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WelCom

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NauMai

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Installation Mass for Wellington's new Archbishop



Archbishop Paul Martin sm was installed as Archbishop of Wellington in a special Mass on Saturday 17 June at St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral in Karori.

The congregation of hundreds included many clergy, Archbishop Paul's family members invited guests, parishioners and friends.

After the Procession of the Clergy at the start of the Installation Mass, Archbishop Paul knocked three times on the outside of the closed doors of the Pro-Cathedral. The doors were then opened for him to enter as he was called into the Pro-Cathedral with a Kaikaranga to begin Mass.

Photos: Bernie Velasco

>> Story pp 10 and 11.



Community in Mission: O'Shea Shield 2023

Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt, and St Patrick's College, Silverstream, are joint winners of this year's O'Shea Shield competition.

The O'Shea Shield Speech and Drama Competition is an annual event, which sees young people from 17 Catholic secondary schools throughout Wellington archdiocese and Palmerston North diocese gather to compete in a variety of speech and drama events over two days.

Competitions are in eight categories: junior, senior, impromptu, and prepared speech, oratory; debating; religious questions; drama; and Scripture reading – Te Reo section and English section.

The host college arranges for appropriate adjudicators for each element of the competition.

This year, St Mary's College in Wellington hosted the event after stepping in at short notice for Sacred Heart College Napier who was set to host the 2023 competition until the interruptions of Cyclone Gabrielle.

The 2024 competition will be co-hosted by Sacred Heart College in Napier and St Joseph's Maori Girls' College in the Hawke's Bay.

Running since 1946, O'Shea Shield is one of New Zealand's oldest intercollegiate competitions, and it involves around 300 students every year.

>> *O'Shea Shield 2023 – Catholic Community at its best, p 20.*



Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt, and St Patrick's College, Silverstream, are joint winners of this year's O'Shea Shield competition.

Photo: Mark Hurley/SMC

From the editor

Annette Scullion

Tēnā koutou
Greetings to all.

As we welcome Archbishop Paul Martin sm as our new archbishop for Wellington with excitement and new expectations we also bid farewell to Cardinal John Dew with grace, thanks and prayer after his retirement on reaching his 75th birthday in May.

New leadership always represents new beginnings and in the life of the Church our leaders stand on the shoulders of the many who have gone before.

We wish Archbishop Paul every blessing and support as he leads us forth in the next chapter for the archdiocese.

WelCom features the Installation Mass of Archbishop Paul on pp1, 10 and 11.

Archbishop Paul also presents his first WelCom column on this page in what we hope will be many ahead, in the sharing of his thoughts, views and guidance.

We also present an interview with Archbishop Paul, p 10.

We bid a fond farewell to Cardinal John as he faces a new chapter in his life after his retirement and having led the archdiocese in faith and care for so many years.

I would like to thank Cardinal John personally for his support and guidance to me in my role

as editor of WelCom over several years and I wish him all the very best ahead.

We feature Cardinal John in a farewell article, p 3.

In other news we bring a range of news and views including an interview with Hato Pāora old boy, Māori astronomer and scholar Dr Rangī Mātāmua ONZM who received this year's New Zealander of the Year award, p 5.

Our congratulations to Dr Mary Eastham on receiving a Queen's Service Medal in the King's Birthday Honours for services to interfaith communities, p 4.

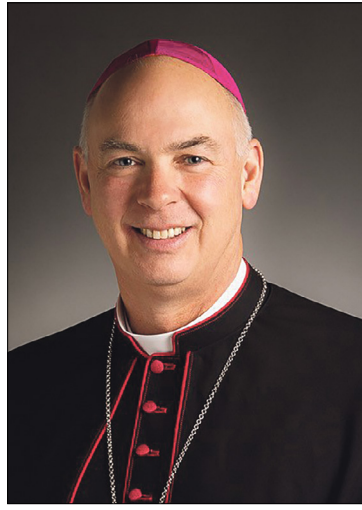
Our congratulations too to all the participants in the O'Shea Shield 2023 for ensuring this long-held and cherished tradition within our Catholic schools continues to thrive, pp 1 and 20.

We also remember our brother and sisters in the Hawke's Bay and Wairoa and elsewhere still impacted by and recovering from the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle. Nick Wilson's update is on p 8.

Our next edition of WelCom will be in August so please continue to send your news, photos and events for us to share among our wide Catholic community.

Ngā mihi.

'Rejoice in the Lord always' - Philippians 4:4



Archbishop Paul Martin sm
Archbishop of Wellington

Tēnā koutou. Greetings to you all.

It is my privilege to be writing this first piece for WelCom as the 8th ordinary of the Archdiocese of Wellington.

One hundred and seventy-three years ago, Marist priest Philippe Viard was appointed the first bishop of the newly created diocese of Wellington. In the following years, six other priests have carried that same title, which became Archbishop when the diocese became an archdiocese in 1887. I am very aware of those who have gone before me, and I am deeply grateful for all their work of leadership and the example of service that they have given, especially most recently by my predecessor Cardinal John.

I sometimes hear Catholic people say 'the Church' should do something about this, that or the other, as if it is a body outside of themselves. But we are all the

Church. It exists because we are all its members and we take responsibility for its life and outreach, its good parts and its sinful parts. Our part of this Church is the Archdiocese of Wellington and we are called to work together for the spread of the Gospel and to help one another be prepared for eternal life. What a great privilege for us all.

This WelCom edition has an interview with me that Michael Fitzsimons conducted a couple of weeks ago (p 10). In it you will find

"I am really looking forward to this journey of faith with all of you in the Archdiocese. I value deeply your commitment and witness to faith."

some of the things I am thinking at this time and some reflections of what I hope we might do in the Archdiocese. They reflect my hopes for our whole Church. I am very aware of my own need to do the same myself, to trust in the power of the Holy Spirit working in me, to be a man who prays every day, takes time to do spiritual reading, ensures that all is done for those in need. I am aware of my own shortcomings

and this is why I am very grateful for the prayers that are offered for me by so many. I need them!

Each one of us has a history which shapes our experience. I am very grateful to God for mine. My mother and father showed me what faith looked like, I grew up in a supportive community in Hastings, my family has continued to support me, and my life as a member of the Society of Mary was where I was able to follow Jesus' call to spread the Gospel. But God's plan for me was different to what I imagined and so I have been the Bishop of Christchurch and now Wellington. I do trust that God has it under control, and that his plan will come to fruition, but only if I keep open to what he asks of me.

I am really looking forward to this journey of faith with all of you in the Archdiocese. I value deeply your commitment and witness to faith. I know that we have much to do to help others who may have given away a regular practice of their faith to find their home again with us, as well as those who have yet to hear the Good News. This is our calling together, may God's grace and strength be with us all.

In Christ,
+Paul



MOTTO AND COAT OF ARMS

The Marian symbol on the blue sky represents Mary and reflects the call of Mary to Archbishop Paul Martin to be a member of the Society of Mary, which uses the Marian monogram in this form. The gold base depicts the lamb holding the crook and represents the Good Shepherd who cares for his sheep and seeks out the lost. On a scroll below the shield is Archbishop Paul's motto: *Rejoice in the Lord always*. (Philippians 4:4), which echoes the response of Mary in the Magnificat when she exclaimed, 'my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour'.

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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.

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

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Farewell to Cardinal John

Cardinal John Dew, the Catholic Archbishop of Wellington since 2005, has retired on reaching his 75th birthday.

Pope Francis accepted Cardinal John's formal resignation as Archbishop of Wellington and made the announcement at noon in Rome on 5 May – 10pm in New Zealand – coinciding with Cardinal John's 75th birthday.

Coadjutor Archbishop Paul Martin sm has succeeded Cardinal John as the Archbishop of Wellington.

The Catholic Church's 1983 Code of Canon Law states that archdiocesan and diocesan bishops, including cardinals, are required to submit their resignation to the pope on reaching the age of 75 years.

Archbishop Paul says Cardinal John has served Wellington and the Church with distinction and he will be missed.

'We wish Cardinal John well in his retirement,' Archbishop Paul said. 'He has guided the Archdiocese of Wellington through many challenges and major changes, always with a very pastoral approach. He has also had many demanding national roles in the Church, and we will miss him.'

"Never forget that we are all the chosen and beloved daughters and sons of God. We are privileged to walk together in our Church, our family of faith."
- Cardinal John Dew

Archbishop Paul Martin was the Bishop of Christchurch from December 2017 until 1 January 2021 when he was appointed Coadjutor Archbishop of Wellington, an appointment that meant he would succeed Cardinal John on the Cardinal's retirement.

Cardinal John was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Wellington in May 1995, then as Coadjutor Archbishop in May 2004. He succeeded Cardinal Thomas Williams as Archbishop of Wellington in March 2005. Pope Francis appointed him as a cardinal in February 2015.

John Atcherley Dew was born in Waipawa in Central Hawke's Bay on 5 May 1948. He attended St Joseph's Primary School in Waipukurau and St Joseph's College in Masterton [Chanel College]. He prepared for the priesthood at Holy Name Seminary in Christchurch and Holy Cross Seminary, Mosgiel, and was ordained in May 1976. Before being appointed Auxiliary



Bishop of Wellington, he served for five years in youth ministry, for four years as Director of First-Year Formation at Holy Cross Seminary, and ministered in parishes of the Archdiocese of Wellington and in the Cook Islands. Among his national and regional roles, he has been President and Secretary of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference and served for four years as President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania. He has also been the Bishop of the Military Ordinariate for New Zealand since he became Archbishop of Wellington.

Cardinal John continues with his Holy See appointments to the Congregation for Evangelisation of Peoples, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, and the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, and membership of the College of Cardinals.

In his final newsletter as Archbishop of Wellington in May, Cardinal John explained that canon law requires bishops offer their resignation to the Holy Father when they reach the age of 75. He thanked the priests and people of Wellington for their support during his years as Archbishop.

'I have always enjoyed and felt most at home in the parishes and schools of the Archdiocese, among the many committed people who are part of the Church in the Archdiocese,' he wrote. 'I look forward to being able to do this on a more informal basis in the future.'

'It is with sadness I say goodbye, and an enormous THANK YOU to you all. I will still be about and look forward to being involved in the life of the Archdiocese in other ways.'

'Archbishop Paul Martin has now succeeded me as Archbishop of Wellington. I wish Paul every blessing and ask you to support him in the same way as you have supported me. Many years ago, when the New Zealand Bishops

met Pope St John Paul II during an ad limina visit to Rome, one of our bishops said to him, "Holy Father, I would not have your job for all the money in the world." The Pope looked up and said, "It is a privilege".

'I can honestly say this has been a privilege for me. There have been many challenges and some difficulties and like Jesus at times I have also had to be resolute about "taking the road to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51).

'I have always loved this part of Luke's Gospel which follows straight after the experience of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. It is a reminder when we have encountered Jesus in prayer we can be resolute in dealing with challenges and difficulties. Never forget we are all the chosen and beloved daughters and sons of God. We are privileged to walk together in our Church, our family of faith.'

"I have always enjoyed and felt most at home in the parishes and schools of the Archdiocese, among the many committed people who are part of the Church in the Archdiocese."
- Cardinal John Dew

Cardinal John thanked everyone for their prayers, love and support and said 'your constant commitment to the Church, willingness to walk the way of Jesus, tell the truth of Jesus and live the life of Jesus have been inspiring.'

'Every time you go to Mass and hear Archbishop Paul's name in the Eucharistic Prayer, please make that a sincere prayer for him. Paul will be installed as Archbishop of Wellington on 17 June at St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral; he will take the Shepherd's crook and walk with you as you accompany one another in prayer and mutual support.'

'I am sure Archbishop Paul



1. Cardinal John Dew was appointed as a cardinal in February 2015. 2. Pope Francis greets Cardinal John Dew during the New Zealand Catholic bishops' Ad Limina visit to Rome in October 2019. 3. John Dew is ordained as Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Wellington in May 1995. 4. Archbishop Paul Martin sm (l) and Cardinal John Dew (r) pictured soon after Archbishop Paul's appointment as Coadjutor Archbishop of Wellington, January 2021. Photos: File/WelCom

will receive the same support as I have had. As I said when he was appointed Coadjutor Archbishop, I am confident he will lead the Archdiocese into the future with energy and vision.

'Please keep me in prayer and I will you.'

» Archbishop Paul Martin sm formally installed as Archbishop of Wellington, pp1, 10 and 11.

Source: NZCBC



St Patrick's College Wellington

New Zealand's oldest Catholic boys' college

We are proud of our College successes and the mahi shown by our students and staff. We wish to congratulate:

- Our choir, Con Anima, directed by Roger Powdrell, for winning the Festival Cup special award at the recent Big Sing Choral competition.
- O'Shea Shield category winners: Aaron Moe – Scripture Reading; Michael Cash, Conor Chesney and Leo Moss – Debating; Joseph Asfaw, Conor Chesney, Noah Jefferson, Constantine Saunoa-Tasele and Oliver Tull – Religious Drama.
- Mr Doug Walker, HoD Science on receiving the very prestigious Te Puiaki Kaiwhakaako Pūtaiao | Prime Minister's Science Award.

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Queen's Service Medal recipient's faith in community connections



Dr Mary Eastham, Queen's Service Medal recipient for services to interfaith communities.

Photo: David Unwin/Stuff

Annette Scullion

Dr Mary Eastham is an active member of the Catholic community in Palmerston North supporting interfaith activities. Through this work she helped establish the Palmerston North Interfaith Group (PNIG) in 2011, comprised of members of different faiths, aimed at representing the different religious traditions and faiths in the community and to work together.

For more than a decade Mary was the Bishop of Palmerston North's representative on the Catholic Bishops' Committee on Interfaith Relations. She is presently a member of the national Religious Diversity Centre.

In recognition of her services to interfaith communities, Mary was bestowed a Queen's Service Medal on the King's Birthday and Coronation Honours List 2023.

Mary readily shares the honour with those she has worked alongside. 'This award recognises the wonderful work of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Committee in all six dioceses since 2009 and the great work achieved by the Palmerston North interfaith group since 2011,' she said.

'The award recognises how important interfaith dialogue is to building relationships of trust and friendship in our multi-ethnic and multi-faith society. It is such a privilege working with such great people engaged in very important work.'

Mary served as chair of PNIG from 2011 until 2022, holding multifaith prayer services at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit including a vigil in 2019 following the Christchurch terrorist attacks in 2019 and an anniversary vigil on the one-year anniversary of the attack. She coordinated a Faith Family Feast in 2019, a celebration amongst the interfaith community, and hosted youth sessions on global climate change and racism. She has represented PNIG at national interfaith forums, including at the 2020 Connecting Faith and Interfaith Communities in 2020, hosted by the former Office of Ethnic Communities. In 2022, a Religious Diversity Day in association with the Palmerston North City Council was held, where 300 trees were planted by members of the interfaith community. Mary has been a member of the Religious Diversity Centre since 2019.

