine, and seeks to draw the world's attention to those people who are largely ignored, while fostering a culture of encounter. The Holy See Pavilion invites the



A gondola plies the canals of Venice.

Photo: Vatican Media/AFP

viewer to take Pope Francis' words literally, as he invites everyone to look others directly in the eyes, looking beyond their social status to encounter their humanity.

The 2024 Art Biennale of Venice

bears the title *Foreigners Everywhere* and will be open from 20 April until 24 November 2024.

Source: Vatican News

Church calls for return of 'stolen' panels

The Church in the Philippines has demanded the return of 'stolen' pulpit panels now on display at the National Museum in Manila. The early 19th-century panels depicting the image of St Augustine of Hippo were originally installed at the Archdiocesan Shrine of Patrocinio de Maria Santissima in Boljoon town, Cebu in the central Philippines. They reportedly went missing in 1988.

Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma OP said the panels 'are integral to the patrimony of the Church as part of her missionary work and thus considered sacred. Their illegal removal constitutes a sacrilege.'



The 19th-century pulpit panels are on display at the National Museum of the Philippines in Manila.

Photo: Facebook

Catholic groups oppose Rwanda plan

Catholic groups in Britain have joined over 250 organisations in condemning a bill submitted by the government of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to send some asylum seekers from the UK to the African nation of Rwanda. The government's plan, originally floated under former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, would stop legal challenges against sending asylum seekers to the other country. The plan had been rejected by the UK Supreme Court, which late last year ruled Rwanda was unsafe for asylum seekers.

Dangers of food waste

In a message to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Pope has warned of the dangers of food waste, highlighting that it damages the climate whilst it could feed the world's hungry. The Pope says our world faces a heart-breaking dichotomy related to food: 'On the one hand, millions of people are plagued by hunger, while on the other hand, great insensitivity is seen in the waste of food.' This food waste each year produces masses of greenhouse gases, while proper rationing would be enough to feed all the hungry, he said.

New resource for Year of Prayer

The Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelisation has issued a new resource on prayer aimed at inviting the faithful to 'intensify prayer as a personal dialogue with God' and to reflect on their faith and commitment in today's world. The new guidebook, entitled *Teach Us to Pray*, is the latest in a series of resources provided by the Dicastery to assist the Church as she prepares for the celebration of Jubilee 2025.

Inspired by Pope Francis, *Teach Us to Pray* consists of chapters dedicated to prayer in the parish and in the family; the prayer of young people; prayer in cloistered communities; catechesis; and spiritual retreats; and concludes with a section on 'The prayer of the faithful for Jubilee 2025.'

Plundered treasures returned to Ghana

An historic agreement was signed on 25 January, 2024, between Ghana and two major British museums. It has been agreed to return to Ghana a portion of its treasures looted in 1874 by British colonial troops, and kept at the British Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum. These 32 gold and silver objects will be loaned for a renewable period of three years to be displayed at the Manhyia Palace Museum in Kumasi, the former capital of the Ashanti Empire, in the south of Ghana.

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A photograph of a family (mother, father, and son) sitting together, smiling. A man in a suit is shaking hands with the father. The background shows a bookshelf.

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Benemerenti Medal for Sr Trish Hanaray

Ruth Thomas

Sr Patricia Hanaray was presented with the Benemerenti Medal by the Archbishop of Wellington Paul Martin sm at a ceremony held last month at Whitby Lakes Retirement Village.

Dating back to 1842, this medal from the Pope is awarded for long and exceptional service to clergy and laity of the Catholic Church.

‘The medal captures her work for the ministry and Church,’ Archbishop Martin said.

Residents of Whitby Lakes, Patricia’s family, members of St Theresa’s Parish Plimmerton, including parish priest Fr Andrew Kim, were at the ceremony. It was organised by a group from Whitby Lakes’ and led by Eddie Conroy.

Former teacher at St Mary’s College Wellington and Whitby Lakes resident Anne Miller outlined Sr Patricia’s life as a teacher and at the village where, known as Trish, she has lived for more than 12 years as a much-loved and respected member of the community.

As a young woman working in an office, Patricia spent some time with the Brigidine nuns and felt at home and found her vocation.

In 1956, she began her training in Sydney at the novitiate. After three years she returned to the Brigidines in New Zealand, a semi-closed order where life revolved around Church, convent and school. For five years, she looked after her sick mother, showing her caring skills.

Much of her teaching life was spent working in the Wellington area, being principal at Holy Family School in Porirua and at Pius X in Titahi Bay. She spent many years at St Bernard’s College in Lower Hutt where she started a Learners’ Support Programme. When she retired, she continued as a parish worker for St Peter and Paul’s Parish [Te Awakairangi].

‘Trish senses when things are difficult for people and is there to help them through bad patches in her own quiet way,’ Anne Miller said.

‘She epitomises the true Christian.



Sr Patricia Hanaray wearing her Benemerenti medal, awarded by the Pope to members of the clergy and laity for their services to the Catholic Church. Photos: Supplied



Archbishop Paul Martin presents Sr Patricia with her Benemerenti Medal Certificate.

‘In the village we also see her sense of humour and fun – in extravaganzas, pantomimes and talent shows. We won’t forget Trish playing the part of a fairy godmother in a pantomime, wearing a pink lei, pineapple earrings, a long flowing skirt and riding a scooter.

‘What an amazing, wonderful, caring, committed and inspirational life Sr Trish has led. We here are all the better for knowing her,’ Anne Miller said.

Dedicated vocations weekend in Porirua

Lucienne Hensel

Eleven young men from around the archdiocese and from as far as Hawke’s Bay attended a dedicated vocations weekend last month at Camp Elsdon in Porirua. Hosted by the archdiocese Church Mission vocations team as part of its ‘Come & See’ programme, it was their first whole weekend devoted to young men discerning a call to the priesthood.

The weekend involved personal reflection, group sharing and communal prayer as well as relaxing, sharing good food, and an energetic climb to Rangituhi/ Colonial Knob Walk on the hills south of Porirua.

Archbishop Paul Martin sm and priests from the archdiocese joined the group over meals getting to know the young men and encouraging them on their journeys.

The Come & See programme hosts regular gatherings for young men discerning vocations. The get-togethers provide a place to pray, grow in faith, share joys and struggles and support one another while exploring God’s calling to serve.

The next Come & See morning will be at Our Lady of Hope Parish, Main Road, Tawa on Saturday 9 March, starting with Mass at 9am. Please email l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz to register or for more information.

Visit wellingtonpriests.org



Archbishop Paul Martin and priests from the archdiocese joined the young men at mealtimes to continue their vocational journey discussions. Photos: Supplied



Come & See participants on the Rangituhi | Colonial Knob Walk, on the hills south of Porirua. On a clear day the walk has views from the summit from the Kaikōura Range to the south to Mt Taranaki to the northwest.

Landing the Waka recommences

The archdiocesan induction programme for incoming clergy from overseas – called ‘Landing the Waka’ – recommenced last October after a four-year hiatus.

Five newly arrived priests, Frs Akuila Taliauli, Raja Kommareddy and Uili Uvea (all svd – Society of Divine Word), Ravi Kumar Voliganti and Nicholas Phone Myint mf, joined Church Mission staff and Vicar General Mons Gerard Burns, for a three-day retreat at the Magnificat Centre in Cross Creek, South Wairarapa.

The priests spoke about their homes and experiences and what they bring to their new postings to the archdiocese. The number of languages spoken by the priests was impressive with at least two in the group each speaking more than six languages.

Experiences of the ongoing civil war in Myanmar and mass burials in Argentina during the Covid-19 pandemioc were two examples of the varied ministry experience these men bring with them to parishes here in Aotearoa New

Zealand. The priests said they are delighted to be here and look forward to getting to know their new communities.

The group will continue to meet monthly throughout this year to share pastoral experiences, learn more about the New Zealand context and to prepare for parish pastoral ministry.

Source: Archdiocese of Wellington Church Mission



Newly arrived priests Frs Akuila Taliauli, Raja Kommareddy, Uili Uvea Ravi Kumar Voliganti and Nicholas Phone Myint, with Church Mission staff Lucienne Hensel (centre), Mons Gerard Burns, Maya Bernardo and Chris Duthie-Jung. Photo: Supplied



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Dame Malvina Major to present Wellington concert for Maxwell Fernie Trust

Chris Hainsworth, Principal Organist of Beziers Cathedral, France marks his return to Wellington this month to give a special organ concert with ‘a delightful blend of music and observation delivered with effortless flourish and wit’.

