

BR PETER BRAY
WALKS CAMINO

SOLIDARITY WITH BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY

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METROPOLITAN
CATHEDRAL
OF THE
SACRED HEART

A WEEKEND OF 'HOMECOMING' CELEBRATIONS PAGES 12-17

O'SHEA
SHIELD
2024

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



A joyful and blessed homecoming to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart



The doors of the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Mary His Mother were opened once again this month for all the people of the Archdiocese of Wellington and beyond to return to their place of worship. The Cathedral had been closed for six years for strengthening and refurbishment. Fittingly, the re-opening celebrations began on Friday 7 June, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with a dawn service led by Mana Whenua and a Mass of Thanksgiving in the evening for hundreds who filled the Cathedral with happiness and joy. Celebrations continued on Saturday 9 June, the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with a morning Mass, a Day of Adoration, and an ecumenical celebration of Evening Prayer. There was standing room only at the Cathedral Parish 10am Mass on Sunday 9 June as parish members and others returned 'home' to their church. An Evening Mass brought the joyful weekend to a close.

Photo: Photo: Bernie Velasco

» He hari, he koa i te rā tūwheratanga o te Whare Karakia Matua | Joyful celebrations mark the re-opening of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, pp12 to 17.

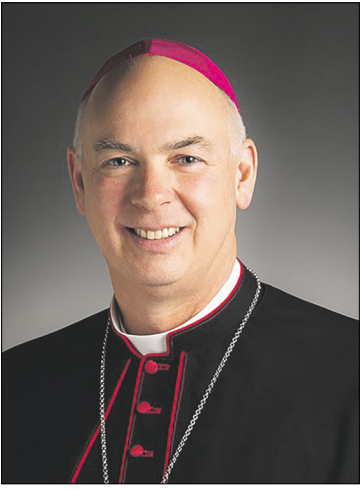
From the editor

Annette Scullion

Tēnā koutou kātoa
Greetings to everyone.
It was a privilege to be part of the magnificent celebrations for the long-awaited re-opening of the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and His Mother St Mary, over the weekend of 7–9 June.
WelCom is delighted to provide special coverage of this momentous chapter in the over 130 years’ story of the Wellington Catholic Cathedral.
We have a six-page feature providing coverage of the re-opening celebrations, and we hear from some of the people involved in strengthening and restoring the Cathedral.
Our congratulations to all involved in the work undertaken and also to those responsible for the outstanding organisation of the re-opening weekend. It was a wonderful celebration which brought people home in their hundreds to their place of

worship, along with many guests and visitors. This very special weekend shone a brilliant light on the Catholic Church.
We would especially like to thank photographers Bernie Velasco of Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish and David Lupton of Palmerston North who so generously gave their time and photographic skills to provide WelCom readers an insight into the magnificence of the beautifully restored Cathedral and the joy in coming together for parishioners and visitors alike.
In this edition we also bring our usual range of local, national and international news, opinions and reflections from the Catholic community, including the annual O’Shea Shield speech and drama competition.
We hope you enjoy this special edition.

As the mother church of the diocese the Cathedral belongs to us all



Archbishop Paul Martin SM
Archbishop of Wellington

Tēnā koutou katoa
The re-opening of the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and St Mary His Mother is a wonderful opportunity for us as an archdiocese to reflect on the nature of our Church.
We celebrate that we have a Cathedral again, that ours is now open. This place of God, this house of worship, is the centre point of our diocese within the wider Church. It is the place where the Cathedra, the seat of the Bishop, is installed. Through the symbol of the chair we recognise that as a Church we are universal, bigger than our particular parish community. We are a diocese, with a chief shepherd, the bishop and that we are under the leadership of the Bishop of Rome, the Pope.
This reminds us we have a responsibility to our brothers and sisters beyond the community

that we know, namely our parish. A bishop has the responsibility to ensure that the people of his diocese have priests for his people and so the diocese is divided into parishes, and the bishop appoints a priest to be the shepherd of that community, on his behalf. That is why the bishop appoints the priest to the community, not the community that decides which priest they would like! The bishop has the concern for the overall faith life of the whole diocese. This is captured in the importance of the Cathedral as the mother church of the diocese. It belongs to us all. It is where significant liturgies take place and where all in the diocese belong.
In our times moments like the opening of the Cathedral remind us that our faith life, our relationship with God, our following of Christ his Son, with the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit, are for the community of faith and beyond. Our forebears understood this, it was why they built the churches they did. They wanted to show, through the architecture, that this was a significant and important place. It is a holy place because of what happens within it, and because of those who come within in. Holy people like you and me, or at least striving to become holy. The early Christians used to refer to each other as saints; it was an aspirational title. I wonder sometimes if we have forgotten this is what we are called to be and that we need one another in order to become this.
So as we re-open the Cathedral we give thanks to God for all who enabled this to happen through

their generosity and skills and energy. We pray it will be a place where all feel welcome to come and praise and worship God and support one another. May our Archdiocese be strengthened in faith by these celebrations and continue on the journey of growing in holiness and being proclaimers of the Good News.



The Cathedra, the seat of the Bishop, was returned to and reinstalled in the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and St Mary His Mother at the re-opening Mass of Thanksgiving, Friday 7 June 2024.
Photo: Annette Scullion/WelCom

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Editor: Annette Scullion. Ph: (04) 496-1712. welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz
Advertising: Ph: 0274 800 209. welcomadvertisements@gmail.com
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Sending articles to WelCom
In our mission to communicate about news and events in the Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses, WelCom publishes information, stories and photos received from readers.
Contributed articles should be no longer than 300 words unless by arrangement with the editor. Please send as a MS Word document attached to an email or pasted into an email message including your name, address and phone number. Articles may be edited for length or clarity at the editor’s discretion.
Photos should be in original format (unedited, uncropped), large file size of at least one megabyte (MB) and attached to your email as separate photo files – JPEG, TIFF, GIF or bitmap (BMP). Please include names for a caption.
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A heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Cathedral Restoration Fund. What an incredible achievement. I have been so privileged to be part of this amazing restoration project.



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Ngā Mata o te Ariki Tāwhirimātea

Matariki: 29 June–6 July 2024

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars that appears in the morning sky in Aotearoa New Zealand during midwinter, between late June and early July. In 2024, Matariki is celebrated from 29 June to 6 July, with a national public holiday on Friday 28 June.



Natalie McPherson, HOD of Religious Studies, St Joseph’s Māori Girls College, took this photo at the 2023 Matariki dawn ceremony in Napier last July. The dawn ceremony was part of the Ngāti Kahungunu Matariki events put on for the people of Hawke’s Bay for the community to come together during a challenging year for the region.

Photo: Natalie McPherson

Matariki is an abbreviation of ‘Ngā Mata o te Ariki Tāwhirimātea’ meaning ‘The eyes of the God Tāwhirimātea’ – referring to the cluster of stars known as the Pleiades. These stars, also known as the Seven Sisters, can be viewed from across the world and are venerated in many global cultures and societies. Linked to the Maramataka – or the Māori lunar calendar – the appearance of the Matariki star cluster marks the Māori New Year, or Te Mātahi o te Tau. It symbolises the closure of one year and the beginning of the next, signalling a time to remember those who have passed, celebrate the present and plan for the future. It’s a time to spend with whānau and friends – to enjoy kai, waiata, tākaro (games) and haka. The core value of Matariki is Mātauranga Māori, or the ancestral knowledge and wisdom passed down through generations of Māori whānau. Tūpuna (ancestors) would look to Matariki for help with their harvesting. When Matariki disappeared in April/May, it was time to preserve crops for the winter season. When it re-appeared in June/July, tūpuna would read the stars to predict the upcoming season. Clear and bright stars promised a warm and abundant winter while hazy stars warned of a bleak winter. The Matariki dates shift annually to align with the maramataka. In 2024, Matariki is celebrated from 29 June to 6 July, with a national public holiday on Friday 28 June. Early in the morning, just before dawn, is the optimum time to view the Matariki cluster.

Sources: mch.govt.nz; matariki.twoa.ac.nz

Bishop John’s first visit to St Joseph’s Māori Girls College

Charles Ropitini

By invitation of Principal Dame Georgina Kingi, Bishop John Adams recently made his first visit to St Joseph’s Māori Girls College in Taradale, Napier, to celebrate the Feast of St Matthias the Apostle, and to renew relationships between the college and the Diocese of Palmerston North. Bishop John was accompanied by diocesan manager Liam Greer with Chris Reilly, Manaaki Tibble and Korty Wilson. Kaumātua

Hawira Hape formally welcomed Bishop John and his guests on behalf of the Sisters and the college in the college chapel. Following the formalities Bishop John led Miha in te reo Māori. The homily for the day was drawn from Acts 1:15-26 in which St Matthias was chosen to replace Judas as an Apostle. Bishop John relayed how the Apostles saw the qualities of leadership in St Matthias as a light that shines among others. He continued to the kaupapa of the college in growing strong Māori leaders who stand on foundations of love. The example given was college old girl Dame Whina Cooper, whose leadership skills were noticed and nurtured by Dutch priest Pā Charles Kreymborg, who facilitated her marriage to Richard Gilbert. At that moment there was clever pivot to the Gospel of the day by differentiating the love fostered in marriage to the love fostered with God, and how human love between spouses is only a fraction of our love for God. Dame Whina went on to be one of the most unifying of Māori leaders in her generation, and much of what underpinned her leadership style was a strong foundation of love for God. Bishop John ended his homily by returning to the love of marriage and the family, and the hope that he may support St Joseph’s Māori Girls College to remain as a place for the daughters of the current girls to continue in the legacy of strong leaders among Māori. Following Miha, Bishop John joined Miss Kingi and the Sisters for lunch, where further speeches of thanks were given with a strong commitment made to support the growth of the college. Bishop John will return to the college in July for the re-opening of the Boarding House, currently under renovation.

Hui: Treaty of Waitangi and Catholic Social Teaching

The Christian Life Community and the Bicultural Relationships Committee of the archdiocesan Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission are hosting a hui about the Treaty of Waitangi and Catholic Social Teaching, the Treaty as a covenant, te reo in Liturgy and daily life and blessings of a bicultural future. The hui will be at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, over the weekend of 6 and 7 July. See p 19 for more information and to register.



College Kaumatua Hawira Hape welcomes Bishop John Adams and his guests into St Joseph’s Māori Girls College.



Students stand in honour of the Eucharist. Photos: Natalie McPherson, HOD of Religious Studies, St Joseph’s Māori Girls College.



St Patrick’s College Wellington

New Zealand’s oldest Catholic boys’ college

Congratulations to our O’Shea Shield team who shared 1st place with St Peter’s College. This is a special achievement, and we as a college celebrate their success. The category winners were Debating for the Affirmative – Charles Burns, Michael Cash and TJ Duggan – and winner of the Impromptu Speech was Ivan Faraon.

Sectare Fidem – Hold firm to the Faith



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A preferential option for the rich not the answer to hard times

Peter Lang and Grace Morton
Advocacy Analysts, Caritas
Aotearoa New Zealand

Caritas recognises Aotearoa New Zealand is in a difficult financial situation and appreciates the Government’s stated aim to improve conditions for Kiwi families and reduce the economic strain on future generations. In the 2024 Budget it is heartening to see investments in essential areas such as Pharmac, and efforts to alleviate the cost-of-living crisis for New Zealanders.

However, we are deeply concerned at the way tax relief is being distributed. The announced bracket changes will deliver greater savings to higher-income earners and the wealthiest in society while delivering the least to vulnerable groups such as those receiving the pension or earning minimum wage. Tax cuts are funded by reduced spending on government services, or debt paid by future generations, so it is vital every dollar of tax relief is distributed justly to those most in need. Rather than offering a preferential option for the poor and

vulnerable, as stipulated in Catholic social teaching, this Budget prioritises those least in need. Additionally, Caritas regrets this Budget’s approach to climate change. Aotearoa New Zealand has moral, legal and financial imperatives to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. We support the \$200 million set aside for flood resilience in the Regional Infrastructure Fund; it is concerning though that Emissions Trading Scheme revenue set aside to decarbonise industry is instead being diverted to fund tax cuts. Even if we accepted the

NZ ETS could meet emissions reduction targets on its own, we do not believe the cost of meeting these cuts should ultimately be passed onto consumers, which will ultimately happen without targeted government spending to support decarbonisation. Finally, Caritas is concerned the Budget includes very little specifically addressing Māori needs. Even if tax relief could provide an equitable benefit across society, there is a wealth of evidence Māori face qualitatively different problems in areas such as health

and education, due to structural and historic inequities. In order to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Catholic social teaching, the Government must ensure the money it has allocated will be spent in ways that benefit all New Zealanders, especially Māori communities who have historically been let down by previous governments. Caritas believes this Budget is well-intentioned but short-sighted and gives tax relief to the most well off at the expense of those most in need.

Bishops send latest New Zealand Synod consultation document to Rome

A new consultation document prepared as part of the Holy Father’s Synod 2021–2024 process has been sent to Rome. Titled *Towards October 2024*, it includes Catholic voices from around Aotearoa New Zealand. The document, completed in May, is the outcome of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference being asked to establish a consultation process to discern responses to specific questions about the Vatican’s *Synodal Church in Mission* report. That report was published after the First Session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, held in Rome last October. National Catholic lay organisations, agencies of the bishops’ conference, religious, diocesan bodies, educational institutions, young people’s groups, parish groups and groups involved in previous synodal processes took part in the consultation, between February and April this year.