'The most important thing people can do is listen says Mary. 'What is the most important thing to you, and why is it important? Listen. Because that's how you eradicate fear through understanding.

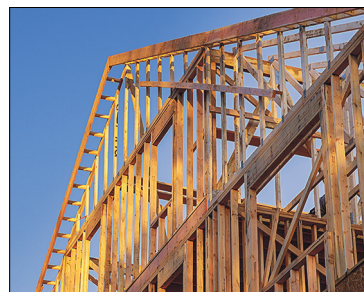
'When you don't know somebody, that's when you fear them. But once you know them, that's when the labels drop.'

The Religious Diversity Centre is presenting a series of webinars, Building a Climate of Hope, with renowned guest speakers, beginning 14 June with Dr Jane Goodall, and concluding 5 with an episode led by the group's patron Helen Clarke.

Action on housing welcomed - but needed on emissions

Caritas has welcomed last month's Budget initiatives to assist low-income households but is calling for more urgent action on reducing emissions.

'We need to prioritise the needs of the poor and vulnerable in Aotearoa New Zealand and the cost-of-living crisis cannot be detached from the climate and social crises. They need to be dealt with together,' said Roger Ellis, Caritas spokesperson.



Caritas welcomes the new investment of \$3 billion for 3,000 additional new houses by mid-2025.

Image: iStock

Climate change

Climate change remains the issue of this generation and more urgent action to address emissions reduction in New Zealand is required now.

We are pleased to see the \$1.9 billion that has been allocated to address climate issues through the Climate Emergency Relief Fund. However, the root causes of climate change should be the priority and that means addressing emissions reduction and mitigation in Aotearoa New Zealand. If major polluters continue to avoid paying their fair share of the costs of the Emissions Trading Scheme, then the Government has to either increase costs to taxpayers or borrow to cover future costs. In effect, this is a subsidy at public expense for the benefit of highly profitable businesses.

Housing

Caritas welcomed the new investment of \$3 billion for 3,000 additional new houses by mid-

2025. The extension of the Warmer Kiwi Homes project will also help to improve housing standards and contribute to mitigating climate change through the funding of better heating and insulation, LED lighting, and home repairs for lower-income households.

Every New Zealander should have access to an affordable, warm, dry home. This is another step towards that goal and towards overcoming the housing crisis,' Roger Ellis said.

Tangata whenua

Caritas welcomed the additional investment for Māori including the \$200 million to build and repair more homes through the Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga programme; \$225 million for Māori education, including \$10 million to help develop the local content needed so schools and kura can work together with mana whenua; and \$168 million over four years for Whānau Ora to ensure immediate needs of communities are met and to meet the long-term health aspirations of tangata whenua.

Overcoming poverty

As the New Zealand bishops' agency for justice, peace, and development, Caritas longs to see further progress in reducing the extent of family poverty in Aotearoa New Zealand and ensuring that communities, particularly the poor and marginalised, have access to at least the essentials of life. In that context, Caritas welcomes the extra funding to continue free lunches in schools, the removal of the \$5 co-payment for prescriptions and the increased investment of \$1.8 billion into Early Childhood Education. 'These measures will help those families who are struggling and will contribute to creating a fairer and more just society, promoting the common good.'

Source: Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

NZ Catholic Directory

The 2023 print edition of the comprehensive Catholic Directory of the people and organisations for the Catholic Church in New Zealand has been published and is being distributed through diocesan offices, parishes and to people who pre-ordered a copy. The spiral-bound print edition costs \$37 including postage inc. GST. The online edition costs \$22 inc. GST for 12 months' access for each subscriber. Details to order your own copy: catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/2023directory/

Fr Rick Loughnan honoured as Monsignor

Bishop of Christchurch Michael Gielen has announced Fr Rick Loughnan, Christchurch North parish priest, has been honoured by Pope Francis with the title of Monsignor, which designates him as a Chaplain of the Holy Father. 'This honour has been bestowed upon Monsignor Rick in recognition of his many years of faithful and humble service to both the local and national Church. I join with you in congratulating Monsignor Rick and his family on this special occasion.'

New Director for NZCBC

Damian Dempsey has been appointed the new Executive Director of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference. Damian, was a member of the Society of Mary for 25 years, working in formation, education, and community development in New Zealand and in Asia. He is currently Director of Challenge 2000 in Wellington, where he has led a team of 40 youth, community and social workers. He replaces Siobhan Dilly, who is leaving after four years in the role.

NZ Catholic Bishops Conference new leadership positions announced

The Catholic bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand meeting in conference in Auckland last month agreed on their new leadership roles.

Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe is now President of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, the national body for the bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Bishop of Dunedin Michael Dooley is now the Vice President of the NZCBC.

Archbishop of Wellington Paul Martin sm is now the NZCBC General Secretary.

The bishops met at the Mary MacKillop Centre in Kohimarama, Auckland, in the

second of their four standard formal meetings of the year.

Hokitika-born Bishop Lowe was ordained a priest in 1996. He was appointed Bishop of Hamilton in 2014, then Bishop of Auckland at the end of 2021.

Bishop Dooley, born in Invercargill, was ordained a priest in 1989 and became Bishop of Dunedin in 2018.

Hastings-born Archbishop Martin was ordained a Marist priest in 1993. He became Bishop of Christchurch in 2018 and took over the role of Archbishop of Wellington in May on the retirement of Cardinal John Dew.



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‘Matariki belongs to all of us’ ‘Ma tātou katoa a Matariki’

Michael Fitzsimons

While the celebration of Matariki comes from a Māori cultural perspective, it belongs to all of us, says Professor Rangi Mātāmua, 2023 Kiwibank New Zealander of the year and old boy of Hato Pāora College.

‘There is not a single person in this country who does not descend from people who used the stars to navigate, to tell time, to plant and harvest. It has been part of the history of all humans. I really hope that Matariki is an opportunity for all of us in the country to come together as a nation to celebrate all the wonderful things that make us who we are. I’m really hoping that as a nation we pick that up and realise it is something we can all connect to and be proud of.’

“Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.” – St Francis of Assisi’s Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon, referenced in the opening paragraph of Pope Francis’ encyclical Laudato si’.

Professor Rangi Mātāmua ONZM is a Māori cultural astronomer and is currently professor of Matauranga Māori at Massey University’s Te Putahi-a-toi School of Māori Knowledge. In 2021 he was shoulder-tapped by the Prime Minister to be Chief Adviser Matariki and Matauranga Māori, as the Government explored the creation of a new public holiday.

Māori New Year
The Matariki star cluster appears in the early morning sky in New Zealand during the mid-winter months. Also known by the Ancient Greek name Pleiades, it is one of the brightest clusters in the sky. Matariki is known as the Māori New Year in Te Ao Māori.

‘This year will be the second national holiday recognising Matariki, but for Māori and for many communities it has been celebrated for generations,’ says Professor Rangi. ‘For us it’s a marker of our New Year and is underpinned by three major things: remembering the past and the people we have lost in the past year. We celebrate them and we remember them.’

‘It’s also about celebrating the present – coming together, feasting and celebrating who we are now.’

‘The third major element is

the world. It’s been wonderful and humbling to be part of that.’

Born in Palmerston North, Professor Rangi grew up with his grandmother’s people in Levin and went to school there before going off to boarding school at Hato Pāora Catholic Māori Boys’ College near Feilding. He loved his five years as a student at Hato Pāora and considers himself very fortunate to have gone there. His interest in science, however, was not so much stimulated by what went on in the classroom but by watching a lot of science fiction on TV with his dad.

‘I watched a lot of sci-fi with my Dad – programmes like *Blake’s 7*, *Sapphire & Steel* and *Star Trek*. When *Star Wars* came out it was a game changer for me. What I liked was they took some scientific principles like light speed, lasers and teleportation and they wrapped stories around them. It was the stories which held my interest in the science and I found myself naturally drawn into that space as I got older.’

Having immersed himself in the field of traditional Māori astronomy, Professor Rangi says ‘there is a spirituality connected to Matariki and also an environmental awareness because the different stars are associated with the different environmental domains. We honour those domains and also that spiritual element by having a ceremony where we feed the stars. That is part of it.’

We are pretty estranged from looking at the sky, he says.

‘The only sky most of us look at



Māori astronomer and scholar Dr Rangiānehu Mātāmua ONZM received this year’s New Zealander of the Year award. Photo: Waikato Museum



In Māori culture, Matariki is the name of the Pleiades star cluster and the celebration of its first rising in late June or early July. This marks the beginning of the new year in the Māori lunar calendar.


Image: Library/University of Waikato

these days is Sky Television and that’s pretty sad. There is an association between the human experience and stars. Stars are on our flag. We look into space to get a sense of the bigger questions about the meaning of life itself, and to get an understanding of our part in the cosmos.

‘I never thought we could pollute space but we are doing that. More than 50 per cent of the world’s

population can’t see the night sky and that’s an indictment on what we are doing not only to the planet but what we are doing to ourselves as creatures. Hopefully Matariki brings that awareness out in us as well.’

In 2023, Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki will be officially celebrated on Friday 14 July.



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Focus on Eucharistic revival

Eucharistic processions were held in many cities across the United States in celebration of the solemnity of Corpus Christi, 11 June, a more than 700-year-old feast day that commemorates the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

The processions occurred as the Church in America enters its second phase of the US bishops' National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year initiative to inspire belief in the Eucharist. The initiative follows a 2019 Pew Research study that suggested only about one-third of US Catholics believe the Church's teaching that the Eucharist is truly the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

The second phase of the revival, the Year of Parish Revival, is intended to foster Eucharistic devotion at the parish level. This phase runs until July next year and aims to strengthen liturgical life through faithful celebration of the Mass, Eucharistic adoration, missions, resources and preaching.

Eucharistic processions were held in many cities including Boston, New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, Washington, Louisville Kentucky, Los Angeles, Portland, Honolulu, Honolulu, Portland and St Louis.

Source: CNA News



A few hundred Catholics marched through the streets of Washington, DC, to publicly pray and adore the body of Christ during a eucharistic procession in May, 2023.

Photo: Joe Portolano/CNA

Australian appointed to Pontifical Academy

University of Notre Dame Australia research academic Tracey Rowland has been appointed to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS), becoming the second Australian to receive the honour. The 10-year appointment to the prestigious international research academy is a recognition of Professor Rowland's outstanding contribution to research and will allow her to collaborate with some of the world's leading Catholic scholars in Europe. 'It's a recognition of the quality of the research that is undertaken at Notre Dame and especially its value to the Catholic community,' Professor Rowland said.



Tracey Rowland (UNDA).

Churches plea for peace in Sudan

Sudan is in the front line again as the country is engulfed in war. Church leaders are among those calling for peace as desperate people try to survive the latest catastrophe.

A health ministry report issued in May said the conflict had already claimed at least 528 people and wounded 4,599 people. According to the report, there's no running water in the capital, Khartoum. The same applies to other big cities. Vital infrastructure is shattered. There's no electricity. Food and water are in short supply.

While churches and church property have been destroyed, this is not an ideological or religious conflict, *The Tablet* reports.

'All citizens from Muslim and minority Christian communities are equally affected. Lay people, priests and religious are unable to leave their houses. Masses in churches have been stopped, although communal prayers continue in some houses.'

Since 15 April this year, fighting between Sudanese Army Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces has gripped the country. As fighting intensifies, people are



UNHCR partners scale-up relief efforts as cross-border movements from Sudan increase.

Photo: UNHCR

either hiding or joining refugees streaming from Sudan's broken, dangerous cities.

The UN says about 75,000 people have been displaced by the fighting in Khartoum and the states of Blue Nile, North Kordofan, as well as the western region of Darfur.

The people of Sudan are suffering and yearning for peace, says South Sudanese Catholic Archbishop Stephen Ameyu Martin Mula.

To preserve Sudan's unity and not further people's suffering 'we

call for an end to the fighting and a return to dialogue,' Mula said in a statement from the Catholic Conference of Bishops of Sudan and South Sudan (SSSCBC).

The Church is joining 'her voice with the rest of people in seeking peace so that the two warring parties stop fighting and dialogue,' added Fr Peter Suleiman, SSSCBC Secretary General.

Sources: *The Tablet*, CISA

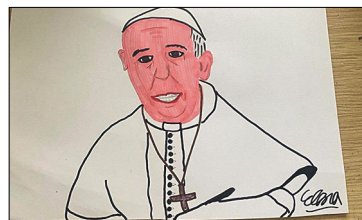
Pope's favourite get-well cards

While recuperating from his abdominal surgery earlier this month, Pope Francis was particularly grateful for messages and drawings received from children receiving treatment in the Gemelli Hospital's paediatric oncology department.

Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said, 'Pope Francis is touched by the many messages that he continues to receive in these hours.'

'In a particular way, he intends to address his thoughts and thanks to the children who are currently hospitalised, for the affection and love received through their drawings and their messages,' Bruni said, referring to a slew of colourful sketches that were delivered to the pontiff's room.

To these children, as well as the medical staff, nurses, social healthcare workers and spiritual aides 'who daily touch pain with their hands, relieving its weight,



A drawing of Pope Francis done by children receiving treatment in the Gemelli Hospital's paediatric oncology department.

Image: Vatican Media.

he expresses his gratitude for their closeness and prayer,' Bruni said.

Pope Francis, for his part, responded to the children, and to all those praying for him and offering their best wishes, with a message from his @Pontifex account, tweeted in nine different languages: 'I sincerely appreciate the prayers and numerous expressions of closeness and affection received in the past

few days. I am praying for everyone, especially those who suffer. I ask you to keep me in your prayers.'

Pope Francis has visited the paediatric oncology ward twice already, in July 2021 when he was operated on for diverticular stenosis; and earlier this year when he was hospitalised with infectious bronchitis.

Pope Francis, 86, was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital on 7 June to undergo surgery for an abdominal hernia at the incision site of a previous surgery, which was causing him pain and discomfort. Bruni said that Pope Francis' post-op status was regular and within the norm.

Pope Francis was released from Gemelli Hospital on 16 June and returned to the Vatican. The Pope's surgeon, Dr Sergio Alfieri, said the Pope is well, even better than before.

Source: Vatican News

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The 2023 Funding Round for the Archdiocesan Allocation Committee is now open

- Parish Groups, Agencies and Church Organisations which 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 Archdiocesan goals.
- We are charged, by the Archbishop, 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 11 August 2023**. 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.

Applications close Friday 11 August.

2024 Olympics a time for global fraternity

Pope Francis has expressed the hope that the 2024 Olympic Games in France will be an opportunity for ‘an authentic impulse of fraternity which the world needs so badly.’