The Wellington concert at St Mary of the Angels, 2pm Sunday 10 March, will be presented by Dame Malvina Major, and dedicated to Hainsworth’s former teacher and friend Maxwell Fernie, the acclaimed New Zealand organist, choral conductor and teacher.

As a choirboy at St Mark’s School, Wellington Chris Hainsworth always dreamt of playing the ‘mighty organ’. As soon as his feet could reach the pedals he abandoned the piano in favour of the organ – the instrument that would take him around the world, first studying across Belgium and France then teaching at the Conservatoires of Perpignan, Andorra, before taking up the position of Director of the Beziers Conservatoire.

Now Principal Organist of the Cathedral of Beziers, Chris is returning to New Zealand with

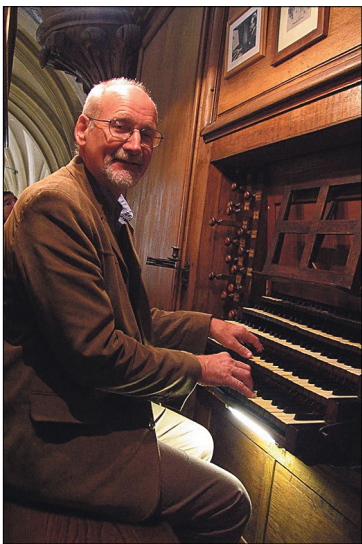
a series of special Organ Proms delivered with his trademark blend of delightfully curated music and observational wit.

The programme includes music from Theodore Dubois, Scarlatti, Kreisler, Mendelssohn and Bach, and finishes with a gloriously indulgent crescendo: the ‘Grand Megalomaniacal Improvisation’ on themes suggested by the audience.

Described by at least one Wellington reviewer as ‘New Zealand’s most entertaining classical organist’, Hainsworth has established himself at the forefront of concert organists with entertaining, informative and thought-provoking performances.

All proceeds from the Wellington concert will go to the Maxwell Fernie Dame Malvina Major Foundation Award established to honour the memory of Maxwell with an annual award supporting young New Zealand organists to further their education or training.

Maxwell Fernie OBE (1910–1999) was a renowned New Zealand organist, teacher and conductor. He was an authority on Gregorian chant, sixteenth century polyphony,



Chris Hainsworth, principle organist of Beziers Cathedral, returns to Wellington for a special concert dedicated to Maxwell Fernie.

organ construction and tonal design. He was music director and organist at St Mary of the Angels for many years.

Source: Maxwell Fernie Trust



Wellington members of CWL branches after reflection on ‘Bringing Advent to Life: Stations on the Way to Christmas’, by Fr JB Lyons, at Ss Peter & Paul Church, Lower Hutt. Photos: Supplied

Wellington Catholic Women’s League to celebrate 80 years

Christine Paterson

Members of the Archdiocese of Wellington Catholic Women’s League branches are preparing to celebrate a major milestone of 80 years of ‘Faith and Service in Action’ along with the recently incorporated branches from the Taranaki region.

CWL has played a crucial role in voluntary social work, launching women into public activities and developing leadership skills. We invite all who have been CWL members, or those interested in CWL, to join our celebrations at our conference over the weekend of 16 and 17 March, at St Bernadette’s Church Hall, Naenae, Lower Hutt.

A keynote speaker will be Joy Cowley with topics including exploration of clerical and feminine spirituality.

policymaking, mission discussions, and exploration of national themes. Mission support is our cornerstone, with a unique allocation system of fair distribution. CWL’s mission support includes responses to natural disasters in New Zealand and the South Pacific, support for Māori Missions and the annual national ‘Mission at Home’ appeals, which continue to have importance nationally and locally.

The spiritual dimension, integral to the League, has been nurtured by dedicated national, diocesan, and branch chaplains. Ecumenical events, including participation in the World Day of Prayer, showcase CWL’s commitment to active roles in community life.

Internationally, CWL is part of the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organisations (WUCWO), promoting principles and leadership. Responses to WUCWO questionnaires, Days of Prayer and participation in international assemblies highlight CWL’s global engagement.

We welcome as many people as possible who have past and current connections with the CWL to join us at our conference and celebrations this month.

Please contact the CWL archdiocesan secretary, Helen Greig at archdio.sec@gmail.com for more information and to register.



Joy Cowley

The now biennial CWL National Conferences have become a foundation for idea exchange,

Christine Paterson is CWL Wellington Archdiocesan Chaplain.

Farewell and welcome Mass for Hastings Parish

Trish Sharp

The Catholic Parish of Hastings – Te Parihi Katorika ki Heretaunga, held a wonderful celebration at a special Mass in late January to farewell departing assistant priest Fr Trung Nguyen and to welcome back Fr Marcus Francis as the new parish priest.

The persistent, heavy rain didn’t deter the crowds from attending to farewell Fr Trung at the packed Sacred Heart Church. Rather, it affirmed the special connections and relationships Fr Trung had established during his time in our parish.

Fr Trung celebrated the Mass alongside Fr Marcus and Fr Chris Martin. The youth led the beautiful singing, with the support of parish choir members.

On behalf of the parish, Brian



Fr Marcus Francis new parish priest (l) and departing assistant priest Fr Trung Nguyen cut their celebratory cakes. Photo: Supplied

Kelly delivered words of gratitude to Fr Trung for his ministry and service to our community and presented him with a donation and farewell cards from parishioners. In reply, Fr Trung acknowledged the contribution, commitment, generous support, and love from all parishioners during his time in the parish. He welcomed Fr Marcus back from Tararua Parish to our parish as parish priest.

Over 200 people attended the after-Mass refreshments in St Joseph School Hall, where parishioners had the opportunity to say their farewells and welcome Fr Marcus. A special thanks was given to those who organised the event, helped in the kitchen, and contributed to the meal to ‘feed the multitudes’.

Fr Trung has been appointed as assistant priest at The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth.

New safeguarding coordinator

Archbishop Paul Martin sm has appointed Kevin Plant as the new safeguarding coordinator for the Archdiocese of Wellington. Kevin replaces Sr Catherine Jones smsm who retired from the role in December.

Kevin is a long-time member of the Te Awakairangi Parish of Lower Hutt where he has volunteered as their safeguarding coordinator

for four years. In his professional career, Kevin has worked in the corporate, finance and charity sectors and for many years has been involved in youth development at a parish and archdiocesan level.

Kevin says he is very much looking forward to ‘further developing the wonderful work of Sr Catherine in the Safeguarding arena across the Archdiocese’.



Kevin Plant Photo: Supplied



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Archdiocese of Wellington

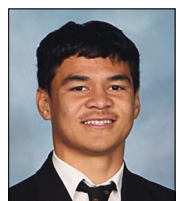
Garin College, Richmond, Nelson



Madeline (Maddie) Cornelisen
Dux 2023



Sarah Cools
Proxime Accessit 2023



Theo Simone
Archbishop's Award 2023



Student Leaders 2024 (l-r): Amy Oliver; Kurt Berry; Bridget Ogden-Bell; Finn Campbell; Caitlin Lloyd; Rōnān Moorhead; Ellen Theobald; William Haywood; Bella Goomes; Sophie Richardson; Riley Houia; Reagan Hannah.

Bishop Viard College, Porirua



Sophia Tupolo
Dux 2023



Riley Nansen
Proxime Accessit 2023



Sio Letele
Special Character Award 2023



Student leaders 2024 (l-r): Malachai Wesche-Faleao; Emelia Gaulofa-Wright; Charity Kells, Head Girl; Dominick Dayanghirang; Punipua Allan; Fa'alua Tairea; Fa'amavaega Lokeni, Head Boy.

St Patrick's College, Wellington



Daniel Barber
Dux 2023



Timothy Yip
Proxime Accessit 2023



Eurich Fullero
Archbishop's Award for Catholic Leadership 2023



Student Leadership Team 2024, top four (l to r): MJ des Tombe; Aaron Moe, Manu Taupua Matua | Head Prefect; Ben Stephen; Samson Te'o.

St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie



Maia Bouras
Dux 2023



Tessa Bell
Proxime Accessit 2023



Anael La Cruz
Proxime Accessit 2023



Student Leaders 2024 (l-r): Angela Roberts; Michaela Borja; Keanne Rodriguez; Ti'ama Davidson; Angelei Canete; Amanda Dela Cruz; Miranda Lerum; Dibora Tensae; Alessandra Basile; Vanessa Singh, Head Student; Madison Kooiman-Vili; Ashika Chander.

