

WelCom

Newsletter of the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington, New Zealand

ISSUE 5 - October 2025

Wellington turns up to hear Cardinal John share secrets from inside the conclave

A packed room of more than 150 people at The Wellington Club on October 7 was silent, save for one man: Cardinal John Dew.

Diplomats, students, teachers, school administrators, religious sisters and brothers, priests, businesspeople, retirees, and more attended the early-morning event to hear Cardinal John speak about his time at the Vatican during the funeral of Pope Francis, and then taking part in the conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV.

The insightful, humour-filled speech made the audience feel as if they were at the conclave with Cardinal John. Moments such as his description of the challenges of packing a special three-cornered hat – called a biretta – into a suitcase and transporting it halfway around the world from Aotearoa to Italy without it losing its shape drew big laughs.

Cardinal John said he was thankful so many Kiwis prayed the Litany of the Saints during the conclave, asking for the intercession of the saints to elect a new Holy Father. Cardinal John said he was conscious he was helping elect not a successor of Pope Francis, but a successor of the original, first Pope – St Peter himself.

Although he said he's seen the movie *Conclave*, Cardinal John said it was mostly just that – a movie. However, he did say it gets some things mostly true about the conclave, such as the intricate, lengthy voting process.

Cardinal John praised the legacy of the late Pope Francis, particularly encyclicals such as 2020's *Fratelli tutti*, about



human fraternity and solidarity, and 2015's *Laudato si'*, about caring for people and the planet. He also praised Francis' work with refugees and migrants, such as flying to the island of Lampedusa – located in the Mediterranean Sea between Italy and Africa, where thousands of refugees arrive amid dangerous journeys in search of a better life in Europe – early in his papacy.

In introducing Cardinal John, Archbishop Paul Martin SM – who noted he and Cardinal John share the same May 5 birthday and are from the Hawke's Bay – said having a Cardinal present at the conclave was something for New Zealanders to be proud of. He did joke, though, that he was a bit surprised not to see Cardinal John in his full cardinal garb for his talk.

Cardinal John reminded Archbishop Paul it was 7am.

Diaconate ordination of Emilio Capin



Congratulations and prayers for our newest Deacon, Emilio Capin!

Emilio was ordained to the Diaconate with two other seminarians in Auckland on Friday, September 26 by Bishop Michael Gielen. Emilio was ordained along with Linh Cao and Ryan Sy.

A sixth-year seminarian, Emilio said of his calling earlier this year during Vocations Awareness Week: "I had

many friends and was involved in many programs and activities, but although my life was full, I did not feel satisfied. I was longing for something I did not quite understand.

"If you feel you have a calling, that God is calling you to a different way of living, make time to listen and to pray."

Please pray for Emilio and all others as they consider and take up vocations.

From Archbishop Paul

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ - tena koutou

I hope that this month of October has been a graced time for you and that you have been able to experience the power and comfort of intercession to Mary through the Rosary.

At the beginning of the month, many priests and a number of parishioners throughout the Archdiocese participated in the Hope and Renewal Summit. This gathering, hosted by the Diocese of Palmerston North, drew upon the experience and learnings from the Divine Renovation movement. Fr James Mallon from Halifax, Canada, from whom this parish renewal programme evolved, was present along with a variety of other speakers.

“that we may be communities more focused on the mission of the Church, to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others...”

To be at a gathering with 520 others who are interested and committed to parish renewal was a real privilege. To pray together, especially calling on the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower the Church, and to hear from others what they have been doing to strengthen parish life was a reminder that God is truly at work in our Church and in the world. There is a report on the Summit on page 5.

The priests of the Archdiocese have been working through Fr James' book *Divine Renovation: From a*

Maintenance to a Missional Parish over the last year. My hope is that more and more of our parish communities will investigate how this movement may be helpful in enriching our parishes so that we may be communities more focused on the mission of the Church, to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others and to be communities of faith that can support one another in this calling. I encourage you to check out what is available about this on our Archdiocesan website and with the links that are available there.