May the Olympics be ‘an occasion for profound and fruitful encounter between people from all walks of life, belonging to different peoples, cultures, and religions,’ the Pope said in a message addressed to Catholics in France ahead of the 2024 games.

France is to host the 33rd Olympic Games 26 July to 11 August 2024, in Paris and 16 other cities across France and Tahiti, an island within French Polynesia.

Pope Francis urged French Catholics to get involved in the sporting event and ensure that it be a ‘joy to welcome the whole world’ to France, as well as a ‘responsibility.’

‘You will be invited to become volunteers, to open your churches, schools, and homes,’ said Pope Francis. ‘Above all, open your hearts... By the gratuitousness and generosity of your welcome and dedication, you will bear witness to Christ who lives in you and who shares His joy with you.’



In message to French Catholics ahead of the Paris 2024 games, Francis speaks of ‘joy,’ ‘responsibility’ in welcoming the whole world to the event.

Photo: Nicolas Michaud

Pope Francis also called on Catholics in France to find ways to help integrate ‘people with disabilities and the poor and marginalised into this beautiful festival of sport.’

France will also be hosting its first-ever Summer Paralympic Games in 2024 in Paris from 28 August to 8 September 2024.

Source: *La Croix International*

Pope plans document dedicated to St Thérèse of Lisieux

Individuals become Christian because they have been touched by Christ’s love, not because they have been convinced or coerced by someone else, Pope Francis said.

The Catholic Church needs missionary disciples who have hearts like St Thérèse of Lisieux and who ‘draw people to love and bring people closer to God,’ he told people at his weekly general audience in St Peter’s Square, 7 June.

‘Let us ask this saint for the grace to overcome our selfishness and for the passion

to intercede that Jesus might be known and loved,’ he said.

The Pope continued his series of talks about ‘zeal’ for evangelisation by focusing on St Thérèse, the 19th-century French Carmelite nun who is patron saint of missions and a doctor of the church.

Before beginning his general audience talk, the Pope walked with his cane to a large reliquary containing the relics of St Thérèse that was placed on a table near where he sits to deliver his catechesis. He placed a large white rose before the ornate reliquary and stood a few moments in prayer.

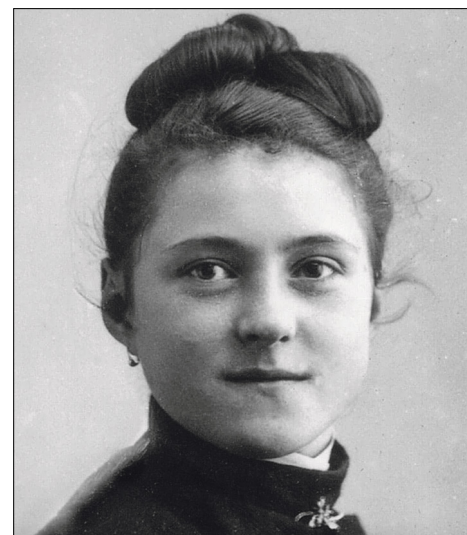
During his catechesis he announced he was planning to dedicate an apostolic letter to her to mark the 150th anniversary of her birth this year.

Pope Francis has said he has a special devotion to the saint, once telling an interviewer that he used to keep a photo of this 19th-century French Carmelite nun on his library shelf when he was archbishop of Buenos Aires.

During his Wednesday general audience talk, the Pope asked Christians to find inspiration in the life of St Thérèse, who lived ‘according to the way of littleness and weakness,’ defining herself as ‘a small grain of sand.’

She lived in poor health and died at the age of 24, but ‘her heart was vibrant, missionary,’ the Pope said.

Source: *Catholic News Service*



St Thérèse of Lisieux the 19th-century French Carmelite nun who is patron saint of missions and a doctor of the church.

Olympic motto created by Catholic priest

Henri Didon, a famous 19th century Dominican friar in France, was the person who first came up with the Olympic motto Faster, Higher, Stronger (Citius, Altius, Fortius).

Didon (1840–1900) entered sports history through his friendship with Pierre de Coubertin (1863–1937), the founder of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Historian Yvon Tranvouez, who is finishing a biography of Didon for release in time for next year’s Summer Games in Paris, said the two men met in the French capital on 2 January, 1891.



Nineteenth century French Dominican priest, Henri Didon.

Photo: Atelier Nadar.

Photographe/Bibliothèque Nationale de France

At the time, Didon was in charge of a secondary boarding school run by his Dominican order and Baron de Coubertin wanted him to help form an athletic league that would include teams from both Catholic and public schools. The Dominican agreed and came up with a Latin motto that would be emblazoned on the athletes’ uniforms: Citius, Altius, Fortius. When de Coubertin founded the IOC in 1896, he adopted the motto for the Olympic Games.

Some say Didon chose altius (higher) with a spiritual notion in mind. But Tranvouez, who is professor emeritus of contemporary history at the University of Brest, is not convinced by this interpretation.

‘The essential thing for Fr Didon was always to reconcile the Church and modern society. He accepted competitions between schools because he saw it as a way to bring the Church closer to the French Republic,’ stressed Tranvouez. ‘A disciple of Henri Lacordaire, also a Dominican, he was above all a liberal Catholic,’ he said.

Source: *La Croix International*

Civilisation of love

In his message for the 57th world day of social communications titled, ‘Speaking with the heart: The truth in love’ (Eph. 4:15), Pope Francis has reminded people everywhere to build a civilisation of love amid dissensions, wars, and polarisation of truth. This year, World Communications Sunday fell on 21 May. The Pope’s message was given in Rome, St John Lateran, on 24 January 2023, the Memorial of St Francis de Sales. It underscored the need for ‘speaking with the heart,’ noting: ‘It is the heart that spurred us to go, to see and to listen, and it is the heart that moves us towards an open and welcoming way of communicating.’

Pope supports LGBTQ conference

Pope Francis has sent a message of support to a conference, 16–18 June, to discuss LGBTQ ministry in the Catholic Church, after right-wing online influencers organised a petition to try and stop the event. The Pope publicly backed the three-day Outreach conference at New York’s Fordham University that considered issues ranging from how the Bible speaks of homosexuality, how the church should minister with transgender Catholics and how to raise LGBTQ children in the faith.

Pope to make historic visit to Mongolia

Pope Francis is to visit the east-Asian nation of Mongolia from 31 August to 4 September 2023. In the most recent consistory for the creation of new cardinals, in August 2022, Pope Francis made Cardinal Giorgio Marengo, the Apostolic Prefect of Mongolia’s capital of Ulaanbaatar, the first-ever Cardinal of the country. There are fewer than 1,500 Catholics in all of Mongolia. Pope Francis will be the first Pope to ever visit the East Asian country.

Naked man stands on St Peter’s altar

Two days after a naked man stood on the high altar of St Peter’s Basilica, the basilica’s archpriest on 3 June held a penitential rite as required by Canon Law in cases where sacred places are desecrated. *Vatican News* reported the unidentified man was a Polish national who approached the high altar on 1 June as the basilica was about to close. He quickly undressed and climbed onto the altar. Photos posted online showed the words ‘Save children of Ukraine’ written in marker on his back. When the Vatican Gendarmerie approached, the man did not resist as they led him to the police station inside the Vatican.

Catholic Church Insurance begins winding down

Australian firm Catholic Church Insurance (CCI) has announced that it will begin winding down its operations after failing to secure additional financial support. The CCI informed shareholders and staff of the decision, which will result in the closure of the insurer for new business. Despite this decision, CCI remains solvent and will honour existing claims, including those related to historic sex abuse cases. The church leadership has assured victims that the gradual shutdown will not affect their claims. CCI’s shareholders are Australian dioceses.

Scorsese to make another movie about Jesus

Famed Hollywood film director Martin Scorsese has indicated his intention to make another film about Jesus Christ, reports suggest.

Scorsese, fresh from a rapturous reception for his movie *Killers of the Flower Moon* at the Cannes film festival, was recently in Italy attending a series of religious and cinematic events. Speaking at a conference at the Vatican, Scorsese, 80, said: ‘I have responded to the Pope’s appeal to artists in the only way I know how: by imagining and writing a screenplay for a film about Jesus.’ He added: ‘And I’m about to start making it.’

Scorsese and his wife, Helen Morris, were in Rome attending a conference entitled *The Global Aesthetics of the Catholic Imagination* and briefly met Pope Francis.

Antonio Spadaro, editor of Jesuit publication *La Civiltà Cattolica*, who co-organised the conference, reported on its website that Scorsese had mixed references to



Pope Francis and Martin Scorsese, who was ‘moved’ by the Pope’s words, met at the Vatican on 27 May 2023.

Photo: Vatican Media/Reuters

his films with personal anecdotes, as well as explaining ‘how the Holy Father’s appeal “to let us see Jesus” moved him.’

It is believed Scorsese reiterated his passion for Pier Paolo Pasolini’s *The Gospel According to St Matthew* during the conference, as well as discussing his own works including 1988’s *The Last Temptation of Christ* as well as *Silence*, about the persecution of Jesuit Christians in 17th-century Japan.

In 2016, Scorsese screened *Silence* in Rome and had a first meeting with Pope Francis, who himself joined the Jesuits in the hope of becoming a missionary in Japan.

The encounter marked a thawing in relations between the Vatican and cinema’s most acclaimed mainstream Catholic director, who himself considered joining the priesthood as a boy.

In 1988, *The Last Temptation of Christ* angered many conservative Catholics for its depiction of Jesus, played by Willem Dafoe, as a man torn between God and earthly pleasures.

Diocese continues post-cyclone support

Nick Wilson

On World Environment Day, 5 June, Pope Francis appealed for our shared responsibility to take action to protect the planet. He drew attention to increasing violent natural disasters devastating the globe, as he urged the international community, and people of good will, to do their part in safeguarding our Common Home.

Many people in the Diocese of Palmerston North closely experienced a violent natural disaster when Cyclone Gabrielle unleashed a trail of destruction in February. The diocese launched an appeal for funds to assist in the immediate response and aftermath of this devastating event.

The cyclone's impact was felt heavily in Hawke's Bay and Wairoa on the northeastern boundary of the diocese. People across our diocese rallied and sent goods and money for the immediate relief effort.

Financial assistance was provided to each of the eight Catholic schools in the Hawke's Bay and the diocese has been continuing

with community support, including counselling and other assistance.

In May, our Young Church and Education Teams brought Michael Hempseed from Frontiers of Hope to speak to groups in Napier, Hastings, Waipukurau, and Wairoa. His topic was 'Understanding and Healing the Impact of Disasters.'

Michael founded Frontiers of Hope in 2022 to provide advanced mental-health services in New Zealand. He has previously helped communities after the Christchurch earthquakes and the Mosque attacks.

A disaster's psychological impact is often seen only three to five years later, he told parents and teachers at a combined Sacred Heart Napier and St John's College Hastings evening.

'What we know is when a disaster strikes, there is a strong sense of community and it's thought that's a protective factor.'

Keep them going, he says. 'Have community events and keep having them. Volunteering is an important tool in healing,' he said. 'This has a massive impact on wellbeing. First, you make a good group of friends, you're doing something positive for

your community, and you aren't sitting at home feeling sorry for yourselves.'

Sacred Heart College Principal Maria Neville-Foster said the evening was timely. Thanking Michael and the diocese, she said, 'It helps us to understand ourselves, but it also helps us to work with the young people we are with.'

'They're doing really well when they're connected with their community, and we see wonderful examples of that at school all the time.'

'My take home is to try and have more social community events, so when you see those being advertised, you'll know why, and we welcome you into our community space as much as possible to try and create that going forward.'

Mrs Neville-Foster said she has a lot of hope for our young people as they move into the future. 'But it is about being aware and being able to support them on that journey, alongside their whānau.'

St John's College Principal George Rogers said it is important to unite and support one another in this time of need. 'The cyclone devastated Hawke's Bay and we



Michael Hempseed (I), Nick Wilson and Maria Neville-Foster. Photo: Supplied

cannot underestimate the mental and emotional toll this has had on our community. Michael's speech to staff and parents was well-received and much appreciated.'

Research suggests post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) manifests years after a traumatic event. The diocese is now planning to sponsor Dr Andy Harkin – a specialist in Australia who practices DBRT (Deep Brain Reorientation Therapy) – for a public event for mental-health specialists and practitioners.

The Diocesan Cyclone Fund is now

closed and our diocese is continuing to explore effective and timely distribution of the funds for the maximum benefit of people in affected areas. The diocese is committed to supporting our community in the months and years to come.

Let's continue to pray for all affected people and a spirit of generosity to assist those who are still rebuilding their lives.

Nick Wilson is Palmerston North Diocese Chaplain and Young Catholics Team Leader.

Priest revisits his 50-year-old work of art

Alan Roberts

Fr David Orange is well known around Lower Hutt as a landscape artist. He has had many exhibitions over nearly 60 years in the priesthood but his work pictured here is what is known as Scrafito. It involves several layers of plaster and with the trowel each part of the picture is carved. The subject is of St Martin of Tours giving half his cloak to a beggar. The story is that Martin, preparing to become a Christian came across a beggar in freezing weather, so he removed his cloak, cut it in half with his sword and gave it to him. That night he experienced a vision of Christ saying: 'Martin, a mere catechumen

has clothed me.' In light of that story, David regards this work as one of his most useful in aiding the cause of social justice.

Fifty years ago, the-then parish priest at Pungarehu in Taranaki, Fr Barney Keegan, invited David to let go of his brushes and try something different. A close-up look of the work reveals a battle with coastal weather in Taranaki. Several screws have been inserted into the work to keep it together. Since moving out of Taranaki in 1974, David had never, until recently, returned to inspect his work. Recently, while visiting an old friend in Taranaki, he made a journey around the mountain. Let's hope this work of art will inspire many for years to come.



Fr David Orange revisits his artwork, 'Scrafito', featured on the wall outside St Martin de Tours Church, Pungarehu, on Taranaki's coast.

Photo: Supplied

St Joseph's Shannon 60th Jubilee celebrations

Kathy Bills

The call went out and the response was fantastic with many past parishioners travelling to Shannon to celebrate, on 23 April 2023, the 60th anniversary of the blessing and opening of Shannon's St Joseph's Catholic Church.

St Joseph's was full to overflowing with over 130 people for the 10am Mass. Terrance Olsen welcomed everyone to the Mass and celebrations.

Before Mass, a Mihi Whakatau by Charles Te Peeti welcomed everyone

to a blessing by Fr Joe Grayland of the new Tukituki panels made by Te Peeti whānau. The panels are beautiful colours and symbolise important attributes of our faith. Thanks to Eru Te Peeti for organising the panels around the altar.

Mons Brian Walsh Mass celebrated Mass. In his homily he spoke of the people who are the church and described St Joseph's as one of the most beautiful churches in rural New Zealand.

The shared morning tea after Mass was plentiful and the many visitors enjoyed a great catch up with friends, family and old school mates.