St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt



Justin Cajilog
Dux 2023



Duncan Ah Young
Proxime Accessit 2023



Patrick Byrne and Justin Cajilog
Special Character 2023



Trace Iti
Head Boy 2024



Denzel Masveta
Deputy Head Boys 2024



Tevita Alatini
Deputy Head Boys 2024

St Patrick's College, Silverstream



Johnathon Bentley-Cribb
Dux 2023



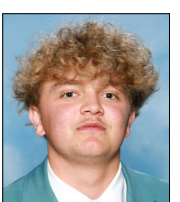
Hubert Lin
Proxime Accessit 2023



Jacob Hoult
Archbishop's Award for Catholic Leadership 2023



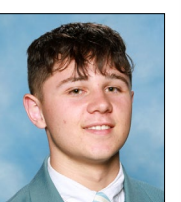
Kobe Betham
Head Boy 2024



Cooper Mallon
Head Boarder 2024

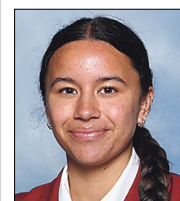


Arana Cronin-Stone
Deputy Head Boy 2024



Dylan Davey
Deputy Head Boy 2024

Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt



Jaden Asiata
Dux 2023



Stephanie Portugal
Proxime Accessit 2023



Gabrielle Cabauatan
Archbishop's Award for Catholic Leadership 2023



Student Leaders 2024 (l-r): Chyna Ivona; Penny Stanfield; Ysabelle Balao; Mckayla Ruaburo, Head Student; Zara Joe; Ruby Burrell.

Chanel College, Masterton



Malisa Clark
Dux 2023

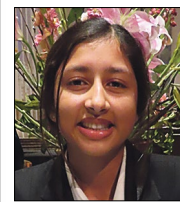


Kiara Lacaden
Proxime Accessit 2023

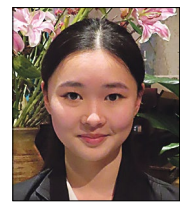


Student Leadership Team 2024 (l-r) back: Neve Meade, Thimira Wickrimaarachchi, Phillip Fa'aiuas, Jack Murray, Lachlan Bashford, Head Student; William Heming, Bethany Jackson, Aiesha Lloyd-Topp, Kaitlyn Rood; front: Rosie Macan, Head Student; Casper Morcilla, Head Student; Jacquelyn Murray, Dakota Wallis, Caitlyn Ward, Head Student; Tora Dornan, Tessa Paku.

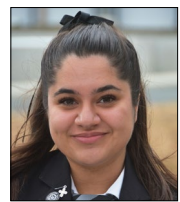
St Mary's College, Wellington



Maria John
Dux and Special Character 2023



Rachel Sue
Proxime Accessit 2023



Marianna Boless
Head Girl 2024



Student Leadership Team 2024 (l-r): Victoria Watson; Kahurangi Douglas; Maia Masina; Aeryn Lao; Dakota Munro; Marianna Boless, Head Girl; Sienna Leilua; Sophia Fouhy; Bailey Nightingale; Jael Laroza.

er Awards 2023 and Student Leaders 2024

Diocese of Palmerston North

» Continued on p 12, St Joseph Māori Girls' College, Napier.

Cullinane College, Whanganui



Daniel Hiroti
Dux 2023



Sandra Fernandez and
Eloise Bradshaw
Joint Proxime Accessit 2023



Jisna Jaison and Victoria Arrowsmith
Geoff Lott Special Character 2023



Angus Hadfield
Head Boy 2024



Awatea Kaua
Head Girl 2024



Tuakana and Leaders 2024 (l-r): Heemi Ihaka-Candy; Joanna Petras; Ezekiel Moran; Amelia Couper; Riwaka Maniapoto; Chantilli-Rose Metekingi-Waitokia; Patrick Daignault; Awatea Kaua, Head Girl; Angus Hadfield, Head Boy; Nia Edwards; Olly Jones, Deputy Head Boy; Te Reo Mareikura; Kendra Taylor; Elena Solomona, Deputy Head Girl.

St Peter's College, Palmerston North



Denz Shinoy
Dux 2023



Addira Collette
Proxime
Accessit 2023



Charlotte Bateman and Carson May
Medallion for Service to Special
Character 2023



Maata Severinsen and Jacob Crume
Head Girl and Head Boy 2024



Student leadership team 2024 (l-r) back: Jacob Crume, Ruben Gonzalez Rayner, Deiz Shinoy, Tafu Seko, Ferani Sefilino, Ella Apthorp, Holly Pedley, Connor Yates, Elijah Price; middle: Oscar Hansen, Rosalia Siu, Zada Luamanu, Maata Severinsen, Isabella Higgs, Lucy Pearn, Junior Faiao Pelasio, Lachie Smith; front: Kim Carelse, Aimee Hodson, Maia Jarvis, Ayryn Saju, Carmel Fullick.

Sacred Heart College, Napier



Amelia Murphy (l) Dux 2023 and
Lucia Urquhart, Proxime Accessit
and Blue Ribbon Recipient 2023



Ila Pasikalia Muagututi
Pat Faulkner Memorial
Cup for Special
Character 2023



Student Leaders 2024 (l-r): Ann
Maria Jelish (centre) Head Girl;
Tamar Aiken (l) and Teuila
Apineru (r) Deputy Head Girls.

Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth



Bethanie Luke
Dux 2023



Angel Lepasana
Proxime Accessit
2023 and Special
Character 2023



Head Girl Team 2024: (l-r) Hannah Montalla,
Deputy Head Girl Special Character; Florence
Parker, Head Girl; Livie Murray, Deputy Head
Girl Student Council.

St John's College, Hastings



Abel Bincy
Dux 2023



Harry Unwin
Proxime Accessit 2023



Freddie Salter
Head Boy 2024



Prefects 2024 (l-r) back row: Theo Howes; Kane Ngawhare; Brock McGrath; Jeevanjot Singh; Dani Shilin; third row: Oliver Tuanaki; James Hawke; Kian Forgie; Dave Nguyen; second row: Toko Turipa, Deputy Head Boy; Satvir Parmar, Deputy Head Boy; Connor Hawkins, Deputy Head Boy; first row: Freddie Salter, Head Boy. Absent: Peter Hannah.

Hato Pāora College, Feilding



Te Aorere
Murrow-Rewi
Dux 2023



Legacy
Poutawa
Head Boy 2024



Apirana Barber
Deputy Head Boy
2024



Kaylib Mikaere
Prefect 2024



Manaia Okwara
Prefect 2024

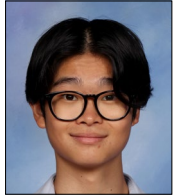


Meschach Craig
Prefect 2024

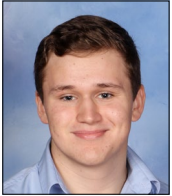


Storm Kemp
Prefect 2024

Francis Douglas Memorial College, New Plymouth



Clarence Chan
Dux 2023 and
Head Boy 2024



Aidan Green
Proxime
Accessit 2023



Daniel Lewis
Deputy Head
Boy 2024



Zach Bernardo
Special Character
Leader 2024



Sacred Heart Girls' College New Plymouth, Student Leaders 2024.

Young Catholics

>> Continued from p 11

Diocese of Palmerston North

St Joseph Māori Girls' College, Napier



Holley Carlson
Dux 2023



Te Rito
Aperahama
Nga Mahi a Kui a
Koro mā – Special
Character 2023



Kendra Gerrard
Head Girl 2024



Prefects 2024, back (l-r): **Irihapeti Tuiletufuga-Nicholls** (Ngāti Kahungunu/Rangitāne); **Emma Hall** (Te Arawa); **Te Aniwa Robertson** (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa); **Palee Dewes** (Ngāti Porou/Tūhoe/Ngāpuhi); **Hiria Herewini** (Ngāti Whatuiāpiti/Tūhoe/Ngāti Awa/Te Whānau-ā-Apanui); **Rangikoea Kingi** (Te Arawa/Ngāti Tūwharetoa/Tūhoe); **Teina Beatty** (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Te Wairoa/Te Whānau-ā-Apanui); front (l-r): **Sarah Wilson** (Ngāti Awa); **Maria-Rose Houkamau** (Ngāti Manawa/Ngāti Porou/Ngāti Ranginui); **Kendra Gerrard**, Head Girl (Ngāti Porou/Ngāti Kahungunu/Ngāti Raukawa); **Tiori Stockman**, Deputy Head Girl (Ngāti Maniapoto/Ngāti Tūwharetoa ki Taupō); **Quaysha Reedy** (Ngāti Porou/Ngāi Tāmanuhiri/Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki).