Towards October 2024 was distilled from this consultation and has been sent to Rome as part of the continuing Synod process, begun by Pope Francis in 2021 to look at the future direction of the Catholic Church. ‘Our people have spoken again with frankness and humility about their shared journey as the People of God, and about how we can be a synodal Church in mission’, the six Catholic bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand say in their introduction to the document. ‘As we said when we presented our National Synod Synthesis in 2022, we may not agree with everything they have said, but we want their voices to be heard. Their responses to the various questions provide important insight into how we might together follow Jesus Christ, walking his way, telling his truth, living his life.’ Pope Francis launched the Synod process to hear what Catholics from



around the world think should be the future direction of the Church. The first of a two-part 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops was held in Rome last October; the second part will be held this coming October. The document, and others like it from bishops’ conferences around the world, will provide the basis for the October assembly. The report can be read online at: www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/synod-4/

Recommendations delivered to Government

The Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry delivered on 30 May 2024 recommendations to Minister of Internal Affairs Brooke van Velden, as required by the inquiry’s Terms of Reference. The inquiry will deliver its comprehensive final report to the Governor-General by 26 June 2024. The inquiry has investigated the abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults in State and faith-based care from 1950 to 1999. It has also heard from survivors who were abused since then. The Abuse in Care Royal Commission is the largest and most complex inquiry ever established in

Aotearoa New Zealand. It has the widest scope of similar inquiries around the world. ‘It’s a national disgrace and shame that hundreds of thousands of our children, young people and adults were abused while in the care of the State and faith-based institutions,’ said Judge Coral Shaw, Chair of the Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry. ‘The whole country must pay attention when our final report is released and take responsibility to ensure that it never happens again,’ said Judge Shaw. Source: abuseincare.org.nz

NZCEO Convention 2024

The New Zealand Catholic Education Office is holding its first convention since 2018 for Catholic Education professionals. The convention will be at the TSB Arena, Wellington from Wednesday 19 to Friday 21 June. The theme is: Tūhono Whakapono – Together, One Faith Community. Visit cathedconvention.co.nz for information.

NZ Catholic newspaper going digital

NZ Catholic, the national Catholic newspaper published by the Bishop of Auckland, is to cease its print publication at the end of June. A new monthly digital publication, which will retain the title *NZ Catholic*, will be developed and shared from July. The publisher of *NZ Catholic*, Bishop Stephen Lowe, sent a letter to the newspaper’s subscribers, supporters, readers and friends outlining the changes. ‘*NZ Catholic* and its predecessors, the *Tablet* from Dunedin and the *Zealandia* have been part of Catholic print media since 1873’, Bishop Lowe stated in his letter of 21 May. ‘In more recent years we have seen dramatic changes in the media landscape with audiences moving away from print and TV news towards digital, social, and video news, entertainment and networking platforms. ‘Like other newspapers *NZ Catholic* has been impacted by falling circulation numbers, subscribers and advertisers. With now fewer than 1000 subscribers, it has reached the point where it is no longer sustainable to publish a printed Catholic newspaper.

The issue published on 30 June will be *NZ Catholic*’s last printed fortnightly edition. Bishop Lowe thanked the *NZ Catholic* staff and contributors for their ‘amazing’ work. He said the diocese remains committed to sharing its Catholic news and stories and intends developing a new monthly digital publication with enhanced use of video. ‘The digital news publication will be available free, with parishes, ethnic chaplaincies, schools and other communities encouraged to share through their newsletters, websites and social media pages.’ A digital/video storytelling role, to be added to the team to enhance the use of video and other digital platforms, will focus initially on producing videos that include prayer, homilies, event highlights, appeals, teaching, explaining ‘and helping to encourage a healthy dialogue our world so desperately needs.’ Bishop Lowe concluded his letter by stating, ‘It is my hope the digital *NZ Catholic* will continue to celebrate and promote our faith and to help continue to knit our diverse community into one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.’

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Br Peter Bray walking Camino trail to raise money for Bethlehem University

Br Peter Bray fsc – the New Zealander who was vice-chancellor of Bethlehem University for 15 years until his retirement last December – has set out on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in Spain.

He is walking in solidarity with the Palestinian people to raise money for Bethlehem University, which has a \$1 million gap largely caused by issues related to the Israel-Hamas war.

The El Camino de Santiago is a pilgrimage of faith that walks to Santiago de Compostela, St James of the Field of Stars.

Br Peter began his 730km walk on 23 May in Pamplona in north-eastern Spain. He expects to take at least 39 days to reach its conclusion at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, north-western Spain. Br Peter estimates he will take between 1.2 and 1.3 million steps. He says it would be wonderful to get \$1 a step, 'though that might be ambitious'.

'As so many [Bethlehem University] students' families are involved in the hospitality industry, and because no pilgrims or tourists are visiting Palestine, there is no income available to those families,' Br Peter says.

'In addition, with checkpoints closed to [West Bank] Palestinian workers who have jobs in Jerusalem, the same applies to those families. This means children of those families who attend Bethlehem University are having serious difficulties paying their tuition. As a result, the university has difficulties

paying salaries and running costs. My little effort is one contribution to help address this challenge.'

Br Peter undertook a speaking tour of Aotearoa New Zealand in January and February last year, invited by the Catholic bishops to talk about the lives and conditions of his students and ordinary Palestinians.

Since his retirement from the university, Br Peter has been at a sabbatical programme in San Antonio, Texas, which has just concluded. He says the time has given him the chance to stand back and reflect on Bethlehem University's work.

'It has given me a greater appreciation of its mission. Being so far away from campus and hearing about what is happening in Gaza and the West Bank is a great source of grief for me,' Br Peter wrote in a letter to his many supporters the week before he set out on his walk.

'During the course of that programme [in San Antonio], I was continually upset with what I was hearing about the attack on the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Yet I felt helpless and disempowered. I was wondering what I could do with what I have here! I decided to walk the El Camino de Santiago in Spain to draw attention to what is happening in Palestine and to support the students at Bethlehem University. I would invite your prayerful support, and, if possible, your financial and moral support.

'While I do not have money to

contribute, I do have the feet to take these steps in solidarity with Palestine and in support of the students. I would ask you to think about what you can do, where you are, with what you have!

'A gift sponsoring my journey will go directly to Bethlehem University to support tuition expenses for our young people.

'Above all, I ask you to pray for peace in the Holy Land, a peace based on equality and justice. I intend to keep you informed as I make progress along the way.

'Please keep me in your prayers as I do my little bit to stand with Palestine and support students at Bethlehem University.'

Br Peter visited Gaza a few months before the Hamas attack on Israel 7 October last year, which led to the present war, and he met with



Br Peter Bray on rooftop patio at Bethlehem University.

a group of young people interested in exploring ways of engaging with Bethlehem University.

'I know at least three of those young people have been killed, but because I have lost contact with anyone in Gaza, I suspect there are more who have suffered that fate. I lament the suffering people there are enduring and feel angry and sad that this has been allowed to happen.'

Bethlehem University was established in 1973. It was the first registered university in the Occupied West Bank territory of Palestine and is the only Catholic university in the Holy Land. It is a Catholic co-educational institution in the De La Salle tradition, its mission being to provide quality higher education to the people of Palestine.

Br Peter is from Waitara in Taranaki. Before his appointment in Bethlehem, Br Peter was the

Director and CEO of the Wellington Catholic Education Centre. His work as a teacher and education consultant has taken him around the world.

Visit the Bethlehem University Foundation fundraising page at bufusa.org/camino/ to follow Br Peter's Camino pilgrimage and learn how you can support his efforts.

Br Peter Bray and Bethlehem University Foundation, have advised over USD\$17,000 (NZD\$27,500) has been contributed in the first five days of Br Peter's walk, to support the tuition and scholarship needs of students who turn to Bethlehem University for hope and opportunity.

Visit catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/camino/ to read Br Peter's letter in full.



Br Peter Bray walking the Camino in solidarity with Palestinian people to raise money for Bethlehem University.

Photos: Supplied

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Australian bishops call for peace in the Middle East

Australia’s Catholic bishops have issued a statement on the conflict in the Middle East, calling for a just ceasefire, the release of all hostages and unhindered access to aid.

The bishops said the ‘violence in the Holy Land has shaken many people around the world. We too, have been shaken.’

‘With Pope Francis, we put our faith in the possibility of a just resolution to the worsening crisis between Israelis and Palestinians.

With him we say: “Enough, please! Let us all say: Stop! Please stop!”

The bishops said the ‘people of the Holy Land are suffering in a way that cries out to the world to pray for peace, to call for peace, to work for peace.’

‘We believe that a just ceasefire with the release of all hostages and unhindered access for desperately needed aid are essential at this time. We support global efforts to negotiate a lasting peace.’

Melbourne Archbishop Peter Comensoli recently made a secret trip to Israel, the Palestinian Territories and Lebanon on a ‘pilgrimage of solidarity’.

In a letter to the Archdiocese on his return he wrote: ‘The pilgrimage allowed for significant opportunities in prayer, engagement and learning through that part of the world where, in the past, Christ walked and ministered, and where, today, the great Abrahamic religions and

historical cultures live side-by-side, in very complex, and presently tragic ways.’

Here in New Zealand, the Council for International Development, which includes Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, has issued a desperate plea for the New Zealand Government to push for all parties to uphold international humanitarian law. [See: [tinyurl.com/NOT-A-TARGET-Statement](#)]

‘Approximately 1.5 million

civilians are currently sheltering in Rafah,’ said Mena Antonio, Chief Executive of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand. ‘The crowded conditions mean hundreds of thousands of civilians are directly in the line of fire, risking death, serious injury, and lasting trauma. This is abhorrent and unacceptable.’

Sources: ACBC Media Blog, Melbourne Catholic, NZ Council for International Development

Oceania bishops focus on pastoral care of migrants

Migration across the Pacific and the pastoral care of migrants emerged as key points of discussion at the recent meeting of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of

Oceania (FCBCO) in Wellington.

‘Oceania has a long history of migration, which is still very much present today and is likely to continue into the future,’

FCBCO president Bishop Anthony Randazzo said.

‘Gathering as an executive, we heard the call of the vulnerable in our region, particularly those migrating across the many islands separated by vast bodies of water, in search of work, or to escape the impacts of domestic challenges, such as rising sea levels.



Federation of Catholic Bishops Conference of Oceania representatives pictured after concelebrating Mass at Ss Peter and Paul Church, Lower Hutt. From l-r: Archbishop Peter Loy Chong, Archbishop of Suva; Bishop Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin; Archbishop Paul Martin sm (host), Archbishop of Wellington; Bishop Anthony Randazzo (President FCBCO), Bishop of Broken Bay, NSW; Bishop Brian Mascord, Bishop of Wollongong, NSW; Bishop Ryan Jimenez, Bishop of Chalan Kanoa, Northern Mariana Islands; Fr Chris De Souza, General Secretary, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference; Bishop Justin Ain Soongie, Bishop of Wabag, PNG.

Photo: Annette Scullion

‘How we provide pastoral care for those affected peoples emerged as a core theme in our prayer and reflections, and we will continue to dialogue as we move forward.’

The three-day meeting was hosted by Archbishop Paul Martin sm and the Wellington Archdiocese.

The bishops experienced a microcosm of the multicultural diversity of New Zealand, including traditional Māori welcomes and the Miha or Māori Mass.

They also visited the final resting place of Venerable Suzanne Aubert, or Meri Hohepa, a migrant missionary from France who came to New Zealand on a whaling boat in 1860. She founded the Sisters of Compassion and is now on the pathway to becoming New Zealand’s first saint.

Pope Francis slams ‘rampant materialism’

Blind, unbridled consumerism and selfishness – not the number of people on the planet having children – are the root causes of the world’s problems, says Pope Francis.

The reasons for pollution and world hunger are not based on the number of children being born, but on ‘the choices of those who think only of themselves, the delusion of unbridled, blind and rampant materialism, of a consumerism that, like an evil virus, erodes at the root the existence of people and society’, he said.

‘Human life is not a problem, it is a gift,’ he said. ‘The problem is not how many of us there are in the world, but what kind of world we are building.’

Pope Francis made his remarks at a meeting in May on Italy’s decline in births and population growth.

In his talk, Pope Francis said the root cause of problems in the world ‘is not babies being born; it is selfishness, consumerism and individualism, which make people satiated, lonely and unhappy’.

Homes become ‘very sad places’,

he said, emptied of children and ‘filled with objects’, dogs or cats.

The Pope said long-term approaches, effective policies, and bold, concrete decisions are needed so that what seeds are sown today, children ‘can reap tomorrow’.

‘Serious and effective family-friendly choices’ need to be made, he said. For example, women should never be put in a position where they have to choose between work and childcare, and young people should not carry the paralysing burden of job insecurity and the inability to buy a home.

There should also be more intergenerational solidarity and generosity, the Pope said.

In every discussion about birth rates and demographics, he said, do not forget to emphasise the importance of grandparents playing an active role in families. It is ‘cultural suicide’ to ‘discard’ grandparents or let them live solitary lives, he said.

Source: Catholic News Service

Vatican decree on Jubilee indulgences

The Vatican has issued a decree outlining the many ways that Catholics can obtain a plenary indulgence during the 2025 Jubilee Year.

The decree allows Catholics to gain indulgences by making pilgrimages, prayerful visits to specific churches, or works of mercy during the holy year.

A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Catholic Church through the merits of Jesus Christ to remove the temporal punishment due to sin.

The indulgence applies to sins already forgiven. A plenary indulgence cleanses the soul as if the person had just been baptised. To obtain an indulgence, the usual conditions of detachment from all sin, sacramental confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Pope must be met.

Here are some of the many ways one can obtain indulgences during



the 2025 Jubilee Year: Catholics who make a pilgrimage to Rome during the 2025 Jubilee Year can obtain a plenary indulgence by visiting at least one of the four major papal basilicas: St Peter’s Basilica; the Archbasilica of St John Lateran; St Mary Major; or St Paul Outside the Walls.

The Apostolic Penitentiary, the Vatican body charged with the granting and use of indulgences,

also grants plenary indulgences specifically for making pilgrimage to churches in Rome connected to great female saints.

The Apostolic Penitentiary lists visiting prisoners, spending time with lonely elderly people, aiding the sick or disabled, and helping those who are in need as instances to obtain an indulgence.

Acts of penance can also obtain a plenary indulgence. The Vatican lists several options: abstaining for at least one day a week from ‘futile distractions’ such as social media or television; fasting; offering support to migrants, the elderly, the poor, young people in difficulty, and abandoned children; and volunteering.

Source: CNA News

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Pope seeks closer collaboration with Buddhists

Pope Francis has reiterated the importance of a closer collaboration between the Church and Buddhists to address the pressing challenges facing the world today.

Welcoming a delegation last month, of some 100 Buddhist monks from the Wat Phra Cetuphon temple of Bangkok, in Thailand, he expressed his deep gratitude and appreciation for their ‘enduring friendship’ and willingness to work together ‘to bring a ray of hope to our wounded humanity’.

In his address to the monks, Pope Francis recalled the Seventh Buddhist-Christian Colloquium held in Bangkok in November, which brought together more than 150 participants from various parts of Asia.

He referred in particular to the final statement of the colloquium in which the participants, ‘deeply rooted in their respective religious traditions,’ committed ‘to working together with everyone’ to ‘bring a ray of hope to a desperate humanity’ in the midst of ‘dark clouds’ overshadowing the world today.

