



WelCom

NauMai

A newspaper for the Wellington and Palmerston North Catholic Dioceses

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FREE



New bishop for Diocese of Palmerston North

Pope Francis has appointed Fr John Adams from the Diocese of Christchurch as the new Catholic Bishop of Palmerston North.

The appointment was announced in Rome on 22 June 2023.

Ordained as a priest in 2003, Christchurch-born Bishop-elect Adams is the parish priest of St Peter Chanel Parish in North Canterbury. He is a trained teacher who has served as the Christchurch Diocese Vicar for Education since 2013 and the chair of the diocesan Council of Priests since 2015.

'I was initially surprised but then joyful to hear about the invitation to become the next Catholic Bishop of Palmerston North,' says Bishop-elect Adams.

'Whilst I am saddened that my very happy and fulfilled days in the Diocese of Christchurch will soon come to an end, I have experienced God's providence in my life enough to know the power of his grace is not limited by location. Surely, we now live in a time that urgently needs to hear the "good news" of the Gospel.

'To the people of the Palmerston North diocese, I want to say my prayers for you have already begun, and I am looking forward to living and sharing with you that same "good news".'

The President of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe, warmly welcomed the Pope's announcement.

'We are delighted with Fr John's appointment as the new Bishop of Palmerston North,' said Bishop Lowe. 'Bishop-elect John is a loved parish priest who will bring a rich experience of pastoral and spiritual leadership to his new diocese. We look forward to sharing with the people of the diocese in the ordination of their new shepherd.'

Fr Craig Butler, Local Administrator for the Diocese of Palmerston North said, 'We express our gratitude and warmest congratulations to Bishop-elect John as he takes on this new role. Please pray for John during this time of preparation, leading up to his ordination.'



John Lewis Adams was born in Christchurch in 1963. He attended Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland. He also holds a Diploma in Education from Christchurch Technical College, a Bachelor of Science in Geography from Canterbury University and an Advanced Diploma in Theology in Sydney.

Bishop-elect Adams was ordained a priest in 2003. He has been an assistant priest, parish priest and tertiary chaplain. He has also been a member of the Christchurch Diocesan Clergy Trust Fund and a member of the Council of Priests. In 2013 he was appointed the diocese's Episcopal Vicar of Education and became a member of the College of Consultors in 2014.

Of himself he has written: 'I didn't for a minute think I would ever be a priest, but I now know this vocation to be a rare adventure and I'm grateful to be living it. My interests are varied; I enjoy a game of golf and used to play serious table tennis. My 25 years in the Cathedral Choir instilled in me a great love for music. My first degree was in Geography, and I retain a love of the outdoors and love to relax out in the wilderness when I can. I am also a trained teacher and still feel at home in the classroom. As Vicar for Education, I'm still heavily involved and have a strong interest in Catholic schooling.'

In a letter to the people of the Palmerston North Diocese in July, Bishop-elect Adams wrote:

'I am very happy to be soon living among the people of the Manawatu and I'm excited to be sharing with you the great adventure of faith. I assure you of my desire to be a good and holy bishop as we together work to make the person of Jesus Christ known and loved by the people of our region.

'I will take the opportunity to visit the parishes of our diocese as quickly as I can over the weeks and months following my ordination. During that time, I hope to spend as much time as possible listening to your experiences of the grace of God in your life

and the hopes and fears you have for the Church in our diocese.

'I please ask of you your prayers as I finish my time in Christchurch and prepare to shift north to join you all.'

Bishop-elect Adams' appointment fills a vacancy created by the resignation of Bishop Charles Drennan as Bishop of Palmerston North in 2019.

The Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Rev John Adams as Bishop of the Diocese of Palmerston North will take place at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, at 11am, on Saturday, 30 September 2023.

Sources: NZCBC; pndiocese.org.nz

Young pilgrims on experience of a lifetime

Annette Scullion

Some 120 young pilgrims from Aotearoa New Zealand have embarked on an experience of a lifetime travelling together to Lisbon, Portugal, to attend World Youth Day 2023. There, they will join over 400,000 young people from all over the world to take part in the 37th WYD, from 1-6 August 2023.

Pope Francis will visit Portugal and will preside over the official Mass in Lisbon on 6 August. The Holy Father has presided over

four World Youth Days: in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2013; Krakow, Poland, in 2016; and Panama City, Panama, in 2019.

The Aotearoa New Zealand World Youth Day Pilgrimage has been organised by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Council for Young People. The council has representatives from each diocese working in youth ministry.

Young Church Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Wellington Louise Lloyd is one of the council members and is travelling with 23 other pilgrims representing the archdiocese. Eleven pilgrims are travelling



WYD pilgrims Jasmine Breheny-Anderson of Palmerston North and sisters Parahi and Kalala Fapiano of Dannevirke at Lourdes, France, on a candle-lit procession and rosary.

Photo: Isaac Harris

» Continued on p 4

From the editor

Annette Scullion

Tēnā koutou

Greetings to all.

The Diocese of Palmerston North has been blessed with the news of the appointment by Pope Francis of a new bishop. WelCom joins in congratulating bishop-elect John Adams from the Diocese of Christchurch as the new Catholic Bishop of Palmerston North.

We feature this good news on p1.

WelCom recently spoke to Bishop-elect Adams and asked him to share his some of his thoughts with our readers about his new appointment.

Bishop-elect Adams wrote, 'I am excited to be given the opportunity to live the great adventure of faith in the Palmerston North Diocese in the coming years. I believe the Catholic community has been given custodianship of "the greatest love story ever told..." and we have a solemn duty to tell others about this. I am particularly enthusiastic about the project of parish and diocesan renewal – a renewal that I believe will come from a new missionary impulse among us fuelled by the Holy Spirit.

'I hope to be resident in Palmerston North from the middle of September and I look

forward to getting to know the members of our diocesan community from then on.'

We look forward to getting to know Bishop-elect Adams too in the coming months and to his upcoming Episcopal Ordination and Installation as Bishop of the Diocese of Palmerston North on Saturday, 30 September.

Other news in this edition of WelCom includes commentary about the release the

Instrumentum laboris (Working Document), which will guide the work of the participants in the two-part General Assembly, to meet in Rome in October 2023 and in October 2024.

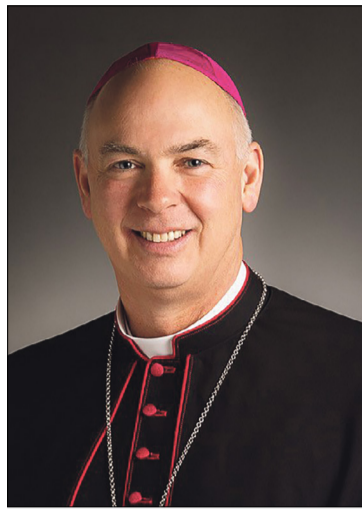
We also offer our congratulations to Br Peter Bray fms for the Papal recognition of his work in Education and as Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University over many years, p 5.

We also feature coverage of the Palmerston North Diocese Education Office recent faith leadership conference, p 20.

Please continue to share your news and stories with WelCom.

Ngā mihi

'What we feed ourselves with will shape who we become'



Archbishop Paul Martin SM
Archbishop of Wellington

Tena koutou katoa

This edition of WelCom celebrates the appointment of Bishop-elect John Adams of the Diocese of Christchurch. I join with all in the Archdiocese of Wellington and our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Palmerston North in giving thanks for this appointment. The history and connection of our two dioceses are deeply interwoven and I am delighted that the Holy Father has chosen Fr John to lead the diocese. I know Fr John from my time in Christchurch and he is a wise and pastoral priest who continues to strive to find ways of building up the faith community. Please pray for him as he prepares to take up this new role.

Currently I am celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation in many parishes. It is a wonderful Sacrament of the Holy Spirit and to see these young people coming

forward to be confirmed within their parish communities is very moving. What strikes me is that all of us are reminded in this liturgy of our own Confirmation. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are ours, the question is how much we are allowing them to grow and flourish in each one of us? They are not just passive elements of our spiritual life, they need to be used so as to develop in us and be fruitful. I encourage you to take some time to reflect for yourselves on the life of the Holy Spirit within your own faith journey, and what that may be asking of you.

"The gifts of the Holy Spirit are ours, the question is how much we are allowing them to grow and flourish in each one of us?"

When I was a seminarian one of our formators was a priest called Fr Joe Cahill. He was a wise man and he was constantly talking about the need for spiritual reading. Over time I have come to understand what he was talking about. What we feed ourselves with will shape who we become. My sense is that as Catholic people we aren't doing enough to feed ourselves in this way. Yet there are probably more ways to access spiritual books, articles, podcasts, clips on YouTube than ever before. I want to encourage us all to spend some more time listening to or reading spiritual material. It helps us to reflect on our lives, to understand what we believe, and to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to our hearts through these spiritual presenters. If we each ask ourselves 'how much

time do I spend each week doing this?', it might help us to prioritise a little more time than at present. If you aren't sure what would be good to read then start with the daily reflections on the scripture which can be found online or in parish bulletins etc or ask others what they are reading. [See recommended online readings below.]

Our Cathedral of the Sacred Heart campaign had a very welcome boost from the government recently with a \$2.2 million contribution. This leaves us with \$1.8 million to be raised to complete the project. This is a significant amount of money and I am very aware that many people are struggling at this time due to current financial circumstances. However, if you are in a position to make a contribution it would enable us to finish the project and be able to open the Cathedral again. It has been nearly five years since it was closed, and my hope is that the Cathedral will again be a centre for Catholic life in our archdiocese. Any amount would be very gratefully received and you will find the details for doing this within WelCom [p 14].

Yours in Christ
+Paul Martin SM

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
Confirmation is a wonderful Sacrament in which the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are bestowed upon us to be used and developed within our spiritual lives: Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence, Wonder and Awe.

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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

Deadline for September 2023 issue: Monday, 14 August 2023.

WelCom is published monthly and is available free at parishes and schools in the two dioceses.

Member of Australasian Catholic Press Association (ACPA).

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

RECOMMENDED ONLINE SPIRITUAL READINGS

- Word on Fire – Bishop Robert Baron: wordonfire.org
- Magnificat – online magazine: magnificat.net
- Creighton University Daily Scripture reflections: onlineministries.creighton.edu
- Catholic streaming service: formed.org
- Ascension Press – Catholic books and digital media: ascensionpress.com
- Fr Mike Schmitz – American priest, speaker, author, and podcaster.
- Catholic Online – online Catholic library: catholic.org
- Food for Faith – NZ resource: foodforfaith.org.nz
- Google: Catholic Spiritual reading resources
- Going Deeper Podcast – Evangelisation Brisbane Adult Formation Team: goingdeeperpodcast.buzzsprout.com



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Bishops urge NZ Catholics to study synod's working document

The country's Catholics are being urged to read the working document that will guide the Synod meeting in Rome in October and help to set the future direction of the Church.

The Vatican's Synod Secretariat published the *Instrumentum laboris* (Working Document) on 20 June 2023. The document, which calls for a welcoming Church that embraces diversity, will guide the work of the participants in the two-part General Assembly to meet in Rome in October 2023 and in October 2024.

Bishop of Auckland Stephen Lowe, President of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, says the *Instrumentum laboris* published is another step towards the future, not its final word.

'This working document is the product of the process of the Church listening to and hearing what the People of God have said during the parish, diocesan, national and continental stages of the Synod process, which Catholics here and around the world have been part of,' says Bishop Lowe.

He says *Instrumentum laboris* is a starting point for the two-stage XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, to be held in Rome in October 2023 and October 2024.

Priests and lay Catholics will also take part and have voting rights. In July, Pope Francis announced the names of those he had chosen from around the world to attend. From Aotearoa-New Zealand, Manuel Beazley (Vicar for Māori Auckland Diocese) and Fr Dennis Nacorda (Parish Priest, St Joseph Hāto Hōhepa Parish Levin) will attend with Archbishop of Wellington Paul Martin sm, who is the NZCBC General Secretary.

Cardinal Mario Grech, who heads the Synod General Secretariat, has also made it clear that the Synod's conclusions have not already been written and that *Instrumentum laboris* is a document of discernment that reflects the voices of the People of God from the previous stages of the Synod process.

Bishop Steve says the document an opportunity for people to continue the journey they have started, and an opportunity to involve those who have not taken part until now: 'It is a document that reflects the Holy Spirit speaking to people throughout the world. As such it is a document for the whole Church, and I invite everyone to prayerfully read and reflect on it, and to pray for the Synod's work over the next 18 months.'