St Joseph's on Vogel St was opened and blessed on 21 April 1963 by Archbishop Peter McKeefry of Wellington. It replaced the old St Joseph's Church built in 1900, which was located onto a site over the railway line.

John McKeefry, an architect from Wellington, designed the new St Joseph's Church. The build would not have happened without the dedication and hard work of the people of Shannon and the surrounding district. The church build was estimated to have cost 10,000 pounds. The low cost was attributed to the huge amount of voluntary work by parishioners.

Everyone at the celebrations enjoyed a display of past and present photos of St Joseph's. Guests included a large representation of children of returned servicemen – many of these families who were Catholic, had settled on nearby Okuku Rd farms following WWII. Several photos on display were of the St Joseph's Shannon Convent School days.

It was a very happy and special jubilee occasion for everyone.



Visitors enjoyed a great catch up with friends, family and old school mates.

Photo: Supplied

Sisters of Compassion explore new pathways

E rere ngā wai pūaroa ki a koutou, otirā tātou. Let the Waters of Compassion greet you.

At the six yearly gathering of the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion – also known as the Sisters of Compassion – the historic decision was made to re-elect their current leadership team: Sr Margaret Anne Mills, Sr Sue Cosgrove, Sr Alisi Tu'ipulotu, Sr Lusiana Raratini.

The Sisters, now older and fewer in number, will continue to discern and explore the way forward. In the next period of time, mindful of their current reality and honouring the vision and the commitment of Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert, they will explore new pathways, such as



Sisters of Compassion and friends outside the Compassion Chapel at the Compassion centre courtyard, Island Bay.

Photo: Supplied

their Congregational Governance Structure.

The Sisters say they appreciate your prayer, and are very grateful for the ongoing support of the

Compassion Whānau.

Kia whakapaingia koutou e Meri Hōhepa. May you be blessed by Suzanne Aubert.

Priest's legacy encourages vocations

Nicola O'Keeffe

The parish of Our Lady of Hope, Tawa Titahi Bay administers a trust established by the late Fr Fergus Reeves. It supports training, development and education for aspiring priests and religious in the Wellington Archdiocese.

Fr Fergus Reeves was ordained in Wellington on 29 June 1962. He served as a priest for 53 years mostly within the Wellington Archdiocese. When he retired, Fr Fergus returned to his hometown in New Plymouth, by then in the Diocese of Palmerston North. There he responded unstintingly to requests to supply sacramental ministry in the North Taranaki Pastoral Area. At Fr Fergus' golden jubilee celebrations in New Plymouth in 2012, Fr Tom Lawn said 'his sacramental and liturgical service, his homilies, his vocal finesse, collegial wisdom, friendly presence and sense of humour will always be appreciated.' Fr Fergus Reeves died at New Plymouth on 22 February 2020.

In 1987, on the 25th anniversary of his ordination, Fr Fergus established a trust fund to foster vocations to the priesthood. The Fergus Reeves Trust continues

today and is administered by Our Lady of Hope Parish, Tawa/Titahi Bay. The trustees invite candidates to apply for financial support towards their vocations.

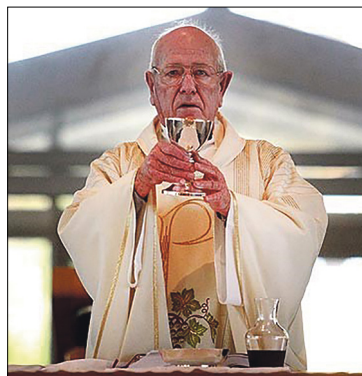
The trust deed objectives support activities connected with:

- training or support of candidates for the priesthood in the Archdiocese;
- fostering promotion or encouragement of vocations to the priesthood in the Archdiocese;
- postgraduate training for development of priests or for the Archdiocese;
- religious or education purposes of the Archdiocese.

If you or someone you know is considering a call to the priesthood; if you are seeking training or support for lay ministry within the Archdiocese; or if you are in need of some support to enable you to take your next step on your vocation journey, you are invited to apply to the Trust.

Please contact the Finance Committee, Our Lady of Hope Parish at ourladyofhope@extra.co.nz to make an application. Provide a short brief of your aspirations, the support you are seeking and how the Trust's contribution will meet one of the objectives above.

Only candidates currently living



Fr Fergus Reeves celebrated '50 years in God's service' at a Mass in 2012, attended by hundreds gathered to celebrate his milestone at St Joseph's Church, New Plymouth. Photo: Supplied

in New Zealand and connected to the Wellington Archdiocese can be considered for support from this Trust.

Support the Trust – if you would like to donate to support the efforts of the Fergus Reeves Trust, please contact our parish office at ourladyofhope@extra.co.nz for internet banking details and ensure your payment uses the reference of Fergus Reeves Trust.

Nicola O'Keeffe is Treasurer of the Finance Committee for Our Lady of Hope Parish, Tawa/Titahi Bay.

Tributes for Sr Francine

Jane Langham
Our Lady of Hope Parish,
Tawa/Titahi Bay

A celebration to mark the 60th anniversary of Sr Francine becoming a Marist Sister – a branch of the Society of Mary – was held at the morning Mass for Our Lady of Hope parish in Tawa/Titahi Bay, on 9 June. Over 80 people were there to celebrate with Sr Francine and take part in her blessing. The large number present was more than twice the usual number for a weekday Mass at this time of year.

The cover of the Order of Service honoured Sr Francine with the words: *Thank you for the wonderful unsung work you do for our parish in a spirit of kindness and love. May you continue to be sustained and strengthened by His grace and may you experience the fullness of His holy joy.*

At a generous morning tea after Mass, parish council chair Marie Prescott presented Sr Francine with flowers and a bottle of wine from the parish. Larry Greco also gave Sr Francine a bouquet of flowers in recognition her assistance at many funerals over several years.

Sr Francine said, 'I am so grateful

to God for bringing me here for 60 years. I have so many people to thank including my first piano teacher, who gave me free lessons when my family could not have afforded them and now music is my constant companion. The Lord is with us all and everything is gift.'



Among the celebrations, Larry Greco presented Sr Francine with a bouquet of flowers in recognition her assistance at many funerals over many years.

Photo: Monique Lopez

Historic last Mass at Renwick's 115-year-old Catholic Church

Members of Marlborough's Catholic community were invited to attend an historic last Mass at Renwick's 115-year-old Catholic Church, Sunday 18 June. St Francis de Sales Church has served the community of Renwick since its official opening and blessing in 1908. Organisers extended an invitation to include anyone wanting to be a part of the historic gathering and final Mass.

'The Wellington Archdiocese has decided to deconsecrate and close the Renwick Church,' said Litty Newman, spokesperson for the Renwick management committee who organised the closing Mass and gatherings.

'The Mass on 18 June was the last formal Catholic gathering at the historic church,' said Litty. The building, located on the corner of Clyde and Alma Sts, was to be then handed over to the community.

'It's a shame it has come to this for St Francis de Sales Church, but we are intent to make the best out

of the situation and want as many people as possible to be a part of it,' Litty said ahead of the final Mass.

'For several years we have fought hard against closure and to maintain our church's place within the Marlborough Star of the Sea parish and serving our Catholic community in Renwick,' Litty said. 'The fact the beautiful little building will remain in place and become an asset to the wider Renwick community is some comfort.'

Parish priest Fr Michael McCabe was joined by Mons Gerard Burns, Vicar General of the Wellington Archdiocese, to lead the farewell Mass. A luncheon was held at the Woodbourne Tavern in Renwick.

'A good crowd of regular Blenheim parishioners were expected to make their way out to Renwick for the occasion, as well as some of the many families who have worshiped at St Francis de Sales through the years,' said Litty.



A final Mass was celebrated at Renwick's 115-year-old St Francis de Sales Church on 18 June 2023.

Photo: Supplied

CHURCH HISTORY

Built in 1907, the church in Renwick came late in the history of the Catholic ministry in Marlborough. Mass before this was said in the public school, in Renwick, or in peoples' homes in outlying districts. Mr James McKinley was contracted to build the church at the cost of £350, funded by donations from the Catholic families of the district. The building was completed in 1907 and it was formally blessed and opened as St Francis de

Sales Church on 10 May 1908, by Archbishop Francis Redwood sm. The opening day coincided with bad weather and the Wairau River was in high flood. None of the parishioners from across the Wairau could be present, diminishing the congregation considerably. The church was blessed and dedicated to St Francis de Sales, the patron saint of writers and journalists, and of Archbishop Redwood who grew up in nearby Nelson.

New Mission Centre opens in Napier

After years of planning and building, Napier's new Pastoral Administration and Mission Centre was officially blessing and opened on Sunday 28 May.

Pentecost Sunday

As well as being the birthday of the Church, Pentecost – this year Sunday 28 May – is also the Feast Day of Palmerston North Diocese. Bishop Peter Cullinane and Kate Bell discuss dedicating the diocese to the Holy Spirit, in a video online at: tinyurl.com/Pentecost-Feast-Day-Video

Wellington diocese

Tuesday 20 June 2023 marked 175 years since the Diocese of Wellington was formally established in 1848, when Pope Pius IX divided New Zealand into two dioceses – Auckland and Port Nicholson (Wellington). Because all Bishop Pompallier's priests were to move south, it took time to recruit replacements and bring them across the world. It was not until 1 May 1850 the new southern diocese was able to be implemented, when Bishop Viard and his Society of Mary clergy arrived in Wellington.



Wellington Sexual Abuse HELP

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

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

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

Male Survivors Wellington The Road Forward Tāne Whai Ora

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

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

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



The Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP) Aotearoa-New Zealand is an independent, grassroots, non-binary peer-support network among victims and survivors of clergy, religious and institutional abuse.

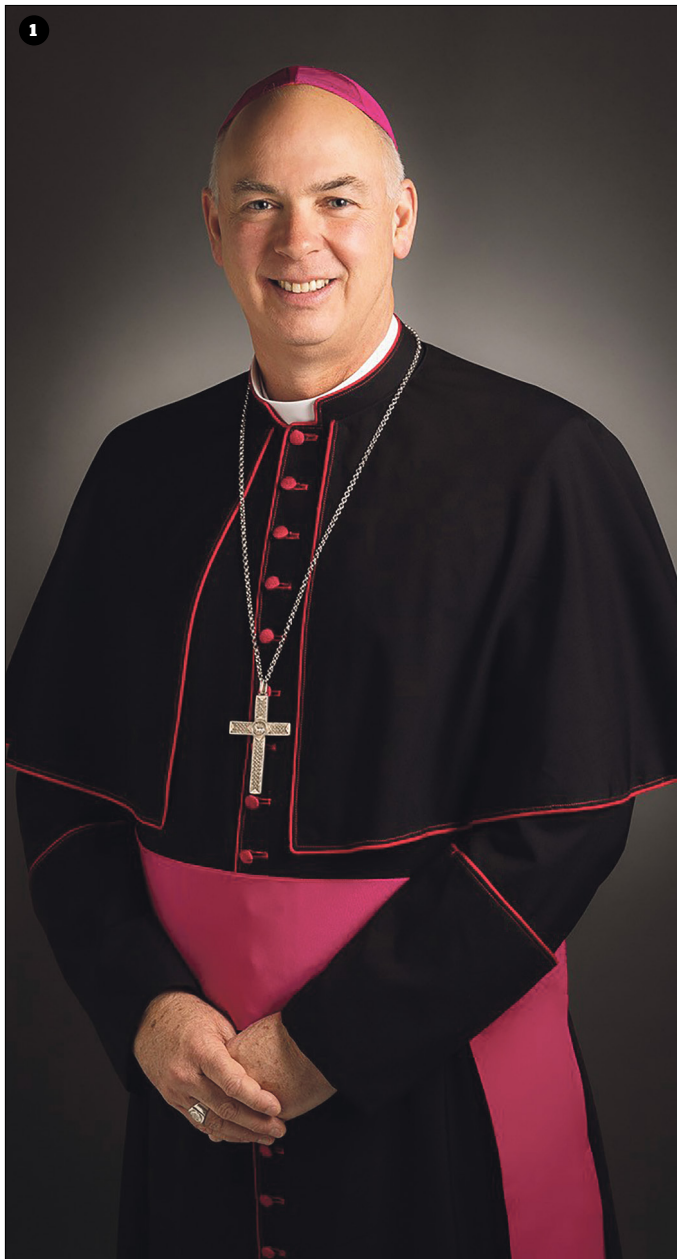
If you or someone in your whānau need support, please contact us.

Call or text 022 3440496 or email: aotearoa-newzealand@snapnetwork.org

www.snapnetwork.org

The Installation of the Most Reverend Paul

St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral of We



'We have to fall in love with Christ'

Michael Fitzsimons

With just a few days to go before his impending installation as the 7th archbishop of Wellington, Archbishop Paul Martin is feeling pretty relaxed. He's chatty with a ready sense of humour.

He knows what the role involves. He was bishop of Christchurch and for a year and a half year had a foot in both the Christchurch and Wellington dioceses while a successor was found for Christchurch.

'I'm not feeling anxious at all. I have a sense that this what I have been asked to do and trust that I am here because the Holy Spirit wants me here.'

Archbishop Paul is a very tall and cheerful Marist priest and – apart from the late Bishop Max Takuiria Mariu who was auxiliary bishop of Hamilton and New Zealand's first Māori bishop – he was the first Marist bishop of a diocese since Archbishop Thomas O'Shea was made coadjutor archbishop of Wellington more than 100 years ago.

"We are on this journey together and we desperately need each other."

Born and raised in Hawke's Bay, he was educated at St Joseph's primary school and St John's College in Hastings before entering Mount St Mary's Seminary in Greenmeadows. Most of his priestly life was involved in

education. His teaching career took him to Pompallier College, Hato Pāora College, St Bede's College and St Patrick's College Wellington where he was rector for six years. He was appointed assistant provincial for the Society of Mary before going to Rome as the Society's general bursar. With a reputation for decisiveness, he was appointed bishop of Christchurch in 2017 and Coadjutor Archbishop of Wellington in 2021.

Archbishop Paul is now, presumably, in Wellington to stay. He is about to become very familiar to us. As he writes in his first letter to the archdiocese, 'I have been called to play my part in the life of the archdiocese for the next 19 years, God willing.'

When asked what his priorities are, his first response is the spiritual renewal of the diocese.

'If we are going to have a life of faith, we have to fall in love with Christ. All the other things flow out of that. Mass on Sunday will never be enough to maintain a spiritual life. If we are not in love with Jesus Christ, we won't be motivated to build the Christian community or be a proclaimer of the Good News to others.'

'I want us to be people who know how to pray, who spend time in prayer with God each day, not just an hour on Sunday.'

In the diocese we need to provide lots of different ways for people to experience prayer, he says.