The Pope urged the monks to continue working together with everyone – civil society, members of other religions, governments, international organisations, academic and scientific communities and all other stakeholders – ‘to promote a friendship that sustains peace and fraternity and builds a more inclusive world’.

Source: Vatican News



Pope Francis meets the Thai Buddhist monks from the Wat Phra Cetuphon temple. Photo: Bangkok Post

Lost Caravaggio artwork unveiled

Spain’s Prado Museum has unveiled a work by Italian Baroque master Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio that was considered lost for centuries.

The work, *Ecce Homo* (*Behold The Man*) went on display at the end of May as a special one-piece exhibition following an agreement with its new owner, who has not been identified.



Caravaggio’s *Ecce Homo* is believed to have been part of Phillip IV of Spain’s collection. Photo: Museo Del Prado

The oil-on-canvas work depicts the Biblical passage of the *Ecce Homo*, in which Jesus Christ is presented to the crowds before being crucified.

‘Since its reappearance at an auction three years ago, *Ecce Homo* has represented one of the greatest discoveries in the history of art,’ the museum said. The artwork is believed to have been painted around 1605–1609 and was part of the private collection of Phillip IV of Spain.

‘The painting is one of about 60 known works by Caravaggio in existence, and thus one of the most valuable old master artworks in the world,’ the Prado added.

In April 2022, Spanish authorities halted an auction of the work, which was then attributed to a disciple of a 17th-century Spanish painter, José de Ribera.

Prado Museum Director Miguel Falomir said that since then the owners carried out studies and proceeded with the painting’s restoration, which led to the discovery that it is, in fact, a work by Caravaggio and a work that arrived in Spain in the 17th century.

Source: ABC News

Coadjutor bishop for Cook Islands

Bishop Reynaldo Bunyi Getalado has been ordained as coadjutor bishop of Rarotonga Diocese in the Cook Islands. He is a member of the Mission Society of the Philippines (MSP) and is the first bishop in the Cook Islands of Asian origin. The current bishop of the Cook Islands, Bishop Paul Donoghue sm was the principal consecrator at his ordination. In a predominantly Protestant country, 17 per cent of the population (approximately 2,900 people) is Catholic.



Archbishop of Canterbury endorses ‘Rome Call’

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has joined other faith leaders, ethicists, and university professors in signing the ‘Rome Call’ for the ethical development of artificial intelligence. While recognising the enormous potential AI can offer in improving human capability, Archbishop Welby emphasised that people must also strive ‘to protect, preserve and cherish the dignity of the human person’. The enormous advances made in AI, therefore, ‘cannot be the sole property of its developers, or any single part of the human race’, but benefit all in serving the common good, safeguarding climate, and aiming at sustainable development.

Cardinal warns against escalation

Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin said allowing Ukraine to use NATO weapons to attack military targets in Russia would lead to ‘an escalation that no one will be able to control anymore’.

‘It is a truly disturbing prospect,’ the cardinal said. ‘The risk is real and should cause concern for every person who cares about the fate of our world’. The cardinal’s comments came in response to a growing number of countries considering lifting or amending restrictions on Ukraine’s use of weapons from Western nations to strike inside Russia.



‘No’ to women deacons

Pope Francis has expressed firm opposition to the idea of ordaining Catholic women as deacons, raising doubts about the possibility that the ongoing three-year synodal process could move forward on the issue. In a CBS 60 Minutes programme, which aired in May, Pope Francis said he was not open to the sacramental ordination of women as deacons. He added, however, that ‘women have always had, I would say, the function of deaconesses without being deacons, right? Women are of great service as women, not as ministers, as ministers in this regard, within the Holy Orders’.



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QSM recipient for services to interfaith communities

Government House Investiture

Dr Mary Eastham of Feilding was bestowed a Queen’s Service Medal for services to interfaith communities on the King’s Birthday and Coronation Honours List in June 2023. She received her QSM at the Investiture Ceremony at Government House on 22 May.

Mary’s family was with her for ‘the beautiful, dignified Investiture Ceremony’, she says. ‘My daughter Casey with her sons Jordan and Damon, and my daughter Alison with her husband Daniel and their children Hunter and Madelyn, all joined me to meet and converse with our gracious Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro at Government House.

‘I was overcome with emotion because receiving the Queen’s Service Medal for services to interfaith communities acknowledges the serious and important work done by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Interfaith Relations and the Palmerston North Interfaith Group to promote understanding, respect, peace and harmony between faith communities and thus for society at large. The more we understand one another, the better we can work together to address the moral and spiritual issues confronting the entire human family, like climate change and racism. Because interfaith relationships are achieved by communities of faith, not by one person, this Queen’s Service Medal is really for all of us.’

Among her many services to



Dr Mary Eastham’s family were with her for the Investiture Ceremony at Government House and to converse with the Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro.

Photo: Supplied

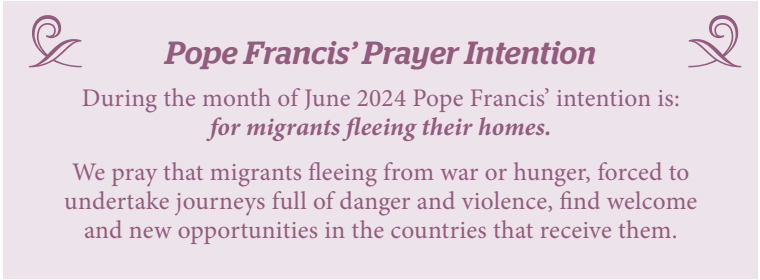
interfaith communities, Mary was the Bishop of Palmerston North’s representative on the Bishops Committee on Interfaith Relations for more than a decade. Through this work she helped establish the Palmerston North Interfaith Group (PNIG), aimed at representing the different religious traditions and faiths in the community and working together. She has served as Chair of PNIG, holding multifaith prayer services at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, she coordinated a Faith Family Feast, a celebration amongst the interfaith community, and she has hosted youth sessions on global climate change and racism. Mary has represented PNIG at national interfaith forums and is a member of the Religious Diversity Centre.



The Catholic Women’s League Otari Branch members enjoyed a particularly busy month in May. They gave 33 beanies they have knitted so far this year to Stella Maris for the foreign seafarers in port who find Wellington a very cold stopover. They made 260 posies for Mother’s Day and handed them out at the parish’s St Thomas More’s and St Teresa’s churches as well as at a school Mass at St Teresa’s Church with help from students. They also gave the flowers to residents at a rest home in the parish. And their branch hosted representatives from the Hutt Valley CWL branches at the WUCWO (World Union of Catholic Women’s Organisations) annual Liturgy, written by the ‘Women of Africa’ to celebrate Mary our Mother. WUCWO was founded in 1910 and now represents 100 Catholic women’s organisations worldwide, including CWL. It is active in 66 countries, representing more than eight million Catholic women in all walks of life.

Words and photos: Anne Lumb Secretary, Otari CWL Branch

>> Seafarers Sunday 15 July, p 18



Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention

During the month of June 2024 Pope Francis’ intention is:
for migrants fleeing their homes.

We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

Te Hao Nui-Launch Out’s newest graduate

Telesia Alaimoana celebrated her recent completion of Te Hao Nui-Launch Out lay leadership programme, at a Mass and reception at her St Pius X Church, Our Lady of Hope Parish, Titahi Bay, on Saturday 11 May.

Launch Out is the formation programme for lay leaders in the Wellington Archdiocese. Established in 2001, the programme prepares candidates to be lay pastoral leaders or lay ecclesial ministers. Candidates undertake several years of formation and study.

Supporting Telesia at her celebration day were members of her family, the Samoan Mother’s Group, her parish community, the Launch Out community and friends.

The event was the first of its kind for a Launch Out graduate. It began with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Martin sm and concelebrated with Fr Penese Patelesio. The Samoan choir led the singing and Telesia’s family were the proclaimers. Two current Launch Out candidates, Jude McKee and Bernadette Patelesio, and Launch Out graduate Mary Ann Greaney, read the prayers of the faithful.

Archbishop Paul’s homily described Launch Out as developing leadership as ‘not just about skills and knowledge’, but about ‘transformed hearts touched by a true and deep relationship with God’.

At her festive reception after Mass, Telesia described to the guests how Launch Out has changed her from ‘dragon to peacemaker’. ‘It was an eight-year long and painful journey of learning about myself,’ she said, ‘listening to people,



Telesia Alaimoana (far right) with Archbishop Paul Martin and Maya Bernado (l) at her Launch Out graduation Mass.

Photo: Supplied

recognising my weaknesses and being more aware of the presence of God in my life.’

She paid tribute to her pastoral mentors, her spiritual directors and other guests from the archdiocese, as well as her family and especially her husband Simati, for their longstanding support. She also thanked Launch Out’s former manager Joan McFetridge and Cardinal John Dew who were unable to attend.

Telesia completed the programme from 2015 to 2023. Through Te Kupenga-Catholic Theological College, she studied a New Zealand Certificate and a Diploma in Christian Studies, and two papers in Pastoral Counselling and Liturgy in the Bachelor of Divinity. She has been the first candidate to take on bachelor’s degree papers in Theology.

Telesia plans to continue her involvement in Our Lady of Hope Parish and the Samoan Mothers’

Group. She is a social worker in the disability sector and plans use what she has learned from Launch Out to minister to the elderly with disabilities in residential care facilities in Wellington.

Thirty-eight candidates have gone through the programme since 2002. Te Hao Nui-Launch Out has produced Lay Pastoral Leaders who have worked among various Catholic organisations and chaplaincies in the archdiocese. Several graduates have worked in senior chaplaincy roles for the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference and some have been invited to work in other dioceses.

Please email Maya Bernado, the programme’s current formator and manager, at m.bernardo@wn.catholic.org.nz or visit tinyurl.com/launch-out to learn more about the programme.

Source: Launch Out Letters



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Clergy gathering in Silverstream

The priests currently working in the Archdiocese of Wellington gathered together for three days in early May to reflect on their life as priests and on what they are being called to do in the Church today. There are 34 priests in the archdiocese working in 22 parishes. Of those priests 26 are diocesan priests and eight belong to Religious Orders.

The clergy gathering in Silverstream was an opportunity for the priests to reflect on what it means to be a synodal church, said Archbishop Paul Martin sm.

‘We are living in changing times and one of the realities is that as we develop in being more synodal as a Church, we need to see what are the roles and ministries that priests are called to do and what are the areas that all the people of God are called to be a part of?’

‘This will mean a change in the way that we as priests live out our vocation, and in the way that lay faithful take up the many parts of



Archdiocese clergy gathered in May to reflect on priestly life today. (Absent is Fr David Gruschow of the West Coast who had to leave the gathering in time to catch a return ferry to the South Island.) Photo: Fr Andrew Kim

the life of the Church and the parish. We need to look at our expectations of our priests and of our willingness to participate in the life of the parish. These are significant questions and discussions for us all to have, and we will be doing more of this as an archdiocese in the future.’

Participants at the gathering shared their experiences of being a priest in the archdiocese, the rewards and the challenges. Challenges included the unsettling effects of parish amalgamations on local communities and meeting the needs of a culturally diverse

parish community.

They also discussed how priests could support one another more through improved connection, communication and hospitality.

In working towards a more synodal Church, participants identified the need for ongoing

formation for laity and priests, a collaborative model of ministry and harnessing the gifts of parishioners for mission. They saw their roles as empowering people, promoting the gifts of all. As parish leaders, priests are preachers of the Good News, builders of community and connectors of the parish to the broader local Church.

With the shortage of priests, workload for priests was identified as an issue. There needs to be greater awareness among parish communities that priests cannot be as readily available as they once were.

Participants identified many signs of vitality in their parishes. Mass attendances are steadily growing post-Covid and weekday Masses are well attended. There is a unity in the diversity of parishioners and an affirmation of different ministries. There are many active groups in Catholic parishes with members committed to living out their faith.

Day out for Fr Dave

Fr Alan Roberts

Thanks to the generosity of Challenge 2000 in Johnsonville, Fr David Orange was able to enjoy a day out last month from his new place of residence at Aroha Rest Home in Taita. After suffering a stroke in December, and losing the use of his left side, it was the first time in five months that Dave was able to enjoy the fresh air of Lower Hutt. Long-time friend Fr Eddie Condra and Challenge 2000 worker Felice, took Dave for a drive to the Petone waterfront, then to

Eastbourne for lunch. As captured in this photo Dave is making progress and is now able to stand up and make a few small steps on his own.

Come July this year he will celebrate his 60th anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood. In the past 50 years, with the exception of a few years as parish priest of Johnsonville, Dave has served in the parishes of Lower Hutt, Wainuiomata, Avalon and hospital chaplaincy. This latter position has kept him busy presiding at weddings and funerals right up to the time of his stroke. Fr Dave still



Fr Eddie Condra (l) and Challenge 2000 worker Felice (r) with Fr Dave. Photo: Supplied

has his sense of humour and will welcome visitors at the Aroha Rest Home in Taita.

Big turnout for baby clothing

Suzanne O'Rourke

Over 200 families had a ‘baby clothing boost’ in February with a Free Baby Clothing event in Naenae, organised by Greenstone Doors Trust.

According to General Manager Wendy Hill, this was the biggest turnout of people yet to a ‘free day’ of pre-loved baby clothing, toys and equipment, which she credits in part to the radio and social media advertising and to the generous space available at the St Bernadette’s Parish Hall in Naenae.

The parish hall was the perfect venue and the local community certainly turned out, which is exactly what was hoped for when Greenstone Doors relocated to the Naenae Presbytery.

Greenstone Doors recently moved into part of the Catholic Presbytery at Naenae and the huge turnout for the free baby clothing day, ‘feels like the best welcome the local community could give us,’ said Ms Hill.

The doors opened at 10am and within an hour the tables were largely emptied. Thanks must go to the generosity of those who donated good

quality clothing, toys, blankets, and knitted items and to the volunteers who helped sort clothing and offering encouragement to anyone who was uncertain about where to start with a new baby. For parents whose children have grown out of greatly loved clothes – which have plenty of life left in them – it’s a great way to offer a practical gift to another family.

Greenstone Doors Trust has been a source of support for women and their whānau for over ten years in the Hutt Valley and can agree with Bishop Steve Lowe’s recent comments in WelCom when he says, ‘we know that we are living in a time of increased financial constraints and that this only adds to the stress on families’. His call to all Catholics to, ‘ensure our faith communities are places of non-judgemental, welcoming and generous love, compassion and care,’ reflects the Greenstone Doors’ approach, which is to be always ‘a safe place to talk’.