A copy of *Instrumentum laboris*



"Instrumentum laboris is a document that reflects the Holy Spirit speaking to people throughout the world." - Bishop Steve Lowe

is available online at: tinyurl.com/Instrumentum-laboris

An FAQ and synthesis with information about the Working Document is available online at: tinyurl.com/Working-Documents-FAQ

» Highly anticipated Synod document released, p 16.

Oceania brings diversity to synod

The president of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania (FCBCO) says the 10 non-bishop members from the region chosen for the upcoming Synod of Bishops will help amplify the voice of the Catholic population.

Two non-bishop representatives from Aotearoa New Zealand are included – Manuel Beazley, Vicar for Māori Auckland Diocese, (in photo below, middle) and Fr Dennis Nacorda, parish priest, St Joseph Hāto Hōhepa Parish Levin, (right). They will attend the October Synod with Archbishop of Wellington Paul Martin sm (left).

Earlier this year, Pope Francis invited each of the seven regions of the world to nominate 20 people who have been involved in local initiatives for the Synod of Bishops for a synodal Church as possible additions to the synod's membership.

Pope Francis chose 10 members from each region from the list of nominees, seeking to create a cross-section of the Church in terms of age, sex, vocation and other demographic factors.

'There was no shortage of faithful and qualified people in Oceania who could bring their lived experience to the two sessions of the Synod of Bishops in October this year and October next year,' said Bishop Anthony Randazzo of Broken Bay, NSW, who was elected FCBCO president in February.

'Our region is one of the most diverse in the world, when you

consider the 20 or so nations in this corner of the globe. That diversity enriches the Church in Oceania and it will do so at the synod gatherings in Rome.'

The 10 Oceania non-bishop members appointed by Pope Francis are: Mr Manuel Beazley, New Zealand; Dr Trudy Dantis, Australia; Mr John Lochowiak, Australia; Fr Dennis Nacorda, New Zealand; Mrs Kelly Paget, Australia; Sr Mary Angela Perez rsm, Pacific; Fr Sijeesh Pullenkunnel, Syro-Malabar Eparchy; Dr Susan Sela, Pacific; Ms Grace Wrakia, Papua New Guinea/Solomon Islands; Professor Renee Kohler-Ryan, Australia.

Brief biographies on each of the members can be found at: tinyurl.com/Oceania-Bios

Those members will join the following bishop members from Oceania – chosen by their episcopal conferences – who will participate in the synod. Australia: Bishop Shane Mackinlay; Archbishop Patrick O'Regan; New Zealand: Archbishop Paul Martin sm; Papua New Guinea/Solomon Islands: Bishop Dariusz Kaluzam sf; CEPAC (Pacific): Bishop Paul Donoghue sm.

Bishop Randazzo, as president of the FCBCO, will also attend the Synod sessions along with other presidents of continental episcopal conferences.

Full details about the synod are online at: synod.va/en.html

Source: NZCBC



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- Congratulations to our College choir, Con Anima, who are one of 24 choirs invited to attend the Big Sing Finale in Auckland from 25-27 August.
- St Patrick's College will celebrate Mass for the Feast of the Assumption on Tuesday 16 August at 12.30pm in the O'Shea Performing Arts Centre.

The College looks forward with excitement to the completion at the end of this year of our new Chanel Learning Hub and Library.

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'Forgotten Fathers'

Suzanne O'Rourke

The first in a series of public events recognising the grief men experience after a pregnancy loss through abortion, was held in July at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Mt Victoria, Wellington.

The three-day event included workshops and talks about the lived experience men have as 'Forgotten Fathers'. Also included was an exhibition of memorial works created as part of the healing that some have found through Rachel's Vineyard Retreats and the Buttons Project.

According to Wendy Hill, counsellor and retreat coordinator for Rachel's Vineyard Retreats, the grief men experience after abortion is complex and can be the catalyst for destructive and controlling behaviours.

'We are well familiar with how the ending of a pregnancy can affect women. For men, however, an abortion loss is often experienced as a disenfranchised grief, expressed through violence, self-harm or anti-social activity. Men need to talk to other men about this,' Wendy said.

This sentiment is shared by Marina and Peter Young, co-founders of the Buttons Project, which offers a way for those wanting to acknowledge their pregnancy loss by sending a button to the project.

Some of the thousands of buttons received have been used to create artworks, several of which make up the exhibition.

It is a loss that Marina and Peter have a personal connection with. 'Sometimes people send in a letter with their button, sometimes a button will just arrive on its own. It's a privilege to be given a button and know you are holding something so very tender.'

On display for the first time outside of a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat setting, is the quilt to which those who have attended a retreat weekend have been able to add



Works from the exhibition for 'Forgotten Fathers' offer shared healing and hope.

acknowledgement of their own children.

The idea of being a 'Forgotten Father' may touch deep emotions, but the exhibition in particular offers an insight into healing and hope.

Supporting the work alongside Marina and Peter Young and Wendy Hill, is Christchurch-based Carolina Gnad of Dawnings Counselling Service. With over 20 years as a counsellor, Carolina has developed a range of resources for community and healthcare professionals to better understand the issues around pregnancy loss.

The exhibition and workshop event has been supported by a Wellington Archdiocese grant and is part of the work Rachel's Vineyard is undertaking with the general theme 'Walking with Love'.

The event and exhibition will be offered in Auckland in August and Christchurch in September and

open to the public, free of charge.

Auckland: 24, 25, 26 August; Windsor Park Baptist Centre, Mairangi Bay.

Christchurch: 28, 29, 30 September; Rangiora Baptist Church, Rangiora.

Times: Thurs 7pm-8.30pm, Fri 9.30am-4pm, Sat 10am-3pm.

For more information please contact:

- **Marina Young**, The Buttons Project, 027 655 6325, marina@buttonproject.org and buttonproject.org
- **Wendy Hill**, Rachel's Vineyard Retreats, 027 254 9222, info@rachelvineyard.org.nz and rachelvineyard.org.nz
- **Carolina Gnad**, Dawnings Counselling Service, dawnings.co.nz

Suzanne O'Rourke is New Zealand Site Leader for Rachel's Vineyard Retreats.

Cathedral fire repairs

Progress has been made cleaning and restoring the damaged areas to the interior of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit after the deliberately lit fire in April. The smoke and ash damage resulted in the closure of the cathedral for cleaning and repairs. Scaffolding for cleaning the church interior, and a machine to suck air out of the building to remove the smoke smell have been required. The Cathedral is expected to be ready for the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Rev John Adams as Bishop of the Diocese of Palmerston North on Saturday, 30 September.

New general manager for archdiocese

Reuben Norris has been appointed to replace John Prendergast as the new General Manager for the Archdiocese of Wellington. Reuben is from Perth and has worked for the archdioceses of Perth and Brisbane in their Catholic Education Departments. He will commence work with the archdiocese on 7 August. John Prendergast concluded his role on 7 July. He joined the archdiocese as General Manager in 2020 after transferring from Invercargill to Wellington to take up the role. He is moving to the Wairarapa to take up a new role as CEO of Trust House Ltd, a community-owned trust based in Masterton.

Royal Commission case study

The Royal Commission of Inquiry's case study report into abuse in the care of the Brothers of St John of God at Marylands, is expected to be released in early August. This case study is one of two the Commission is publishing, and the only one concerning a Catholic or faith-based organisation. The other was the Lake Alice report published last December. This Royal Commission is an independent inquiry into abuse in state care and in the care of faith-based institutions in Aotearoa New Zealand.

» Continued from p 1

from the Diocese of Palmerston North.

The New Zealand pilgrims, accompanied by Alex Bailey of Hamilton, Fr Michael Therese Scheerger csj of Christchurch and Samuel Brebner of Auckland, departed for Paris on 14 July to begin their European journey.

The group are having the most incredible experience says Nick Wilson, acting co-chair of the NZCBC Council for Young People.

'Their pilgrimage started in Paris, and they have been to the usual significant tourist sites as well as sites of special significance to the Church, including St Catherine Laboure Chapel, St Vincent de Paul Chapel, Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur, St Therese of Lisieux, Fourvière,

Lourdes, Ars and Fatima.'

The young people arrive in Portugal on 31 July to begin their 'Days in the Diocese' experience. Their pilgrimage culminates with the official World Youth Day Mass on 6 August with Pope Francis. They will arrive home from 9 August.

'It is magnificent to see the council's planning and hard work coming together in facilitating this experience of a lifetime for our young Catholics,' says Nick Wilson.

'We look forward to them sharing their experiences on their return and hearing about their prayerful adventures. We hope this encounter will have reinvigorated their energy and faith for Spirit-led service to our local church.'

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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

New Zealand's Br Peter Bray awarded high Papal honour

Taranaki-raised Br Peter Bray FSC EdD – Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University in the Holy Land since 2009 – has been awarded a high papal honour as he prepares to leave his ‘amazing’ and ‘challenging’ role at the end of this year.

Br Peter was presented with the Papal Cross of Honour – officially the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* (‘For the Church and the Pope’) – during a recent visit to Rome. It is one of the highest honours the Pope can bestow upon the laity and religious.

Br Peter, a brother of the Catholic De La Salle teaching congregation, describes his 15 years at Bethlehem University as an amazing blessing and by far the most difficult job of his career.

‘I count myself so blessed to have had the opportunity to be here and experience the wonder of God’s spirit at work among the young people here.’

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

Br Peter undertook a speaking tour of Aotearoa New Zealand in January and February this year,



Br Peter receiving the Papal Cross of Honour from Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, at the Vatican.

Photo: Supplied

invited by the Catholic bishops to talk about the lives and conditions of his students and ordinary Palestinians.

Before his appointment in Bethlehem, Br Peter was the Director and CEO of the Wellington Catholic Education Centre. His work as a teacher and education consultant has taken him around the world.

‘I was originally appointed as Vice Chancellor for five years,’ says Br Peter. ‘That extended to ten years, and then our Superior General in 2017 asked me to extend it to 15 years. However, people here have been listening to me for 15 years now and they need someone else to work with them! I am pleased, however, to be here for the 50th Jubilee celebrations on 1 October 2023,

and celebrate with the Palestinians the wonderful achievements of Bethlehem University.’

Br Peter says the complexity of the university, the context in which it exists, and the unpredictability of so much that happens, makes it a very challenging and difficult job.

‘However, I have never been in a place where it is so obvious that what we are doing is worthwhile.

To see secondary school students come onto campus and then watch them over four years grow into extraordinary young people who are confident, articulate, engaging, committed and resourceful is so inspiring for me. When I experience that with these young people, I can put up with all the other things that are part of being here!’

Br Peter has not yet considered what he will do next. He says he will be too busy preparing for the transition to the newly appointed Vice Chancellor, Br Hector Hernán Santos González, to think about the future until he leaves Bethlehem.

Br Hernán will be the Vice Chancellor Designate from his arrival in Bethlehem until he assumes full responsibility on 1 January 2024. Until then, Br Peter will work closely with Br Hernán to ensure a timely and smooth transition.

Br Peter says, ‘There is a poster at a retreat centre I have been to many times that has inspired me each time I have been there and I find it very appropriate now. It says: “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God!” This is what I am doing at present as I move towards the end of my time here.’

Sources: NZCBC; Bethlehem University

Bethlehem University new Vice Chancellor

Given that Bethlehem University is a joint venture with the Vatican, the Superior General of the De La Salle Brothers proposed to the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches that Br Hector Hernán Santos González, FSC, EdD, be the new Vice Chancellor. Br Hernán is from Paraguay and has taught in De La Salle and diocesan educational institutions in Paraguay and Argentina. The Dicastery did its required investigations and then nominated Br Hernán to the

Bethlehem University International Board of Regents, which in turn elected him as the ninth vice chancellor. He will be the Vice Chancellor Designate from his arrival in Bethlehem until he assumes full responsibility on 1 January 2024. Until then, Br Peter Bray will work closely with Br Hernán to ensure a timely and smooth transition.

Dr Robert Tabash, MD, Chair of Bethlehem University Board of Trustees said: ‘The Board of Trustees

is pleased to welcome Br Hernán to his new post as Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University, his new Lasallian home and to our beloved city of Bethlehem. We wish him Divine guidance and support in leading this great 50-year-old institution and we look forward to working closely with him for the benefit of the students and staff.’

Br Hernán holds a doctorate in Education from Iberoamerican University in Asuncion, Paraguay; a Master in Education and University

Didactics from American University in Asuncion, Paraguay; and a Master in Education and Educational Management from Iberoamerican University.