Masterton's St Patrick's Primary School and Chanel College observed Ash Wednesday together in the Chanel College gym last month. It was an opportunity for Deacon Matthew White, new to the Catholic Parish of the Wairarapa, to get to know the students from both schools at the peaceful liturgy. And it was an occasion for student leaders of both schools to take up their duties for the first time this year, distributing the blessed ashes to those present.

Words and photo: Angela Gregory, Chanel College

New bishop receives warm welcome

Phil Gunn

On the Feast of St Brigid, 1 February, the students, staff and community of St Mary's Catholic School, Foxton gathered in St Mary's Church, eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new bishop of Palmerston North. It was Bishop John Adams' first visit to our school.

Following local Kawa-custom the visit began with Pōwhiri, and as Bishop John entered St Mary's Church for the first time, the beautiful call of karanga from Whaea Ani Waston and Whaea Ani Rauhihi filled the air, signalling the start of this special occasion.

A heartfelt welcome unfolded as Ngāti Raukawa, Mana Whenua in Foxton, along with the school community embraced Bishop John with warm words of welcome by Te Kenehi Teira, and with song.

On behalf of Bishop Adams' former Hato Pāora student Karanama Peita responded emphatically, reminding us of the four long years we have been without a bishop and how good it is that Bishop John is now here.

Following the Hongi, Bishop Adams spoke. The children were delighted and very proud to hear that they were the first school in the Diocese of Palmerston North to welcome Bishop John in this way.

Immediately following the Pōwhiri, another highlight of Bishop John's visit was his saying of St Brigid's Day Mass, a joint celebration of the school's founding Sisters' faith, and of the new school year. Bishop John's homily showed his educational background, with the students enjoying his rich stories of St Brigid and her message of kindness for others. Students proudly and ably led the people in



Bishop John Adams, with Karanama Peita, on his visit to St Mary's School Foxton.

Photos: Supplied



Bishop John blesses the children.

reading and singing.

Each of the children received a personal blessing from Bishop John.

'It was pretty cool,' said one year-six student.

At the conclusion of the Mass, the school community gathered for a shared kai and an opportunity to meet and talk with Bishop John.

A strong theme of the day was how glad the community was to finally have our own bishop to lead the diocese once again. The students at St Mary's School can't wait to have him visit again soon.

This year marks St Brigid's 1,500th anniversary from her feast on 1 February.

Phil Gunn is Principal / Tumuaki, DRS, St Mary's Catholic School, Foxton / Te Kura Katorika O Hato Maria, Te Awahou.

Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024

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Rangatahi Katorika

Connecting with God at Life Teen Summer Camp 2024

Nick Wilson

More than 300 young participants, chaperones and volunteer leaders attended this year's Life Teen Summer Camp based in Cambridge, from 16 to 20 January.

This 8th year of camp offered the young people opportunities to connect with Jesus through keynote sessions, group discussions and fun.

Among those taking part from parishes around the country, Palmerston North and Wellington dioceses had groups from seven parishes – Hastings, New Plymouth, Whanganui, Palmerston North, Kāpiti, Wellington South and Te Awa Kairangi of Lower Hutt.



Young people from Palmerston North Diocese enjoying Life Teen Summer Camp 2024 in Cambridge. Photo: Supplied

Victoria Arrowsmith (18), a camper who went with her parish group from Whanganui, says of her experience: "There was the perfect

balance of prayer and activity. We were blessed to have many wonderful speakers who captivated our attention and drew us closer to

God. Cultural Evening allowed us to represent and share our cultures. I loved bonding with my parish group, particularly through parish

kōrero and fun activities like the low ropes and Messy Games.

"The community feel was strong, especially during "Praise and Worship", where we proclaimed our faith through music. This was a personal highlight. Adoration also held special significance. At the beginning of camp we were told the person you come as will not be the same person who leaves at the end of the week; and that could not have been more accurate. Life Teen Summer Camp is the beginning of a life with God, if only you say "Yes".

Life Teen Summer Camp is run in partnership between Life Teen Aotearoa, Auckland and Hamilton Dioceses.

Fostering Christian musical talents

Nick Wilson

Another Christian Summer event for young people that took place in the Waikato, was the Festival One Christian Music Festival, 26–29 January, staged in Karapiro, just out of Cambridge.

Festival One, formerly known as Parachute Christian Music Festival and celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, showcases music, art and community,

The Palmerston North Diocese Young Church office organised a group from Hastings and Palmerston North to attend, with the aim of exciting our young musicians into using their musical talents for service in the Church.

Our 'Palmy' group stopped off on the way at the Tangiwai Disaster Memorial in the Central North Island, to pray for those who perished in that event 70 years ago.

After reaching Narrows Park Christian Camp, located near the festival site, we had a team building exercise to make sure we could get our tents up and down in quick order. We then took off and hit the festival. It looked like one big tent city; and it was hot – but better than last year when a



The 'Palmy' group stopped at Tangiwai Disaster Memorial on their way to Festival One at Karapiro. Photo: Supplied

cyclone came through while we were in the tents on the first festival night!

Several different stages were set up at the festival with different Christian artists from around New Zealand and overseas performing at what is biggest Christian music festival in the country.

One of the highlights is seeing all the different Christian ministries that folks can get involved with and support. Another highpoint is when the festival barbecue experts fire up several massive Argentinian BBQs and cook for 5000 festival goers – to give an idea of what it might have looked like when Jesus fed the 5000, as in Matt 14:13-21.

A great aspect of this festival

is how it shows our young people they too can be Christian music artists, with the opportunity for new Christian bands to get a start. Some of those bands have gone on to be headline acts here and away.

We look forward to the inspiration of the Spirit compelling these young people to share their gifts and talents in their schools and parishes. We certainly encourage folks to attend this family-safe festival for a great experience of music, faith, friends and fun!

Nick Wilson is the Diocese of Palmerston North's Young Catholics Team Leader and Manawātū Catholic Tertiary Chaplain.

Wellington Catholic Foundation scholarship winners

The Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of Wellington congratulates the eight recipients of its 2023 scholarships for the 2024 tertiary studies' year and wishes the successful applicants well in their chosen courses. The scholarships

worth \$2,000 each, are awarded for the first year of a student's tertiary study. The awards were presented at college prize-giving events at the end of 2023 to the following eight students for their 2024 tertiary year.



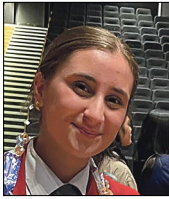
Justin Cajilog
St Bernard's College
Lower Hutt



Maria John
St Mary's College
Wellington



Jiro Ibarra
St Patrick's College
Wellington



Hailey Elya
Sacred Heart College
Lower Hutt



Kiara Lacaden
Chanel College
Masterton



Anna Devine
St Oran's College
Lower Hutt



Bianca Blanch
St Catherine's College
Kilbirnie



Annie Watson
Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt, recipient of the Margaret Ryan Scholarship for Teaching

Eight Catholic Foundation Scholarships are available to students residing in the Wellington Archdiocese who are in their final year of secondary education. The scholarships of \$2,000 each are for a student's first year of tertiary education.

There are three scholarship categories.

- Four Catholic Foundation Scholarship open to all students undertaking tertiary study.
- The Margaret Ryan Scholarship for students studying for a degree in teaching.

- Scholarships for former refugees – the Halina Morrow Fladrzynska Scholarship, the Joseph Francis Kish Scholarship and the Krystyna Danuta Downey Scholarship.



To learn more about the Catholic Foundation Tertiary Scholarship programme please visit catholicfoundation.org.nz

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Please use your name and email address as a reference and we will send you a receipt.

www.svd.org.nz



St Patrick's School fundraiser – 800 cans donated to the Vinnies Annual Food Drive in Christchurch.



 Society of St Vincent de Paul New Zealand

‘Your authentic sense of liturgical occasion’

Monsignor Charles Harold Pascal Cooper, a much-loved and respected priest of the Archdiocese of Wellington, died on 3 January 2024, aged 90, at his home in Wellington. **Ken Joblin**, organist and chorister at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Wellington from 1988-2000, and now Sacred Music Adviser for the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch, pays tribute to his former mentor and guide.

The heading for this article is taken from a letter I wrote to Monsignor Charles Cooper in January 1991, at the conclusion of his time at Sacred Heart Cathedral. As he has now gone to God, it is a comfort to know these words were said while he was in his prime as a priest.

By the late 1980s, Fr Charles Cooper had succeeded Monsignor Hugh Doogan as Dean of our Cathedral. His appointment was inspired, as in him, we had the unique combination of a well-formed priest, who was also a Church musician and a liturgist. These gifts were very much to the fore in the Mass celebrated by Pope St John Paul II at the Basin Reserve in late 1986.