There was plenty of talk and lots of lively children at this most recent event in Naenae – everyone was, as they always are, welcome.

greenstonedoors.co.nz



From l-r Jeanette Higham, Jennie Mitchinson, Mary Harmer and Wendy Hill of Greenstone Doors ready for the Free Baby Clothing Day in Naenae. Photo: Supplied



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Young Catholics

St Peter’s College has plenty to celebrate

Susan Zentveld

St Peter’s College in Palmerston North will be celebrating its 50th jubilee over Labour Day weekend this year. We invite past students, staff, their families and the local community to help us celebrate this milestone.

The jubilee milestone has been made all the more memorable with St Peter’s College being first time joint winners, with St Patrick’s College Wellington, of the 2024 O’Shea Shield Catholic College speech and drama competition in May this year.

St Peter’s College was opened on 18 August 1974 by then Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Honourable Norman Kirk. The opening school roll was about 700 students, made up of pupils from two local former Catholic secondary schools and one local Catholic intermediate school.

Today the college is a state-integrated Catholic co-educational



Construction near completion of St Peter’s College, July 1974.

Photos: Supplied and file.



Tomokanga (entrance carving) at St Peter’s College.

composite college with 770 students from Year 7 to Year 13.

The Labour Day weekend celebrations will involve a variety of events, including a school open day, a celebratory Mass, evening functions and a fundraising golf tournament.

‘We’re looking forward to welcoming back past students and staff to the school,’ says principal Margaret Leamy. ‘We have some great events planned, which will be an opportunity to catch up, see how the school has changed, and connect with old friends and teachers.’

Jubilee registrations are open now. For details and information on how to register, follow our dedicated Facebook page: facebook.com/spc40 or the jubilee website page: 50th Jubilee — St Peter’s College (stpeterspn.school.nz)

Susan Zentveld, Property Manager, Diocese of Palmerston North, is part of the organising committee for St Peter’s College 50th jubilee celebrations.



St Peter’s College were joint winners with St Patrick’s College Wellington of this year’s O’Shea Shield speech and drama competition. It is the first time in the shield’s 75-year history that St Peter’s College has won it. Because this is also their 50th jubilee year they will display the shield for the next six months and then it will go to St Patrick’s College.

Photo: Ashton Jamieson

Chanel charity fashion show

Jane Bourke
Director of Religious Studies,
Chanel College

The community spirit shone brightly at Chanel College’s annual Charity Fashion Show in Masterton on 15 May, aligning perfectly with the school’s Feast Day celebrations.

Over a two-week period, students had demonstrated impressive commitment by gathering clothing donations and culminating in a vibrant fashion show. The event was not just about showcasing style but also about supporting their local Wairarapa St Vincent de Paul Shop in Carterton. Through their efforts, the students collected over 1,000 items of clothing, all destined to help those in need within our community.

The fashion show itself was a creative spectacle, featuring five distinct rounds, which allowed students to express their artistic



Chanel College students, on stage for their annual Charity Fashion Show, showcase their creativity.

Photo: Supplied

and thematic flair. Categories included ‘Saints’, where outfits drew inspiration from religious figures; ‘Beach Wear’, capturing the essence of summer; ‘Super Hero’, celebrating popular and original heroes; ‘Promotion of Peace’, which highlighted themes of harmony and

tranquillity; and ‘Sports’, showcasing athletic wear.

Each category not only provided entertainment but also emphasised the values of creativity, charity, and community engagement, resonating deeply with the Chanel’s mission and the broader Catholic ethos.



Sacred Heart College principal Maria Neville-Foster with Tamar Aiken (l) and Cara Kuzman (r), who were awarded Scholarship Geography.

Napier students awarded NZ scholarships

Four Sacred Heart College Napier students recently gained five New Zealand Scholarship 2024 awards. The scholarships cover part or entire tertiary tuition fees.

The recipients include current year 13 students Cara Kuzman and Tamar Aiken, Deputy Head Girl, who achieved Scholarship Geography while in year 12.

Eva Wright, 2023 Deputy Head Girl, was awarded two scholarships, in painting and in photography. Fellow 2023 leaver Michaela Wilson was awarded a scholarship in classical studies, as well as a \$25,000 scholarship to Te Herenga Waka — Victoria University of Wellington.

Sacred Heart College principal Maria Neville-Foster says she is proud of their results and congratulates the students and teachers on their achievements.

‘This is a wonderful boost to the students at SHC. They are so happy to see each other succeed and, after what started as a very challenging year with some loss of learning, these results are exceptional.’

Mrs Neville-Foster congratulated Head of Social Sciences James Wakefield, Head of Art Sandie

Howlett and Classical Studies teacher Dr Amanda Aarons for the nurturing and care they give the students. ‘Our students are consistently encouraged to strive for their best and our teachers go above and beyond to help them achieve that.’

Eva says the support she received from her teacher Miss Howlett was invaluable and contributed to her success. While Eva had taken painting before, it was her first year doing photography.

‘I was pretty surprised to get both scholarships. I wasn’t expecting photography, but I was really hoping for painting.’

Cara and Tamar said they weren’t expecting to be awarded the scholarship in geography either. They follow in the footsteps of last year’s Head Girl Lucia Urquhart who gained Scholarship Geography while in year 12.

Cara says her teacher Mr Wakefield was incredibly supportive, organising lunchtime study sessions to prepare for the exam. ‘Mr Wakefield helped us so much. He had so many resources we could utilise. Lucia was also helpful as she had done it the year before.’

Young Vinnies visit age-care residents

Amanda Joe

Some 27 Young Vinnies students from St Theresa’s School Plimmerton have visited Summerset Aotea Care Centre several times in recent weeks.

The students sang to the residents, asked many questions and listened with interest to their answers. The students made cards and gifts and enjoyed singalong sessions, with songs the residents are familiar with and enjoy.

The visits have left the residents smiling, adult volunteers’ ‘cups filled’, and the students excitedly buzzing about the residents they have met and what they shared.

Sharon, Summerset Aotea’s Divisional Therapist, said, ‘On behalf of the residents of Summerset Aotea’s Care Centre, I’d like to say how



much we love having St Theresa’s pupils come and visit us here in the village. We so enjoy their young, smiling faces and their interest in our past lives and experiences. It is exciting to see what is the same and what is different for school children today. They give us hope for the future, both of our people and our country. We are most grateful to Amanda, St Theresa’s, the children and their families for this wonderful opportunity of intergenerational activity.

Rangatahi Katorika

Waipukurau students dream big and fly high

Betty Brown
Principal, St Joseph's School

Room 6 students at St Joseph's School in Waipukurau, Central Hawke's Bay, have been taking part in a 'Dream Big: Flying High' project. As part of a 10-session learning structure, the tamariki have been learning about sustainability and how they can be change agents for

positive impacts in the community, through the science behind hot air balloons and the mantra of 'Live the Life you Love'.
On 14 May, the senior class attended the Terrace school to go up in a hot air balloon. Student leaders Brooke and Ashtyne said, 'Everyone in Room 6 had a turn going up in the hot air balloon and experienced a wonderful view and a memory they will never forget.'



Student is Principal for a day

Belinda Backwell
Principal, St Marcellin School

Taniela Rasable, Year 7, a student at St Marcellin School's students, won a speech-writing competition last year to be 'Principal for the Day'. Taniela's speech was very convincing about all the things he would do if he was Principal for the day at our school.
This year, on Friday 10 May, Taniela actually got to undertake his 'Principalship' and help run our school for the day. Taniela had to plan the activities he wanted to do. On the day, he checked some invoices for payment and ran some errands down at Mitre 10, where he sourced and bought plant trays for the senior class to start their bean plant life cycle project the following week. We put on a special morning tea for Taniela and he had a meeting with our presiding Board Chair,



Taniela Rasabale, Principal for the Day, discusses the playground with St Marcellin presiding Board Chair, Sandy Cuff. Photo: Supplied

Sandy Cuff.
Next, Taniela planned some fun activities for all the students. They had a scavenger hunt and quiz, which was lots of fun. We had organised to borrow the Whanganui Community Sports Trailer from Sport Whanganui and all the students had lots of fun playing with the various sporting equipment.
Taniela's final job for the day was our school assembly and handing out ice blocks to the students as they went home. What a great day it was for everyone and a fantastic job by Taniela as Principal.



The Catholic Parish of Whanganui – Te Parihi Katorika ki Whanganui celebrated National Children's Day – Te Ra a Nga Tamariki at the 9.30am Eucharist, Sunday 3 March. The children participated in various ministries. During his homily, parish priest Fr Craig Butler invited the children to the sanctuary steps and talked about what makes everyone special. Paula Carter led the children as they sang with actions The 10 Commandments, inspiring the congregation to clap along. Words and photo: Sue Seconi



Hato Pāora College 2024 Open Day Whaia Te Tika!

Friday 16 August 2024 12pm

Come to Hato Pāora and find out about how you can become a part of our whānau and enrol for 2025.
Meet our Tumuaki, Dr. Nathan Matthews, see our classrooms in action and tour through the dorms.
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For information prior to Open Day, please contact the Office
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You are invited to an Ignatian Retreat in Daily Life 'Inner Peace in Divine Love'

Christian Life Community Wellington invites you to an Ignatian First Spiritual Exercise retreat in daily life based on a programme developed by Australian Michael Hansen SJ.
Participants meet weekly in guided small groups to pray and share their experience of prayer. The programme supports self-directed prayer at home during each week.
The retreat is open to all and will be held at Cardinal McKeefry School, 66 Albemarle Road, Wilton, Wellington, over five Sunday afternoons from 1.30pm, finishing at 3.30pm – 28 July, 4, 11, 18, 25 August 2024.
Meeting by Zoom at these times is another option available.
The cost of the retreat is \$55, and the cost of the book if required is \$30. Sponsorship is available if the cost would prevent you from attending.
To register or for further information contact Sarah Dench on 021 0814 4424 or email christianlifecommunitywgtn@gmail.com

He hari, he koa i te rā tūwheratanga o te

Joyful celebrations mark the re-opening of the C

This special six-page feature covers some of the highlights of the Cathedral re-opening weekend as well comments from people involved with the strengthening and restoration project of the Cathedral since its closure in 2018. Over the weekend of 7-9 June parishioners, along with members of the wider Catholic community and many visitors came with reverence and joy to see for the first time, the results of the \$13 million restoration and transformation of their heritage-listed Cathedral. The refurbishment includes strengthened roof and walls, removal of the pink paint from the interior ceiling and walls, the Oamaru marble returned to its original glory, the copper cladding restored, the marble altar from St Gerard's Monastery installed, heritage elements uncovered, and new lighting installed to enhance the Cathedral's many historic features and ambience and to augment its now lighter and more vibrant interior. The re-opening celebrations began on Friday with a dawn service led by Mana Whenua and a Mass of Thanksgiving in the evening. The celebrations and devotions continued on Saturday with a morning Mass, a Day of Adoration, and an ecumenical celebration of Evening Prayer. Cathedral parishioners flocked to worship at their 10am Sunday Mass and an Evening Mass brought the joyful and blessed weekend to a close.

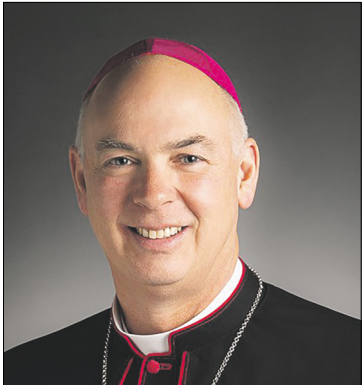
Photos: David Lupton, Bernie Velasco, Annette Scullion/WelCom

Archbishop Paul Martin SM Archbishop of Wellington

It is a joy to be able to celebrate the re-opening of the Cathedral. I attended many liturgies over the years here, never imagining that one day it would be the Cathedral of which I would be Archbishop.

Having come in halfway through the project I am conscious of the work of so many, which has made it possible. Those who worked on the fundraising have had the unenviable task of seeking financial support, and I am particularly grateful to them for this and for all those who have contributed.

My hope for our Cathedral is that it will be a place of prayer and gathering for all of us in the Archdiocese. I hope too it will be a place that draws people to learning more about their faith, providing opportunities for groups to meet, to be a place that is alive and active every day of the week.



We have the responsibility as Metropolitan Cathedral of New Zealand to speak of things of God to our parliamentary neighbours and to all our society. We do so by our actions and our words. My hope is we will do this well in our Cathedral and that many will find in it a place of solace, prayer and growth in faith.

I am looking forward to being part of this with the people of God of our Archdiocese into the years ahead.

Fr Patrick Bridgman Administrator Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Parish | Te Ahurewa o te Ngākau Tapu

I arrived in the Cathedral Parish on 1 February 2024, taking up my appointment as the Cathedral Administrator. This title reflects that the Bishop is the Parish Priest of a Cathedral, and delegates pastoral care to the Administrator and Pastoral Team.

It has been so impressive to see the incredible work and coordination that has been involved in the Cathedral Project. With the creative work of LT McGuinness and all contractors, the fundraising by the Archdiocese and Parish, the ongoing faithfulness of parishioners, and the constantly working Jane Kelly, our project Architect and Debbie Matheson, our Lay Pastoral leader. What a team!

Personally, It will be a joy to be able to again gather with the parish and the Archdiocese in our beautiful home. Like so many, my own family also have connections here at the Basilica.



My grandparents and parents were married here, and family have been baptised and buried from here. And yes, it was where my Ordination was celebrated. It is such a blessing to now be here with Archbishop Paul and Debbie in the ministry of pastoral care.

It is our hope in the coming months parishioners from throughout the Archdiocese, parish groups, school and college groups, and others will come and take time to see and pray in the Cathedral. We have a 'Mother church' in the Cathedral, and it will be good to see people in the Archdiocese grow to see Sacred Heart as their home away from home!

"The Cathedral is a building of great significance to the city as well as the parish and church of Wellington. The strengthening and refurbishment have restored the building to its original glory. We have enjoyed being part of the team on this project costing the various innovative structural options proposed and we congratulate the parish and archdiocese on the re-opening the Cathedral."

– David Monastra,
Monastra QS Consultants Ltd.