Source: Chancellor of Bethlehem University

Br Hector Hernán Santos González, who will replace Br Peter Bray as Bethlehem University Vice Chancellor from 1 January 2024. Photo: LinkedIn





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Pope announces 21 new cardinals

In a surprise announcement, Pope Francis announced that he will hold a consistory on 30 September 2023 to create 21 new cardinals, 18 of them electors with the right to vote in the next conclave.

This is Pope Francis' ninth consistory, which means he has held one almost every year. According to a precedent established by Pope Paul VI, the number should not exceed 120, but John Paul II, Benedict XVI and now Francis have, on various occasions, all exceeded that number in creating new cardinals. With these additions, Pope Francis will on 30 September have brought the total number of cardinals with the right to vote in a conclave to 137.

Announcing his ninth consistory, Francis said referring to the new cardinals to be: 'Where they come from expresses the universality of the Church, which continues to proclaim the merciful love of God to all people of the earth.' Moreover, he said, 'the insertion of the new cardinals in the Diocese of Rome, manifests the inseparable bond between the See of Peter and the local Churches spread throughout the world.'

The new cardinals will include three Africans, two Asians and three



Pope Francis creates new cardinals at a consistory in St Peter's Basilica on 5 October 2019.

Photo: Daniel Ibáñez/CNA

Latin Americans.

Before Francis made the announcement, the College of Cardinals had a total of 222 members, of whom 121 are electors – that means under the age of 80 with the right to vote in a conclave. By the time he holds the consistory on 30 September, the number of electors will have decreased to 119; but with the addition of 18 new electors, Pope Francis will have brought the total number of

cardinals with the right to vote in a conclave to 137.

Vatican statistics reveal of those 137 cardinal electors, nine have been created by John Paul II, 29 by Benedict XVI, and 99 will have been created by Francis. That means Francis will have created just over 72 per cent of the electors that could enter a conclave.

Source: America

Catholic universities urged to embrace AI

Catholic universities must not recoil from the daunting risks of artificial intelligence but become proactively involved in its ethical development, says the head of the Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education.

Catholic universities are obligated 'to a delicate exercise of responsibility' in the 'new historical era' represented by AI, said Cardinal José Tolentino de Mendonça, prefect of the dicastery. 'Universities and, even more so, universities that share the Church's mission, stand at a crossroads of cultural, scientific and social possibilities.'

"Catholic universities must... establish themselves as great laboratories of the future."

Quoting Pope Francis, he said, 'mere training in the correct use of new technologies will not prove sufficient' and that 'it is not enough to simply trust in the moral sense of researchers and developers of devices and algorithms,' signalling the need to develop 'algor-ethics'.

The cardinal spoke at the opening of a two-day conference in July titled *The Future of Catholic Universities in the AI Age*, organised by the Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities (SACRU),



hosted by The Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan.

'Catholic universities must indeed dialogue with the new, work unsparingly on current questions and issues, and establish themselves as great laboratories of the future,' he said, since they are 'expected not only to actively guard the noble memory of past days, but also to be the probes, and the cradles, of tomorrow'.

With an eye on the risks posed by widespread and unregulated artificial intelligence use, Cardinal Tolentino's dicastery has worked to bring tech-industry leaders to the Vatican to discuss the ethical development of AI. In January, Pope Francis met with AI pioneers from companies such as Microsoft and IBM and urged them to

ensure AI use does not propagate discriminatory practices.

SACRU is a network of eight Catholic Universities from five continents and coordinated by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. They are the Australian Catholic University, Boston College, Universitat Ramon Llull, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, Sophia University, Universidade Católica Portuguesa and Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. The eight universities are cooperating to promote global education for the Common Good and excellent interdisciplinary research.

Sources: OSV News; Vatican News

Now a seminarian

The little boy who managed to get past the crowd control barrier at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in 2013 to hug Pope Francis is now a seminarian preparing for the priesthood. On 26 July, 2013, Nathan de Brito, then nine years old, managed to get to the popemobile carrying Pope Francis through the streets of Rio de Janeiro. He then hugged the Holy Father and told him that he wanted to be a priest. Ten years later, Mr de Brito is in the preparatory seminary of the Archdiocese of Campo Grande, Brazil. For Mr de Brito, 'remembering that encounter is to always rekindle the flame of vocation.'



Pope Francis embraces Nathan during WYD.

Photo: CNA

No end in sight

Pope Francis has said there is no apparent end in sight to the Ukraine war as his peace envoy, Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, wrapped up three days of talks in Moscow. At the end of June, Cardinal held talks with Patriarch Kirill, the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church and had a separate meeting with Yuri Ushakov, an advisor to President Vladimir Putin. The Patriarch, a supporter of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the Cardinal discussed the importance of 'all the forces of the world uniting to prevent a major armed conflict.' The meeting in Moscow was the first between the Orthodox Patriarch and a papal representative since the beginning of the war.



Iraq youth festival symbol of hope

More than 1800 young Chaldean Christians from seven archdioceses and more than 60 parishes gathered in Ankawa in Iraq from 29 June to 1 July. The youth festival staged near Erbil in the Kurdish north of Iraq, included Eucharistic celebrations, confession, retreats, seminars, debates, catechesis and other forms of Christian education. Erbil became a safe haven for thousands of Christians fleeing persecution almost a decade ago when Islamic fundamentalists with the Islamic State occupied Mosul and overran dozens of Christian towns and villages in the Nineveh Plains.

Vietnam breakthrough

The Vietnamese government will allow the Vatican to appoint a resident representative in the communist country, following years of fraught diplomatic relationships between the two states. Relations between Hanoi and the Vatican dissolved when communist leaders took over Vietnam at the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. After the country's reunification, they placed restrictions on the Catholic Church and jailed several Catholic leaders who opposed the new government. Today, about seven per cent of the country's population of roughly 97 million people are Roman Catholic. The Vatican has proposed having a permanent representative in Vietnam for more than a decade. The two states reached an agreement in principle on the proposal in 2022.

30 per cent of church grounds for biodiversity

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference has urged parishes across Ireland to dedicate 30 per cent of their church grounds for biodiversity and pollinators so grounds can be enjoyed 'in perpetuity by the whole community.' The initiative aims to protect local biodiversity, raise awareness about global conservation efforts and emphasise the role of people of faith in safeguarding the environment. The move aligns with the international commitment made at COP15 to restore 30 per cent of land to nature.

Catholic Influencers Festival

The first world meeting of digital evangelisers and missionaries was held on 4 August at the Catholic Influencers Festival in Lisbon, Portugal. The event celebrated the missionary work carried out daily by Catholic influencers and digital missionaries from the five continents, who transmit the Gospel through their social media platforms. The festival was supported and sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication and sponsored by the Catholic Association of Propagandists (ACdP) and the Cristonautas Foundation.



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Church against cluster bombs

US Bishops' International Justice and Peace Chairman, Bishop David Malloy, has expressed public concern regarding President Joe Biden's decision to supply Ukraine with cluster bombs for use against Russian forces.

In a statement issued by the Peace Committee, Bishop Malloy highlighted the fact that numerous countries, including the Holy See, have ratified the International Convention on Cluster Munitions. This convention explicitly prohibits using, producing, transferring and stockpiling these armaments.

'More than 100 countries, including the Holy See, have signed the 2010 Convention on Cluster Munitions, which bans their use due to their indiscriminate nature and the risks they pose to civilian populations long after the cessation of hostilities,' writes Malloy.

He also noted that the United States and Russia have not signed the agreement, highlighting the urgent need for participation.

Bishop Malloy and his predecessors have consistently called on the US government to endorse both the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Mine Ban Treaty.

In July the Defence Department made an announcement regarding the provision of 'additional security assistance' to address Ukraine's critical security and defence requirements. The assistance includes the shipment of cluster bombs which are designed to explode above a target and release smaller submunitions that can cause substantial damage to personnel and military equipment.

Critics argue these bombs pose significant risks to civilian populations due to their wide



Unexploded military ordnance, recovered and disarmed in rural Laos. Photo: Getty Images

coverage area. Additionally, there is concern about the potential for unexploded ordnance remaining on battlefields, posing ongoing threats to civilians long after conflicts have ended.

Sources: US Catholic Bishops Conference, CNA

New direction for Doctrinal Office

In an unexpected and highly significant move, Pope Francis has appointed the Argentine theologian and archbishop Victor Manuel 'Tucho' Fernández as the new prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican has announced.

Archbishop Fernández, almost 61, will take up his new post in the middle of September. The prolific writer has been archbishop of La Plata, Argentina, since 2018. He has published more than 300 articles and books.

Pope Francis wrote a letter to the new prefect in which he told him, 'As prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, I entrust to you a task that I consider invaluable. It has as its main purpose to safeguard the teaching that comes from the faith "to give reasons for our hope, but not as an enemy who critiques and condemns." (Evangelii Gaudium, 271).

'The dicastery that you will preside over in other epochs came to use immoral methods. Those were times when more than promoting



Archbishop Victor Manuel 'Tucho' Fernández has been appointed the new prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

theological knowledge they chased after possible doctrinal errors. What I expect from you is something without doubt much different,' Pope Francis said.

The dicastery, previously a Vatican congregation, was long known as 'La Suprema' among Vatican offices. It is entrusted with Catholic doctrine and discipline. Historically, particularly during the Inquisition but also in the 20th century, the congregation had

a reputation for its free hand in censoring or silencing theologians, though under Francis its actions have been curtailed. The dicastery also oversees the majority of sex abuse cases referred to the Vatican, which today constitutes over 80 per cent of its work.

Archbishop Fernández is considered to be in harmony with the Pope at both the pastoral and theological levels. Pope Francis, who has known Fernández for decades, reportedly entrusted him with drafting his first apostolic exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium. The archbishop was also reputedly involved in the drafting of Amoris Laetitia, Pope Francis' 2016 apostolic exhortation on love in the family.

He is also believed to be the author behind the 2016 papal exhortation God is Love. That exhortation discussed enabling divorced Catholics who remarry in civil ceremonies to receive Communion.

Sources: America, Catholic News Agency

New prior for Taizé

Br Alois Löser, prior of the Taizé Community for the past nearly two decades, has announced he is stepping down as leader of the world-renowned ecumenical monastery in France that was founded by the late Brother Roger Schutz.

In a message on 23 July to the community, the 69-year-old prior – a German Catholic – said he has chosen Br Matthew Thorpe, a 58-year-old Anglican from England, as his successor.

'Eighteen years after having succeeded Br Roger, and as the world and the Church have changed so much over the last two decades, I feel the time has come for a brother who joined our community after me to take over my responsibility,' said Br Alois, who has been Prior of Taizé since 2005.

The announcement of the resignation, which will officially take place on 3 December, was completely unexpected since the post of prior is without a term limit. Br Roger was Taizé's prior from 1941 when he founded the community



Br Matthew Thorpe (l) will succeed Br Alois Löser (r) as Prior of the Taizé Community.

Photo: Marija Poklukar

until his tragic murder in 2005. 'I have been thinking about this for several years now, and I spoke to all the brothers about it two years ago so that they could initiate the reflection,' Br Alois told La Croix. 'I felt the need to bring the

community into a new stage of its existence. The Church and the world are changing so much that I wondered: What is the Gospel calling us to do today?' he explained.

Source: La Croix

Synod role for Australian women

Renee Kohler-Ryan says that as a lay theologian and mother of five, she was struck by the significance of her inclusion in the upcoming Synod of Bishops.

Professor Kohler-Ryan, national head of philosophy and theology from the University of Notre Dame Australia, was this month named as a non-bishop voting member of the synod.

She is one of 10 Oceania representatives who will join more than 360 cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and other lay men and women in having a vote at the synod.

'We've had laity in the professions, taking on key roles in Church governance, laity all along have been doing the absolutely

essential work in parishes and hospitals and schools, carrying out their apostolic mission,' Professor Kohler-Ryan said.

'But this moment of bringing the laity into Church decision-making processes is unique, and it now means the laity need to be quite aware not only that this is a momentous thing, but also of the responsibility that we hold to do what is right for Christ's Church.'

Australia will also have a number of women experts at the synod, including ACU academic Dr Sandie Cornish and synod methodology commission member, Adjunct Professor Susan Pascoe.

Source: CathNews Australia, The Catholic Weekly



Renee Kohler-Ryan (c) with Synod experts Sandie Cornish (l) and Susan Pascoe.

Photo: The Catholic Weekly

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For a confidential discussion about the role, contact the Chair, Denise Fox, on 027 6777169.