'There's no one size fits all. Some people like eucharistic adoration, for others it's Lectio Divina or Taizé prayer. We have to help people

to learn to pray so that its actually an encounter with Christ. Our moral life as Christians, our commitment to social justice, all of that comes out of our relationship with Christ.'

At the same time he would like to see a focus on the intellectual side of our faith, so people understand better what it is we believe.

'One of the great things about Catholicism is its intellectual rigour. I hope we will be able to provide new opportunities for education in faith in our schools and parishes and diocese. We need to ask ourselves "what can we do to achieve this, what might we need to let go of to make this a priority?"'

Spiritual renewal and a deeper understanding of our faith are vital to sustaining our faith communities and preaching the Good News to the society we live in, says Archbishop Paul.

'Our sacramental practice has diminished and we have to help people to discover that again, and to learn how to pray so that it's actually an encounter with Christ.'

Leadership style

In the leadership roles he has had in Catholic education and as a bishop, Archbishop Paul has developed a reputation for being decisive and ready to tackle difficult issues. So what can we expect here in the Wellington archdiocese?

'I am really conscious that I have been called to lead. I want to know what people are thinking but I also know what the Church teaches and is asking of us too. So it's not just a pick'n'mix of the bits I like and the bits I

don't like. One of the things I really like about the Church is that it places the ideal before us constantly. That's what we strive for and often we miss but we get up and keep striving. It's bigger than "what Paul Martin thinks". It's very beautiful in its entirety.

'We are on this journey together and we desperately need each other. As a society we are suffering from a breakdown in community living. We are very individualistic. It doesn't come naturally as it did in the past. That's part of the craving and that's why Church as community is really important.'

"Mass on Sunday will never be enough to maintain a spiritual life."

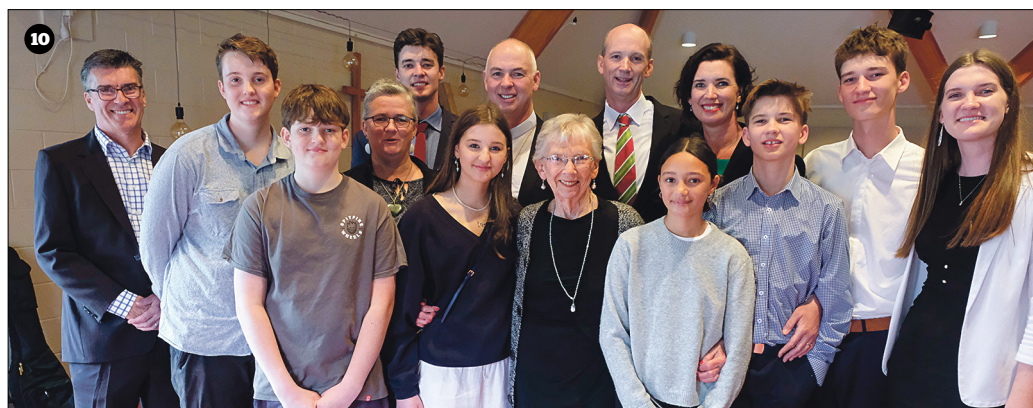
And what will a synodal church look like? What changes can we expect? His short answer is we don't know yet.

'I would be surprised if it doesn't mean a shift in the way we do things. But what is that actually going to mean in practice? We don't know that yet. I'm going to the Synod in Rome in October and it's going to be very interesting to be part of that.'

'The synodal process is exciting but also quite challenging because Church structures in the past have been quite clear whereas this will take a while to work through. My concern with the process to date is whether it has raised people's expectations beyond what was ever intended. I don't know that it was supposed to be a whole review of morals

Martin SM DD as Archbishop of Wellington

Wellington, Saturday 17 June 2023



Installation of our new Archbishop

Archbishop Paul Martin sm was installed as Archbishop of Wellington in a very inclusive Mass on Saturday 17 June at St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral in Karori.

The gathering of hundreds included bishops, clergy, Archbishop Paul's family members, tanagata whenua, distinguished guests, friends and people representing different groups in the life of the Archdiocese.

A Mihi Whakatau was given by Matt Ammunson-Fyall.

Fr Chris Martin sm gave a Mihi Whakahoki – a speech of reply.

Archbishop Paul was principal celebrant with the Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand His Excellency Novatus Rugambwa and concelebrating Bishops: Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin; Michael Gielen, Bishop of Christchurch; Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Auckland; and Colin Campbell, Emeritus Bishop of Dunedin.

In his main homily, Archbishop Paul said it was a blessed bonus the Installation coincided with the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

'Mary is a living example of what love looks like,' he said. 'A woman of deep love too for God and for us. I do feel blessed to be taking up this calling as Archbishop of Wellington on this day, under the mantle of the immaculate heart of Mary, as I begin this vocation of service to the Church of the Archdiocese of Wellington.'

'My hope is that through this I will grow in my own holiness and closeness to God along with all the people who I have the privilege of serving.'

In a post-communion homily and thanks to everyone who helped on his road to the archbishop's chair, Archbishop Martin said the Church doesn't exist in some ethereal domain without bodies and people who have lives with all the joys and sorrows that make it up.

'This is what I am looking forward to, working with you all for the future of our Church in the archdiocese and indeed for Aotearoa New Zealand. We are living in challenging times, but the Good News is still that, and I have great trust in God at work in our world, and through each one of us.'

Following the Installation Mass, everyone was invited to join Archbishop Paul for refreshments at the Baptist Church Hall in Karori.

and doctrine and Church practice. The synod itself is taking two sessions over two years to thrash it out. Even then it may still be a work in process.'

Priest role critical

One thing Archbishop Paul is clear about is the need to continue to have priests at the centre of the sacramental life of parishes, in as much as that is possible.

'If you think it is important to be able to have the sacraments available to people, and I do, there is a critical number of priests you need to make that happen. It doesn't necessarily mean we need the same number of priests as we have had in the past. But there is a critical number and people of faith want to celebrate the eucharist, be able to go to reconciliation and have a Church funeral. These things are at the heart of people's faith.'

'I think a community without a priest is a much lesser community than one with a priest. The key for me is to have a priest in each community and if we can't do that then we need to put in place other forms to help the community to get going but that is less desirable.'

'Having said that, I am all for establishing pastoral teams and leadership teams within the parish – with the priest as part of that – working together in a way that allows us to fulfil the mission of the Church.'

The shortage of priests may mean we need to rely more on priests from overseas but he notes 'our history is full of priests who have

come from overseas – French, Irish, Dutch.'

'An important part of it is to help priests who come here to understand our culture. We have to be understanding of the realities they face and embrace the fact that we are a very multicultural church now in New Zealand. Our new migrant Catholic communities are a wonderful gift to us as a community.'

It's a good thing the Archbishop is up for a challenge. I remember interviewing him previously when he extolled the virtues of doing a good day's work and going home tired. To wind down, he likes biking, doing crosswords and sudoku and listening to podcasts. *Friday Night Comedy* on BBC4 and *The Economist's The Intelligence* are among his favourites.

He is realistic about the fact that it is a challenging time to be in a leadership role.

'You can't please everybody all the time. If you could, you wouldn't actually do anything. You do have to be a bit thick-skinned. If you know you have taken good advice and you make a decision, well that's it. I rarely lie awake at night.'

The joy in the role lies in setting up things to help people do well, he says.

'I want to support priests to do well, help our parishes and schools flourish. That gives me energy. It concerns me that we have fewer people available, fewer resources to do things than in the past but I don't want to wind down. I want us to wind up.'

1. The Most Reverend Archbishop Paul Martin SM DD.
2. The Cross of the Good Shepherd leads the Procession of the Clergy.
3. Archbishop Paul Martin was the principal celebrant.
4. Clergy assemble before processing into Mass.
5. Mana Whenua sing a waiata.
6. Archbishop Paul with members of the congregation.
7. Prayers of the Faithful.
8. Fr Craig Butler, Local Administrator, Diocese of Palmerston North and Bishop of Christchurch Michael Gielen.
9. Archbishop Paul cuts his Installation cake.
10. Archbishop Paul surrounded by members of his family.

Photos: Bernie Velasco; Annette Scullion/WelCom

Young Catholics

Pope's World Youth Day's schedule announced

The Holy See Press Office has released Pope Francis' schedule, on 6 June, for the 2023 World Youth Day, which will take place from 1 to 6 August 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal.

Over 400,000 young people have registered to take part in the event. In a video message released early June, the Holy Father said the desire of these young people to travel to the Portuguese capital later this year fills him with joy.

It will be the fourth World Youth Day which Pope Francis will preside over, having previously done so in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2013; Krakow, Poland, in 2016; and Panama City, Panama, in 2019.

World Youth Day in Lisbon will

be the 37th, and was originally scheduled to take place in the Portuguese capital in 2022, but was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For this year's WYD motto, Pope Francis has chosen a passage from Luke's Gospel: 'Mary arose and went with haste' (Lk 1:39), which opens the account of the Visitation, when Mary visits

her cousin Elizabeth following the angel's announcement to the Blessed Mother that she would be the mother of the Son of God.

While he is in Portugal, the Pope will visit the Shrine of Fatima. It will be the second time as Pope that he will visit the Marian pilgrimage site, the destination of millions of pilgrims every year.

In Fatima, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three Portuguese children slightly more than 100 years ago, in what was then a poor farming village.

Source: Vatican News



Popular youth worker commissioned

Sue Seconi

Parishioners of the Catholic Parish of Whanganui – Te Parihi Katorika Ki Whanganui were invited by parish priest Fr Craig Butler, at Sunday Eucharist on 14 May, to extend their right hands as Rain [Lorraine] Forrest was commissioned as a youth minister.

Appointed chaplain to Cullinane College two months prior, Rain brings to both of her appointments years of experience working amongst young people.

Rain shifted to Whanganui at the beginning of this year from the New Plymouth Pastoral Area to be closer to significant people in her life. 'It was time for a change and

I've always like Whanganui as a city and its climate,' she said.

Born in Auckland and raised and educated in Wellington, Rain says she has always felt called to work amongst young people. She gained a Youth Worker Community Studies diploma through Praxis and qualified as an early childhood educator.

Skilled in facilitation and event organisation, Rain brings passion, enthusiasm and creativity to her ministry as she works towards laying young people's foundations of self-worth and security.

Rain is also part of the Life Teen Aotearoa organising team, which supports parishes using the Life Teen resources locally and plans Life Teen Summer Camp



Rain Forrest, Catholic youth minister in Whanganui and chaplain at Cullinane College, brings passion, enthusiasm and creativity to her ministry.

Photo: Sue Seconi

Aotearoa annually. Life Teen is an international movement in the Catholic Church whose mission is to lead teens closer to Christ.

National recognition for student leadership

Dedication to protecting the environment has seen Lauren Harkness, a Year 12 student at Sacred Heart College Napier, named as 2023 Leader of the Year by the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award.

As part of its 60th anniversary, the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award celebrated five 'exceptional participants' from around the country with a Youth Week Award: Volunteer; Adventurer; Kaitiaki; Creative of the Year; and the 2023 Leader of the Year.

Lauren is one of the leaders of Sacred Heart College's 'Environment' group and has been leading it since Year 9. Last year she was one of two representatives who led the group to win gold at the Hawke's Bay Secondary Schools Environmental Challenge for a project to eliminate pests and increase biodiversity at her kura. This year, they plan to engage the whole kura in environmental awareness through inter-house challenges.



Principal Maria Neville-Foster with Year 12 student and 2023 Leader of the Year Award recipient Lauren Harkness.

Photo: Supplied

Lauren says she is proud to receive the award. As part of her award, Plant Hawke's Bay donated a native tree to be planted at Sacred Heart College in honour of Lauren's mahi.

'I love that it's going to be planted at school because one of the projects of Enviro-nation is that we

are trying to get more native trees around school.'

Principal Maria Neville-Foster says they are all very proud of Lauren. 'It is a wonderful achievement. Lauren is a fantastic role model to all our students.'

Young diocesan pilgrims set for WYD

Nick Wilson

World Youth Day is one of the biggest gatherings of young people on the planet and was dreamed into reality by St Pope John Paul II. A number of young New Zealand Catholics will be making a pilgrimage to WYD in Lisbon, Portugal, in August to join with other young Catholics from around the world.

The Aotearoa New Zealand World Youth Pilgrimage is being organised by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Council for Young People. In June, pilgrims from across the Diocese of Palmerston North gathered at Te Rau Aroha – The Diocesan Centre over a weekend, to get to know one another in preparation for their big trip in August.

Our diocese's pilgrims are from Dannevirke, Whanganui, Palmerston North, Ohakune, Hastings and the Pohangina Valley.

Some are seasoned travellers. For others, this will be their first time to Europe. The weekend gathering

was an opportunity to scrutinise the pilgrimage itinerary, which will also take in significant religious sites such as Lourdes, Fatima, Fourvière and Le Puy, as well as relics and saints' sites, including the heart of St Vincent de Paul and the resting places of St Catherine Labouré and St Thomas Aquinas. Health and safety considerations and other preparations for travelling in a large group of about 130 people were also examined.

There is huge excitement among our pilgrims. They will be hosted in one of Portugal's 17 dioceses for catechesis and cultural experience and their pilgrimage will culminate at the WYD Mass with Pope Francis on 6 August.

Our pilgrims are set with new friends, information and tips for a successful and prayerful pilgrimage and a St Christopher medal to wear while they are travelling.

We look forward to their safe return where we hope this experience will have invigorated their faith for Spirit-led service to our local church, and to hearing about their prayerful adventures.



World Youth Day, held on a different continent every three years, is one of the largest gatherings for young people in the world.

World Youth Day was established by St Pope John Paul II in 1985. The week-long celebration usually attracts hundreds of thousands of young people.

The event is typically held on a different continent every three years, with the presence of the pope. The Vatican previously announced World Youth Day would be postponed by one year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lisbon, the capital and largest city in Portugal, is about 120 kilometres from Fatima, one of the most visited Marian pilgrimage sites in the world, where the Virgin

Mary appeared to three shepherd children in 1917.

The theme of Lisbon's World Youth Day, which will take place 1-6 August is, 'Mary arose and went with haste.'

In May, Pope Francis sent a video message to the teens and young adults preparing to attend this year's World Youth Day.

'To participate in WYD is something beautiful,' the Pope said. 'Prepare yourselves with that enthusiasm. Put hope in that. Have hope because one grows a lot at an event like WYD.'

Wellington celebration for World Youth Day

Young people in the Wellington Archdiocese are invited to join a celebration for World Youth Day on Sunday 6 August, from 1pm-8pm at Bishop Viard College, Porirua. The celebrations will begin with Worship from 1pm, with Mass at 1.45pm celebrated by Archbishop Paul Martin sm, followed by events, speakers, workshops and a Youth Rally.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

During the month of August 2023

Pope Francis' intention is: *for World Youth Day.*

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Rangatahi Katorika

PM's science teacher of the year makes science fun!