I want to commend to you *Bringing the Word to Life*, a book of reflections for Advent and Christmastime that has been prepared by Fr James Lyons

with contributions from a variety of members of our Church community in the Archdiocese and beyond. They are only \$5 a copy and the reflections help us to make the most of the Advent season, which can often pass us by in the busyness of the end of the year.

This month, I celebrated Mass marking the closure of Cardinal McKeefry School, Wilton. Next month, I will do the same for St Bernard's, Brooklyn. Both these schools are in Wellington.



Archbishop Paul chats with fellow delegates at the Hope and Renewal Summit.

Photo Credit: Taita Burton

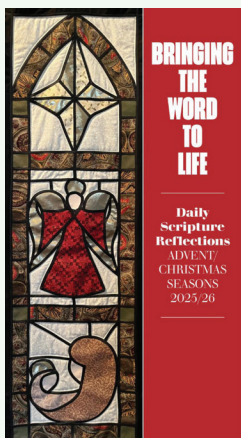
It is never easy to say goodbye to places we have loved, where Catholic education has been so well taught and passed on, and so people are rightly saddened to see them come to completion in this way. However, the legacy of these schools lives on in the pupils, staff and families who have been there. We give thanks to God for these schools and all who have been involved in them. Fortunately, there are other Catholic primary schools that young people from these areas can attend, and I know they will bring the fruits of their experience to their new school communities.

As we approach the month of November, we pray in gratitude for the holy men and women who have gone before us who are Saints and for the Holy Souls whom our ongoing prayers assist in coming into the fullness of God's presence.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads '+ P. B. Martin SM'.

+Paul Martin SM
Archbishop of Wellington



Advent: A hīkoi for Pilgrims of Hope

In this new book, Fr James Lyons and other Catholic leaders and writers, including Cardinal John Dew, offer timely reflections for each day of Advent and Christmas. Connecting Biblical truth with modern-day examples, they provide valuable spiritual nourishment for Catholics as this Year of Jubilee comes to a close – and a new year begins.

As Archbishop Paul says: "I highly recommend it, and I know that you will find the reflections by fellow Catholics relevant and reflecting our faith experience within the context of this beautiful country we live in."

Speak to your parish leaders about a copy of this book.

Cultures come together at Holy Family Nelson-Stoke

By Fr Andrew Kim

The Holy Family parish came together for a joyful and spirit-filled celebration of Multicultural Sunday, marking the Jubilee for Migrants. The

response from the community was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing deep appreciation for the richness and beauty of the occasion.



During the Mass, we embraced and honoured the diverse cultures within our parish – Māori, European, Tongan, Burmese, Indian, Filipino, and Korean – through language, music and prayer. The Prayers of the Faithful were offered in eight different languages, a powerful symbol of unity in diversity. Following the liturgy, we shared traditional dishes from each culture, creating a vibrant and welcoming feast that reflected the heart of our parish.

For many, this was the first time experiencing such a celebration in our community. It was colourful, prayerful and deeply enjoyable – a true testament to the grace of gathering as one body in Christ.

Jubilee of Migrants brings joy to Sacred Heart

It was a blessed day on September 14 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Wellington for the Jubilee of Migrants.

A Mass, meal and mini-concert brought together the many diverse cultures that make up our Archdiocese and the wider Wellington community. It was a beautiful time with wonderful people – and memorable moments.

A big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to contribute.



New podcast series focuses on stories of faith

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference has launched the first season of a new podcast series, sharing stories of faith, mission and ministry of Kiwis and international visitors.

The Catholic Kiwi Podcast features video interviews with people – some widely known, others less so – who share a strong faith and have interesting stories, lives and perspectives to share.

The first two episodes feature the former director of the Vatican Observatory, Br Guy Consolmagno SJ, and professional basketballer Mary Goulding.

During his recent visit to New Zealand, Br Guy sat down for a conversation with host James Bergin to discuss his ministry and vocation, as well as some of the hot-button issues that come to mind when considering astronomy and the Church.

"If you think of Galileo and the Church, or the idea that a Catholic priest first mooted what would become known as the 'Big Bang Theory', there are some meaty topics to cover," said Gavin Abraham, communications manager for the NZCBC.