For an information pack or to apply for the role, email mercy@scanfam.nz

Applications close on Monday 14 August.

Continuing a worthwhile legacy

Lee Pepping

"Never see a need without doing something about it." – St Mary MacKillop

The Catholic Parish of Hastings runs an annual community project called 'Thermals for Children' that helps to keep local children warm during chilly winter months.

The project fundraises and donates to local schools hundreds of thermals and track pants bundles each winter.

Parishioners Mary and Peter Fama initiated Thermals for Children several years ago and it has grown over ensuing years.

Suzanne Rose and I form the committee that continues to operate this important legacy with financial and prayerful support from throughout the parish. The project sits under the Environmental, Social Justice group umbrella.

This year we raised more than \$26,000 to supply 1,391 children with merino or thermal tops and fleece track-pants across 30 schools in the region.

Due to the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle we included three additional schools outside of our parish catchment.

We also supplied 58 sets of thermals to two pre-schools at Flaxmere College and William Colenso College.

Once again, we purchased the clothing from the nationwide clothing store Postie, who are very supportive of our work. Postie include our order in their winter order for all of their shops, so they can supply the clothing to us at a discount.

In May, Suzanne and I visited Ōmahu School to present the students with their clothing. Ōmahu School community is operating from Irongate School in Flaxmere after

their school and some of their homes were inundated with flood waters when the Ngāruroro River breached its banks during Cyclone Gabrielle.

Through a waiata the students and teachers sang with passion about their desire to be back in their own school and thanked us for the clothing. It was so special to see their anticipation and enthusiasm when we arrived with the boxes of clothing.

All of our deliveries were completed by the end of May just as the cold weather arrived.

We are grateful to our referees Dr Russell Wills and Jim Leogreen who are enthusiastic supporters of our project. We appreciate the strong support from our parishioners and we work hard to keep them informed by speaking at Masses, placing notices in parish bulletins and on social media.

After the clothing is distributed, we ask the schools to give us feedback, which helps us to demonstrate to our



Organisers of Thermals for Children, Lee Pepping (l) and Suzanne Rose (r), delivered Ōmahu School students their thermals and track pants.

Photo: Supplied/Warren Buckland

fundes the project's success so we can continue every winter.

Here is an example of feedback: 'This absolutely makes a difference to the kids' wellbeing, attendance and their overall happiness. Our

staff, parents and tamariki are very thankful that the Catholic Parish of Hastings goes that extra mile to show loving kindness in allowing us to be part of this wonderful initiative. We would be lost without it.'

Superior General from Rome praises Palmerston North Diocese

Fr Trung Nguyen

Visiting Super General of the Rosminians was full of praise when he made his recent visitation from Rome to the Rosminian community in Palmerston North.

Fr Marco Tanghetti IC, accompanied by the Rosminian Provincial in India, Fr Francis Menacherry IC, celebrated Sunday Masses in Ashurst, Feilding and at St Mary's Church in Palmerston North, and met with members of the Syro Malabar community. Fr Marco was struck by the variety of ethnic groups present in the parishes and the joyful participation in the liturgies.

While visiting the diocesan centre, Fr Marco shared his appreciation for how the priests of the diocese and the diocesan staff have supported and guided the young Rosminians serving in the diocese.

The Rosminians, officially named the Institute of Charity (IC), are a Catholic clerical religious congregation founded by Antonio Rosmini and first organised in 1828. The order was formally approved by the Holy See in 1838.

Its charism is 'Universal Charity' and its members are commonly called Fathers of Charity.

Fr Marco said, 'I know it is not always easy to serve in another culture. I myself was a missionary in Venezuela for 12 years. Here, I know that Fr Robin Kurion and Fr Manoj Mathew benefitted greatly from the cohesive spirit among the presbyterate as well as the encouragement of diocesan staff. They learned much about leadership and collaborative ministry as well as the importance of school visits. I am hoping our two new community members Fr Ambrose Maliakkal and Fr Vijoy Jacob will enjoy and benefit from the same support.'

As well as visiting Palmerston North, Fr Marco and Fr Francis visited the Cistercian Monastery of Kopua in Central Hawkes Bay, and then went on to Christchurch, Dunedin, Gore and Auckland for further visits to Rosminian communities and schools.

July was a special month of vocations awareness for the Rosminian Family. Fr Marco can be contacted on rosminiansnz@gmail.com for further information.



Fr Marco Tanghetti IC, Superior General of the Rosminians (r) and Fr Francis Menacherry IC, Provincial in India, celebrated Masses and met with parishioners and staff of the Palmerston North diocese during their recent visit to Rosminion communities and schools in New Zealand.

Fr Trung Nguyen is assistant priest with the Catholic Parish of Hastings and the vocations director for the Diocese of Palmerston North at vocations@pndiocese.org.nz.

Caring for our world together

The Religious Diversity Centre Aotearoa New Zealand recently hosted *E tū te Mana O Te Ao – Building a Climate of Hope*, a webinar series across four weeks, hosted by journalist and broadcaster, Rod Oram. The series is available to watch online.

Seminar 1. 'Hope for an Endangered Planet' with Dr Jane Goodall, 14 June: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt4Hm4Bty4g

Seminar 2. 'Hope for Aotearoa New Zealand, 2050 and Beyond' with Rabbi Dean Shapiro with experts on climate, water and health and the reality of climate change for Aotearoa New Zealand, 21 June: www.youtube.com/watch?v=np08cWfdetw

Seminar 3. Hope for our Pacific Region with the Youth Led Pacific Climate Warriors – the reality of climate change in our Pacific region, 28 June: www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxgzMcyZTiY

Seminar 4. 'Hope for our World' with the Rt Hon Helen Clark, 5 July: www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHtM5E4yDSw



The Religious Diversity Centre is a national centre that was established to foster understanding and respect for the religious diversity in our country. The centre hosts an annual forum of religious leaders from across the diverse religions. One of the shared concerns the leaders named at their first meeting five years ago was the care of the environment.



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Compassion Soup Kitchen launches Annual Appeal 2023

To face the challenge of the increasing demand for meal services and people seeking assistance experienced in recent months, Compassion Soup Kitchen will launch its Annual Appeal on 1 August.

Sam Johnson, the Kitchen Manager at Compassion Soup Kitchen, explains, 'We have observed a steady increase in demand in recent months. I believe this can be attributed to a rise in the average cost of living, which has affected households in New Zealand over the past year.

'Furthermore, during the past few months, a significant number of people affected by Cyclone Gabrielle in February have sought support from Compassion Soup Kitchen. Additionally, there has been growth in the number of employed individuals who have homes but face difficulties due to

the escalating cost of living for themselves and their families.'

For over 122 years, Compassion Soup Kitchen has provided hope through warm and nourishing meals to support Wellington's most vulnerable people. With the help of dedicated volunteers and partners, they offer breakfast and dinner services from Monday to Saturday, along with various activities and services such as a writer's club, sewing sessions, haircuts, and access to laundry, shower facilities, and clothing room.

'With an increase in the number of meals served and more people looking for support, it has become crucial to enlist the help of the local community, businesses, and the public,' says Sam. 'Through their donations, they can aid Compassion Soup Kitchen in its mission of providing meals with warmth and



Donations raised from the Annual Appeal will help ensure the work and support can continue for those who rely on the Compassion Soup Kitchen for a hot meal and companionship daily. Image: Supplied

Aroha, creating a sense of community where everyone can experience kindness and companionship. 'All the challenges we face

highlight the importance of the support we receive daily from our volunteers, food rescue partners, and funders.'

The donations raised from the Annual Appeal this month will ensure they can continue to help those who rely on the Compassion Soup Kitchen for a hot meal and companionship daily.

Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert founded the Soup Kitchen 122 years ago to provide meals to 'serve all those in need' in the Wellington community. 'Today her mission continues, and we ask for your support for the Compassion Soup Kitchen's Annual Appeal, so we can continue serving meals with warmth and aroha.'

To donate or learn more about Compassion Soup Kitchen and its campaign, please visit: www.soupkitchen.org.nz

On the lookout for pews

Catherine Gibbs

St Joseph's historic church in Pāuatahanui is undergoing a facelift. A new St Joseph's Church Stewardship Committee has been formed from within St Theresa's parish Plimmerton, with the vision to preserve and resource this special place ensuring its future for generations.

Over many years undergrowth beside SH58 had kept this historic gem hidden from view.

Now it sits up on the hill catching the eye of thousands of travellers on the new Transmission Expressway and major roundabouts for those heading to other parts of the region.

We will celebrate 150 years in 2028 and before that there is a work programme which volunteers are ticking off. We are hoping readers might know of some old native-timber wooden pews, which might help furnish the church properly. Some of our old pews are rotting

and have seen better days.

If you know of any chapels or small country churches around 100 years old that are no longer in use and might have some rimu or matai timber pews similar to the ones pictured please contact Alan Fleming at email: abcc@fleming.kiwi or ph: 027 407 2881.

St Joseph's is a church and churchyard with spiritual, heritage, and cultural significance to the Pāuatahanui district and St Theresa's Catholic Parish Plimmerton, within the Archdiocese of Wellington.



St Joseph's historic church in Pāuatahanui supporters are on the lookout for some old native-timber wooden pews for their church.

Photo: Brian Harmer

Abrahamic Council meets Wellington Mayor

Fr Ron Bennett

The Wellington Abrahamic Council of Jews, Christians and Muslims met with Wellington's Mayor Tory Whanau in April, to discuss areas of cooperation with environmental stewardship, diversity, and respect for minority groups.

The Wellington Abrahamic Council is formed to combat prejudice, intolerance and discrimination between people of different religions and ethnicity. It does this through dialogue and cooperation between faiths, hosting public meetings, reflection days, making submissions on relevant issues.

The group met with Mayor Whanau to talk about three areas of cooperation between the mayor, her council and the people of Wellington - environment, diversity and respect.

The group asked for the Council to see our planet as created by God, and that we each have a sacred obligation to be stewards in

protecting our environment.

They asked for recognition and celebration of Wellington's joyful diversity and a for commitment by the Council to ensure this continues through celebrating the gift of our religious, cultural and racial diversity.

The third area was for the

Council to commit to a long-term plan for our city's wonderful religious, cultural and racial diversity, with particular reference to minority groups.

It was a worthwhile meeting, and a feeling that we were on the same page in our desire for an inclusive and vibrant city.



Wellington Abrahamic Council members with Wellington Mayor Tory Whanau, (l-r): Dave Moskovitz, Jewish co-chair; Adam Awad, Muslim; Paul Morris, Jewish; Mayor Whanau; Nick Polaschek, Christian; Parwaiz Karamat, Moslem co-chair; Fr Ron Bennett, Christian co-chair; Rito Triumbarto, Muslim.

Papal award for 'Lower Hutt son'

Bishop Steve Lowe, former Bishop of Hamilton, and now Bishop of the Auckland, recently presented Michael (Mike) Hanaray with a Papal Knighthood, in recognition of his dedicated and lifetime service to the Catholic Church at parish, diocesan and national levels.

Mike is originally from Lower Hutt and St Peter and Paul's Parish, but for the past 45 years has lived in Hamilton. Mike is the son of Jack and May Hanaray, who were well known during their many years in the Lower Hutt's St Peter and Paul's Parish, and he is brother to five other family members.

Mike's immediate and extended family are delighted his commitment and service to the Church has been recognised in this way, with Mike himself observing that he was 'overwhelmed' with receiving the award. He said, 'My commitment to supporting the Church really started from the truly remarkable example, which my Dad set for all of us in the family, and I dedicate this award to his memory.'



Bishop Steve Lowe (r) presented Michael Hanaray (l) with a Papal Knighthood. The award recognises Mike's dedicated and lifetime service to the Catholic Church at parish, diocesan and national levels.