After strengthening and repurposing Sacred Heart as a cathedral, it was re-opened in late 1987. The organ, which had been taken out of the building for restoration and enlargement, did not return until 1991, just as Mons Cooper began his appointment

to St Mary’s, Nelson. Thanks to his vision for cathedral liturgy, Dean Cooper was able to support the establishment of what he later described as ‘a more than competent choir and an accomplished organist’ in Dianne Halliday. She worked seamlessly with him, accompanying and directing the choir from a grand piano, donated by the Cooper family, among others.

Dean Cooper did everything with precision and an eye for detail. Because of his dignified and measured liturgical approach, our gaze was certainly lifted heavenward. As I wrote to him: ‘Having a Dean who is himself very musical and has had extensive training in music and its place in liturgy is not something we can expect. Nor is it easily found. We have simply been very fortunate to have someone like that who can supplement support for what we do, with keen musical interest and knowledge.’

Dean Cooper was a gifted and well-spoken homilist. I wrote: ‘I

recall one homily of yours in 1989, which I found particularly helpful to me and others around me at the time. In it, you spoke of forgiveness and reconciliation. The bottom line of it was that it is not enough to bury the hatchet. One had to bury it in an unmarked grave so that it never would be dug up again and used as a tool against an individual. Only then would there be true forgiveness.’

I further wrote: ‘It was a stroke of luck I happened to walk into the Cathedral at a time when you were there and that you offered the organ scholarship to me on the spot. I interpret that action as a sign from God that I have talent in playing the organ and that I should use it for the benefit of the Church as well as of myself.’ His initiative was key in my commitment to the Church’s sacred music.

I leave the final words of this article to Mons Cooper. While they were spoken to conclude his 1994 lecture series for liturgical musicians, they seem all the more apt now.

‘I want to thank you for letting me share this time with you. I hope you will have a sense of the privilege that has been given to all of us to serve God’s people in the ministry of music. I hope you will always experience sustained enjoyment and joy in



fulfilling the liturgical task which is your own, and I pray God will bless and sustain you in your ministry. May we all rejoice to meet and sing again in the heavenly choir in the song that is eternal.’ – Charles P. Cooper

Mons Cooper baptises Ellie McLaughlin at St Francis de Sales Church, Island Bay, 19 October 2003. Ellie is being held by her mother, Janine McLaughlin, with Ellie’s father, Jim McLaughlin standing behind. Photo: Supplied.

Fr Michael McCabe led the Requiem Mass for Monsignor Cooper on 9 January at Sacred Heart Church, Petone. In his homily he shared fond and enlightening memories.

‘Those of us mentored by Charles in liturgy and music soon learnt

to follow his instructions honed by his time as Chaplain to the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Flight Lieutenant Cooper was no shrinking violet!

‘Charles was ordained a priest on 25 July, 1960. The Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) gave birth

to a new way of thinking about [worship], Church and ministry – both lay-ecclesial and the ordained priesthood.

‘In a time of great transition for the Body of Christ, Charles brought hope and compassion, meaning and laughter, and joy and healing, as he

lived out *this* gospel in a spirit, a courageous spirit, of collaboration with all the people of God, including those who found themselves on the boundaries of the Body of Christ, or their families, or their communities. This was *how* he bore much fruit in the living out of this gospel.

‘Charles: We pray thanks for your compassion born of vulnerability and rich humanity. And we pray thanks for your generative love and perseverance in season and out of season in Christ. Rest in peace and pray for us for our need is now greater...’



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- The re-opening of the Cathedral is just a few months away – 7 June is the scheduled date.
- The project has a real need – while it commenced as approximately a \$13 million budget, we still have a shortfall of \$1 million to raise.
- With 31 March being the end of the financial year, donations are tax deductible.
- Please remember that the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart does have a part to play in our faith journey for all of us.

Sacred Heart Cathedral Restoration Campaign HOW TO DONATE

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Account number: **02-0506-0138488-025**
Reference: **Reopen**
Particulars: **Your name**

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If the above options do not work for you, or you would like to discuss making a donation through your business or in any other way, please call our office on **021 248 0608** or email office@cathedralcampaign.org.nz

Thank you once again for your support for this transformational project. Please contact us if there is anything you would like to discuss about the campaign.

www.cathedralcampaign.org.nz

Working for Church ‘a good fit’ for new GM

Michael Fitzsimons

Taking up the position of General Manager of the Archdiocese of Wellington has felt like ‘coming home’, says new appointee Reuben Norris.

Reuben, an Australian partnered to a Wellingtonian, Helen, took up the position in August 2023.

‘I’m really enjoying the challenge and working with the people in the Archdiocese of Wellington. Working in a Catholic organisation is like coming home, after six months in the Ministry [of Education]. Working for the Catholic Church is a good fit for me. That’s where my faith is, that’s how I’ve grown up. To come here and work for the Archbishop in a strategically important role is a privilege.’

Reuben was born and bred in Perth, Western Australia. His parents were both migrants, his Mum from Malaysia and his Dad a refugee from Myanmar. He was educated in the Catholic education system and studied commerce at university, completed a Diploma in Education at the University of Notre Dame Australia and began a teaching career. Over time, with his business background, he moved into financial and infrastructure management in the Catholic education system, first in Western Australia and then in Brisbane.

A highlight of his career to that point was helping with the setting up of a school for refugees on Christmas Island, at the request of the Australian Government. The school was run by Catholic Education Western Australia.

The transition to living in Wellington has gone smoothly. He’s even getting used to the weather, he

says with a laugh.

‘I’ve really enjoyed the people and the lifestyle. It’s just a different lifestyle. As much as people say that Australia and New Zealand are alike, they’re very different culturally, and the way people approach life and get on with things.’

In his role as General Manager, Reuben needs to take a long-term view of the Church and where it’s heading. His job is to support the vision and mission of the Archbishop but his role is also to support parishes. Next month he is visiting parishes in the South Island to find out more about how they operate financially and discuss ways of supporting them more. He will also be holding meetings in parishes in the North Island.

“We shouldn’t be asking people to give more, we should be getting more people to give.”

‘I want to hear their successes and their challenges. I’m new to the country and there’s plenty for me to learn but there could be an advantage in coming in fresh. There may be more we can do to support parishes, to make things easier for them.’

‘I want to hear the stories of where parishes are at. Coming from Western Australia I’m used to travelling. I’m looking forward to getting on the road again.’

The big challenge, the ‘nut to crack’, is financial sustainability of the whole of the archdiocese into the future, says Reuben. There are a number of realities to consider, including the decline in Mass numbers since the Covid pandemic. Another reality is that, according to research into giving among all faiths in New Zealand, Catholics are at the

modest end of church donating.

‘How do we get people to give? As the Archbishop [Paul Martin SM] says, when people’s faith is on fire, they want to give. When you’ve got flourishing parishes and the faith is flourishing, giving will follow.’

‘Part of my role is to give that sense that we are a community. The context for giving is that we are a faith community. If I get up there and just talk dollars and cents, people are going to turn off.’

While he is eager to be part of the solution, Reuben is also conscious that well-informed ideas about keeping a parish sustainable come from the parish.

‘I’m a big believer in subsidiarity, that where possible, decisions are made at the most appropriate

level. Ideas on how to keep a parish sustainable come from local decisions. From what I’ve seen, parishes here are far more active in looking at their future sustainability than in Australia. Parishes here are empowered to come up with those ideas.’

At the same time, says Reuben, there’s a common-good element that needs to be considered.

‘Subsidiarity needs to be balanced with the common good, what’s good for all parishes as part of an archdiocese, and what’s best for the ongoing sustainability of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Wellington. Canon Law is a part of the mix as well so it’s a case of finding the right balance.’

The larger picture is that we are living through a time of significant



Reuben Norris, General Manager, Archdiocese of Wellington. Photo: WelCom

change in society and the Church, and we must be flexible, adapt and move with it, says Reuben.

Reuben points to the current Synod that is currently in between sessions as a guide forward.

‘The synthesis report talks about a Church that is closer to the lives of Her people, less bureaucratic and more relational. I see my role of General Manager is to model this in the way I work within the Archdiocese.’

‘The numbers of clergy are decreasing, and the Archdiocese has been through a process of parish amalgamation. We have to take stock of where we are at, look at where we want to be and come up with a plan to get there.’

‘My mantra for a little while is going to be “we need to do more with less” but I want to change that to say “we need to do more with more”. It’s not that we don’t have the resources, it’s just that we need to use them better. As we grow our resources, we will need to continue to use them to continue to help grow the Church.’

So I don’t see it as a declining Church or a diminishing Church. I just see it as a different Church. It’s different in its makeup and it’s different in how we operate. We need to be prepared to use what we’ve got in a different way.’