Dr Doug Walker, Head of Science at St Patrick's College, Wellington, has won Te Puiaki Kaiwhakaako Pūtaiao – the 2022 Prime Minister's Science Teacher of the Year Prize, valued at \$150,000.

His was one of five prizes, announced in May, awarded to top emerging and established researchers, science communicators and educators. Doug, who is President of New Zealand Association of Science Educators, won the award for building a large online student following of his experiments and NCEA exam paper tutorials and establishing a network of teachers providing online classes for akonga throughout Aotearoa.

Mike Savali, St Pat's Tumuaki –Rector, congratulated Doug on receiving the prize. 'I would like to congratulate Doug on behalf of our kura on this incredible achievement. Doug's passion for teaching science and his enthusiasm for sharing his love of science and making it

real for his students is undeniable. Doug has also developed a number of NCEA webinars and YouTube science demonstration videos, which have supported the teaching and learning for students and teachers both regionally and nationally.

'The prize comes with \$150,000 and Doug is hoping to use it to enable St Patrick's teachers to travel to learn from other kura, and to support students that might be lacking financial means to get involved in science trips or competitions.

'Congratulations Doug and thank you for keeping the faith and doing the mahi.'

Doug graduated with a BSc in Biology with first class honours at the University of Paisley, Scotland, before going on to graduate with a Masters of Education in Science from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

His teaching approach is varied and fun. It has seen increasing



Dr Douglas Walker and his students in his lab.

Photo: Supplied

numbers of pupils continuing with science during his 11 years at St Pat's.

'It is great to see a lot more akonga (students) pursuing science and getting excited by it,' he said.

When he noticed that many lower achieving students at his school were dropping science from year 11, he made changes. He introduced new general science subjects and a pathway to study

and gain UE science in 2017. That involved developing a new general science course.

He also collaborates with other organisations such as Wellington Zoo, Te Papa and NIWA. This way he brings science out of the classroom and into real life.

Hands-on experiments, exciting demonstrations and getting students involved in making

predictions are the cornerstones of his science teaching philosophy.

He also inspires students to engage with science beyond the classroom, leading field trips, promoting public lectures and competitions, bringing scientists into the classroom and visiting scientists and science educators outside of the classroom also.

As president of the New Zealand Association of Science Educators, he has built a large following for his online videos. These showcase explosive experiments and NCEA exam paper tutorials.

He said making science hands on with practical experiments and a little competition helped to engage students.

'I get a real kick out of developing new demonstrations in my spare time and building toys that will help engage students with their learning.'

Source: pmscienceprizes.org.nz

St Pat's Town shines at Big Sing

Noah Jefferson
Year 13 student

The annual Big Sing Regional festival is always a highlight for our St Patrick's College, Kilbirnie, choir 'Con Anima'. This year the overall standard of the other college choirs in attendance was the best we had seen in some time.

Held on Thursday 8 June at the Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington, the day as a whole was super enjoyable for all members of our choir, especially after we had performed our set in the afternoon competitive session. We were the last choir out of the 32 choirs in the Wellington region to compete and the overall feedback was that we ended the session on a high note!

After Thursday night's Gala Concert, *Con Anima* was presented

with the Festival Cup. This award is presented to a choir 'which best represents the Spirit of the Festival through its performance, behaviour and attitude'. It was a tremendous honour to be presented with this cup and now our focus turns to 26 June, when choirs who have qualified for the Big Sing National Finale will be announced.

This experience would not have been possible without the tremendous support of our musical director, Mr Roger Powdrell, whose hard work and dedication often go unnoticed by many. There are few directors who dedicate themselves to excellence like Mr Powdrell, and we thank him for pushing us to be better, and to sing 'with spirit'.

The Big Sing Finale 2023 will take place at Auckland Town Hall from Friday 25 to Sunday 27 August.



First Holy Communions for Shannon

First Holy Communion was made by a group of children at St Joseph's Church amidst a busy few weeks of celebration at the small Eucharistic community at Shannon. There were two Baptisms on Easter Sunday, the First Holy Communion Mass the following Sunday, then the 60th Jubilee on the Second Sunday of Easter. Pictured with the eight children is Nellie McKenzie (l) who prepared the children and Mons David Bell.

Photo: Supplied



St Pat's Town's *Con Anima* performs on stage at the Michael Fowler Centre for the Big Sing Wellington regionals under the musical direction of Mr Roger Powdrell. They won the Festival Cup for best 'Spirit of the Festival through performance, behaviour and attitude'.

Photo: Rey Non

Pātaka kai - sharing food with community

Nā tō rourou, nā taki routou ka ora ai te iwi. With your basket and my basket we sustain people.

St Brendan's School in Heretaunga, Upper Hutt, is an Enviro School on a journey of learning about how to improve and give back to the school and church community.

The kura has a small group of senior students who lead the enviro projects at the school supported by classroom teacher Mrs Pullan.

The students have recently built a 'Kai shelf' to share fresh produce and food with their local community.

Starting back in Term 3 last year, their enviro-led project was supported by Katy Evans and Ray Sando, two adults in the community who taught the students basic

carpentry skills.

A plan was drawn up and a trip organised to Mitre 10 to purchase materials. The shelf was built and painted one Friday at lunchtime.

'We invited our parish priest Fr Tony Kearns to visit and give a special blessing on the Kai shelf before placing it outside our school,' said Mrs Pullan.

'The Kai shelf is a place where our community can bring fresh produce and food to share and take what they need from it. The shelf is placed alongside the school fence, where the community can access it.'

This quote from Pope Francis sums up the new school project Mrs Pullan says.

'Every time we approach a person with charity, with love, we restore his

dignity. The dignity of Christ, who comes with our gesture of charity.'



Students at St Brendan School's built this Kai shelf to share food and swap fresh produce among the local community. Photo: Supplied

Cathedral corner:

A cathedral is a strong statement of faith



Fr James Lyons, Priest of the archdiocese.

A cathedral in today's city is that city's question mark!

What do I mean?

Such a building announces the presence of 'otherness' – a reminder that there are questions we cannot adequately answer, mysteries we cannot fully penetrate.

A cathedral is a strong statement of faith but also a troubling sign that spotlights one of life's primary realities: light can be as blinding with its brightness as much as deep darkness can block our ability to see.

A cathedral, in its structure and layout, challenges modern construction thinking concerning motivation, purpose and use of space. Its overall appearance, often especially the interior, can

pull the mind into an out-of-body dimension where the non-physical is all but tangible and the human spirit seems at home.

Cathedrals can be dwarfed and easily missed in modern cities. But they are there. Present. They may appear silent, seemingly irrelevant, yet their very presence, usually on very central, if no longer dominant sites, is confronting for their invitation to consider something other than the here-and-now.

Even when a cathedral did dominate a city skyline, it did not exist for itself. Those who recognised its sacred nature and gathered to worship within, were sent out to be its voice by the witness of their lives.

When the mystery of faith is translated into personal witness, cathedrals and all churches become fully alive.

Communist countries turned their churches into museums but, even then, couldn't silence the Word. Many are now reopened as places of worship.

Was the reason they didn't destroy these churches because they

were too much a part of the culture? Perhaps, subconsciously, there was a need to be reminded that mystery could not be denied expression.

Wellington's Sacred Heart Cathedral has been without a worshipping community for nearly five years. When closed for earthquake strengthening in 2018, St Teresa's Church in Karori was named as the Pro-Cathedral and the bishop's chair transferred there.

Homecoming still awaits us and funding remains an issue. Despite generous support from parishioners, other members of the archdiocese and people who respect Sacred Heart Cathedral for its heritage and cultural value, there remains a shortfall of over a million dollars.

If you have yet to donate, or are able to give just a little more, please do so as soon as possible. You will enable our cathedral to renew its presence as a pointer to the questions that challenge all of us: What is life about? Why am I here? What difference can I make? What is after life?



The top of St Stephen's Basilica in Budapest, Hungary.



Inside St Michael's Cathedral, Rome, Italy.



Florence's Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore, Italy.



Celebration of Mass inside Wellington's Sacred Heart Cathedral before it was closed for restoration.



Outside Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, as people arrive for evening concert, 2017. Photos: WelCom/File

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)

Fire in Palmerston North Cathedral

A deliberately lit fire in Palmerston North's Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, 27 April, could have been much worse if not for the quick thinking and actions of three people present who were able to douse the fire before it took hold and spread further.

Palmerston North Police said a 34-year-old man was arrested and charged with arson. He appeared in the Palmerston North District Court on 1 May and was given interim name suppression.

Physical damage to the Day Chapel is described as minor. Only the presider's chair and a table used in the celebration of Mass were destroyed, said Fr Joe Grayland, Cathedral parish priest.

'The altar is damaged at one end, and the carpet in the area is also fire and water damaged,' he said. 'The fire was out within 15 minutes but could have been much worse. The fire brigade inspector said they were minutes away from losing control.'

While the damage is minor, the smoke and ash damage means there is a problem with the air quality in the cathedral, and, on the advice of fire and insurance assessors, the cathedral is closed until it is cleaned and the air inside is deemed safe to breathe.

Fr Grayland said the smoke and ash had gone all the way to the organ at the other end of the church and out into the gathering area. Insurance assessors' have determined scaffolding is needed to clean the church's interior, and a special machine that sucks air out of the building is required to remove the smell of smoke.

As well as cleaning and repairing the Day Chapel, the smoke damage also means that all the vestments and linen must also be cleaned.

Meanwhile, Sunday Masses are being shared between Our Lady of Lourdes and St Mary's churches, while weekday Masses are taking place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Other prayer services are either in the diocesan board room or the cathedral presbytery.

in a recent parish update Fr Grayland advised, 'Initial estimates of the time needed to clean and

reinstate the cathedral have been complicated by insurance claims in other parts of the country due to weather events. I think we need to prepare ourselves for several more weeks of celebrating Sunday Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Mary's Ruahine St.'

Source: Kotahi Ano parish updates



Quick thinking by three people prevented a fire in the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit spreading.

Photo: Supplied



Fr Joe Grayland hopes once the front of the church has been cleaned, weekday services will be held in the Cathedral Gathering Room.

Photo: WelCom

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Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary - 17 June

Oh God, who prepared a fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit in the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, graciously grant that through her intercession we may be a worthy temple of your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

‘Love your neighbour’ on social media

A Vatican pastoral reflection urges people of faith to promote Christian values, not divisions on social media.

Catholics should make an ‘examination of conscience’ about how they use social media, how they allow it to influence them and about the opportunities it provides them to share the Gospel, build community and care for others, says the Vatican Dicastery for Communication.

The Dicastery for Communication has released a pastoral reflection on engagement with social media, including recommendations for how to better ‘love your neighbour’ online.

The 20-page text, *‘Towards Full Presence: A Pastoral Reflection on Engagement with Social Media’*, published on 29 May 2023, addresses the challenges Christians face in using social media.

Topics covered in the pastoral reflection include information overload, constant scrolling, not giving others one’s full attention, being an ‘influencer’, witnessing to Christ, ‘digital detox’, the need for silence, intentional listening, and building community in a fragmented world.

“One significant cognitive challenge of digital culture is the loss of our ability to think deeply and purposefully.”

‘One significant cognitive challenge of digital culture is the loss of our ability to think deeply and purposefully,’ it warns. ‘We scan the surface and remain in the shallows, instead of deeply pondering realities.’

The text is ‘not meant to be precise “guidelines” for pastoral ministry,’ the dicastery clarified, but seeks to promote a common reflection on how to foster

meaningful and caring relationships on social media.

The Vatican’s pastoral reflection posits that social media’s constant demand for people’s attention ‘is similar to the process through which any temptation enters into the human heart and draws our attention away from the only word that is really meaningful and life-giving, the Word of God’.

‘Different websites, applications, and platforms are programmed to prey on our human desire for acknowledgment, and they are constantly fighting for people’s attention. Attention itself has become the most valuable asset and commodity,’ it says.

Hooked on digital stimulation

‘Instead of focusing on one issue at a time, our continuous partial attention rapidly passes from one topic to the other. In our ‘always on’ condition, we face the temptation to post instantly since we are physiologically hooked on digital stimulation, always wanting more

content in endless scrolling and frustrated by any lack of updates.’

The text highlights the need for silence and for schools, families, and communities to carve out times for people to detach from digital devices.

It warns that space for ‘deliberate listening, attentiveness, and discernment of the truth is becoming rare.’

‘Without silence and the space to think slowly, deeply, and



Panelists pose for a photo after presenting *‘Towards Full Presence. A Pastoral Reflection on Engagement with Social Media’*, a document from the Vatican Dicastery for Communication, 29 May, 2023, at the Vatican press office. Pictured (l-r): Franciscan Sr Veronica Donatello, director of the Italian bishops’ office for people with disabilities; Msgr Lucio A Ruiz, secretary of the dicastery; Paolo Ruffini, prefect of the dicastery; and Xavière Missionary Sr Nathalie Becquart, undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, a member of the dicastery.

Photo: Cindy Wooden/CNS

purposefully, we risk losing not only cognitive capacities but also the depth of our interactions, both human and divine.’

Social media pitfalls

The document raises red flags about ‘pitfalls to avoid’ with social media, such as aggressive and negative speech shared under the ‘cloak of pseudonymity’.

‘Along the “digital highways” many people are hurt by division and hatred. We cannot ignore it. We cannot be just silent passers-by. In order to humanise digital environments, we must not forget those who are “left behind”. We can only see what is going on if we look from the perspective of the wounded man in the parable of the Good Samaritan,’ it says.

The text notes how algorithms’ content personalisation can reinforce people’s own opinions without exposure to other ideas, which at times can lead to ‘encouraging extreme behaviours.’

It also raises concerns about how social media companies treat people as commodities whose ‘profiles and data are sold.’ The text underlines that social media ‘is not free: We are paying with minutes of our attention and bytes of our data.’

The text adds: ‘Increasing emphasis on the distribution and trade of knowledge, data, and information has generated a paradox: In a society where information

plays such an essential role, it is increasingly difficult to verify sources and the accuracy of the information that circulates digitally.’

The text highlights how ‘every Christian should be aware of his or her potential influence, no matter how many followers he or she has.’

‘Our social media presence usually focuses on spreading information. Along these lines, presenting ideas, teachings, thoughts, spiritual reflections, and the like on social media needs to be faithful to the Christian tradition,’ it says.

It recommends that Christians should take care to be ‘reflective not reactive on social media’ to ensure that the way one treats others online is in itself a witness.

‘We should all be careful not to fall into the digital traps hidden in content that is intentionally designed to sow conflict among users by causing outrage or emotional reactions,’ it says. ‘We must be mindful of posting and sharing content that can cause misunderstanding, exacerbate division, incite conflict, and deepen prejudices.’