Photo: Diocese of Hamilton/Facebook

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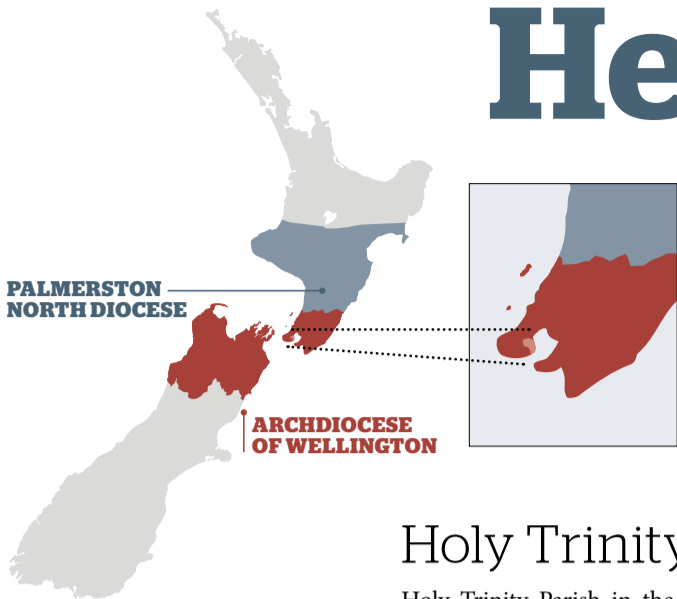
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He Hīkoi Whakapon



This month WelCom visits Holy Trinity Parish in Wellington's eastern suburbs. The pastoral area encompasses hill and beachside suburbs including Kilbirnie, Miramar, Seatoun and Strathmore. Its churches are St Patrick's, Kilbirnie, Holy Cross Miramar and St Anthony's Seatoun. There are five Catholic schools - St Patrick's College Wellington, St Catherine's College, St Patrick's Primary - all located in Kilbirnie, and St Anthony's in Seatoun and Holy Cross in Miramar. Before the Haowhenua earthquake (c 1460), Miramar Peninsula was an island, and the land now occupied by Lyall Bay and Rongotai lay beneath the sea. The earthquake raised the seabed, creating an isthmus linking Miramar with Kilbirnie. The first Māori to occupy Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington Harbour) lived on the island of Motukairangi, now Miramar Peninsula. The horseshoe-shaped island enclosed a lagoon known as Te Rotokura or Para, which was drained in the 1840s.

Holy Trinity Parish - past, present and future

Holy Trinity Parish in the Eastern Suburbs of Wellington was conceived in 1914 with the amalgamation of three separate parishes - St Patrick's Kilbirnie, Holy Cross Miramar and St Anthony's Seatoun into one combined parish.

Although Masses were celebrated in Wellington's Eastern suburbs from 1899 it wasn't until 1919 that we were separated from the Newtown Parish with the establishment of the Kilbirnie Parish. The parish priest celebrated Mass for both the Miramar and Seatoun areas, with Seatoun serving as the Mass centre. Miramar residents attended Mass at Seatoun until the first Mass was celebrated in Miramar on 24 October 1926. In 1936 Miramar and Seatoun separated from Kilbirnie and were

made into a single parish and in 1954 Seatoun was made a parish in its own right. We have now come full circle. In 2015 St Patrick's Parish Kilbirnie, Holy Cross Parish Miramar and St Anthony's Parish Seatoun combined to become Holy Trinity Parish.

For the first few years after our amalgamation, we were blessed to have the Capuchin community in residence who had looked after St Patrick's in Kilbirnie from 1998 along with Fr Sanele Finau who had been based in Miramar. When Fr Sanele moved to Auckland to retire, there were usually three Capuchin priests in residence. That all changed in 2019 with the departure of Fr Gregory, then Fr Paul in early 2020 and the community in Wellington was reduced to just Fr

Ephrem. The Capuchins, who had been in Wellington from 1843 to 1888 and then again from 1958, then decided to pull out completely. We held a farewell Mass for the Capuchins in October 2020 and for Fr Ephrem in January 2021.

We are most fortunate to now have Fr Bill Warwick as our parish priest along with his cockatiel Charlie, our unofficial office mascot.

With the amalgamation and through discussions identifying key areas of parishioner engagement, our parish vision statement was developed. 'We are a prayerful and diverse Catholic community in the Eastern suburbs of Wellington, drawing strength from one another to grow and become fully alive as missionary disciples.'

Values were identified for

parishioner engagement and a parish plan followed. It is a living document and our values and actions have recently been updated. Fr Bill has delivered these to our parishioners as part of his homilies. Our revised values are: Welcoming; Missionary/Outreach; Worship and Prayer; Community; Justice.

Like most parishes, we have struggled with parishioner numbers over the Covid and post-Covid periods, but our numbers are slowly climbing upwards.

Our next major task will be to evaluate the parish building and facility requirements for our needs over the next 25 years. We will need much prayerful consideration as we work our way through this important period in the life of our parish.

BRIEF HISTORY

- 1848: Diocese of Wellington established.
- 1850: Wellington North Parish established.
- 1875: Wellington Central Parish established. Parish clergy eventually looked after Buckle St (church built 1884) and Newtown (church built 1897).
- 1897: Seatoun land on Ludlam and Stafford Sts (Falkirk Ave) purchased. Mass said on Sundays in cottage on property by Fathers from St Patrick's College.
- 1900s: Turn of century Catholics living in Eastern suburbs cared for by Marist Fathers. Mass and Sunday School in O'Donnell's Hall, Kilbirnie.
- 1902: St Anne's Parish established (Newtown), included Kilbirnie, Miramar and Seatoun.
- 1908: Foundation stone for church laid in Kilbirnie Cres.
- 1910: St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie blessed and opened by Archbishop Redwood.
- 1911: Sisters of Mercy began teaching in Eastern Suburbs, in Kilbirnie. Walked across hill from St Anne's, Newtown. Used north wing of St Patrick's Church as classroom.
- 1916: Sisters opened St Catherine's convent in Upper Bourke St, began fee-paying school, 1917.
- 1916: Fr DE Campbell sm in charge of Kilbirnie, Miramar and Seatoun branch of Newtown Parish.
- 1919: Kilbirnie Parish established, included Miramar and Seatoun.
- 1920: St Catherine's School of Music and Drama opened.
- 1922: St Vincent de Paul Society began. Ladies Auxiliary followed.
- 1923: St Anthony's School, Seatoun, began, run by Mercy Sisters. Seatoun Church-School blessed by Archbishop O'Shea.
- 1924: House and section bought in Miramar for church and school, site of Holy Cross School.
- 1925: Primary school opened next to church in Kilbirnie.
- 1926: First Mass in new hall on Quin's property, Miramar.
- 1927: Site of present Miramar church and hall purchased; hall completed; Sunday Masses commenced.
- 1929: Kilbirnie presbytery built.
- 1930: Mercy Srs Norbert and Rosalie opened infant school opened, St Columban's Church Hall, Miramar.
- 1932: House at side of St Patrick's Church bought and converted into church hall.
- 1932: Holy Cross Church, Miramar, blessed by Archbishop O'Shea.
- 1936: Miramar and Seatoun separated from Kilbirnie parish, formed new parish. New presbytery opened.
- 1936: St Vincent de Paul conference established.
- 1937: Marist Brothers School for boys, Miramar, blessed and opened by Archbishop O'Shea.
- 1941: Marist Brothers came to parish. First Mass in Brothers' chapel.
- 1947: Archdiocese bought large house in Queens Dr, Kilbirnie - used to house immigrants post WW2, included hostel for Polish children. Run by Sisters, then SvdP. House later used as residence for papal nuncio.
- 1952: St Anthony's Church Seatoun, built, blessed by Archbishop McKeefy.
- 1954: Seatoun Parish established
- 1961: New Holy Cross Church, Miramar opened, blessed by Archbishop McKeefy.
- 1979: 700 boys walked from St Patrick's College, Cambridge Tee to their new college on Evan's Bay Parade, Kilbirnie.
- 1983: Marist and Holy Cross Schools amalgamated.
- 1982: St Patrick's School, Kilbirnie, demolished. New school opened and blessed 1984.
- 1985: St Catherine's convent demolished; classroom block built.
- 1989: Amalgamated school became Holy Cross School, Miramar.
- 1990: New St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie, opened and blessed. Parish centre opened 1992.
- 1998: Capuchin Fathers came to parish in Miramar.
- 2015: Formation of Holy Trinity Parish, incorporating Easter suburbs.



St Patrick's Kilbirnie.



St Anthony's Seatoun.



Holy Cross, Miramar.

Fr Bill Warwick



I grew up in Lyall Bay as one of six children. I loved growing up by the sea; it was a huge part of my life.

As a family we went to Mass at St Patrick's in Kilbirnie and attended St Patrick's Primary in Kilbirnie, Marist Miramar, later Holy Cross School, and St Patrick's College.

We have a vibrant and diverse group of parishioners: Thursday Friends who meet in friendship and prayer; the Legion of Mary has been meeting weekly for over 40 years; Aulotu celebrates Mass at 11am in Samoan at St Anthony's Church every month; Rita Angus and Communion groups; Peninsula Ministers Association gather monthly for prayers and hospitality. Parishioner Julie Marshall was presented with a Benemerenti Medal and Leona Foster, Brendan Quirk, Lydia Bull and Michael McGoff - each received the Fitzgerald Award in recognition of their contributions to Church and parish life. Space here only allows a glimpse of the scope of the people and activities in our parish.

'Your Vinnies'

In the footsteps of Frederick Ozanam's almost 200-year-old mission to simply 'do a little good,' we work in Kilbirnie, Miramar, Seatoun, Lyall Bay, and Strathmore to help community members who ask for our help, or who are referred to us.

Our work includes visits, phone calls, shopping and transport; supply of food hampers, clothes, furniture as well as support to students in need with such items as uniforms, stationery, and sport and music fees. We facilitate a weekly morning tea at Kotuku Flats in Kilbirnie, help support our parish 'Thursday Group,' and three Saturdays a year we run an Appeal at Pak'nSave in Kilbirnie. We are well supported by prayer and donations from our parish, without which we couldn't continue to operate effectively, especially with

increased demand as costs of living continue to rise.

Our Vinnies Conference is made up of about 10 active members and up to 15 associates and friends. Active members meet monthly to coordinate our services to assist our clients. Client numbers vary, but we have about 30 groups, including many families of varying sizes, so total numbers of individuals are higher.

Overall, we hope to show love, compassion, and humility. We also prioritise providing personal contact and a practical approach to those in hardship or isolation. We aim to operate in a 'low key' way so our clients are comfortable to ask for help. We find God's mercy and mystery is presented to us constantly as we do what we can to represent His hands.



Preparing and delivering Christmas food boxes, St Vincent de Paul Vinnies, Eastern Suburbs, Wellington, December 2022.



Kham Nguyen

Kham is one of three Vietnamese young men who arrived in New Zealand in September last year to begin their studies at the English language school in central Wellington. His companion, Long is with Fr Tony Kearns in Heretaunga and Quang is with Fr Ron Bennett at Otari in Karori. Fr Bill was asked to accommodate Kham, oversee his introduction to the archdiocese, and mentor him during this time of preparation. Kham has made himself at home in a short time, is very social and loves to meet and chat with people. The parishioners are supporting Kham. He is studious, has done well at language school, and is very keen. Kham and his colleagues hope to be accepted for seminary formation and preparation to serve in the archdiocese as priests.

o: A Journey of Faith

Holy Cross School, Miramar

Lyn Hough
Acting Principal

'Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua – I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past.'

Holy Cross School reflects the respect of partnership, the honouring of taonga and culture and the preserving of important knowledge and traditions.

Where Holy Cross School stands was once a lake. Its name is now part of our name: Te Rotokura – Holy Cross School.

We connect to that past landscape through our Garden-to-Table programme, which guides the learning for our Years 3–6 students. The tamariki work the soil of our garden and harvest the herbs, fruit and vegetables.

The Aotearoa New Zealand Histories curriculum is building a

new understanding for us, weaving the rich threads of our Catholic faith and traditions with the knowledge of the land where we as a community live on Te Motu Kairangi – Miramar Peninsula.

Our school was established in 1932 by two sisters of Mercy, Srs Norbert and Rosalie, for Years 1–4 boys and Years 1–8 girls. The adjacent Marist Miramar school was run by the Marist brothers for boys Years 5–8. Holy Cross school was formed in 1983 when the two schools merged. Some of our staff are past pupils of the former schools.

Our young tamariki try to imagine a swimming pool where now sits a classroom, another classroom block that has become the houses of our neighbours and a secret bunker behind our pump track, a reminder of WW2.

As we honour Te Tiriti and work to revitalise Te Reo Māori and Te



Reenacting the 'Last Supper'.

Ao Māori, our learning is grounded in practical experiences. Every term we celebrate pōwhiri and formally welcome new arrivals to our kura. Our senior students play key roles where we connect with new families.

Many of our students continue the tradition of their parents, coming to Holy Cross as we welcome second and sometimes third generations to our kura. The ties are strong.