"But Br Guy also offers some very personal insights into his faith growing up, his search for a life



of meaning and his place at the intersection of faith and science."

Ms Goulding, who was born in Canada but raised in the North Canterbury town of Rangiora, saw her fame in the basketball world expanded when she almost died in a car accident in 2023.

"Prayers for this young woman, who spent 12 days in an induced coma, spanned the globe through her sporting connections, her family of faith and her friends," Mr Abraham said.

"Mary was already a strong witness to her personal conviction as a Catholic, but she has seen how her miraculous recovery has the power to serve as an added layer to her story. She shares some very emotional

moments with us in the podcast."

In addition to Mr Bergin, who has worked in digital ministry in the Church for 25 years alongside his professional life, Catholic Diocese of Hamilton pastoral services manager and former television host Joanna Kearney will lead the podcast conversations.

"We are excited and grateful to have talented and faithful people who are willing to share their gifts in uncovering some inspiring stories of Catholic life," Mr Abraham said.

A number of additional episodes will be launched before the end of the year to complete season one.

Search Catholic Kiwi Podcast on YouTube or Spotify to watch episodes.

Network promotes warm welcome for seekers

The Catholic Enquiry Centre has launched a national network to support people who are interested in becoming Catholic to find a place of encouragement and welcome in local parishes.

The new network, called Catholic Enquiry Connect, will look for people to fill two distinct roles in each parish – "Connectors" and "Champions".

Connectors will be trusted parishioners that the Enquiry Centre can introduce seekers to, ensuring that there is a real sense of hospitality. They may be pastoral workers, people on an RCIA team, an Alpha team or other "everyday evangelists" who have a heart to accompany others in faith.

"We are receiving enquiries most days at the Enquiry Centre," shares Carly Mulqueen, the Centre's director.

"Our role in almost every case is to connect that enquirer with a local parish, guiding them to a place to explore their questions of faith beyond what the Centre provides, including the daily life of a Catholic community."

With Connectors sought for each parish throughout the country, a network will develop that will benefit the local community, dioceses and the Church nationally.

"We will know that the Connectors are there for us to introduce seekers to and, at the same time, we'll equip Connectors with tips, tools and encouragement for sharing faith in their own context," Mrs Mulqueen said.

The Catholic Enquiry Centre will also invite people to become Champions in their parish. Champions will help promote the Catholic Enquiry Centre as a valuable resource for parishes, including through local marketing efforts.

"We look forward to working with parish communities to identify and develop Connectors and Champions to join the network," she said, encouraging people to visit the Catholic Enquiry Centre website, www.catholicenquiry.nz, to learn more.



Hope and Renewal Summit Draws Over 500 Catholics to Palmerston North

Palmerston North Bishop John Adams says he is “looking forward to the future with great anticipation” after more than 500 people gathered in his diocese for the Hope and Renewal Summit.

Delegates from each New Zealand diocese, as well as Australia, the Pacific and southeast Asia took part in the Summit from October 2-4, jointly hosted by the Diocese of Palmerston North and international parish renewal ministry Divine Renovation.

Bishop Adams said the Summit had been a “wonderful few days”.

“I’m not sure there’s been an occasion in recent history where the clergy and Catholic people have come together to talk about the future of the Church and what our parishes might look like,” he explained.

“So, I’m thrilled with what’s happening and looking forward to the future with great anticipation.”

Dozens of priests and six bishops attended a clergy day on October 2, with Divine Renovation founder Fr James Mallon and ministry coach Matt Regitz speaking about the important role priests play in the work of parish renewal.

Hundreds of lay people joined the conference the following day, with Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Gabor Pinter celebrating Mass.

“My prayerful wish is that this Summit will be a true moment of grace, a time of unity and courage for the Catholic Church in all your countries,” he said.

“May it help you discover new pathways for evangelisation, strengthen bonds of fraternity and renew the zeal of pastors and faithful alike.

“May your deliberations give rise to concrete initiatives that will make the Gospel present in every corner of your nations.”