One question the text encourages Christians to reflect on is whether their social media posts are pursuing ‘followers’ for themselves or for Christ.

‘What does it mean to be a witness? The Greek word for witness is “martyr”, and it is safe to say that some of the most powerful

‘Christian influencers’ have been martyrs,’ it says.

It urges people to remember that ‘there were no “likes” at all and almost no “followers” at the moment of the biggest manifestation of the glory of God! Every human measurement of “success” is relativised by the logic of the Gospel.’

‘While martyrdom is the ultimate sign of Christian witness, every Christian is called to sacrifice himself or herself: Christian living is a vocation that consumes our very existence by offering ourselves, soul and body, to become a space for the communication of God’s love, a sign pointing toward the Son of God.’

‘It is in this sense that we better understand the words of the great John the Baptist, the first witness of Christ: “He must increase; I must decrease” (Jn 3:30). Like the Forerunner, who urged his disciples to follow Christ, we too are not pursuing “followers” for ourselves, but for Christ. We can spread the Gospel only by forging a communion that unites us in Christ. We do this by following Jesus’ example of interacting with others.’

Sources: CNA News, Catholic News Service

You can read the document in full on the Vatican website at: tinyurl.com/Towards-Full-Presence



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Catholics Thinking

Protecting our children against measles

Staff of the Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics - Te Kupenga

There is growing concern in Aotearoa-New Zealand about low rates of childhood immunisations against diseases such as measles, mumps and rubella. As reported in *The New Zealand Herald* in February 2023: 'As of December [2022], 82 per cent of 2-year-olds were up to date with their immunisations, down from 91 per cent before the pandemic. For Māori children, the rate is just 66 per cent. Coverage of 90 to 95 per cent is needed for herd immunity.*'

The potential for a new measles outbreak was highlighted recently by a male traveller to Aotearoa-New Zealand testing positive for measles, the first case of the highly infectious case being detected since 2019 when an outbreak grew to 2200 cases and also spread to Samoa where it killed 83 people, 87 per cent of them children under 5 years of age. The following article provides an update on the disease and information on the measles vaccination.

What is measles?

Measles is an extremely infectious disease which spreads quickly through water droplets coughed or sneezed into the air. It can cause rare but serious complications such as encephalitis (which can result in brain damage), a blood-clotting disorder, and inflammation in the lungs, heart, kidneys or liver. Infection during pregnancy increases the risk of miscarriage and premature birth. Critically, the measles virus attacks the white blood cells that protect us against other infections, wiping out our immunity to diseases we have already had. Before a measles vaccine was available, it is estimated that measles was the direct or indirect cause of over half of all childhood deaths from infectious diseases.

How is measles treated?

There is no effective treatment for measles. Medical care can only help to manage severe complications.

What is the measles vaccine against administered?

The measles vaccine is combined with two other vaccines which protect against mumps and rubella. Commonly referred to as the 'MMR vaccines', they contain live measles, mumps and rubella viruses that have been weakened (attenuated). These weakened viruses stimulate the immune system to produce an immune response to and immune memory of each of the viruses. The three vaccines are combined in one shot to increase immunisation coverage.

How effective is the vaccine against measles?

The vaccine is regarded as highly effective. Over the last 20 years, vaccination has reduced the number of global deaths from measles. Since 1990, it is estimated that over one in five of all child deaths averted have been due to the measles vaccination.

"Since 1990, it is estimated that over one in five of all child deaths averted have been due to the measles vaccination."

How safe is the vaccine?

While no vaccine is 100 per cent completely risk-free, the MMR vaccine has a strong safety record. Evidence from decades of research and monitoring indicates that vaccinating against a disease is much safer than not vaccinating. However, it should not be given to anyone who is immunosuppressed or pregnant.

As with any vaccine, there is a very small chance of a severe allergic reaction known as anaphylaxis, which causes life-threatening breathing and/or circulation problems and must be treated with adrenaline.

In the 1990s, a study was published in *The Lancet* medical journal that claimed there was a link between MMR vaccines and the development of autism. However, no link was ever found despite further extensive research. More importantly, the study in



The MMR vaccine has a strong safety record and is regarded as a highly effective protection against measles. Photo: UNICEF Pacific

question has now been discredited and retracted, and the authors found guilty of ethical violations, scientific misrepresentation, and deliberate fraud.

Is there a link there between abortion and the vaccine?

There is a very distant connection between abortion and the rubella component of the vaccine, which is grown on human cell lines started, many generations ago, from a

fetus legally aborted for reasons unrelated to medical research. The cell lines involved today are not the original cells taken from the foetus. They are made up of 'descendant cells' called 'immortal cell lines' because they are artificially created and maintained in a state of continual replication under laboratory conditions.

In a note on vaccines published in 2017, the Pontifical Academy for Life stated that use of the MMR vaccine does not, in itself, signify

moral endorsement of the vaccine production process or complicity with abortion. This means the MMR vaccine can be used in good conscience in the interests of protecting unborn children and the health of others.

This article is a summary of a longer one featured in Issue 69 of the Nathaniel Report. The full article can be read online at: tinyurl.com/TKP-Measles-Vaccine

If you have any questions about the immunisation of your children, please talk to your GP or Plunket Nurse.

**NZ Herald article link in full: tinyurl.com/nzmeaslescase*

TE KUPENGA
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The Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics is an agency of the New Zealand Catholic Bishop's Conference of Aotearoa New Zealand. The agency is responsible for research and advocacy on bioethical issues. The Nathaniel Centre is formally affiliated with Te Kupenga - Catholic Leadership Institute.



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A Litany Revisited

Fr James Lyons continues his exploration of the titles of Mary, Mother of Jesus, as prayed in the 1531 Litany of Loreto. In this issue: Mary as 'Spiritual Vessel' and 'Vessel of Honour'.

Spiritual vessel

The English language uses the word 'vessel' to describe anything that holds something else. A ship, a cup, a glass, a shell... are all vessels, shaped by design to be carriers.

A very similar word of Celtic origin, 'vassal', describes 'a humble servant', also known as 'a retainer'. In Feudal times, a vassal was a holder of land on behalf of a Lord or Master.

It is easy to see how these two words might be applied to Mary of Nazareth. She was a humble servant (vassal), and this *handmaid of the Lord* carried in her womb (vessel) the yet-to-be-born, Jesus.

Mary is indeed a 'Spiritual Vessel'. It is not only her womb that does the carrying. Her whole being was given over to God. The Word of God took flesh within Mary and her life, in company with Joseph and Jesus, witnesses God's presence in every human situation and circumstance.

St Paul uses 'vessel' to illustrate how fragile life is. In his second letter to the Corinthians, he writes we are *earthenware vessels*, or *clay*

jars [see 2 Cor.4:7], holding the treasure that is our faith in Jesus. Without the power of God working in us, we are nothing. Mary, too, is human, fragile, but she is imbued with the Holy Spirit, holiness personified, her flesh becoming the very means by which God enters our world.

"But we hold this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." - 2 Corinthians 4:7

The Litany of Loreto honours Mary as a *Spiritual Vessel*, recognising both the holiness of her life and that of the gift she carried in her womb.

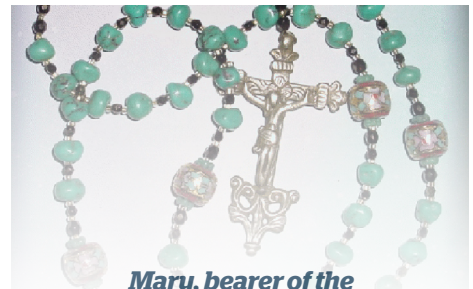
To ask this *Spiritual Vessel* to pray for us, is to seek to follow Mary's example of sanctity.

- Mary saw herself as a handmaid of the Lord, a person who put service of others ahead of self-service. Her time and energy were lovingly and trustingly folded into

God's plan for her. She pondered deeply and her discernment led her life to its wondrous fulfilment. She can guide the life of each person to the same conclusion, appropriate to each one.

- Whatever you are designed to carry has a spiritual dimension. You can discover this through Mary whose spirituality was shaped by the family, social and religious environment of her time. Her example of faithfulness can help each of us know ourselves in relationship to God, to one another and to the whole of creation, and find joy in the work of service.
- Each of us is already a spiritual vessel. Made in the image of God, our DNA is essentially holy! Ponder the mystery surrounding the Annunciation, the Visitation and the Motherhood of Mary, all components of her vessel, and let her guide you to see the makeup of your own.

In honouring Mary as *Spiritual Vessel*, you honour the gift that is your own life.



**Mary, bearer of the Word that gives life.
Cup of blessing for our world.
Wine for our time.
You carried Jesus with a mother's love.
You poured him out as the gift that serves.
O blessed among women.**

**Hold me in the vessel of your love and in the mantel of your care.
Mould me through the Word you carry to be a vessel for your service.**

Mary, Spiritual Vessel, pray for us.

Vessel of honour

He aint heavy he's my brother! Words from a song that supported peace marches and human rights demonstrations in the 1960s and 1970s, reminding us that no burden is too heavy when it's carried with respect and love. It's especially light when you can identify with your load as though you were carrying yourself.

At another level the carrier is seen as inferior to what is being carried, yet finds honour in the task. Slaves bore emperors on bejeweled thrones. Until the 1960s, popes were carried in liturgical processions on a chair (Sedia) that symbolised their authority as the Successor of Peter. Even today victorious teams are carried shoulder high by proud and grateful supporters. It is considered a great honour to be chosen to carry the Olympic torch, or to lead a country's representatives into an international arena carrying that nation's flag.

The National Honours are bestowed on certain individuals for exceptional achievement or service, for life-risking courage, for selfless, voluntary involvement in their community. Such an 'Honour', usually in the form of an insignia and/or title, is a universal mark of respect and gratefulness.

With the title *Vessel of Honour*, Mary of Nazareth is seen as fulfilling a role that is both commonplace and of unique privilege. She became a 'Vessel' with her 'Yes', her 'Fiat' that

said, *whatever you ask of me I will do!* We are all vessels, carrying within us gifts of life and faith; we also carry the seeds of new life and the Spirit enabling faith to flourish. We share this in common with Mary of Nazareth.

She is a *Vessel of Honour* like all mothers; carrying her child even beyond the life of the child. The time in her womb is the beginning



Like each of us Mary is also a vessel of clay, created and moulded in God's image. As St Paul tells us, we are earthenware vessels, carrying a priceless treasure. [2 Corinthians 4:7]

of an unending journey of bearing and serving.

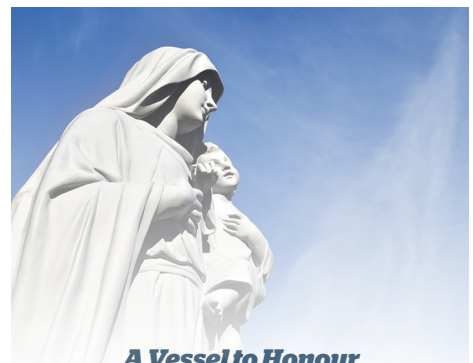
No matter how precious the vessel, it is the contents – like the wine in the cup – that give pleasure to the moment of rejoicing. Planes and boats and trains only exist because of the cargo and passengers they carry, just as an empty cup is valued only for what it can carry and the Olympic torch is nothing without the flame. A flagbearer without the flag is just one of the crowd.

For Mary, her child is Jesus – Saviour. He is God's gift of love to the world, and Mary is the one who carries him for God, for us. It is her privilege, unique and glorious, to be the cup from which is poured life-giving blood – for the life of the world.

Mary is indeed a *Vessel of Honour* par excellence! Of all vessels she is the most blessed. Honoured in the person she carries, honoured too in her call to carry, and deeply aware of the honour: *The Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is God's name.* [Luke 1:46-55]

Like each of us Mary is also a vessel of clay, created and moulded in God's image. As St Paul tells us, *we are earthenware vessels, carrying a priceless treasure.* [2 Corinthians 4:7]

But Mary is the perfect image, carrying the world's redemption in her womb, and its life in her hands.



A Vessel to Honour

My body, my vessel, carrying my life, my hopes, my dreams, my memories, my one and only self.

Unaware of the privilege you hold my very essence, made to measure, companioning my faith.

A vessel to honour with grateful reverence, and gentle love imaging humble service.

May I know the sacredness the binding force of love and the rich treasure that defines me.

Mary, Vessel of Honour, pray for us.



MEN'S MEETINGS

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


Wellington Loaves & Fishes Hall, Hill Street Thursday 20 July, 7:30pm Contact: David 027 447 7280	Palmerston North St Mary's Church foyer, Ruahine Street Tuesday 18 July, 7:00pm Contact: John 027 688 7750
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Prayers for peace in the Holy Land



Members of the local Justice for Palestine group organised to present a petition on the steps of Parliament urging the government recognise Palestine statehood.

Photo: Justice for Palestine

Pope Francis has made an appeal for peace in the Holy Land, praying that a recent ceasefire between Israel and militants in the Gaza Strip might hold. Speaking at the Regina Coeli prayer on Sunday, 14 May, Pope Francis lamented the loss of life in the armed exchanges between Israelis and Palestinians, in which innocent people have lost their lives, including women and children. The Pope expressed his hopes the recent ceasefire might hold, and that both sides might lay down their weapons.

'May weapons be silenced, because arms can never obtain security and stability. Rather, they only succeed in destroying any hope for peace.'

Gerard Burns

In July 2022, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops expressed their anguish over the continuing turmoil and violence in the Holy Land and suggested various ways in which we in New Zealand could support a just and lasting solution to the conflict there.

One of the proposed ways to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is that of the 'two-state solution' involving each country living side-by-side in peace and security. It is the solution proposed by the United Nations in 1947 and ever since. It has been supported by the Holy See (the technical name for the diocese

of Rome, and the pope's role in international diplomacy) as part of a way to resolving the conflict.

The two-state solution is becoming ever more difficult because of Israel's expansion through the walls, settlements and roads being built on Palestinian land. However the two-state proposal is still the main solution on offer and it requires two internationally recognised states to be achieved. Israel has had diplomatic recognition for a long time, but the Palestinian state was only formally recognised at the UN in 2012. Like the Holy See the Palestinian state has 'non-member observer' status at this stage.

New Zealand foreign policy officially supports the two-state solution but has never officially recognised Palestine as a state (unlike the Holy See). Therefore, a local Palestinian support group (Justice for Palestine), decided to petition the New Zealand government to formally recognise Palestine as a state. I attended the handing over of the petition at Parliament in mid-May in response to the New Zealand bishops' position on the issues. The 1500-signature petition was received by Green MP Golriz Gharaman.

Gospel Reading: Sunday 25 June 2023

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – MATTHEW 10:26-33

²⁶ Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops.

²⁸ 'Do not be afraid of those

who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear those rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. ²⁹ Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. ³⁰ Why, every hair on your head has been counted. ³¹ So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more

than hundreds of sparrows.