St Patrick's College, Kilbirnie

Mike Savali
Tumuaki | Rector

'Sectare Fidem'

St Patrick's College Wellington is New Zealand's oldest Catholic boys' college. It was built in the spirit of generosity by the Society of Mary (the Marists) in 1885 and founded by Archbishop Francis Redwood. The Society of Mary has been, and remains, an integral part of the college's history and tradition.

In 1979 St Patrick's College moved from its original Cambridge Tce site in Wellington to new purpose-built facilities adjacent to Kilbirnie Park and near the sea at Evans Bay.

Our motto 'Sectare Fidem' means 'hold firm to the faith'. It reinforces the importance of our faith in shaping our boys into men who will contribute positively to society. At St Patrick's College we encourage

each student to strive for excellence in everything they do. We place an expectation on our students to take pride in their personal appearance and behaviour and, in addition to academic development, we also foster opportunities for personal and social development. We work closely with our parents and families to grow good men.

St Patrick's College has been undergoing a detailed curriculum review process. We are well aware that twenty-first century education needs to be future-focused and adaptable to meet our students' needs, both now and in the future. Our intention is to have an updated curriculum, where students take ownership of their learning with a strong literacy and numeracy focus. Students will learn how to problem solve, be creative, manage their time, be innovative and work collaboratively in a supportive environment.



Corpus Christi Mass procession.

St Patrick's College has embarked on implementing a building masterplan to develop our college campus over a number of years. The objectives are to modernise and enhance a range of educational spaces, improve the school entrance and landscaping of the site as well as to further improve the overall safety of the site. These works will ensure that St Patrick's College Wellington continues to play a critical role in the Wellington education environment well into this century and beyond.

St Catherine's College

Katrina Kerr-Bell
Tumuaki | Principal

'Empowering Young Women with Kindness and Excellence'

Welcome to St Catherine's College, a place where young women flourish and succeed in a nurturing environment. Since our establishment by the Sisters of Mercy in 1919, we have been committed to providing quality education centred around strong Catholic values of Mercy, Wisdom, and Social Justice.

Our students consistently achieve well above the National Standards. In 2020, we had 100 per cent pass rate for NCEA Level 2, 2021 we were named in the top ten academic schools in New Zealand and in 2022 we had 100 per cent NCEA for Pasifika students Level 1 and 3. These outstanding accomplishments are a testament

to the dedication and hard work of our students and the support they receive from our dedicated, caring staff and parents.

At St Catherine's College, we believe in fostering the holistic growth of our students. We not only focus on academic excellence but also on developing creativity and critical thinking abilities. We empower our young women to be culturally connected, active learners, encouraging them to explore their passions, interests, and talents.

Our dedicated staff members are knowledgeable, compassionate and caring. They go above and beyond to ensure every student feels supported and valued. Offering kindness, care, and extra tutoring, our staff are committed to guiding and assisting our students in their educational journey.

You can find St Catherine's College on the picturesque hill



Growing cultural connections.

in Kilbirnie, precisely on Upper Bourke St. Our location provides a serene and conducive environment for learning, allowing our students to thrive both academically and personally.

Whether you are a student seeking a nurturing educational experience or a parent looking for a school that values academic excellence and strong Catholic principles, St Catherine's College is the perfect choice. Join us on our remarkable journey of learning, growth, and friendship! Ring or email to make a time to come in and check us out.

St Anthony's in action

Denise Johnson
Principal

'Small School; Strong Spirit'

St Anthony's School is a Year 1 to Year 8 co-educational Catholic primary school in Seatoun, Wellington. Founded by the Mercy order in 1923, St Anthony's has an excellent reputation, not only for our strong curriculum and innovative personalised teaching programmes but also for our nurturing and whānau-friendly environment. The bonds with the community are what makes our school so special, as evidenced through events such as our highly successful biannual bazaar and our centenary, which we will celebrate this coming October. These occasions, amongst many others, see both current and past whanau come together to celebrate St Anthony's and the start that it has given so many on their education journey.

St Anthony's may be small, but it is mighty, with an excellent student-teacher ratio ensuring our young tamariki receive individual attention to support their learning. We're passionate about supporting our learners to have a sense of curiosity and love for learning, by providing them with an abundance



Music practice.

of opportunities with modern classrooms, technology, equipment, and experiences. We're also fortunate to be able to make use of our beautiful surroundings such as the beaches and local wharf.

Taking a leaf from John 10:10, our philosophy is to 'have life, and have it to the full'. Like the shepherd in this verse, we guide, lead, and support our tamariki to engage in their learning and build trusted, long-term relationships with the community that wraps around them.

Learn more about us at starts.school.nz/contact-us and come in and see us in action!

St Patrick's Primary School, Kilbirnie

Tony Kellie-Smith
Principal

'Learning together in Faith'

St Patrick's is a typical Wellington Catholic school with students from Years 1 to 8. Our vision statement encompasses what we do and why we do it – a faith community growing, learning and celebrating together.

Our school was founded by the Mercy Sisters almost 100 years ago. Today, 70 per cent of our tamariki speak or sign one or two of the 20 languages heard around the school other than English; 75–80 per cent of them hear a language other than English at home.

We are adjacent to St Patrick's Church. Each week a class attends the community Mass, at which three of our students proclaim the scriptures. We are a three-minute walk to the Kilbirnie library and a 10-minute walk to Akau Tangi – Kilbirnie's huge indoor sports centre and we explore different sports every Friday in Terms 2 and 3. We are only a five-minute walk to Kilbirnie Pools where we have swimming lessons in Terms 1 and 4.

We are conveniently situated between St Catherine's College and St Patrick's College, which helps us keep connected to past pupils as they arrive to pick up their younger siblings.

Because of our size and location we are able to explore readily what Wellington City has to offer. We go on visits to the Symphony Orchestra, musicals, Te Papa Tongarewa, nearby beach clean ups and on other



Water polo at Kilbirnie Pool.

educational trips to support our learning. We also use the local park to launch our rockets as part of our Science and Technology lessons or to practise golf.

Our tamariki are a caring, accepting group of students. They quickly stop a game to tend to another student who has fallen over, or who seems upset for some reason. Our senior students are peer mediators at break times, giving out tokens for positive words and actions or supporting students to settle frustrations.

The 'Young Vinnies' group visit the elderly, collect for the food bank, support the women's refuge, among other generous acts of service.

The children are blessed to have a generous group of adults caring for and supporting them in the classroom and in the playground.

As a Catholic community, we strive to live the Gospel and use the fruits of the Holy Spirit as a normal part of our daily lives. On Tuesdays, there are always freshly made scones around 11.30am – if you are passing by, please drop in.

Young Catholics

Education trust awards two grants

The Trustees of the Ogonowska Education Charitable Trust – Jenny Gordon MNZM, Halina Ogonowska-Coates and Gordon Noble-Campbell – have announced the awarding of two grants for 2023 to two secondary school students.

The recipients are Dorothy Wilson and Trey Cosgrave of Roncalli College, Timaru.

The grants cover the attendance dues and special character contribution of each student for their 2023 senior academic year, as

well as a one-off grant of \$500 to each student, which can be used for their tertiary study costs in 2024.

Roncalli College's principal Chris Comeau nominated Dorothy and Trey. The grants acknowledge the student's personal qualities and contribution to the cultural and spiritual life of their school.

Principal Comeau said, 'Dorothy is well loved and supported by our school community and she is a standout student. They see great value in education and the

opportunities it can create.'

The Trustees congratulate Dorothy and Trey, and their families.

The Trust honours and remembers two Polish sisters, Irena and Teresa Ogonowska, who were members of the much-celebrated Polish refugee children offered refuge in New Zealand in 1944.

Irena and Teresa were educated at Sacred Heart Girls' College – a predecessor school to Roncalli College – in the late 1940s and early 1950s, and both chose teaching as their profession.

To honour the sisters' life-long commitment to education and their deep faith in overcoming life's obstacles, the Ogonowska Education Charitable Trust has been established, with the support of the Archdiocese of Wellington, to support students facing challenges.

For more information visit oect.org.nz or contact Gordon Noble-Campbell on 021 612 451.



Gordon Noble-Campbell presents Dorothy Wilson and Trey Cosgrave with their Ogonowska Education Charitable Trust awards at Roncalli College.

Photos: Supplied



Treated to songs, gifts and a paper medallion designating him 'hero', Pope Francis visited children, on 18 July, attending a month-long summer camp in The Paul VI Hall at the Vatican. About 250 children of Vatican employees welcomed the pope, who greeted the children and counsellors, and posed for pictures. Pope Francis spoke to the children, aged from 5 to 13, and answered their questions. He invited them to show gratitude and always tell their parents, 'Thank you', for all they do to raise them. He said his 'superheroes' were grandparents, 'because they possess so much wisdom and that is why it is important to talk to them.'

Photo: Vatican Media/CNS

Blenheim school celebrates joyful event with parish



Archbishop Paul Martin sm celebrated Mass and memories with St Mary's School students and parishioners in Blenheim to honour and remember 150 years of Catholic Education in Marlborough. Photo: Supplied

Cathie Bell

One hundred and fifty years of Catholic education in Marlborough were celebrated over a weekend in early July as St Mary's School in Blenheim marked its milestone anniversary.

Celebrations began with an open day on the Friday, the last day of the school term – and principal Paddy Dowling's final day at the school – and culminated with a formal dinner on Saturday night and a Jubilee Mass on Sunday morning.

Students and teachers joined parishioners to celebrate the anniversary. The presence of the school children in the church was particularly welcomed. The school has been unable to celebrate Mass in St Mary's Church because of Ministry of Education rules preventing school activities in buildings with low earthquake ratings.

Archbishop Paul Martin sm also attended the celebrations. In his homily at Mass he said he joined the congregation in being thankful for all that has gone before in those 150 years.

'We all sit on the backs of

those who have gone before us, and we in return are doing what we can for the generations of the future,' he said, citing the work of Fr Garin sm, the Sisters of Mercy, the De La Salle brothers, parish families who strongly supported the provision of religious education in Marlborough, and our teachers today who continue to ensure the children of the parish have a Catholic education.

'We live in a very different world from those who have gone before us. However, the essentials haven't changed. We are still in need of the Good News of Christ.'

After Mass, parishioners joined Archbishop Paul and the children in opening two new facilities at the school, funded by a bequest from a parish family.

The opening of the new buildings provided an opportunity to showcase the school to parishioners. Paddy Dowling, who was leaving for new opportunities in Christchurch, said it was 'so good' to have the community back at the school.

St Mary's new principal Bridget Comer started at the beginning of Term 3 on 17 July.

World Youth Day in Wellington

Young people aged 13–25 years and youth leaders are invited to join a Wellington World Youth Day, Sunday 6 August, at Bishop Viard College, Porirua. Worship from 1pm and Mass celebrated by Archbishop Paul Martin sm at 1.45pm, followed by events, speakers, workshops, performances and a Youth rally. Register online for free ticket: tinyurl.com/WYD-Wellington-Tickets.

Con Anima - Big Sing Finale

St Patrick's College Wellington choir, Con Anima, are off to the Big Sing Finale in Auckland, 25–27 August, after qualifying in the Wellington regional Big Sing festival in June.

Social Justice Week - pre-event

As preparation for Social Justice Week in September, Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College is running a free Zoom event, 'Challenging the Status Quo!', Thursday, 31 August, 6pm–7.30pm. Speaker is Lyn Smith. Go to www.tukupenga.ac.nz to register.



Young Church

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2024

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Email youth@wn.catholic.org.nz with your CV and Cover Letter to apply.



@ADWYoungChurch



Rangatahi Katorika

Combined college *Godspell* production

More than 20 students from Sacred Heart College Napier and St John's College Hastings took to the stage at Theatre Hawke's Bay for four nights in July for their combined production of the musical *Godspell*.

Originally conceived in 1970 by Stephen Schwartz, *Godspell* is a collection of musical parables from the Gospel according to Matthew, ending with the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus.

Jo Jowett-Morel, Sacred Heart's Head of English, directed the production, with Head of Arts

Sandra Howlett the creative Director. Christopher Wilson and Lara Coates, St John's and Sacred Heart's teachers in charge of music, directed the music.

Mrs Jowett-Morel said the tightness of the production team was astonishing. 'The students have been fantastic. It's not easy music and they worked really hard.'

St John's student Connall Corkery played Jesus, while Sacred Heart student Georgia Dallas played John/Judas.

It is the first time Connall, Year 13,

has been involved in a production. He enjoyed it so much he plans on pursuing it as a career path.