In addition to prayer, praise and worship, and keynote addresses, delegates attended workshops across three streams, depending on their own or their parish's current status: “New to renewal” or, using the nautical theme, either “Casting off” or “Sailing the Waves”.

Fr Mallon, who gave several talks across the three days, invited delegates to return to their communities and be “prophets of hope and renewal”.

Although the conference finished on Saturday evening, about 200 delegates attended a thanksgiving Mass on the Sunday morning.

Palmerston North diocesan mission and evangelisation director Emily Sit said the Summit was “an incredible experience, united in worship and vision”.

“Our prayer is that the seeds of hope and renewal planted at this Summit will continue to stir the Spirit across our land and make our parishes shine as beacons of light, renewing our nation and carrying the Gospel with fresh courage into our communities,” she said.



Bishop John Adams, Fr James Mallon and Divine Renovation lead for New Zealand, Cheryl Surrey

Photo Credit: Tailla Burton





Catholic Social Services Annual Appeal: a helping hand for Pilgrims of Hope

The theme of this Year of Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope" – and one of the best examples of the importance of hope is the Catholic Social Services Annual Appeal.

Running from November 1-30, the Annual Appeal asks for community support so Catholic Social Services can continue supporting people and their whānau who need help.

Archbishop Paul emphasises the importance of supporting the Annual Appeal. He says we are called to support our brothers and sisters – our fellow people here on earth.



"In order to do this work, we need financial support to run our various programmes and give the help and support that we do."

He adds: "Our call to help our brothers and sisters is at the very heart of our Christian calling."

Over the last year, Catholic Social Services has brought hope to:

- those in hospitals and prisons, providing over 5000 hours of chaplaincy support to patients, prisoners, whānau and staff;
- more than 50 newly-arrived refugees by providing household items and food, and supporting family reunifications;
- children and adults experiencing grief and loss, training over 40 Companions to work through these issues in school and community settings;
- more than 30 men seeking parenting support, providing training and mentoring to become the best fathers they can be;



(above) Food parcels ready for collection;
(below) Household items for those in need.

- more than 60 people seeking accommodation, access to health services, support dealing with government agencies and others with significant needs in our communities.

As Archbishop Paul also says, "I really do encourage you to help us to be able to help our brothers and sisters, and to look to see what you might be able to do in your own circumstances – not only financially, but also in other ways to help."



SUPPORT THE ANNUAL APPEAL

Donations can be made online at catholicsocialservices.org.nz/donate.

Another way to support the Annual Appeal is through internet banking. Details are:

Bank account: 02-0560-0213864-000

Particulars: your Surname & Initials

Reference: your Phone Number

CODE: CSS – HOPE

For more information contact Catholic Social Services at reception@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz or phone 04 385 8642.

Pilgrimage Day at Pukekaraka

Jubilee Year – Start of Season of Creation

By Phil Cody SM

As part of the Jubilee Year in the Archdiocese, the tangata whenua and faith community of Pukekaraka recently held a Pilgrimage Day. The idea was to tune into the theme of being called to be Pilgrims of Hope.

This theme was easily linked with Pukekaraka, Ōtaki and the Shrine of Mary there, which has attracted pilgrims from the early days of faith and life in our Archdiocese. Pukekaraka was the initial site of Catholic faith in the Archdiocese and this was shared with people who came from near and far. It was the call of Mary, herself a pilgrim.

The day also looked to the beginning of the Season of Creation and celebrated that. One of the set of presentations was focused on the role we each have, in the light of Pope Francis' call to care for all creation, especially our Mother Earth. This naturally focused on the tukutuku wall panels at the entry to St Mary's Church that portray our journey in life as pilgrims, seeking to enter the wider universe of heaven and absorb the wisdom of both the Creator and creation and bring that more fully into our lives.

About 70 persons braved the rain and cold to assemble at Pukekaraka and be formally welcomed onto the marae which is dedicated to Mary, Mother of our World, *Hine Nui o Te Ao Katoa*. It was evident people of various cultures were present and Msgr Gerard Burns had arranged for persons to come from Te Ngākau Tapu and the wider Wellington area. This included several of the migrant priests who now assist us and two potential seminarians from Vietnam.