"We became involved and started pricing in July 2021 and went through a few different lighting design rounds before onsite works started. Although there were challenges working around the constraints of the building structure, seeing the completed project illuminated with the heritage architecture kept gives us pride."

– Stuart Quigan,
NME Group



"Being on this project for the past two and a half years has greatly enhanced the guys' skillset in stone carving/banker masonry and they are all very thankful for the opportunity. The team believe all these beautiful heritage buildings we have at our doorstep in New Zealand should also be restored."

– Nicolas Piveteau, Le Maçon,
Artisan Stonemason

Debbie Matheson Lay Pastoral Leader Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Parish | Te Ahurewa o te Ngākau Tapu

Archbishop Paul said to me one day last year that when the Cathedral re-opened, 'I would be able to go back to my normal ministry'. He was unaware at that point my first appointment as a Lay Pastoral Leader was four months before the Cathedral closed. The closure redefined and challenged my anticipation of pastoral ministry.

However, as the Israelites did, we have returned home. Our wandering in the desert has come to an end. As the parish looks to rebuild and strengthen its relationships, with one another, displaced parishioners, and the wider Wellington community, a new journey is beginning.

The financial challenges of raising more funds to complete the restoration are still present. We also need funds to refurbish the Hobday organ. And an ever-present financial challenge is to manage living within our means.

Among all this I too am excited personally, as now I envision the



opportunity to focus my pastoral ministry more on embracing my personal faith and ministry drivers. Those of supporting and co-leading a community, in encouraging individuals and groups to explore and share their faith, journeying together, in relationships with God and others – seeing faith alive and active in people, through worship and service, evangelisation and outreach.

The re-opening of the Cathedral ushers in a new period in the life of the Cathedral parish, where our 'coming home' offers us opportunity to reconnect, revitalise, and redefine ourselves as today's community of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and His Mother Mary.

Jane Kelly TEAM Architects Wellington

TEAM Architects Wellington has been delighted to have been part of the Restoration of Sacred Heart Cathedral. Personally, as the Project Architect, and as a parishioner, I am thrilled that after so much hard work the Cathedral is re-opening.

It is almost six years since we received the challenging news that seismic assessments deemed the Cathedral unsafe to occupy. This set in motion the massive task to turn what felt like a tragedy into an opportunity to future proof the Cathedral.

The team that was brought together, both consultants and contractors, has worked hard to make the most of every opportunity. The result is what you will see before you with roof strengthening completed and restoration of the interior and exterior of the Cathedral space complete.



We trust you will enjoy the refurbished worship space with its warmth and light and the heritage elements we uncovered along the way. The Cathedral holds the memories and history of past celebrations and we look forward to many more memories being created as the Cathedral returns to being a place of worship and celebration for the Wellington Catholic community.

Whare Karakia Matua Cathedral of the Sacred Heart



Novena Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
we thank you for your infinite love for us.*

*As we re-open the Cathedral dedicated to your Sacred Heart
and your Mother Mary,
we pray that our hearts will be open
to further revelation of the depths of your love.
Help us then to love one another as you love us.
May our parish community give faithful expression to our
mission and vision:*

*“To joyfully share God’s love. To be a missionary people
united in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary”.*

*Jesus, meek and humble of heart may our hearts be like yours.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Amen.*

BRIEF HISTORY

1850: Thorndon Catholic parish founded and administered by Society of Mary (Marist Fathers) until 1935.
1851: St Mary’s Cathedral, wooden, neogothic structure, blessed and opened.
1867: Cathedral building completed; cast iron statue of Blessed Virgin Mary, from France, positioned high in church tower.
1898: St Mary’s Cathedral destroyed by fire. Statue of Mary crashed to ground intact. Salvaged with minor damage and stands today in Cathedral cloister courtyard.
1899: Foundation stone laid for new church, called Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Architect Francis Petre designed new church in Palladian style in place of Gothic style of time, which he considered ‘old fashioned and expensive’.
1901: Parish church, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, opened to replace St Mary’s Cathedral.
1908: Memorial pulpit installed – still in use today.
1984: Church designated Cathedral of Wellington and of the Archbishop of Wellington, after earthquake strengthening and addition of Blessed Sacrament chapel, foyer, sacristy, courtyard, hall. Consecrated by Cardinal Tom Williams, fifth Archbishop of Wellington.
1985: Building listed as a Category 1 historic place.
1989: Two-metre-high kohatu whakairo (thinking stone carving) installed inside Cathedral entrance and a pou (carved wooden pole) in piazza, gifted as taonga from Catholic Māori of the Archdiocese.
2007: Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Mary his mother by contemporary iconographer Michael Galovic installed.
TIMELINE OF STRENGTHENING AND RESTORATION PROJECT
2011: Parish Resource Committee identified that Cathedral exterior required significant maintenance and repair work. Heritage architects’ tenders costly. Work postponed.
2016: Repair work needed more obvious. Committee decided to proceed with work estimated at \$1m. Before work began, committee

wanted to check for earthquake strengthening needs. Engaged structural and design engineers for building assessment prior.
2018: Structural and design engineers reported Cathedral under 33% of NBS and assessed as earthquake risk. Cathedral immediately closed. Parish and Archdiocese of Wellington begin planning work to strengthen with some renovation of Cathedral interior. Project budget of \$2.8m
Temporary strengthening work enabled newer adjacent building with foyer, chapel and Connolly Hall to be used while long-term work on Cathedral building carried out.
2020: Plan ready and work began; \$2m contract signed with construction company LT McGuinness.
During Covid-19 lockdown government’s shovel-ready project provided additional funds of \$8m for project. Wellington City Council provided \$120k. Seen as public endorsement of Cathedral as significant building to Wellington and New Zealand’s cultural heritage with A-listing for historic places.
2020: August 7, Cardinal John Dew, Archbishop of Wellington, blesses site and project team for strengthening and refurbishment work to begin. Work on most vulnerable roofing section commenced.
2022: With additional funding available, exterior work and interior refurbishment commences involving removing heavy pink paint, installing new lighting, new grey and gold carpet, putting lighter paint on some walls and fixtures, such as original ornate tin tiles on ceilings.
2024: Strengthening and interior work completed while some exterior work and chapel still to be completed. Cathedral Parish and the Archdiocese of Wellington have raised over \$4m for project, through generous donations and fundraising activities.
2024: June 7, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, Cathedral re-opens for worship for all in the Archdiocese of Wellington and beyond to ‘come home’ to the Mother church.



Dawn blessing

Mons Gerard Burns

With my long-time involvement with Te Ngākau Tapu (Sacred Heart) parish for Māori in Porirua we have had a link with the Cathedral helping with various aspects of Māori tikanga. This has been done through parishioners gifting their time, mana and presence via mihi, karanga, waiata, kōrero. The fact that the two buildings share a common name is a wonderful link also. We are linked through the Sacred Heart of Hēhu Karaiti.

My particular involvement in the cathedral building project has been limited but I have assisted with the dawn blessing of the site by the mana whenua of our rohe. This ceremony recognises and honours the land on which the cathedral sits, the people who were here before the cathedral was here especially those who have died. In this there is a special reference to Bishop Viard, buried under the cathedral, and to the relics of saints in the altar stones from various churches, which are in the cathedral also.

The dawn ceremony on Friday 7 June 'clears the way' from a Māori perspective for the official re-opening Mass in the evening. Ki te whai ao, ki te Ao marama. Tihei mauri ora!



Photo: Paul Cummack



The dawn ceremony began at 5am with people from the Archdiocese gathered in darkness in front of the Cathedral. The blessing of the site began with kaikarakia from Nate (Nathaniel) Rowe and kaikaranga from Ali Houppapa. They quietly led everyone inside and proceeded to walk in single file around the perimeters of the Cathedral, gently touching and blessing the walls and the altar. More prayers and waiata were held in the foyer and the ceremony concluded with Archbishop Paul Martin and Pā Gerard Burns exchanging blessings and greetings.

THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND HIS MOTHER MARY

S.S. CORDI JESU DEDICATUM. A.D. MCML.

Our thanks to The Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Parish for your faith and trust in us to work with you on this magnificent restoration project for the people of the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington and the wider community of New Zealand.

L T McGuinness also thanks the outstanding efforts and workmanship of the consultants, sub-contractors, suppliers and our LTM staff in restoring this beautiful church to its deserved glory for many years to come.

www.ltmcguinness.co.nz



The Mass of Thanksgiving for the re-opening of the Cathedral

The re-opening Mass of Thanksgiving on Friday evening, 7 June, began with the Tongan community of Karori processing the Cathedra into the Cathedral, returned from St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral, to its place in the sanctuary. This was followed by the calling of the Kaikaranga by Kataraina Millin, acknowledging the Cathedra, this sacred Church, the presence of the remains of Bishop Viard, and the relics of the saints in the Altar.

The Cathedral bells tolled three times signalling Archbishop Paul Martin, accompanied by Mons

Gerard Burns, to knock three times on the main door of the Cathedral with his Pastoral Staff. LT McGuiness' staff members opened the doors to Archbishop Paul where Brian McGuiness handed him a Cross to venerate.

Archbishop Paul was the presiding celebrant in the presence of Emeritus Archbishop Cardinal John Dew and Bishops Stephen Lowe, Michael Dooley, Michael Gielen, John Adams, Richard Laurenson, and Mons Giosue Busti, Charge d'Affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature.

Members of Mana Whenua, other Churches, Faith Communities, Religions, and guests with the priests and faithful of the Archdiocese of Wellington formed the congregation.

Jane Kelly, Debbie Matheson and Deacon Matthew White were readers, John Celeste the cantor, Douglas Mews and William McElwee the music directors with combined choirs of the Catholic Parish of Otari and St Mary of the Angels. Members of the Kiribati community offered the Gifts.

During the Litany of the Saints

Archbishop Paul lit tapers from the Paschal Candle for the Bishops and representatives of the Archdiocese Canonical Bodies, Religious and Catholic Schools. In silence they lit 12 Consecration Candles on the pillars of the Cathedral, which recalled when the Metropolitan Cathedral was first dedicated to God and her walls anointed with Sacred Chrism.

At the conclusion of Mass, Archbishop Paul said, 'A cathedral is the focal centre point for the diocese, the place where all belong, where all the faithful have a right

to be and to call it home. It is why we are so delighted members of our Wellington local and central government are with us today, along with our brothers and sisters from our other Christian Churches and from other faith communities. Your presence and support tonight captures what makes our community here in Aotearoa New Zealand one which can speak of what healthy community looks like of tolerance, understanding and friendship. Thank you so much for being with us.'

Ajith Nissangaratchie Parish Pastoral Council Chair

Our Pastoral Council role has involved coordinating stakeholders, including the architects and parishioners, to ensure the project aligns with our parish community's vision and needs. This has included ensuring the historical integrity of

the Cathedral is preserved while incorporating modern elements to enhance worship experience, briefing the parishioners on the progress of the restoration work, the challenges faced and resolution options, and enhancing our AV systems to enable online streaming of Masses and ensure accessibility for all parishioners. It has been a joy to witness the unwavering dedication and

collaborative spirit of our parish community, volunteers, and the restoration team during the project, in particular our pride in the leadership and commitment of our fellow parishioner Jane Kelly as she inspired the construction team in her role as Project Architect, and the pastoral leadership of Archbishop Paul Martin, Fr Patrick Bridgman and Debbie Matheson.

The re-opening marks a new

chapter, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and connection among parishioners and reaffirming our commitment to maintaining the Cathedral as a vibrant, inclusive, and spiritually enriching environment. For the wider congregation and community, it brings new hope of a renewed place of worship, to foster our faith, community gatherings, and spiritual growth.



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SACRED HEART

04 499 6123 | wellington@teamarchitects.co.nz



On 7 August 2020, Cathedral Parish leadership, Archdiocesan representatives, Restoration Committee members and LT McGuinness contractors gather with Cardinal John for the site blessing marking the beginning of the earthquake strengthening project.

Photo: File

A tribute to pastoral leadership

Fr James Lyons

The closure of Sacred Heart Cathedral in 2018 for earthquake strengthening was not a great concern. The work would take only a couple of years at a cost of \$3m to \$4m. The parish was sure it could raise that amount and set about to do so.

But the scene quickly changed. The then-recently completed fundraising to strengthen St Mary of the Angels Church made a new appeal difficult. The strengthening work on Sacred Heart proved more complicated and other faults were uncovered. We hadn't anticipated the Covid-19 pandemic and its effect on life globally. Two years was never going to be enough and the

cost would far exceed the original estimate.

Standing at the centre of the project was our Archbishop, Cardinal John Dew. Convinced the Cathedral was worth saving, he showed mature leadership, trusting the expertise and advice of those well acquainted with the building and accurately sensing the significance of the project for the Archdiocese.

Even when it became apparent that the re-opening would not come before Cardinal John's retirement as Archbishop of Wellington, he continued to fully encourage the process, displaying in many ways his deep faith both in God and in the people he served.

The re-opening of Sacred Heart Cathedral is a tribute to Cardinal John's pastoral leadership.



Gathered together after the Cathedral Mass of Thanksgiving for the Cathedral re-opening are some of the contractors and consultants who have worked on the restoration project over the years. Jane Kelly, parishioner and Project Architect from TEAM Architects Wellington, is at the centre of the front row, third from right, and Aaron McGuinness, Project Manager from LT McGuinness, is on the far right.



Members of the Wellington Samoan Chaplaincy gathered with Archbishop Paul Martin after the Ecumenical celebration of Evening Prayer at the Cathedral on Saturday 8 June. The Evening Prayer Service included Benediction.



Michael Humble
Co-ordinator of Cathedral Guardians

Since the closure of the Cathedral, the Guardians' principal role has been to ensure 'business as usual' for Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish's weekday Masses at 12.10pm, Tuesday to Friday. We were fortunate to have two temporary

chapels – the first being on the ground floor of Viard House and then we moved to Connolly Hall Chapel.

Our Guardian duties have included: setting up the altar for the 12.10pm Mass and preparing the credence table for the priest; and welcoming parishioners and visitors as they arrive.

While the cathedral was closed, the Monday 12.10pm Mass was

replaced by a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion service following the 11.30am Parish Rosary. I and a small group of parishioners were recruited but, due to illness, there are now only two of us to lead this ministry!

The Guardians look forward to returning to the Cathedral and the side chapel re-opening later this year, as it is the original venue for weekday Masses.