³² 'So those who declare themselves for me in the presence of others, I will declare myself for them in the presence of my Father in heaven. ³³ But the one who disowns me in the presence of others, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

Commentary on Matthew 10:26-33

Fr Alan Roberts

I consider this gospel text relevant to those interested in renewal, particularly in regard to parish or Church.

Renewal implies change and we must never forget that. So first of all I must ask how do I cope with change? Do I want to change, or, do I even believe that change might be necessary?

In each of the three paragraphs of the text above we find much wisdom in this regard. So note what Jesus teaches:

Do not be afraid! If you are really serious about renewal, let go of fear, open up to the Spirit and be prepared to be guided. Imagine if a parish leadership team followed this pattern. Imagine if you followed this pattern. Prayer is implied in this paragraph, the quiet prayer of listening though. God's pathway ahead you will find in your heart and in gently listening to one

another. Then, when all is clear you will have something to say to others. That is what you proclaim from the rooftops!

Trust. This is what you need when you meet the critics. In our country, persecution comes in very subtle ways: people who just don't want to know, or don't want to make any change. You are not likely to end up in prison for your beliefs, but you might lose a few friends. Lack of vision in our congregations will do far more damage than a military power coming in!

Own what you believe! You have to be convinced when proclaiming the gospel. The conviction will grow out of your prayer and sharing with others. Look for the signs of hope. This will help when you observe those who are just walking away. Don't be afraid of questions such as: what is happening to our Church? Will our parish see another generation? When we consider these questions we realise the

wisdom of what Jesus advises in the text above. Remember though, this is God's work. Even two or three faithful disciples can bring about the desired renewal. The change needed may be in me first of all!

Alan Roberts is currently parish priest of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Stratford. He is on loan from the Archdiocese of Wellington and Pukekaraka Parish in Ōtaki.

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DATES AND EVENTS – WHAT’S ON

If you would like your event listed free on this page, please email an outline to welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz including name of event, date, time, location and contact.

Friday 16 June

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Solemnity

Saturday 17 June

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Memorial

Sunday 18 June

Day of Prayer for Refugees and Migrants

Thursday 29 June

Ss Peter and Paul, Solemnity

Sunday 2 July

Peter's Pence Collection

Sunday 9 July

Day of Prayer for Seafarers

Friday 23 June

The St Thomas More Society annual Mass and dinner. (See this page.)

Saturday 22 July

St Mary Magdalene, Feast

Monday 31 July

Ignatius of Loyola, Memorial

Sunday 23 July 2023

- > Climate Change Workshop – 1.30pm-4pm, St Anne's Church Newtown. (See this page).
- > World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly

Tuesday 27 June

Women's friendship project – connecting local Wellington women with women from a former refugee background. (See this page).

Thursday 3 August

Safeguarding formation day – 9.30am-4.30pm, St Mary of the Angels Parish Hall, Boulcott St, Wellington Central. Contact Sr Catherine Jones smsm, Safeguarding Adviser, Archdiocese of Wellington, c.jones@wn.catholic.org.nz or 021 195 8307 for information.

Sunday 6 August

World Youth Day – Wellington celebration, 1pm – 8pm. Bishop Viard College, Porirua. Join for Worship from 1pm, Mass from 1.45pm celebrated by Archbishop Paul Martin sm. Followed by events, speakers, workshops and a Youth Rally.

Saturday 9–Sunday 10 September

65th jubilee celebrations – St James' Catholic School, 304 Albert St, Palmerston North invites all past and present students, staff, families, and supporters to celebrate this occasion. Register your interest by emailing office@stjamescatholic.school.nz with your details.

Friday 13–Sunday 14 October

Centenary celebrations – St Anthony's Catholic School, Seatoun, Wellington, are gearing up to celebrate 100 years, and invite all past and present students, staff, families and supporters to celebrate this occasion. Please register by completing the registration form online via tinyurl.com/St-Anthony-Seatoun-Centenary or on the St Anthony's School Centenary Facebook Page. Please email centenary@stants.school.nz for more information or contact Julie O'Brien on 021 377 192. Accommodation is reserved at Brentwood Hotel on a first in first served basis.

Friday 13–Sunday 14 October

125 years Jubilee – St Joseph's Catholic Church, 32 Allardice St, Dannevirke, are celebrating 125 years of St Joseph's Parish throughout 2023. A special Jubilee Mass and luncheon are on Saturday 14 and Mass Sunday 15 October. All past and present parishioners, their families, and supporters are invited to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Please register your interest by emailing stjodvke@xtra.co.nz with your details.

Caritas YCC Gold Coin Day

YCC Day is the day when Caritas combines with Catholic schools across New Zealand to stand together in solidarity for a good cause and raise funds and awareness for a selected focus school.

This year Caritas is supporting Oecusse School in Timor-Leste for YCC Day, Friday 30 June 2023.

'New Zealand Catholic schools can help Oecusse School while having a fun, non-uniform day for a gold coin,' says Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand. 'Our bishops are excited about the event and about us all joining in solidarity with the school. Your gold coin will help

provide working toilets for Oecusse School, which has more than 800 students and no working toilets. It's in great need of support to repair and replace broken, unsanitary toilet bowls; repair handwashing stations in the toilet facilities; and fix water pipes for supplying water to different areas in the school.

'Join us on Friday, 30 June and show them you care.'

Here is a YouTube message from the bishops asking you to join Caritas YCC Day: youtube.com/watch?v=exgqaSCG4Kk

Here is the Caritas YCC page: caritas.org.nz/ycc-day



Oecusse School in Timor-Leste.

Photo: Caritas

Climate change workshop, Newtown

St Mary of the Angels/Wellington South Parish Social Justice Group have organised a climate change workshop on Sunday 23 July, 1.30pm-4pm, at St Anne's Church Newtown. This will be an opportunity to listen, reflect and discuss actions we as individuals and a community can take. Peter Lang from Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand will present a short talk on the effects of climate change in the Pacific. We will participate in a reflection on the spirituality of climate change, including references to Pope Francis in *Laudato si'* and the Synod Assembly's call for us to participate in formation, to give prophetic witness and to act as stewards of creation as *kaitiaki*. Contact John Feeney at ph (04) 386-4956 for more information. All are welcome.

St Thomas More Society Mass and dinner

The St Thomas More Society annual Mass and dinner, Friday 23 June, is an opportunity for members of the Wellington legal community and law students, to gather and celebrate the feast day of the Patron Saint of lawyers. Mass will take place at 5.30pm in the temporary Connolly Hall Chapel, entrance and parking from Guildford Terrace. Drinks and dinner will follow at the Wellington Club for those who wish to book this. The guest speaker is Brendan Malone, a Christchurch based media consultant and bioethics educator. Please email thomasmoresoc@gmail.com if you are interested in attending and for more information.



Women's friendship project

Are you a locally connected Wellington woman who would like to get to know and be a friend with a woman from a former refugee background? Catholic Social Services and Changemakers Refugee Forum are growing the Women's Friendship Project with the next induction night on Tuesday 27 June 2023.

Pairs of women will then be introduced to each other and meet up once a week or fortnight for the next six months to share local experiences such as walks, gardening, and café and market visits. Every two months you are



invited to attend a larger group gathering of everyone involved in the project. Often a natural friendship continues beyond the project.

If you are interested, please contact Deirdre at d.meskill@wn.catholic.org.nz or call 021 2213944.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION CONVENTION IS GOING AHEAD IN 2024!

The New Zealand Catholic Education Convention is going ahead next year from Wednesday 19 June – Friday 21 June. Planning is underway with further information to come on speakers, seminars and more. The Convention will be held at TSB Arena in Wellington. nzceo.org.nz

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O'Shea Shield 2023 - Catholic community at its best

Te Hira o O'Shea 2023 - te mutunga mai o ngā Hapori Katorika

Sacred Heart College Napier was set to host the O'Shea Shield 2023, however, following Cyclone Gabrielle and the devastating floods impacting Hawke's Bay in February, St Mary's College Wellington at short notice offered to host the event instead. **Kathy Ryan** and her team stepped in to ensure the traditions of the debating competition were maintained and O'Shea Shield 2023 was held over the weekend of 6 and 7 May at St Mary's College and supporting venues in Wellington.

Kathy Ryan
HOD English, Senior Dean
St Mary's College, Wellington

'Community in Mission' was this year's O'Shea Shield theme. The mission? How to ensure the 75-year-old competition could continue in the face of disruptions and disaster. Like so many faith-based and other events, the O'Shea Shield has taken some knocks in recent years. After the competition was cancelled in 2020 and 2022 due to Covid-19, the 17 Catholic secondary schools in the Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses were looking forward to the return of the competition in Hawke's Bay this year. And then Cyclone Gabrielle hit. With many families, schools and businesses severely affected, it quickly became obvious hosting and running the event was an impossibility for Sacred Heart College, Napier, even though they had already made a good start in planning and running the competition.

The Catholic community quickly came to the fore with St Mary's College Tumuaki, Andrew Murray, offering to pick up hosting the competition at short notice, in the knowledge another year of cancellation may have made the competition difficult to continue in the future. Aided by Wellington's St Patrick's College and St Catherine's College, St Mary's took up the challenge and the O'Shea Shield competition was successfully held over the weekend of 6 and 7 May.

Around 270 talented young people gathered at St Mary's on a wet Saturday morning, beginning with a pōwhiri and a warm and enthusiastic welcome from Kaumātua Jim Moriarty. Starting with the debating event, the students talked up a storm, the sun came out, and the competition began in earnest. Saturday's events included the Debating, Junior Prepared Speech, Te Reo Māori Scripture Reading, Scripture Reading in English, and Oratory.

On Saturday evening the always popular Religious Drama event was held

at St Patrick's College in the magnificent O'Shea Performing Arts Centre, organised and run by St Patrick's College. The students entertained the large crowd with five-minute interpretations of a range of biblical quotations. St Peter's College, Palmerston North, won followed by St Patrick's College, Wellington.

Religious Questions and Impromptu Speeches provided more entertainment on Sunday morning, along with games, including an oversized 'Connect-4' set up on the oval lawn outside Gabriel Hall at St Mary's College. New friendships and camaraderie among the students were clearly apparent.

After the competitions had concluded on Sunday morning, everybody gathered for the Mass and prizegiving in St Paul's Anglican Cathedral at the foot of Hill St, in the absence of the Catholic Cathedral's availability. Archbishop Paul Martin sm celebrated Mass with Fr Matthew Crawford sm and Fr Ron Bennett. Co-hosted by St Mary's College and St Catherine's College, a joint music group led the singing.

'Community in mission' was seen throughout the weekend - being able to use St Paul's Cathedral, spaces willingly provided at the Mercy Conference Centre and Sacred Heart Cathedral's Connolly Hall for some competitions, St Catherine's College providing accommodation for Chanel College, and as part of the Offertory, students providing non-perishable food for St Vincent de Paul. Running the O'Shea Shield competition was truly a community effort.

Next year, the O'Shea Shield will be co-hosted in Hawke's Bay by Sacred Heart College, Napier, and St Joseph's Māori Girls' College. Everyone is looking forward to making the trip to Napier and supporting the people in the Hawke's Bay community.

O'Shea Shield 2023 was jointly won overall by Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt, and St Patrick's College, Silverstream, closely followed by St Mary's College, Wellington.



1. Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses' 17 Catholic college students gather with their banners to enter St Paul's Cathedral for the celebratory Mass. 2. Students from Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt and St Patrick's College, Wellington, share the cup for college's as joint winners. 3. St Patrick's College Silverstream and Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt celebrate as joint winners of the O'Shea Shield 2023 competition. 4. Archbishop Paul Martin sm celebrated Mass and spoke to the hundreds of students, teaching staff and supporters at St Paul's Cathedral. 5. Sacred Heart College Napier and St Joseph's Māori Girls' College Napier students hold the Jubilee Plaque as representatives for their co-hosting colleges of the 2024 O'Shea Shield competition.

Photos: Mark Hurley/St Mary's College, Wellington; Annette Scullion/WelCom

O'Shea Shield 2023 results

St Catherine's Cup for Best Negative Debating Team	Conor Chesney, Michael Cash, Leo Moss - St Patrick's College, Wellington.
St Mary's Cup for Best Affirmative Debating Team	Emily Ung, Isabella Cash, Hannah Sema - St Mary's College, Wellington.
Te Kaipānui i te Kupu Cup for Scripture Reading in Te Reo Māori - Section A	Hana Burkitt - St Catherine's College, Wellington; and Te Aiokura Kenrick Paniora - St Peter's College, Palmerston North.
Te Kaipānui i te Kupu Cup for Scripture Reading in Te Reo Māori - Section B	Toko Turipa - St John's College, Hastings.
George Family Cup for Junior Prepared Speech - Section A	Te Akau Scott - St Joseph's Māori Girls' College, Napier.
Vaughan Family Cup for Junior Prepared Speech - Section B	Rohan Botha - St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt.
Cardinal McKeefry Cup for Oratory - Section A	Celestine Kaio - St Mary's College, Wellington.
Bishop Cullinane Cup for Oratory - Section B	Maui Winitana-Patelesio - St Patrick's College, Silverstream.
Catherine McAuley Cup for Scripture Reading - Section A	Aaron Moe - St Patrick's College, Wellington; and Bella Penman - Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt.
St Peter Chanel Cup for Scripture Reading - Section B	Jayden Mathers - St John's College, Hastings; and Irina Vlasov, St Joseph's Māori Girls' College, Napier.

Bishop Owen Snedden Cup for Drama - 1st place	Aria Lyons, Ivy Cao, Elise d'Arbois Jubainville, Joshua Leamy-King, Denz Shinoy - St Peter's College, Palmerston North.
The Society of Mary Cup for Drama - 2nd place	Noah Jefferson, Joseph Asfaw, Conor Chesney, Oliver Tull, Constantine Saunoa-Tasele - St Patrick's College, Wellington.
Sacred Heart Lower Hutt Jubilee Cup for Impromptu Speaking - Section A	Jonathan Bentley-Cribb - St Patrick's College, Silverstream.
Silverstream Cup for Impromptu Speaking - Section B	Lewis Collins - St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt.
Hibernian Cup for Religious Questions - Section A	Angelei Canete, Michaela Borja, Bianca Blanch - St Catherine's College, Wellington.
The Mercy Cup for Religious Questions - Section B	Jacob Werahia-Praat, Noah Greaney, Michael Brophy - St Patrick's College, Silverstream.
Jubilee Plaque - 2024 co-hosting	Sacred Heart College, Napier and St Joseph's Māori Girls' College - Napier.
Bishop Viard Memorial Trophy - Runners-up 2023	St Mary's College, Wellington.
O'Shea Shield - Joint Winners 2023	Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt and St Patrick's College, Silverstream.