No doubt those who attended brought their own love of Mary and the desire to deepen relationship with her and be helped in their own pilgrim journey.

After an outline of the significance of Pukekaraka and the covenant made with the Church from beginning by the local tangata whenua, Ngāti Kapu, we listened to the current principal of the local primary



school, Hato Petera Kaniera (St Peter Chanel), who outlined her own journey as a pilgrim and her commitment to education. In that, she echoed the early commitment of the Sisters of St Joseph who gave their lives to the school.

After a quick morning tea, persons divided into one of three groups. One was hosted in the old church and learnt of its history and the influence of the early French Marists

and their devotion to Eucharist and mission. Another learnt about Mary and the Grotto and the aspects of Marian pilgrimage. The final group went to the “new church” and applied all this to the Season of Creation.

At the end of the time, we gathered for a simple liturgy to complete the day. We recited the Jubilee Prayer together and paused to think about what we would take with us. A lovely summary of the time was presented by Oriwia Raureti of Ngāti Kapu.

Among her words, she said: “You have walked the whenua of Pukekaraka today – through the marae, the urupā, the churches, the sacred places where our people have prayed, sung and wept for generations. Each step you have taken has touched a story: stories of covenant, of faith, of struggle, of miracles and of creation itself. Creation our first teacher; creation is not simply scenery. It is covenant. It is prayer. It is miracle.

“Return to the space that called to you most strongly today. Whisper a prayer there. Offer gratitude. Ask for guidance. As you go from here, may you carry with you the peace of the awa, the strength of Pukekaraka, the hope of the covenant, and the living presence of God in creation.”

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Table Talks for Māori Wards and listening

What happens when we make space to truly listen?

At Sts Peter and Paul in Lower Hutt on a recent Tuesday evening, a Table Talk on Māori Wards offered just that – a time of listening, reflection and honest kōrero. Some left feeling enlightened by hearing different views; others were inspired to keep learning.

These gatherings are part of a wider series across Wellington parishes, led by members of the Bicultural

Committee of the Commission for Ecology Justice and Peace. Their mahi is grounded in Catholic Social Teaching – promoting human dignity, participation and care for the common good.

If you see a Table Talk in your parish newsletter or receive an invitation, go along. If you've already attended and feel called to host one, reach out to Msgr Gerard Burns at g.burns@wn.catholic.org.nz.

Kia kaha te reo Māori!

St Francis Xavier Church 50th anniversary Mass

Mark your calendars for November 9 for a special Parish Mass celebrating 50 years since the opening of St Francis Xavier Church in Stokes Valley!

The Mass will begin at 10am at St Francis Xavier Church, 152 Stokes Valley Road.

This will be the only Mass in the Parish that Sunday; the usual Saturday vigil Mass remains.

All are welcome.

Let's come together to mark this milestone with joy and gratitude and make it a celebration to remember!



Prestigious award for canon lawyer

Msgr Brendan Daly, Judicial Vicar of the Tribunal of the Catholic Church for New Zealand, has been honoured for outstanding service to canon law.

Msgr Daly received the Owen Oxenham Memorial Award for Outstanding Service to Canon Law at the annual meeting of the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand in September. He was also made a lifetime member of the Society.

The award, the highest recognition bestowed by the Society, was established in memory of the Society's founding president, Rev Dr Owen Oxenham. It is reserved for those whose sustained contributions have significantly shaped the field of canon law and enriched the life of the Church.

Msgr Daly, ordained a priest for the Diocese of Christchurch in 1977, completed doctoral studies in canon law in Ottawa in 1986. He has served as rector of Holy Cross Seminary, principal of Good Shepherd College, lecturer in canon law and a long-time judge and judicial vicar on tribunals in New Zealand and Australia.



WelCom

- Have an event coming up in your parish?
- Something you're proud of, or would like to get the word out about?
- Need volunteers or help with something?

Please let us know!

Info can be sent to

b.mack@wn.catholic.org.nz

We look forward to hearing from you!



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