The key to sustainability is building vibrant communities of faith, says Reuben.

‘If we attract more people, the giving part will look after itself. We shouldn’t be asking people to give more, we should be getting more people to give.’

Reuben heads a team of about 50 staff at the archdiocesan centre, with four key departments – Catholic Social Services, Church Mission, Finance and Education, each of which has a director. His style is collaborative with the directors and himself making up a leadership team.

‘Ultimately what I really want to do is enable staff to do the work – providing services of mission and support to the Archbishop, parishes and the Catholic community in the Archdiocese.’

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Pursuing the common good

Bishop Peter Cullinane challenges Christians to promote the common good in our society now.

The core responsibility of those entrusted to govern is to promote the common good. This doesn't mean just what is best for most people. It means creating the social, economic and ecological conditions which enable *all* members of society – according to their capacity – to reach their human fulfilment and to contribute to the good of society.

Majority rule – and claims to be acting on the mandate of a majority – do not guarantee the common good. Majority rule can even lead to disadvantaged groups and indigenous peoples being under the domination of majority cultures, indefinitely.

Electoral systems are only a means to a higher end. That higher end is the fundamental right of people to participate and contribute to decisions that affect them. As ancient wisdom put it: 'If it's about us, then not without us.'

'One person one vote' can need to be supplemented by other measures, especially at the local level, to enhance people's ability to participate.

Same treatment is not always equality

To safeguard this right, fair-minded people recognise the need to level the playing field for disadvantaged groups. Opposition to this is based on the simplistic view that equality requires everyone to be treated 'the same'. In fact, sameness of treatment can prevent equality of opportunity.

Worse still, sometimes that is the agenda: to treat 'everybody the same' is convenient for those who want to reinforce the political and economic advantages they already have. They will call different treatment 'divisive'. What can look like advocating for different treatment based on culture or ethnicity can be, in fact, advocating supplementary measures based on need. Failure to meet those needs is divisive.

Cultural diversity matters

However, self-interest is not the only reason for opposing efforts to level the playing field. Opposition can emerge from a poor understanding of why cultural diversity matters so much. Think of the decision of Australians to vote down a proposal that would have given First Australians a way of making their needs better understood by the nation's parliament.

In our own country, there has been opposition to extra provision for Māori participation on local body boards, and a slowness to allow Māori to manage vaccination rollouts among their own people when the Ministry of Health's lack of success was evident.

These matters raise an interesting question: why do we readily accept the need to level the playing field for some disadvantaged groups, but resist doing so when the disadvantage relates to cultural or ethnic diversity? Is this just the typical failure of some within a dominant culture to understand the deep needs of people whose culture is different? Does it reflect an individualistic culture's tendency to identify need only in individuals, failing to recognise the shared needs of communities?

Or does this zeal for dominance by the majority culture come from something more sinister? After all, to eliminate te reo Māori from public signage is a gratuitous, needless and mean-spirited thing to do – the more bizarre because it is an official language. A dominant culture's failure to recognise the needs of other cultural groups can only heighten tangata whenua's felt need for full self-determination.

Civil society

Of course, a people's right to self-determination includes their right to enter treaties and agreed forms of



Treaty House, Waitangi.

Photo: iStock

partnership. But treaties, legislation and contractual agreements, though important, are not sufficient. Achieving the common good depends more on those forms of association that bring people together based on goodwill, friendship, loyalty, generosity, shared values and responsibilities. It is through these relationships that we become our true selves by being there for one another – civil society.

The markets and the state are meant to support that kind of society. But neo-liberalism has subverted these relationships: society's subjugation to polarising market forces, and the state's subservience to the market's most powerful sectors are deemed to be normal, acceptable and inevitable; it's even called 'progress'.

Society has itself to blame for this to the extent that we have farmed out to the state and the markets the consequences of our poor choices. In discussions on social and economic problems, the glaring absence of any reference to personal virtue, moral formation or social responsibility is commonplace. We expect the state and the markets to fix what we have broken. They can't.

Pursuing the common good also needs freedom of speech and of association, including religious freedom. Faith-based values and respectful faith-based dialogue have a unique contribution to make to the common good, but that contribution can be obstructed by polarising religious fundamentalism at one extreme, and secularism disguised as 'neutrality' at the other.

The 'logic of gift'

In some remarkable documents, recent popes have taught the need for giving what isn't owed. Lack of compassion was a feature of the pre-Christian cultures of Rome and Greece, and it is a feature of post-Christian society today. In the early Church, compassion made Christians conspicuously different. Compassion, like God's love for us, isn't owed. That makes it a circuit breaker where otherwise tit for tat and getting even would be about as far as the common good could go.

Pope Francis has asked: 'those with institutional and political responsibility, and those charged with forming public opinion, to remain especially attentive to the

way they speak of those who think or act differently or those who may have made mistakes...courage is needed to guide towards processes of reconciliation. It is precisely such positive and creative boldness which offers real solutions to ancient conflicts and the opportunity to build lasting peace...

'Some feel that a society rooted in mercy is hopelessly idealistic...I would encourage everyone to see society not as a forum where strangers compete and try to come out on top, but above all as a home or a family, where the door is always open and where everyone feels welcome' (World Communications Day 2016).

Similarly, Pope Benedict XVI dared to hope that compassion, gratuitous giving and forgiving could be brought into economic relationships – the very antithesis of neo-liberal economics. He thinks of what it would do to trading relationships, business and industrial practices. He sees this as a way of pre-empting the imbalances and inequities that otherwise need to be redressed afterwards.

'On the one hand, charity demands justice: recognition and respect for the legitimate rights of individuals and peoples. It strives to build the earthly city according to law and justice. On the other hand, charity transcends justice and completes it in the logic of giving and forgiving. The earthly city is promoted not merely by relationships of rights and duties, but to an even greater and more fundamental extent by relationships of gratuitousness, mercy and communion' (Caritas in Veritate par 6).

This article was first published in Tui Motu InterIslands, issue 289 February 2024: 4-5. It has been republished in WelCom, issue 421 March 2024, with permission.

Inquiry's Final Report to be released

Te Rōpū Tautoko, the group coordinating Catholic engagement with the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care, has advised in its February newsletter that the Royal Commission of Inquiry will publish its final report by 28 March 2024.

The report will reflect the information and evidence gathered throughout the Inquiry. It will include what they found out about the nature of the abuse, the extent of it, the impact it had on people, what has improved, and what may still need to be done. Alongside the final report there have been a number of interim reports published by the Inquiry. In addition to the interim and final reports, the Inquiry has published a range of other reports and publications that informs their work.



MEN'S MEETINGS

Joshua aims to encourage, support and strengthen men in their Christian calling. Come and join us.

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

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

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Lent – an encounter with the gift of mercy

The season of Lent invites Christians into a time of self-examination; to take ourselves through a ‘warrant of fitness’ test regarding our relationships with God and with one another. It is not meant to be a scary time, but rather one of gratefulness and gladness as we come to appreciate how loved we are – and how loving we can be – through the great gift of mercy.

James Lyons
Priest of the Archdiocese of Wellington

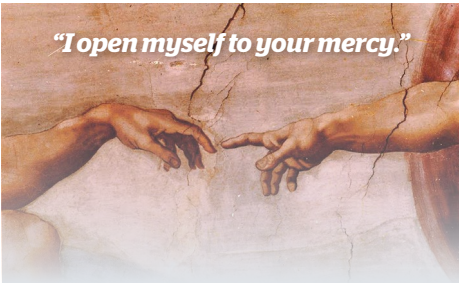
Mercy guides the pastoral ministry of Jesus. It has a restorative power greater than any medicine. He sets a standard for us when he says, *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge...; do not condemn. Forgive....* [Luke 6:36-38]

Mercy is more than tolerance. Mercy is even more than forgiveness. Mercy comes through eyes able to see beneath the hurt and the fault, to the weakness that led to the offence.

Mercy understands the awful emptiness within, and the powerlessness to change what has happened. Mercy does not excuse but enables justice to be true and fair. God’s mercy is a spontaneous outpouring of unconditional love, overwhelmingly generous.

Here are some prayers that might assist your own reflection on the wonder, power and purpose of mercy and help you more fully express your own gratefulness and gladness for this season of Lent.





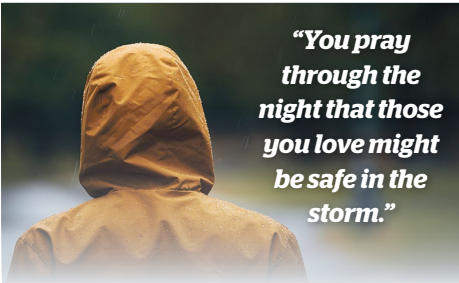
“I open myself to your mercy.”