Geraldine Irinco
Bake-sale innovator

Fundraising for the restoration of Sacred Heart Cathedral has taken many forms over the six years since its closure. The most enduring effort is the monthly bake-sale after Sunday Masses initiated four years ago by parishioner, Geraldine Irinco, whose tables laden with home-made delights are keenly anticipated.

'My role is to coordinate with my fellow parishioners, who overtime have become dear friends. They provide all sorts of help and support, contributing baked goods, helping on the day and manning the bake-sale table.

It has been great to see small acts of generosity ripple; we have so many people approaching our bake-sale table giving some cash without taking any goods; or others would come for a small pack and give five or ten times what it's worth. It's been lovely to see the community gather with smiles on

everyone's faces.

The Cathedral is a home to us, after almost six years of being scattered in various parishes – it is a great relief to finally be home, and with God's Grace we'll see our Parish community grow much bigger than before.

I believe bake-sale is here to stay, as long as the Parish Community welcomes it.



Sacred Heart parishioner, Geraldine Irinco's home-made delights are keenly anticipated.

Photo: Supplied



Monastra QS Consultants Ltd

QUANTITY SURVEYORS ■ CONSTRUCTION COST CONSULTANTS ■ PROJECT MANAGERS

We are proud and delighted to have provided Quantity Surveying and cost advice to the Sacred Heart Parish on the restoration of the beautiful Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

We congratulate the parish community and the Archdiocese of Wellington on the reopening of the Cathedral.

Monastra QS Consultants Ltd ■ 9 Frederick Street, Te Aro ■ Wellington 6011 ■ Ph: 04 381 3314



The Cathedral Parish 10am Sunday Mass, 9 June, was over-flowing with delighted parishioners and many others returning to their place of worship. Archbishop Paul presided with Fr Patrick Bridgman.

Archbishop Paul said, ‘The process of looking at strengthening

the building saw the parish team involved and also those from the Archdiocesan curia. Debbie Matheson, the lay pastoral leader, became the continuity and centre point for the parish as the priests who were appointed administrator changed over the years. Thank you

Debbie for your oversight of pastoral care and your work on this project’

Archbishop Paul blessed the parish pastoral team of Fr Patrick and Debbie.

Remarking on the full Cathedral, Archbishop Paul invited everyone to return in such numbers every Sunday.

CATHEDRAL FUNDRAISING NEEDS \$720K

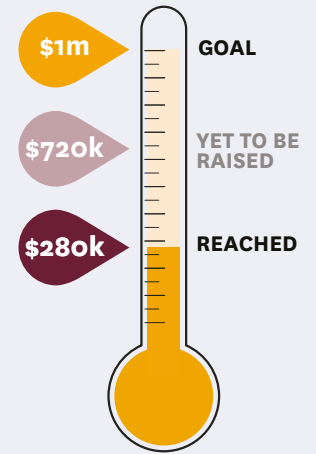
The Cathedral restoration project has cost around \$13m. Around \$720k still needs to be raised to complete the work including the chapel and some exterior work.

As at 31 May 2024, \$280k has been donated towards this goal.

You can donate to the Cathedral Restoration Fund by internet banking to:

Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish
A/c: 02-0506-0138488-025,
particulars (your surname and initials), **code** (your phone no), **reference** (Reopen). Donate online at: cathedralcampaign.org.nz/donation-form

Remaining fundraising target



Thanks to all those who have contributed so far to our Sacred Heart Cathedral fundraising.



Noeline Matthews Chairperson fundraising committee

I joined the committee in 2021 to help with the Cathedral restoration fundraising, but Covid-19 meant a lot of what we had planned was cancelled that year. Since 2022 I have been chairperson working with our committee team coordinating and communicating fundraising activities and community engagement.

Some major fundraising activities have included an online art auction in 2022, a community concert with Fr Chris Skinner in 2023, and a highly successful luncheon and a gala dinner with auctions and raffles organised by Bob Houston in 2023 and 2024.

Parishioner Geraldine Irinco has regularly contributed to the popular bake sales over the years.

Since 2021 our team has raised over \$100k.



We are excited about ‘coming home’ to the Cathedral and we look forward to welcoming everyone who wants to come and join us in celebrating our faith and the Eucharist.

We still have a funding gap to complete the project so we will continue to fundraise and ongoing fundraising will be needed to maintain the building.



It has been our pleasure as stonemasons to work on this project for the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, painstakingly removing existing paint from the stonework over many months to reveal the beautiful hues of the natural stone underneath. It is with pride our team can now stand back and see the Cathedral completed in its original glory for all the Wellington architectural community and the proud parish members.

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Lower Hutt
Ph: 04 589 0310

Electrical

NME Group has had the pleasure of working with LT McGuinness & Co to restore the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

It has been our pride to install and enhance the electrical components and superb lighting fixtures that will illuminate this magnificent heritage architecture Wellington building for church and community gatherings and celebrations.

Vatican advises Cardinal John can resume pastoral activities

A Vatican-led review of an abuse complaint against Cardinal John Dew dating to the 1970s has concluded that no further Church inquiry is required, says the Catholic Metropolitan Archbishop, Paul Martin SM, Archbishop of Wellington.

‘Cardinal Dew can now resume public activities that he stood aside from under Church protocols when the allegation was brought to the attention of the Church in May last year,’ Archbishop Martin said.

Cardinal Dew retired as Archbishop of Wellington in May last year on reaching 75, the retirement age for bishops in the Catholic Church.

‘The Church became aware of an allegation of abuse being made against Cardinal Dew at about the same time as his retirement,’ said

Archbishop Martin.

‘Cardinal Dew immediately stood aside from all public church activities while the police investigated the allegations. When the police advised in March that no charges would be laid, Cardinal Dew continued to stand aside while a separate Vatican review proceeded, using the Church’s international procedures for complaints against bishops.

‘With the Church’s review complete, and no further action proposed, Cardinal Dew can resume public Church activities.

‘This has been a distressing experience and painful for everyone concerned. The Church has an ongoing pastoral responsibility to offer support to all those involved and continues to do so. This includes the complainant to whom



Cardinal John Dew

the Church has continued to offer support,’ said Archbishop Paul Martin.



ARCHBISHOP OF WELLINGTON

5 June 2024

Inquiries into the allegations against Cardinal John Dew, regarding events alleged to have taken place in the 1970s, have now concluded.

The Police investigation determined that no charges would be laid. I conveyed this to you in my letter of 7 March 2024.

Since then, we have followed the Catholic Church’s international procedures for complaints against bishops. The matter was referred to the Vatican, which has advised that no further church investigations are required.

Cardinal John stood aside from all public Church activities during the Police investigation. With the Church’s procedures complete, and no further action proposed, Cardinal John can resume public Church activities.

This has been a distressing situation and painful for all involved. The Church has provided pastoral care and support to those involved, and continues to do so.

I would ask that we continue to pray for all those affected and offer support where we can.

Yours in Christ
+Paul Martin SM
Archbishop of Wellington

Providing pastoral care for seafarers

“14 July 2024 is Sea Sunday in the Church’s liturgical calendar when we are encouraged to pray for seafarers and fishers and give thanks for their vital role in our lives.”

Sarah Dench
Secretary, Stella Maris
Wellington

Working at sea remains a dangerous profession, and it’s a lonely one for many men and women who are on board vessels for months at a time, sometimes unable to contact family until they come into a port.

Stella Maris is an international Catholic volunteer organisation dedicated to providing pastoral care for seafarers visiting foreign

ports. In Wellington, a small band of volunteers visits ships berthing at Centreport. They offer care packages including chocolates and phone SIM cards, sometimes conduct money exchanges, and, if the crew have time, talk with them about their issues and welfare needs. We are always concerned about crew relationships, especially where there are officers and able seamen employed from countries in conflict, for example, Russia and Ukraine. Our experience is that people living in close quarters

get along well and care about each other, no matter what is happening in their home countries. They worry about family left behind in war zones and value the chance to talk about what is occurring.

Members of Stella Maris Wellington collaborate well with Mission to Seafarers Wellington and British Sailors’ Society. Recently, Stella Maris members joined with a Mission to Seafarers’ chaplain, Mary-Therese Nalder, to visit the Filipino crew of a vessel, which had experienced the death

of a stevedore working on board. Fr Rico, a Wellington priest, said a Requiem Mass for the man, and blessed the crew and vessel. The crew were very grateful for the support of the visitors and for the celebration of Mass.

The Stella Maris team also assist in welcoming visitors at the Seafarer’s Welfare Centre based at Centreport in a beautifully refurbished portacabin with refreshment facilities, comfortable seating, free wi-fi, books to take away, and a television and gaming

consoles. Stella Maris receives support from groups such as Catholic Women’s League members knitting beanies for distribution.

Sea Sunday is on 14 July 2024 in the Church’s liturgical calendar when we are encouraged to pray for seafarers and fishers and give thanks for their vital role in our lives. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Kelly Ross, Chairperson, Stella Maris Wellington at kellyannross9@gmail.com.



Stella Maris volunteer Rose Celeste with Mission to Seafarers Chaplain Tim Tovey and crew members of the MV Captain Thanasis I.

Photo: Supplied

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AROUND THE WORLD

Stella Maris Wellington is calling for volunteers to assist in the important service of providing practical and spiritual assistance to seafarers visiting our local port, Centreport Wellington.

As a volunteer with Stella Maris Wellington you will have the opportunity to:

- Extend a warm and welcoming presence to seafarers arriving in port
- Provide practical assistance such as distributing essential supplies and offering access to communication services
- Offer support and a listening ear to those seeking guidance during their time away from home.

Whatever your background or experience, there’s a place for you in our dedicated team. In particular, we seek those with languages other than English, especially Tagalog, Indonesian, Mandarin and/or Cantonese, Vietnamese, Russian and Ukranian.

There’s no set time for this work, if you can spare a few hours every week or two, we need you! Your contribution will make a positive difference in the lives of seafarers who spend months away from home and family.

To learn more, please contact Kelly Ross at kellyannross9@gmail.com or Sarah Dench at sarahdench@yahoo.com

World Refugee Day, 20 June 2024

Grace Morton
Advocacy Analyst, Caritas
Aotearoa New Zealand

World Refugee Day, on 20 June, emphasises solidarity with refugees. Solidarity is a key Catholic social teaching principle.

At Caritas, we connect solidarity to *whakawhanaungatanga* – making time for building and strengthening relationships. We are called to show love and support for those often marginalised, eliminate divisions and embrace the unity of one human family.

Solidarity goes beyond empathy or conversation. It means addressing the root causes of refugee crises. We are responsible for advocating for fair and just policies, providing resources and support, and fostering inclusive communities.

Following World Refugee Day, Sunday 23 June is the Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants. This year, Caritas is looking at how climate-change impacts are increasingly driving people from their homes and countries.

Climate-change related



Caritas Kiribati Youth Group members plant mangrove trees on the shores of Kiribati for effective erosion control. Photo: Supplied/Caritas

displacement of people is a major issue in Oceania. The International Organisation for Migration estimates more than 50,000 people in the Pacific are displaced each year due to its impacts.

People displaced due to climate change are not legally recognised as refugees. They are not given the rights and protections refugees are, which increases their vulnerability, leading to a rise in human rights abuses, such

as people smuggling, trafficking, and gender-based violence. as people desperately seek safety for themselves and their families.

Caritas invites you to join us in showing solidarity for those most affected by climate-change impacts and promoting the dignity of refugees and migrants in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world. Go to caritas.org.nz/day-prayer-refugees-and-migrants to find out more.

Caritas launches Appeal to support PNG landslide survivors

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has launched an appeal to help those affected by the devastating landslide that struck a remote village in Papua New Guinea on 20 May 2024.

There are at least 670 people missing after the landslide and the

death toll is expected to reach 2,000. Over 7,800 people, more than 1,400 households, have been affected with more than 1,600 people displaced from their homes.

The landslide has left debris up to eight metres deep across 200

square kilometres.

Caritas’s international network is working with local people in PNG to provide aid and vital supplies to those on the ground.

For Appeal details, see caritas.org.nz

Te Tiriti | The Treaty and Catholic Social Teaching

Bernie Kernot

What does Catholic Social Teaching have to offer in the ongoing and divisive debates around Te Tiriti | The Treaty, the place of te reo in public life or biculturalism? Well, quite a lot in the view of two Catholic groups in the archdiocese.

The Christian Life Community and the Bicultural Committee of the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology, Justice, and Peace have joined to plan a two-day hui to help Catholics to develop an understanding and appreciation of Te Tiriti and related issues from the perspective of the social teachings of the Church.

The hui will be held at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, over the weekend of Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July, from 9.30am to 3pm, both days.

Under the title *Ko Te Tiriti Mai Rānō | The Treaty is Always Speaking. A Covenant for the Generations*, the hui will address the issues over four sessions. Presentations for the opening day will be: ‘Te Tiriti in the light of Catholic Social Teaching’ (morning); and ‘Te Tiriti as Covenant’ (afternoon). Presentations for day two will be: ‘A Guide to using te reo in Liturgy and in daily life’ (morning); and ‘What does a bicultural future look like? What blessings can we hope for?’ (afternoon).

Speakers will include Jim

McAloon, Professor of History, VUW; Rangi Nicholson (Ngāti Raukawa ki Te Au o Te Tonga) Anglican priest, educator and socio-linguist; and Paora Ammunson, Deputy Chief Executive Tiriti Outcomes, Te Pūkenga.

To give participants as much engagement as possible, each presentation will be followed by small group discussions. The discussion groups will be guided following the synodal method, where everyone present will be able to share their thoughts in a non-confrontational setting. This method encourages people to listen to other points of view and exchange ideas respectfully and in conversation rather than argument. That means the conversations are open ended.

It is hoped that those who may be confused or afraid of the politics surrounding the Treaty, or uncomfortable with the use of te reo in the liturgy, will be helped to find a deeper understanding of the issues from the treasury of Catholic Social Teaching.

Please contact Deirdre Meskill d.meskill@wn.catholic.org.nz for further information or to register attendance. Koha entry.

Bernie Kernot is a retired academic, former chair of Commission for Justice, Peace and Development (now Commission for Ecology, Justice and Peace), and a member of the Christian Life Community.

First national hui for Catholic hospital chaplains

Some 30 Catholic hospital chaplains from throughout the motu, some full-time but most part-time, gathered at the St Francis Retreat Centre in Hillsborough, Auckland for their first-ever national hui earlier this year.