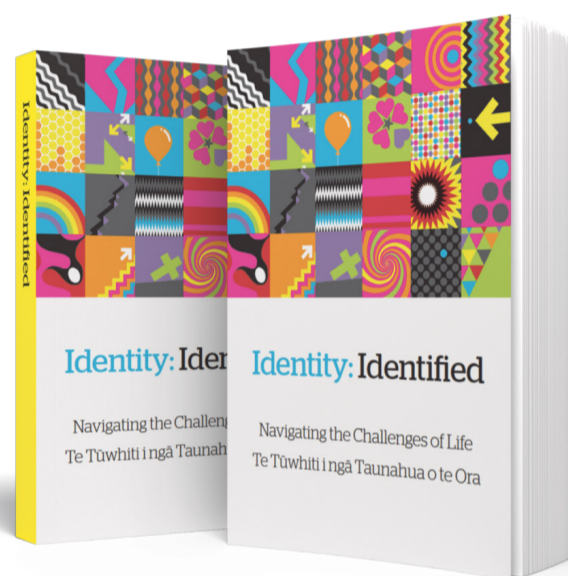
Georgia has performed in previous school productions. 'It [*Godspell*] is quite different because it doesn't follow an exact storyline. It's definitely nothing like I've done before.'

Mrs Jowett-Morel said Sacred Heart College last performed the show in 2005 and this year's production piqued the interest of several old girls who remember it from their time at school.



Georgia Dallas (front middle left), director Jo Jowett-Morel (front middle) and Connall Corkery (front middle right) with the cast and crew behind this year's combined Sacred Heart College and St John's College production of *Godspell*.

Photo: Supplied



Go to identityidentified.nz for more information.

The new youth life guide called *Identity: Identified*, introduced at a Young Mass in the Archdiocese in March, was also launched in Auckland at the WYD23 Pilgrims' Commissioning Mass on 9 July.

Identity: Identified is a response to the Synod on Youth in 2018. It was developed by Bible Society of New Zealand with input from New Zealand bishops and Catholic theologians. It presents Holy Scripture to young people, designed in a way to help them discern their calling in life.

As well as hundreds of highlighted passages offering hope and encouragement, *Identity: Identified* has 24 four-page inserts that address the big challenges teenagers face, as identified at the synod.

There are QR codes linking to videos of individuals sharing the importance of how Scripture helps navigate life, and there is a downloadable App that links to the inserts, videos and daily readings.

Connection to the App provides some of the book for access on mobile devices with links to social media platforms. Users can connect with peers online to discuss the issues and how they are using *Identity: Identify* to guide them through these. The App will provide condensed summaries from the book along with regular updates.

Bishop Basil Meeking Scholarships

While places for the Hearts Aflame Catholic Summer School 2024 have now sold out, organisers have announced that the inaugural Bishop Basil Meeking Hearts Aflame Scholarship is open for applications.

There are two scholarship spaces available for the 2024 School for young adults aged 18 to 35 who want to know more about their faith, have an authentic encounter with Christ, and meet other Catholic young adults from all over New Zealand.

One of the scholarship places is reserved for a young adult involved in Catholic Education – teaching, teacher training or chaplaincy. The scholarship covers the full registration fee for the Hearts Aflame Summer School 2024 at \$645. Visit heartsaflame.org.nz to apply before 15 August 2023.

Hearts Aflame 2024 will take

place at Ngā Tawa Diocesan School, Marton, from 29 December until 7 January 2024.

Bishop Basil Meeking, 1929–2020, was the 7th Bishop of the Diocese of Christchurch. He was a longtime, strong and generous supporter of Hearts Aflame. He bequeathed a donation to the Summer School to help assure its future. The Hearts Aflame planning team decided it would be fitting to use some of this money to fund two scholarship places each year to continue Bishop Basil's legacy to Hearts Aflame and his contribution to the spiritual formation of young Catholics in New Zealand.



Twenty-three candidates received their First Holy Communion at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Richmond, in June, with parish priest Fr Michael Bellizzi.

Photo: Supplied



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Cathedral corner: More than skill needed for Cathedral



Fr James Lyons,
Priest of the archdiocese.



Running a project to strengthen and refurbish a Grade 1 listed heritage site, requires much more than technical skill.

To succeed, there has to be a personal commitment to the project, a willingness to persevere despite unforeseen obstacles and an appreciation of heritage for both the present and the future.

Our Cathedral has such a person in Jane Kelly.

Jane is a director in Team Architects, a group of nine independent architect companies, their combination of skills enabling them to lead a variety of specialised projects through-out

New Zealand.

But Jane is also a parishioner of Sacred Heart Cathedral parish. She and Murray were married in the Cathedral and Jane participates in the parish liturgy committee. Her vested interest in the Cathedral project caused her to withdraw from involvement with parish finances.

The Cathedral and parish have been Jane's spiritual home for over 20 years, giving her a unique insight into the significance of this Grade 1 heritage building, as a place of worship and a cultural treasure for Wellington city and beyond.

'I'm working alongside people who really care about what they're doing,' she told me. 'From the main contractors, LT McGuinness, the engineers, heritage architects, painters, stonemasons and steelworkers, there is a great sense of pulling together. This is more than a job for any of us.'

Beginning in 2018, Jane did not anticipate the project would still be going five years later. But

she sees this as a 'once-in-a-career' project and would very happily do it again!

'While earthquake strengthening was our primary task, it brought to light considerable structural and maintenance issues that couldn't be ignored.'

Government assistance through the 'Shovel-Ready' grants, occasioned by the pandemic, provided the opportunity to solve long-term problems.

'People will be surprised and delighted with the results,' she assured me. 'The stonework is particularly fascinating.'

There is hope that the Cathedral could reopen for Christmas this year.

Aware of some criticism over the decision to keep the Cathedral, I asked Jane for her thoughts.

'The Cathedral is much more than a parish church,' she replied. 'You have to take into account the history of this place, the ceremonies and events over more than a century, the quality of the building itself and what it means to our Archdiocese.'

'We do not honour those who have gone before us or those who will follow us by simply walking away.'

Jane Kelly specialises in the restoration of heritage housing and in the design of innovative aged-care facilities, including one at the Home of Compassion, Silverstream. In 2022, she was made a Fellow of the Te Kahui Whaihanga NZ Institute of Architects.



Jane Kelly oversees the restoration work underway. Photo: Supplied

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

St Gerard's altar donated to Sacred Heart Cathedral

The altar from St Gerard's Church in Wellington has been given a new home at the city's Catholic Sacred Heart Cathedral.

St Gerard's – a distinctive, category one, heritage-listed church and monastery building – was sold in March this year.

Since the sale, St Gerard's former owner, the Institute for World Evangelisation (ICPE Mission), has been finding new homes for the monastery's chattels.

The ICPE has been careful in re-homing sacred items, many of which have historical value to the Archdiocese of Wellington.

ICPE is donating the altar from the main church to the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart – currently closed for renovation and earthquake-strengthening.

Archbishop of Wellington Paul Martin sm is delighted with the donation.

'I am personally excited a cherished part of St Gerard's history – and of the Catholic history of Wellington – will live on within our cathedral, which is home to all the people of God in the archdiocese,' he says.

St Gerard's Church (built 1908) and Monastery (built 1932) were originally owned by the Redemptorists. The Catholic religious congregation of priests and brothers sold the property to the ICPE Mission in 1993.

The Mission, which is an international Catholic lay missionary organisation, sold St Gerard's because it could not raise the money needed for strengthening the buildings to NBS standards.

The altar will be moved from St Gerard's to the cathedral site as part of the Cathedral's restoration project.



The altar from St Gerard's Church in Wellington has been donated to the city's Sacred Heart Cathedral. A family inscription on the side of the altar reads: 'Erected by Mr & Mrs JJ Bourke, in honour of Our Blessed Lady'. The Bourke family were among the first Catholic families to live in the Kilbirnie area in Eastern Wellington. Photo: David Lupton/WelCom

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'Shot in the arm' for Passionist Family Groups

Michael Fitzsimons

Passionist Family Groups are a proven way to extend our small nuclear family circles and create a 'family for all,' says National Coordinator Paul Traynor.

'We have a responsibility to build the community we are part of and create a sense of belonging. Sometimes we assume this can only really happen within our own families but our needs are far greater than that.'

'Passionist Family Groups "connect" families within a parish for support in their faith and family lives. It's all about inviting others in, encouraging and supporting one another, trying to be like an extended family to one another.'

Passionist Family Groups began in New Zealand 35 years ago and rapidly spread across the country. Between 1988 and 1996 Passionist Family Groups were established in 100 parishes. Similar to church attendance, there has been some decline in numbers over the years, particularly with the impact of



Front (l-r): Charile Gribble, Mike Cotter, Maggi Gribble, Adriana vandePas, Sally van de Wetering, Debbie Cotter, Shelley Ward, Graham Ward, Martin van de Wetering. Back (l-r): Brian and Paul Traynor. All these people continue to contribute to the life and spirit of the Passionist Family Group Movement.

Covid on parish life. There are currently Passionist Family Groups in 62 parishes in New Zealand.

As National Coordinator, Paul's job is a bit like St Paul going around encouraging the early Christian communities. He travels the country 'connecting' and 'relaunching' Family Groups in

parishes, which may mean topping up existing groups or starting new ones. 'We all need a shot in the arm from time to time,' he says.

Typically, each group has around 24-40 people, including children. In making up groups, an effort is made to match children of similar ages and have a cross-section of

adults so that the group represents an extended family.

What do Family Groups do when they get together? They are encouraged to gather once a month and do what families do - pot-luck meals, picnics, barbecues, games, perhaps a home Mass occasionally. Recently, Paul has done a

relaunch for family groups citywide in Lower Hutt where over 30 families signed up and at St Mary of the Angels where more than 17 families signed up. Palmerston North have a relaunch set for 13 August city-wide.

The best thing about the job is the people, says Paul.

'Some people have been leading groups for 30 or 35 years. To do that over all those years is amazing. It's been humbling. People have formed relationships and have got out of it exactly what was intended - the experience of being in an extended family.'

'When we are invited to speak at homily time, we say to people it doesn't matter what their background, what culture they are from, there's a home here. The invitation has been given. It's up to you to take up the invitation.'

For more information about the Passionist family Group Movement, contact Paul Traynor, ph 021 357933, email: paulus63@gmail.com

Connecting - our fundamental biology

Paul Traynor
National Coordinator,
Passionist Family Group
Movement

Recently, I shared with the Family Groups some insights from Dr Bruce Perry MD - *A Psychiatrist working with 'Trauma'*. The following paragraphs spoke to me in relation to the aims and goals of Passionist Family Groups. It comes back to extending ourselves to others to be a 'Family for All'.

Dr Bruce Perry writes, 'The wonderful thing about our species is that we can learn; our memories and our technologies allow us to benefit from the experience of those who came before us. But at the same time those technologies, even the ones that are presumably meant to bring us together, are increasingly keeping us apart. The modern world has disrupted and, in many cases abandoned the fundamental

biological unit of human social life: the extended family.

He says, for countless generations humans lived in small groups, made up of 40 up to 150 people, most of whom were closely related to each other and lived communally. As late as the year 1500, the average family group in Europe consisted of roughly 20 people whose lives were intimately 'connected' on a daily basis. But, by 1850 that number was down to ten, living in close proximity and in 1960 the number was just five. In the year 2000 the average size of a household was less than four, and a shocking 26 per cent of Americans live alone.

As technology has advanced, we have gotten farther and farther away from the environment for which evolution shaped us. The world we live in is now biologically disrespectful, it does not take into account many of our most basic human needs and often pulls us away from healthy activities and toward those that are harmful.

...we are social mammals and could have never survived without deeply interconnected and independent contact. The truth is you cannot love yourself unless you have been loved and are loved. The capacity to love cannot be built in isolation.'

Our Passionist Family Groups are a call, a ministry, a service, and a response to this journey where we are confronted by both the consumer and individualist bug where the 'I' is seen as supreme. However, the history of humanity and in fact the history of the universe tell a different story.

Everything is connected, we are stardust, and we breathe the same air as our ancestors. Think and ponder on that - we are connected. Nature continually astounds through its complexity just like our brains. We are not the last stop in the universe story, we are not the supreme beings as we trade and sell off 'things' and our relationships



Paul Traynor.

suffer as we are lured by this attitude. Jesus reminds us that God is with us and all around us there is enough spirit food to assist us as we encounter trials, setbacks, and disappointments. Nature shows us that the world is full of mystery and that suffering is part of growth in both the natural world and in the human world.