Holy and merciful God:
Your loving gentleness breaks the hardness of our pride and heals my reluctance to see the good in others or to accept their sorrow. I open myself to your mercy that, knowing your forgiveness, I might open my heart to share your life-giving gift of pardon and peace.



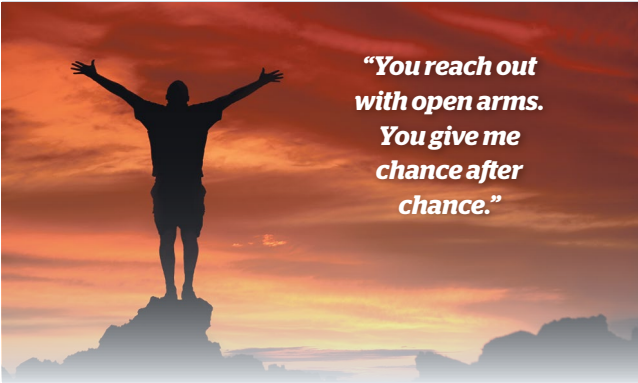
“You are the eagle that hovers and watches and keeps safe the fledgling.”

Compassionate Companion:
You are the parent who cannot forget the child of her womb. You are the mother hen whose wings shelter and protect her little ones. You are the eagle that hovers and watches and keeps safe the fledgling. I entrust myself to you with my weakness, my sickness my faults and my failings. Guard me, guide me. Companion me home.




“You pray through the night that those you love might be safe in the storm.”

O God, ever patient, ever hoping:
You stand at the door and knock, prepared to keep knocking. You watch the road for any sign of your returning child. You pray through the night that those you love might be safe in the storm. Help me to see your longing and to hear the breaking of your heart; to feel the warmth of your love and to open myself to your welcome.



“You reach out with open arms. You give me chance after chance.”

I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful. [Jeremiah 3:11]
Anger threatens, terrifies. Anger forgoes reason Anger belittles, humiliates and is blind to justice. Thank you loving God that your ways are not as mine are. I seek vengeance when I am hurt and demand my rights when wronged. I build walls from my rage and shut my ears to cries of sorrow. You reach out with open arms. You give me chance after chance. Your mercy knows no bounds. Change my ways to yours that I might gift the mercy with which you have gifted me.



“He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smouldering wick” – Matthew 12:20

He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smouldering wick [Matthew 12:20]
Gentleness, tolerance, patience – these are your marks O God and the qualities seen in the life of Jesus. Surely a revelation of great beauty; an invitation to boundless hope. Thank you, wonderful God for the forgiveness you hold out to me, for the love you have for me, for the time you give me. May my forgiving and loving be as yours and my time a gift to you, to serve with gentleness, tolerance and patience.

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Gospel Reading: Sunday 3 March 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – JOHN 2:13-25

¹³ Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. ¹⁵ He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, ¹⁶ and to those who sold doves he said, ‘Take these out of here,’ and stop making my

Father’s house a marketplace.’ ¹⁷ His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me.* ¹⁸ At this the Jews answered and said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’ ¹⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.’ ²⁰ The Jews said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?’ ²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his

body. ²² Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. ²³ While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. ²⁴ But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, ²⁵ and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

We are the Body of Christ

Dr Elizabeth Julian rsm

‘My favourite part of the Mass on Sunday is when our parish priest will rise and say: “The Mass has ended.” It’s about that time that I start to think about what we’re going to be having for lunch! But our priest continues, now with his arms outstretched, and he will close with this charge to the congregation: “Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.” Mr Speaker, it is with that spirit, the spirit of peace and love and service, with which my extended family who are here today come to this House.’

The late Efeso Collins’ conclusion (above) to his parliamentary maiden speech 15 February 2024 captures well the zeal for or commitment to God that the disciples saw in Jesus. When the disciples witnessed Jesus’ ‘temper tantrum’ in the Temple they recognised in him the man in Psalm 69 whose zeal for God made him an object of scorn.

The moneychangers and pigeon-sellers were legitimately conducting business in the correct area. But by his decisive actions Jesus has highlighted the Temple’s primary function. The Prophet Zechariah, whom Jesus quotes, had prophesied that in the end times there would be no businesses operating in the Temple. Jesus upset and confused the Temple authorities even further by speaking symbolically of his body as the Temple and predicting his resurrection.

In claiming to be the new Temple Jesus says that he is now the place where God is encountered, the place where God is truly present in the world, no longer confined to a building.

Today we, as the Body of Christ, are each called to be living expressions of this presence, called to zeal for God, called to love and service.

So what areas in our lives need ‘overturning’? What needs to be ‘driven out’?



Faʻanānā Efeso Collins (1974–21 February 2024) was a man of faith, a New Zealand politician, activist, academic, husband and father. He was a tireless advocate for the Pasifika community of South Auckland, where he lived with his wife Fia and their two daughters. Born and raised in Ōtara, Faʻanānā was a devout Christian who led a local church youth group and ran mentoring programmes.

He was a Member of Parliament for the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand from October 2023 until his sudden death on 21 February 2024. One week after giving his maiden speech (referenced left), Collins attended a charity fun run in Auckland. He collapsed during the event and died at the scene.

Malolo filemu

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DATES AND EVENTS – WHAT’S ON

To list events free, email welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz with event name, date, time, location and contact details.

Sunday 3 March

- Day of Prayer for all Children – Te Rā o Ngā Tamariki | Children’s Day (NZ)
- ALL IN – Youth Hang Out for youth of Wellington. Games, Mass, music, friends, food, faith, 2–5pm, Avalon Park. Organised by Archdiocesan Young Church team. Follow @ADWYoungChurch.

Sundays 3 and 10 March

Love is a Decision – marriage preparation course for engaged couples, 10am–4pm. Register at wn.catholic.org.nz/about/church-mission/marriage-ministries

Friday 8 March

International Women’s Day

Saturday 9 March

- Emmaus Discovery Seminar – for those providing pastoral care on climate psychology, theology and ministry, by Silvia Purdie, ordained minister and counsellor with special interest in mission and natural world, 9.30am–12.30pm, Cornerstone Christian School, 91 Mihaere Dr, Palmerston North, Gate B, L Block. Cost \$50 pp. Register at emmaus.net.nz/enrol-now or ph (06) 280-2467.
- Come and See Vocations – starts 9am with Mass, Our Lady of Fatima Church Tawa, finishes 12.30pm. Contact Lucienne at l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz to register (see p 8).

Wednesday 13 March

Palmy Young Catholics fundraiser – at Libre, Mexican Restaurant, George St, 7.30pm, game of ‘Loteria’, Mexican Bingo, cards available at \$10 each, all proceeds to PYC. Visit libre.co.nz/book-a-table to book table.

Saturday 16–Sunday 17 March

Engaged Encounter – marriage preparation weekend for couples in Karori. Visit cee-wellington.co.nz for information and to register.

Tuesday 26 March

Archdiocese Chrism Mass – Upper South Island, 11am, Garin College Gym (Sneddon Centre), 35 Champion Rd, Richmond.

Wednesday 27 March

Archdiocese Chrism Mass – Wellington region, 7pm, Pro-Cathedral, St Teresa’s Karori.

15, 16, 17 November

Sacred Heart and Redwood College Nelson reunion for past pupils and staff. Register at: redwoodsacredheart.com or contact Bernadette King-Turner at: SHReunion2024@gmail.com for information.

Natural Fertility Management

– Billings Ovulation Method training seminar, Saturday, Sunday 27, 28 April, Christchurch, for Health Professionals and Natural Health practitioners interested in women’s health and fertility, and those wishing to become accredited Billings Teachers, using or considering using the Billings Method, involved in pre-marriage counselling, and wishing to promote the method within their community. The method is supported by NZ Catholic Bishops Conference. Go to www.billingslife.org.nz/training-seminar for information and to register.

Chaplain role – the Interdenominational Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board, UCOL is seeking a dynamic individual to join their Student Support team as Te Pukenga UCOL Tertiary Chaplain. Please contact terry@ism.org.nz for more information.

Palmerston North Young Catholics – 18-35 year olds invited after each Sunday 6pm Mass, to Cathedral lounge at 7.15pm, to meet like-minded people and form new friendships.