Catholic chaplains work in hospitals throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, spending time with people who are unwell, as well as families and staff. Chaplains need to be resilient and always ready to support others. But they also need support and encouragement themselves, which is why this inaugural conference was held.

‘Typically, chaplains have a low profile until you meet them, either as a patient or when accompanying a loved one who is being diagnosed and treated in the hospital,’ says Senior Catholic Hospital Chaplain, Tony Lenton.

‘We are present in all major

public hospitals. We spend time with those who are unwell, their families and staff. Chaplaincy teams are typically available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

‘As part of the Church’s witness to the whole community, chaplains minister to anyone who needs them, without judgement or reserve. Chaplains support families in their concern and grief for their loved ones, and from time to time offer moral support to hard-working hospital staff. On occasion we are a surrogate family for the socially isolated and alone.’

The Catholic bishops are part of the Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy (ICHC), which is contracted by Te Whatu Ora-Health New Zealand to provide chaplaincy services in public hospitals.

Chaplains must be able to cope with a wide range of encounters

with patients, says Tony.

‘These encounters range from gentle conversation through to ministry and ritual to those who are dying, and careful supportive presence to those in mental distress. We meet many patients who had no idea the symptoms which brought them to hospital that day would lead to a life-changing or, in some cases, life-limiting, prognosis. We support those impacted by an accidental death, suicide and those mentally unwell.

‘Chaplains need to be people of resilience and faith,’ says Tony. ‘They must be humble but honest in their self-belief. They must be knowledgeable about matters of faith and skilled conversationalists who are good listeners.’

The hui, held in February, featured a number of inspiring speakers. They included Fr Mark Chamberlain, who spoke on



Auckland hospital chaplains at the hui (l-r) Myrine McMahon, Fr Maurice Ford, Deacon Mark Rivalland, Kheng Boon Tan. Photo: Supplied

spiritual awareness, and ICHC Regional Manager Rev Joe Gray who celebrated the collaboration of Catholic and non-Catholic chaplains.

Tauranga ecumenical chaplain Rev Matiu Best of Ngāpuhi offered wisdom on meeting the needs of Māori patients. Dr

John Kleinsman, Director of the Catholic Bishops’ Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics, gave an overview of recent developments in theology as they applied to pastoral accompaniment.

Source: NZCBC

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Dignitas Infinita and the Treaty of Waitangi

The Vatican recently published a new document that outlines and affirms Catholic doctrine on the importance of human dignity and its connection to God. The document, entitled *Dignitas Infinata* (infinite dignity), addresses a range contemporary moral, bio-ethical and social issues, including human rights violations, discrimination against women, abortion and gender theory.

Dated 2 April 2024 and released on 8 April 2024, *Dignitas Infinita* was issued by the Holy See's top doctrinal office – the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith – and approved with a signature by Pope Francis.

John Kleinsman and Daniel Kleinsman

We live in times of great change and conflict, which pose significant challenges along with many opportunities for growth and transformation.

Step up to the mark Pope Francis and the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. In the midst of all the turmoil and violence in the world, the Church reminds us we need *unchanging* points of reference, the most important of these being respect for the ‘Infinite Dignity’ that is God’s unsolicited gift to each of us.

Understanding ‘Human Dignity’

Published in April 2024, *Dignitas Infinita* clarifies and unpacks a specifically Catholic understanding of the concept of dignity being highlighted, differentiating it from what is referred to as ‘attributed’ dignity – the type that is conferred by choice or on the basis of social mores. Rather, the ‘ontological dignity’ Pope Francis often appeals to, is ‘not something granted to the person by others based on their gifts or qualities, such that it could be withdrawn. Were it so bestowed, it would be given in a conditional and alienable way, and then the very meaning of dignity, however worthy of great respect, would remain exposed to the risk of being abolished’ (n. 15).

Acknowledging our ontological dignity as infinite also highlights it has an eternal dimension. Meanwhile, recognising its origins in God gives it a sense of mystery and sacredness. Considered together, this informs an understanding of dignity as neither attributable to our merits nor subject to our faults; able to be neither extinguished nor exhausted; and unable to be measured. While it demands recognition, it also delights in and invites expression by which it expands. It is neither fixed nor static, but fluid and dynamic and, most importantly, it is fundamentally relational (nn. 26-28), meaning it ‘encompasses the capacity, inherent in human nature, to assume obligations vis-à-vis others’ (n. 27).

We do not need to look too far to see how, in our world, people



Infinite dignity finds expression and demands recognition in infinitely diverse and unique ways. Image: Unsplash

currently speak and think of dignity as if it were ‘conditional and alienable’. *Dignitas Infinita* identifies thirteen ‘grave violations’ and recognises the impact of these on specific groups, among them disabled people, the sick, people who are incarcerated, the unborn and the elderly. People in these groups are routinely regarded as ‘lacking in dignity’ because they are ‘unproductive and/or a burden’, making them vulnerable:

- (i) because they are seen as unworthy of being included in society; or,
- (ii) living with limitations they were either born with or developed and finding themselves alone, they *perceive* they are unwanted; or,
- (iii) seen as expendable in the name of certain economic models of prosperity that are driven by a vision of growth that excludes many people.

Dignity and difference

As ‘good’ Catholics, we may sign off whole-heartedly on the important principle of infinite human dignity while inadvertently continuing to use language or promote ideas that undermine people’s intrinsic dignity. Like us, you will have witnessed this in the way some speak about people categorised as ‘different’ or ‘other’ than ourselves, including, for example, migrants and refugees or transgender persons, to name two further groupings referred to in *Dignitas Infinita*.

This is not to exclude the importance or even obligation we have to bring our different theoretical – philosophical and theological – ideas and life experiences to our conversations about contentious issues, such as assisted dying, abortion or gender theory. As we do this, however, our commitment to the equal dignity of each person, if we take it seriously, proscribes all forms of violence. This includes the violence we effect through gestures, words, attitudes and/or actions, which are the product of *unjust* intellectual categorising or labelling of other people as ‘them’, including unjust labelling justified by reference to religious doctrine. Such labelling often originates in our fears and mistrust of those we perceive to be different and is a way of distancing ourselves from them.

Pope Francis puts it eloquently in *Fratelli Tutti* (n. 27):

‘...we have certain ancestral fears that...have been able to hide and spread behind new technologies. Today too, outside the ancient town walls lies the abyss, the territory of the unknown, the wilderness. Whatever comes from there cannot be trusted, for it is unknown, unfamiliar, not part of the village. It is the territory of the “barbarian”, from whom we must defend ourselves at all costs. As a result, new walls are erected for self-preservation, the outside world ceases to exist and leaves only “my” world, to the point that others, no

longer considered human beings possessed of an inalienable dignity, become only “them”. Once more, we encounter “the temptation to build a culture of walls, to raise walls, walls in the heart, walls on the land, in order to prevent this encounter with other cultures, with other people.”

Respect for the infinite dignity of others invites us to create spaces without walls.

Dignity and the Treaty of Waitangi

For those of us living in Aotearoa, a commitment to the infinite dignity of others requires us to reflect deeply and carefully on the place of the Treaty of Waitangi in our laws, policies and methods of governance and leadership. We who align with and benefit from the current political, social and cultural structures – that research shows favour certain groups over others – fail in our relational obligations vis-à-vis Māori to the extent we fail to realise the negative realities of systemic racism, including the injustices that are the consequences of long-standing political structures which have resulted in poorer social and health outcomes.

This failure may well be exacerbated by an alternative ‘flawed’ understanding of human dignity criticised in *Dignitas Infinita* for being based on political structures that reduce it ‘to the ability to determine one’s identity and future independently

of others, without regard for one’s membership in the human community’ (n. 26). In our case, this means without a proper regard for the ‘community’ and associated rights guaranteed for Māori as part of the legally binding agreement made between the Crown and Māori in 1840.

We must remember infinite dignity finds expression and demands recognition in infinitely diverse and unique ways. Recognising and providing for the needs, interests and identity of others, including Māori people (as their dignity demands), does not diminish, extinguish or exhaust our own dignity. The ‘one rule for all’ campaign, seeking to promote the status quo in the interests of the majority, reflects a flawed understanding of human dignity because it applies a ‘deficit’ model of dignity – treating it as if it is a finite resource. When we buy into this flawed approach, we deny the needs of others out of fear that, otherwise, we will lose our own dignity (and power). When we do this, we place our own fears above the infinite dignity of others.

In the face of such fears, we would do well to follow the example of Māori and the principle of manaakitanga as embodied by the Treaty. This principle, which we understand incorporates hospitality, is central to relationships between iwi Māori and whenua, as recently articulated by the New Zealand Court of Appeal (in *Re Edwards Whakatōhea* [2023] NZCA 504, [2023] 3 NZLR 252, at [427]). It also strikes us as being central to relationships between tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti. When Māori signed the Treaty and welcomed newcomers to this land, they did so on the basis their exercise of manaakitanga did not diminish but gave expression to their mana (which we understand to incorporate dignity and authority) and mana whenua.

Conclusion

Nothing less than an absolute commitment to the infinite and intrinsic dignity of each person will help us overcome the many ‘grave violations of human dignity’ all around us, help us breakdown the walls that separate and isolate us from others, and help us build a just society that is the rightful fruit of the God-given infinite dignity of all living in Aotearoa – no exceptions!

John Kleinsman is a lay moral theologian and researcher who works in the area of bioethics. He is married to Kerry with three adult children and five grandchildren.

Daniel Kleinsman is a lawyer who practises in the area of public law. He is married to Muzhgan with two young children and a third whose birth is due later this year.

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When three is so much more than a crowd

James B Lyons
Priest of Wellington

The expression, *two's company, three's a crowd*, tells us a third person can be intrusive, a misfit. It can signal a selfish attitude: we just want to keep to ourselves; we don't want to have to share.

We also hear, *bad things happen in threes* – I burnt the toast this morning and I forgot to put the rubbish out. What'll be the third thing?

On the positive side, we see three as the optimum number to describe our God: a Trinity: One God, Three Persons. And this month we meet another three-fold formula: Corpus Christi.

Corpus Christi is coupled with the feast of the Sacred Heart in June, honouring the Eucharist – the gift Jesus makes of himself in the bread and wine.

There's a formula associated with this, coming from Jesus' action at the Last Supper and repeated whenever he was involved in feeding the people: Jesus *takes* the bread, *breaks* the bread and *gives* it to the people.

This triple action of *taking, breaking, giving* is the key to our understanding not only of what the Mass is about but how our lives as Christians are to be lived.

John's gospel account tell us that many are unable to accept Jesus' words about the need to 'eat my flesh and drink my blood': *How can this man give us his flesh to eat?* they ask. This is not so much a question about cannibalism, but a difficulty in accepting that anyone could give the whole of themselves for the good of someone else.

What Jesus is showing is that when you give what you've got you will never be without; when you hold back and hoard you will never have enough! When Jesus says, *Do this in memory of me*, he doesn't want us to simply repeat his action as a kind of memorial but to give ourselves as he did.



When Jesus says, ‘Do this in memory of me’, he doesn’t want us to simply repeat his action as a kind of memorial but to give ourselves as he did.
Image: Communion setting at an Evangelical Lutheran Church worship service, USA/Wikimedia Commons

When you love as Jesus loves you will be taken, broken and given. But you'll never be more whole. Corpus Christi, together with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, make the point even stronger.

“The triple action of taking, breaking, giving is the key to our understanding not only of what the Mass is about but how our lives as Christians are to be lived.”

What exactly is the ‘Body of Christ’? Is it just the consecrated bread and wine? And what is the implication of the ‘Amen’ we say as we receive?

As a title, the Body of Christ refers to the whole Church – the People of God – ordinary people living out their faith in the here and now of each day, as well as those

who have died and are remembered at every Mass.

There is also the group of Saints, our models of Christian living. In our Creed we speak of the Communion of Saints – all of

us together, past and present – the word *Communion* hinting at the significance of this *Body*.

A community is a union of people – never a person alone. Communion implies a togetherness, which in turn implies some sharing, some giving of one another, some energy from each to keep the community alive.

The Body of Christ (Corpus Christi) is the entire grouping of those who follow the way of Jesus. He is present in that Body, drawing us ever closer to his Sacred Heart. When I say AMEN to the Body of

Christ, I give my agreement, and therefore my commitment, to the belief that I do not receive Jesus in isolation from all of God's people.

When I receive the *Body of Christ*, I receive you and you and you.... In being drawn into the life of Jesus, I am drawn into your life as well. We are one in the Body of Christ.

Jesus indicated this when he placed the Eucharist in the context of the washing of his disciples' feet. Only in so far as we are humble, hospitable and caring of one another, does the life of Jesus embrace us.

The three-time formula: *Jesus took the bread, broke it and gave it*, happens in an action of *thanksgiving*. We give thanks for what we know we have neither created nor achieved on our own. *Three* is no longer a crowd or an omen for bad things.

Your AMEN to your communion can become both an act of faith and a readiness to be *taken, broken and shared*.

All men welcome!

Men’s One-Day Retreat

Saturday 17 August

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(Micah 6:8)

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- Parish groups, agencies and Church organisations that provide a helping hand by supporting families and social services are now able to apply for the annual Tindall Funding through the Archdiocesan Allocation Committee.
- The priority is to fund Catholic and community organisations who are working in areas identified as priorities by The Tindall Foundation and aligned with the Archdiocese of Wellington's goals.
- We are charged by the Archbishop of Wellington with the funding support of groups committed to social, pastoral and charitable needs in our region. Applications are judged on the basis of need, resource availability and the fulfillment of set criteria.
- Applications are now open and are due by **Friday 2 August 2024**. Application forms and more information can be found here: www.wn.catholic.org.nz or contact Kaisa at Tindall@wn.catholic.org.nz or 04-496-1752.



During the month of July 2024 Pope Francis' intention is:
for the pastoral care of the sick.

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Gospel Reading: Sunday 9 June 2024

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – MARK 4:26-34

26 Jesus said to the crowds: ‘This is what the kingdom of God is like; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land.

27 Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; he does not know how.

28 Of its own accord the land produces fruit, first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.

29 And when the crop is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.’

30 He also said, ‘What shall we compare the kingdom of God to, or what parable can we use for it?’

31 It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.

32 But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of

plants and puts out big branches, so that the birds of the sky can shelter in its shade.’

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were capable of understanding it.

34 He would not speak to them except in parables, but to his own disciples he explained everything when they were by themselves.

Reflection

Dr Elizabeth Julian rsm

Lately I’ve been scattering seeds in a very small garden area, not mustards seeds but seeds of spent flowers – cosmos, giant marigolds and zinnia. I know it’s the wrong time of the year but I’m an optimist and they are germinating. After an unseen overnight transformation, the little plants give me such hope in the morning, smiling from among the spring bulbs. Our Creator God is always at work!

I think Jesus was trying to provide hope for his disciples in today’s parables about the seed that grows by itself and the mustard seed. Apparently, the mustard seed is not really the smallest of seeds (an orchid seed is). It is botanically impossible for it to grow into the largest plant no matter how fertile the soil. In Palestine it grew to a height of two to three metres. Able



to spread rapidly it could take over vegetable gardens. Biblical scholar Barbara Reid suggests that Jesus’ use of the image was intended to provide a bit of humour. The reign of God was not going to be an overpowering empire but more like an invasive weed impossible to eradicate.

If Jesus’ disciples were in need of encouragement, then Jesus’ reminder that extraordinary things could come from tiny beginnings may have been just what they needed to hear. Every little effort they made to help realise God’s reign mattered.

Thus, the parable offers hope to us today. Discouraged that our efforts to bring about change, to

transform systems of injustice, to live more simply, to engage in the works of mercy, to eradicate racism, to look after the planet, seem to be ineffective.

We can take heart from the phenomenal growth of the mustard seed after its small beginnings. Perhaps next time you’re trying to get rid of a particularly invasive weed – which you didn’t plant– see it as an image of God’s reign, popping up everywhere and here to stay in spite of your best efforts to control it!

Meanwhile I’ll continue to scatter seeds, my seeds of hope as reminders of the wonders of creation. I think I can hear white kākābeak calling me.

Te Kahu O Te Ora

Fr Alan Roberts

At St Mary’s parish in Ōtaki recently, Fr Phil Cody sm preached a striking sermon on the New Zealand Catholic Bishops’ revised document, *Te Kahu O Te Ora*, published last September.

This document highlights the Church’s teaching on respect for all aspects of life. To illustrate the message, the Korowai was highlighted as the seamless garment protecting people at all stages of life, not just the beginning and end,

but all the parts in between, such as poverty, war and those in prison. The document also touches on technology which develops rapidly before us.

I considered the homily to be so good I thought it worth recording. Fr Dennis Nacorda agreed to come to Ōtaki and record Fr Phil deliver it once more – this time in a more casual environment. It can be watched on your computers using this link: tinyurl.com/Kahu-O-Te-Ora



The Korowai is ‘a seamless garment protecting people at all stages of life’. Image: Supplied

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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.

Thursday 13 June
Anniversary of Fatima apparitions – Rosary recitations, 3pm, 13th each month, May to October, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, commemorate anniversary dates of Virgin Mary apparitions at Fatima, 1917. All welcome. Contact Ian Sutherland at 0273567444.

Thursday 20 June
➤ Celtic spirituality – Jeff Drane and Mary Leah will guide an evening in Celtic Spirituality, drawing out Irish indigenous wisdom on presence of God in creation and natural connection with Divine, 6.30pm for 7pm–8.30pm, Hutt Valley Irish Society, 12 Raroa Rd, Lower Hutt. RSVP to celtic-spirit@huttirish.org.nz (for light catering). Koha.

➤ World Refugee Day

Wednesday 19–Friday 21 June
NZ Catholic Education Office Convention 2024 – TSB Arena, Wellington. ‘Tūhono Whakapono – Together, one faith community. Visit cathedconvention.co.nz for information.

Wednesday 26 June
Liturgy workshop series – Sunday Eucharist: Liturgy of the Word, for anyone interested in liturgy, presented by Fr Patrick Bridgman, Archdiocese Liturgy Adviser, 7–9pm, Sacred Heart Church, Petone.

Sunday 30 June
➤ Teens Baptism and First Holy Communion, 5.30pm at Sacred Heart Church, Hastings.
➤ Peter’s Pence collection.

Friday 5 July
Caritas YCC Day – Catholic schools’ non-uniform, gold-coin fundraising day to help provide furniture and resources for students at Holy Trinity School in PNG. See video online with New Zealand’s bishops encouraging students to take part: tinyurl.com/YCC-Day-Bishops-Video. Resources at: caritas.org.nz/ycc-day

Saturday 6, Sunday 7 July
Hui – Treaty of Waitangi and Catholic Social Teaching, Home of Compassion Island Bay. See p19 for details.

Sunday 14 July
Day of Prayer for Seafarers.

Tuesday 16 – Thursday 18 July
Spoken Retreat 2024 – Life Teen of Whanganui, New Plymouth and Wellington joint mini-camp for teens year 9 up, second week of school holidays. Contact Rain at youth.cpow@gmail.com for more information.

Saturday 20 July
COME AND SEE – Vocations morning for young men discerning priesthood, Viard House, Hill St, Wellington, starting with 8.30am Mass, Sacred Heart Cathedral. Archbishop Paul Martin sm and Fr Patrick Bridgman will be hosting the event. Email l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz to register.

Sunday 28 July
World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Sundays 28 July, 4, 11, 18, 25 August
Ignatian retreat in daily life – CLC Wellington invites you to ‘Inner Peace in Divine Love’ retreat over five Sunday afternoons, Cardinal McKeefrey School, 66 Albermarle Rd, Wilton, Wellington. Contact Sarah Dench at sarahdench@yahoo.com or mob 021 081 444 24 for more information.

Saturday 17 August
Liturgy workshop series – Sunday Eucharist: Liturgy of the Eucharist, presented by Fr Patrick Bridgman, 10am–12pm, St Joseph’s Church, Mt Victoria, Wellington.

Sunday 8 and 15 September
‘Love is a Decision’ – marriage preparation programme. Archdiocesan course for engaged couples planning their weddings. Location in Wellington region to be confirmed. Contact Simone at marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz for more information.

Call to compassionate action in memory of Suzanne Aubert

With the birthday of Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert on 19 June, the Sisters of Compassion have launched an appeal to honour her enduring legacy.

Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert was born in France 188 years ago. As a young woman, she heard a call to mission and journeyed with faith and courage to New Zealand. Her life was characterised by a profound trust and reliance on God and an unwavering commitment to helping others.

Her ministry evolved to meet the needs of the time – caring for orphans, protecting and advocating for unwed mothers, providing nursing to those in need, establishing children’s homes and hospitals and looking after the elderly and disabled. She worked with empathy to offer prayerful and practical care for the most vulnerable.

Many of the social challenges Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert confronted persist in today’s Aotearoa New Zealand. The mission of the Sisters of Compassion to serve the marginalised and disadvantaged remains vital.

The work of compassion continues through the ministries of the Compassion Soup Kitchen, Compassion Housing, and Our Lady’s Home of Compassion at Island Bay. The Sisters and the Compassion whānau are committed to welcoming all who come and to

supporting those facing hardship, including homelessness, hunger, displacement, and discrimination.

The Compassion Soup Kitchen provides a place of belonging and around 50,000 hot meals a year to guests in need. Compassion Housing provides over 200 homes in Upper Hutt and Horowhenua, together with wrap-around support for residents who would otherwise struggle to find a stable, secure and affordable place to live. Our Lady’s Home of Compassion in Island Bay offers a place of manaakitanga, peace and prayer. Space is available for those seeking rest, respite and retreat, including short-term accommodation for refugee families resettling in New Zealand.

Through this appeal, the Sisters remember the birth and extraordinary life of their founder, Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert, and invite the community to join in supporting the ongoing work in communities.

The Sisters are grateful to all who serve alongside and offer their support, including the time and dedication of volunteers, the generosity of those who give financially, and the commitment and care of those who hold the work in prayer.

Please support the Sisters of Compassion Appeal, through prayer, service or a financial gift. Donations can be made at compassion.org.nz

‘The Treaty and Me’

Treaty of Waitangi – free lecture series in Napier and Hastings over four Thursdays. An opportunity to enhance understanding of The Treaty of Waitangi and to hear some interesting and well-informed speakers. Each meeting is **7pm–9pm**, with tea and cake from 6.30pm.

Thursday 13 June: St Paul’s Cathedral, Tennyson St, Napier – ‘Standing up as Treaty Partners’, speaker Andrew Judd, a past mayor of New Plymouth.

Thursday 27 June: St Matthew’s Church, King St South, Hastings – ‘Imagining Matariki’, speakers Denis O’Reilly and Mary Kippenberger.

Thursday 11 July: St Paul’s Cathedral, Tennyson St, Napier – ‘What does honouring The Treaty look like?’ Speakers Martin Williams, Kirsty Fong and Gwyn John.

Thursday 25 July: St Matthew’s Church, King St South, Hastings – ‘Living a Treaty-based Future: A youth perspective.’

Church Calendar Dates

- June:**
2. Corpus Christi – Holy Body and Blood of Christ
7. Sacred Heart of Jesus
8. Immaculate Heart of Blessed Virgin Mary
13. St Anthony of Padua
29. Ss Peter and Paul
- July:**
3. St Thomas, Apostle
22. St Mary Magdalene
25. St James, Apostle
26. St Joachim and St Anne, parents of Mary
29. St Martha, St Mary, St Lazarus
31. St Ignatius of Loyola.

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support@theroadforward.org.nz
Tel: 021 118 1043
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FRIENDS OF MOUNT STREET CEMETERY
ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Mount Street Cemetery will be held on
Wednesday 3 July 2024 at 5.30pm
Archdiocese of Wellington Offices
at Level 2, 204 Thorndon Quay, Wellington
All Welcome

AGENDA

- Apologies
- Minutes of the previous AGM
- President’s report
- Finance Report
- Election of Officers
- General Business



O'Shea Shield 2023: 'Sparks of Hope - Te Ahi Kā'

Annette Scullion

Sacred Heart College (SHC) Napier were proud hosts of the 2024 O'Shea Shield Speech and Drama Competition on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 May.

Dating back to 1946 and steeped in Catholic tradition, the annual competition sees young people from the 17 Catholic colleges of Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses compete in a variety of speech and drama events over two days.

A pōwhiri at SHC Mission Centre on Thursday 16 May welcomed Bishop John Adams, local dignitaries MP Kate Nimon MP and Napier's Mayor Kirstin Wise, and hundreds of visiting students, staff and supporters.

Mana whenua, and students and staff from Sacred Heart College and fellow Hawke's Bay St John's and St Joseph's Māori Girl's Colleges led the welcome with waiata, prayers and blessings.

The 2024 theme, 'Sparks of Hope' - Te Ahi Kā, was drawn from Pope Francis' *Fratelli Tutti* in which he reminds us, 'hope speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart'.

Sacred Heart College Tumuaki | Principal Mrs Maria Neville-Foster said in her welcoming speech, 'It is in the meeting of hearts and minds through the O'Shea Shield this message of hope is spread. These

sparks of hope, fuelling the fire, will travel back with all the young participants and ripple through the wider Catholic school community.

SHC was to host the competition last year but after Hawke's Bay was devastated by Cyclone Gabrielle St Mary's College stepped as hosts.

'The next few days, while a fiercely contested competition, is much more,' Mrs Neville-Foster said. 'This competition brings communities together; it has helped our community connect in preparation to show Manaakitanga and whanaungatanga to you all who helped us through last year. 'I wish everyone the best of luck in the competition and let our faith shine through.'

Bishop John then blessed and lit a special candle and offered prayers and blessings to all gathered for the days ahead.

After two days of fierce competition the event concluded with Mass at St Patrick's Church presided by Bishop John with Archbishop Paul Martin sm and clergy from the two dioceses concelebrating. Mass was followed by prizegiving.

St Peter's College Palmerston North and St Patrick' College Wellington were joint winners of the 2024 O'Shea Shield.

Next year's O'Shea Shield Competition will be hosted by Cullinane College in Whanganui.



St Patrick's College Wellington and St Peter's College Palmerston North were the jubilant joint winners of the coveted 2024 O'Shea Sheild Competition trophy. It was the first-time O'Shea Sheild win for St Peter's College whose triumph was all the more joyful as the college is celebrating its 50th jubilee this year. Photo: Ashton Jamieson



Photos: Annette Scullion/WelCom

2024 O'Shea Shield competition results

Cardinal McKeefry Memorial Cup for Oratory (Section A)	Sneha Jenson – Sacred Heart College, Napier
Bishop Cullinane Cup for Oratory (Section B)	Jessica Tupai – St Mary's College
George Family Cup for Junior Prepared Speech (Section A)	Elsa Mwape – St Peter's College
Vaughan Family Cup for Junior prepared Speech (Section B)	Jesse Penman – St Patrick's College, Silverstream
Catherine McAuley Cup for English Scripture Reading (Section A)	Be Gray – Garin College
Peter Chanel Cup for English Scripture Reading (Section B)	Teuila Apineru – Sacred Heart College, Napier
Te Kaipānui i te Kupu Cup for Te Reo Scripture Reading (Section A)	Toko Turipa – St John's College
Te Kaipānui i te Kupu Cup for Te Reo Scripture Reading (Section B)	Tenakee Love – St Bernard's College
Sacred Heart Lower Hutt Jubilee Cup for Impromptu Speaking (Section A)	Ivan Faraon – St Patrick's College, Wellington
Silverstream Cup for Impromptu Speaking (Section B)	Petra Cogger – Garin College
Bishop Owen Snedden Cup for Religious Drama	Bella Goomes, Riley Houia, Luke Lamont, Willam Haywood, Bridget Ogden-Bell – Garin College
Society of Mary Cup for Religious Drama	Tevita Alatini, Zion Matagi, Efeso Tuuga, PJ Leiataua, Etan Wallace, Angelo Araiza – St Bernard's College
St Catherine's Cup for Best Negative Debating Team	Justine Rivera, Katie Hickey, Anwyn Parry – St Catherine's College
St Mary's Cup for Best Affirmative Debating Team	Charles Burns, Michael Cash, TJ Duggan – St Patrick's College, Wellington
Hibernian Cup for Religious Questions (Section A)	Milla-Rose Klausen, Jael Laroza, Yasanya Fernando – St Mary's College
The Mercy Cup for Religious Questions (Section B)	Alessandra Basile, Michaela Borja, Angelei Canete – St Catherine's College
Jubilee Plaque for Host School 2025	Cullinane College
Bishop Philippe Viard Memorial Trophy for Runner-up to O'Shea Shield	St Catherine's College
O'Shea Shield	St Patrick's College, Wellington, St Peter's College

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