March Church calendar dates

- 13: Anniversary of Election of Pope Francis
- 17: St Patrick – Feast Day
- 19: St Joseph, Husband of Mary – Solemnity
- 24: Palm Sunday
- 28: Holy Thursday
- 29: Good Friday – Collection for the Holy Places
- 31: Easter Sunday

Compassion Soup Kitchen launches appeal to fund increase in demand

On the frontline of supporting people facing hardship, Compassion Soup Kitchen launched an appeal last month, called Support People in Your Community. The appeal is to raise funds to help those in need in Wellington.

In recent months Compassion Soup Kitchen has experienced a big increase in service demand, providing around 2,500 more meals than in previous months, according to Sam Johnson, Kitchen Manager at the Compassion Soup Kitchen.

He says resources are stretched to the limit right now. ‘With high food prices and higher demand than ever before, we are struggling just to feed the many hungry whānau who come to our door, let alone provide any “extras”.

The support provided through this appeal will help to continue providing nutritious meals for the whānau who arrive each day as well as assisting them with daily problems they face. For example, access to hygiene items, which for many people is a high-cost barrier.

Sam Johnson says, ‘Basic personal hygiene plays a pivotal role in maintaining a sense of dignity and preserving overall health and wellbeing. For this reason, I would love to have hygiene packs available for all our whānau to access.

‘Supporting the Appeal will enable you to provide a warm meal or a hygiene pack to someone in your community who needs it and make a tangible difference in someone’s life.’



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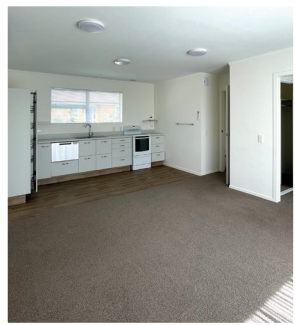
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Bishop Snedden Retirement Village

The Bishop Snedden Retirement Village is owned and managed by the Wellington Catholic Homes Trust.

- Located in central Waikanae Village within a short stroll to shops and the railway station.
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The Rātana Church – Te Haahi Rātana

Rātana Pā, or Ratana Community, is a town near Whanganui and Marton in the Manawatū-Whanganui region. 25 January and 8 November are anniversary days of the Rātana Church, founded by the prophet Tahupōtiki Wiremu Rātana (1873–1939). On these days thousands of church members converge on Rātana Pā for the special anniversary services commemorating the birth of Rātana (25 January 1873) and his first spiritual vision (8 November 1918). **Pā Piripi Cody sm** attended this year’s celebrations in January.

Reflections on Rātana

Pā Piripi Cody sm

Rātana is really a family birthday. It honours and celebrates the birthday of the founding prophet of Rātana, Tahupōtiki Wiremu Rātana (1873–1939). His birthday is 25 January each year. So the atmosphere of Rātana is just that: a whānau gathering to share and enjoy company and mark a birthday, not least by the regular playing and marching of the Rātana band. Children and families are evident. There are games and kai and just enjoying being together.

While it is true the time, spread over four days, has a key day of prayer, the gathering cannot simply be described as a ‘religious event’. Nor, despite the long links with parliament and in particular the Labour Party, can it simply be named a ‘political event’. That does attract the media and who is there and who is not there hits our TV screens.

Rātana set up his faith-based town or Pā at Rātana. He believed a spirituality could save his people as he saw Māori were being divided and losing a sense of purpose in life. So his message is the importance of coming together as a people and sharing, praying, and reflecting on the purpose of life.

His spiritual insight is linked with Christianity (his mother was Methodist). He wanted to draw Māori from the ‘old world’ spirituality into the new. The phrase that ends many whaikōrero and prayers is: *Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tama, o te Wairua Tapu, ngā Anahera Pono, me Te Māngai hei tautoko mai aianeī, ake nei, ae! In the name of the Father, of the Son, of the Holy Spirit and the Faithful Angels, and God’s spokesperson, now and always, Amen.*

Rātana underwent a conversion in 1918 and saw a vision of angels. Hence the reference to the ‘Faithful Angels’. Wiremu Rātana – and his discerned successor – is seen as a ‘Māngai’, a ‘voice’ who brings the message of God to the ‘Morehu’, ‘the faithful followers’.

That vision was to bring unity and purpose to a people scattered and losing a focus in life as the new arrivals to Aotearoa New Zealand multiplied and took over land and control. He also developed a healing practice that attracted many.

This year, 2024, a particular theme was stressed, that of ‘kōtahitanga’, ‘unity’. This had been the emphasis at the gathering that Kingi Tūheitia the 7th, called at Tūrangaawae in the face of reaction to a government group who seem to not appreciate the values of Māoridom and its expression in te reo Māori. King Tūheitia stressed that what is important is to be who you are, to live and speak as Māori and to be united as families, hapū, Iwi and a people. Not to get distracted by politics and protest reactions to them, but to seek the unity in the Spirit of being Māori. So that theme echoed in different speakers at Rātana and was the prayer of all.

The first two days involved pōwhiri to welcome groups from around the country, including the ‘Kingitanga’ and King himself, who also came on the spiritual, Temple, day. Not only that, but to feed the hundreds in the dining room. A well organised operation.


The ‘political’ day welcoming leaders from the Opposition and Government. Then the last day being the actual birthday, was the day of Prayer and Celebration.

One particular group that came was a tiny gathering of Ainu people from Japan. As part of his vision, Rātana sensed that God’s blessing was to embrace every continent in the wider world. So he travelled on world trips to discover and to share. One group he went to were these Ainu people. They are a tiny indigenous group in northern Japan, virtually dismantled by the majority. Rātana quickly saw parallels and to this day the Ainu people honour his support and quest to ensure indigenous persons are honoured and have a place to stand. His siding with Japan as linked with Māori caused concern [at the time].

The Ratana movement has had a huge influence over Māori political tendencies and national politics as a whole. From 1922 onwards the Ratana movement became increasingly occupied with politics. It highlighted the importance of the Treaty of Waitangi, arguing it should be entrenched in legislation. The movement campaigned for ratification of the Treaty of Waitangi as a ‘cure-all’ for dispossessed Māori and collected 30,000 signatures on a petition calling for this.



1. Korty Wilson greets the group from Ainu Japan, led onto the grounds by former MP Hon Te Ururoa Flavell, speaking for them by ‘reo’. Wiremu Ratana linked with this sub-tribe on a world tour 100 years ago seeking unity of all people. (Korty was previously Pouwhakarite Māori Apostolate Co-ordinator at Palmerston North Catholic Diocese Office.) 2. Ratana band. 3. Hon Te Ururoa Flavell, leads the group from Ainu Japan, speaking for them by ‘reo’. 4. Ainu group member gives a challenge with bow and arrow and a Japanese chant. 5. Pōwhiri to welcome groups from around the country, including the ‘Kingitanga’ and King himself.



Rātana Church - Whetu Marama

The whetū mārama tohu (symbol of the star and moon) represents enlightenment through the Christian trinity te Matua, te Tama me te Wairua Tapu (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit), ngā Anahera Pono (the faithful angels) and the revelations of te Māngai (mouthpiece or prophet) – Rātana, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Source: Te Ara, The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand



TW Ratana and his wife Te Uramanaao (Te Whaea o Katoa, the mother of all) and their son Te Omeka with the family Bible.
Uri Whakatupuranga Archives.

Ratana Church

Founded in 1918 by Tahupōtiki Wiremu Rātana (1873–1939), the religious movement that bore his name gave hope to many dispossessed Māori and later became a political force.

A prominent spiritual and faith healer, Rātana challenged the government and the British Crown to honour the Treaty of Waitangi. During the 1920s he established Rātana Pā, south-east of Whanganui, attracting a large pan-tribal following who bore witness to Rātana’s healing powers.

The Rātana Church, located at Rātana Pā, was opened in 1927 and is the headquarters of the Ratana religion.

The Ratana Temple is at the heart of the movement. Its design incorporates many of the symbols used by the faith. Te

Manuao (Te Aaaka or the Ark) is the main administrative, meeting and dining building with representations of the waka (canoes) of the ‘great migration’ alongside the Heemeskerk and Endeavour on the outer fascia, making it clear that while this is largely a movement for Maori, everyone is welcome.

Today Te Temepara Tapu O Ihoa, with its twin bell towers, has a hundred wooden pews capable of seating up to 2000 people. The building represents Ratana’s theology, from the Holy Trinity to the ‘Sun of God’ on the apex of the outer building and the Eye of God (kanohi) just inside the entrance.

Ratana Church continues to provide faith and guidance for many Māori across the country and overseas.

Source: nzhistory.govt.nz/keyword/ratana



Ratana Temple, Te Temepara Tapu O Ihoa.
Image: Alexander Turnbull Library, Albert Percy Godber Collection (PA-Group-00048)
Reference: 1/2-018648-G