From small beginnings...

The Passionist Family Group Movement was founded by Fr Peter McGrath CP [Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ] in 1972 in Terry Hills parish, Sydney, Australia. This small parish grew and with it, the Family Groups. The spread of the PFGM around Australia under the direction of the Passionists began in 1982 and by 1992 had extended to over 180 parishes in Australia. Today, Passionist Family Groups can be found throughout Australia, New Zealand, USA, UK, Ireland and Scotland.

The groups support and encourage family life as well as provide an important sense of belonging to church. Anyone can join. The family group motto is 'a family for all'.

www.passionistfamily.org.nz

Marriage preparation programme

Twelve engaged couples completed a marriage preparation programme together over two consecutive Sundays in June.

Facilitated by the Archdiocese of Wellington Marriage Ministry team, the course titled 'Love is a Decision' has been developed as part of a programme to support engaged couples.

The programme aims to help couples to have a lasting marriage through ongoing communication and conversations.

Couples are encouraged to explore topics that are important for healthy relationships. These include family culture, personality development and relationship dynamics, goal setting, intimate communication and problem solving.

The courses are open to couples from all faiths and beliefs.



Twelve engaged couples completed the archdiocesan Marriage Ministries programme in June. Image: supplied

The next scheduled courses in Wellington are:

- Sundays 10 and 17 September, 10am-4pm; and
- Sundays 5 and 12 November, 10am-4pm.

The venue and location are to be confirmed on registration.

Register online at: tinyurl.com/Marriage-Preparation

Please contact Mely Lau, Marriage Ministries Coordinator, at marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz to enquire about the courses.

To learn more about marriage preparation pathways visit the archdiocese website at: tinyurl.com/ADW-Marriage-Ministries

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Highly anticipated synod document released

The Vatican's General Secretariat of the Synod published the *Instrumentum laboris* on 20 June 2023. The document, which calls for a welcoming Church that embraces diversity, will guide the work of the participants in the two-part General Assembly that will meet in Rome in October 2023 and in October 2024.



The Vatican's General Secretariat of the Synod has published the *Instrumentum laboris* or 'working tool' that will guide the work of the two-part General Assembly of the Synod on Synodality.

The *Instrumentum laboris* will be the basis for the work of synod participants in the General Assembly, which begins in the Vatican in October 2023 and concludes with a second Assembly one year later.

The text signals the beginning of a new phase of the Catholic Church's multiyear Synod on Synodality. Drawing on listening sessions already conducted worldwide at the diocesan, national, and continental level, it covers such hot-button topics as women deacons, priestly celibacy, LGBTQ outreach, and highlights a desire for new institutional bodies to allow for greater participation in decision-making by the 'People of God'.

"...some of the questions it frames for discussion allude to possible major changes in how the Church operates around the world, through the embrace of an open-ended 'synodal' process that entails ongoing dialogue and discernment."

At the same time, some of the questions it frames for discussion allude to possible major changes in how the Church operates around the world, through the embrace of an open-ended 'synodal' process that entails ongoing dialogue and discernment. The approach is so different, in fact, the document states, that new formation

programmes will need to be developed 'at all levels of ecclesial life and for all the baptized,' adding that candidates for ordained ministry 'must be trained in a synodal style and mentality'.

Deliberately conceived as a starting point and not a point of arrival, the *Instrumentum laboris* brings together the experiences of dioceses around the world over the last two years, starting from 10 October 2021, when Pope Francis set in motion a journey to discern what steps to take 'to grow as a synodal Church.' The *Instrumentum laboris*, therefore, is intended as an aid for discernment during the General Assembly, while at the same time serving as a means of preparation for participants as it looks ahead to the gathering.

'Indeed, the purpose of the synodal process,' the document states, repeating the words of the earlier Document for the Continental stage, 'is not to produce documents but to open horizons of hope for the fulfilment of the Church's mission.'



The nearly month-long synod assembly will bring together Catholic bishops, priests, religious, and laypeople from around the world. For the first time, about 21 per cent of the voting delegates in the Synod of Bishops will not be bishops, with 70 delegates chosen directly by the Pope from among a list of 140 laypeople, priests, consecrated women, and deacons selected by the leadership of this year's continental synod meetings.

The main objective of the first session in October 2023, according to the *Instrumentum Laboris*, will be to design a plan of study in a 'synodal style' and to indicate who will be involved in those discussions. Discernment will be 'completed' in the 2024 session of



The Vatican released a new document on 20 June 2023 outlining key questions for the upcoming 16th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, known as the Synod on Synodality. Photo: Vatican Media

the synod.

The *Instrumentum laboris* is composed of an explanatory text and 15 worksheets that reveal a dynamic vision of the concept of 'synodality'. Specifically, there are main sections:

- Section A highlights the experience of the past two years and indicates a way forward to become an ever more synodal Church;
- Section B – entitled 'Communion, Mission, Participation' – focuses on the three priority issues at the heart of the work to be done in October 2023. These are elaborated in three main themes:
 - growing in communion by welcoming everyone, excluding no one;
 - recognising and valuing the contribution of every baptised person in view of mission; and
 - identifying governance structures and dynamics through which to articulate participation and authority over time in a missionary synodal Church.

'Rooted in this awareness,' the document affirms, 'is the desire for a Church that is also increasingly synodal in its institutions, structures, and procedures.' It notes that a synodal Church is first and foremost a 'Church of listening' and

therefore 'desires to be humble, and knows that it must ask forgiveness and has much to learn.' It continues, 'The face of the Church today bears the signs of serious crises of mistrust and lack of credibility. In many contexts, crises related to sexual abuse, and abuse of power, money, and conscience have pushed the Church to undertake a demanding examination of conscience so that "moved by the Holy Spirit" the Church "may never cease to renew herself", in a journey of repentance and conversion that opens paths of reconciliation, healing, and justice.'

"Indeed, the purpose of the synodal process is not to produce documents but to open horizons of hope for the fulfilment of the Church's mission."

A synodal Church is also 'a Church of encounter and dialogue' with believers of other religions and with other cultures and societies. It is a Church that 'is not afraid of the variety it bears,' but on the contrary, 'values it without forcing it into uniformity'. The Church is synodal when it is unceasingly nourished by the mystery it celebrates in the liturgy, during which it experiences everyday 'radical unity' in the same prayer, in the midst of a 'diversity' of languages and rites.

Other significant passages concern:

- the question of authority ('Does authority arise as a form of power derived from the models offered by the world, or is it rooted in service?' is one of the questions);
- the need for 'integral formation, initial and ongoing' for the People of God; as well as
- the need for 'a similar effort' aimed at the renewal of the language used in the 'liturgy, preaching, catechesis, sacred art, as well as in all forms of communication addressed to the Faithful and the wider public, including through new or traditional forms of media.' The renewal of language, the text states, must 'aim to make these riches accessible and attractive to the men and women of our time, rather than an obstacle that keeps them at a distance.'

The document of some 60 pages was written by a committee of 22 people in April and May and approved by Pope Francis. The text itself stresses that it is 'not a document of the Church's Magisterium, nor is it the report of a sociological survey' but instead presents the 'priorities that emerged from listening to the People of God' in the global synod process thus far.

Sources: Vatican News, Catholic News Agency, NCR

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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.

A Litany Revisited

Two further titles given to Our Lady in the 16th century Litany of Loreto are presented by **Fr James Lyons** in this WelCom special feature series: Mary acclaimed as Singular Vessel of Devotion and Mystical Rose.

Singular vessel of devotion

You can devote yourself to all manner of things, from letter writing to gardening; you can devote your life to caring for an elderly parent, a disabled child, or to a cause you firmly believe in. There is no end or limit to what or who can motivate your devotion.

Devotion implies a fully faithful and total dedication.

Mary of Nazareth is, for the followers of Jesus, her Son, a shining example of devotion. The title, *Singular Vessel of Devotion*, celebrates her extraordinarily unique relationship with the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. She is filled with a devout love of God and carries that love into the child developing in her womb.

‘My soul magnifies the Lord,’ Mary tells Elizabeth, in the prayer known as *The Magnificat*. Another translation has, ‘My soul proclaims

the greatness of the Lord. [Luke 1:46 – New Revised Standard Version and The Jerusalem Bible respectively.]

Understanding the depth of God’s love for every person and for the whole of creation, explodes you into a new way of living – a life of faith, hope, love and joy: Mary’s way.

Glorifying, proclaiming, magnifying... The vessel that is Mary enlarges and expands as her love and, consequently, her devotion grows. She carries the timeless presence of God in a way impossible for any other creature. She recognises this with humble gratefulness: ‘The Lord has done great things for me. Holy is God’s name.’ [vs. 49]

While among us Mary is the most blessed, there is much we can imitate from her outstanding example. Poets, artists, theologians and novelists have shared their reflections on Mary’s influence on the life of Jesus. From the little that Scripture relates, they point to facets in their relationship relevant for our own journey.

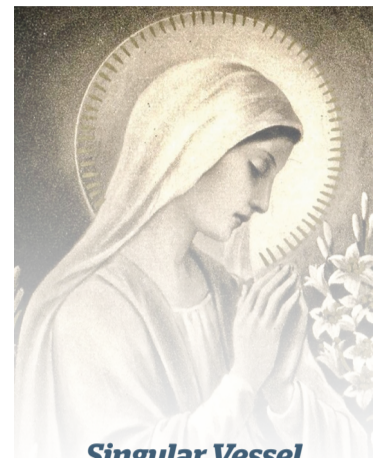
Writing in the 1960s, the Dominican theologian, Edward Schillebeeckx, tells us: ‘Mary’s function in the Incarnation was not completed when Jesus was born. It was a continuous task, involving the human formation of the young man... How this was accomplished is hidden from us... But his human qualities and character were formed and influenced by his mother’s virtues.’ [*Mary, Mother of the Redemption*, 1964, p.112]

We can best imitate Mary by

following Jesus and growing, as he did, through the gift of her love.

In his book, *The Mystery of the Incarnation*, Cardinal Basil Hume recounts an explanation by an elderly woman of a text on her wall that read, ‘Thou, God, seest me’. She said it didn’t mean that God was always watching to see if you were doing wrong – ‘They mean that *God loves you so much that he cannot take his eyes off you.*’ [Darton Longman Todd, 1999, p.91]

This is surely a primary factor in Mary’s devotion. She had grasped the truth that God couldn’t take his eyes off her. She needed no other vessel than the one containing that truth and wants nothing less for us. Understanding the depth of God’s love for every person and for the whole of creation, explodes you into a new way of living – a life of faith, hope, love and joy: Mary’s way.



Singular Vessel

**Singular vessel! A standout!
Unique among us!
Devoted and faithful
holding a treasure beyond
price.**

**Mary, dearest Mother.
Vessel us as you did Jesus.
Hold us as your own.
Carry us home.**

Mystical rose

Roses have long been associated with romance and chivalry. They are the flower of choice for Valentine’s Day. Rose gardens hold pride of place in any civic horticultural setting. The flower has adorned banners and battlements, shields and tunics across centuries.

The rose is also a symbol of mystery, of wonder and joy. It evokes the two-fold image of martyrdom and paradise.

Given this background, it is easy to see why Mary, the Mother of Jesus, might be compared to a rose, and a mystical one, her life awe-inspiring; tantalising close to us but hidden, wrapped in mystery.

Hers is a life of beauty, in the

most profound meaning of that word. Her privileged motherhood is a gift to the whole world; the child of her womb the very Word of God. God speaks love to us through Jesus. Mary’s gift of herself enables God’s love to be spoken.

This is also a life of mystery. So much was unknown to Mary; much more is unknown to us. ‘How can this come about?’ [Luke 1:34]. That was Mary’s immediate response to the angel’s message. Other questions would follow as her life with Joseph and Jesus unfolded. She kept everything in her heart, pondering what it might all mean, overwhelmed but not overcome by the wonder of it all. [See Luke 2:19 and 51].

As *Mystical Rose*, Mary stands as one fascinated but untroubled by the mystery that embraced her life. Just as the rose flower brings a sense of excitement and anticipation when it’s presented as a gift, such is the bearing of Mary in all the events and experiences that captured her heart in her relationship with Jesus. Her quiet dignity, as portrayed in the gospels, carried her through hesitation and doubt, aloneness, sorrow and loss.

Even her vigil at the foot of the cross was unfazed by the terror of the scene. By now, the mystery that enfolded the Rose, and to which she had given most faithful devotion, may well have released

a sense that there was still much more to come.

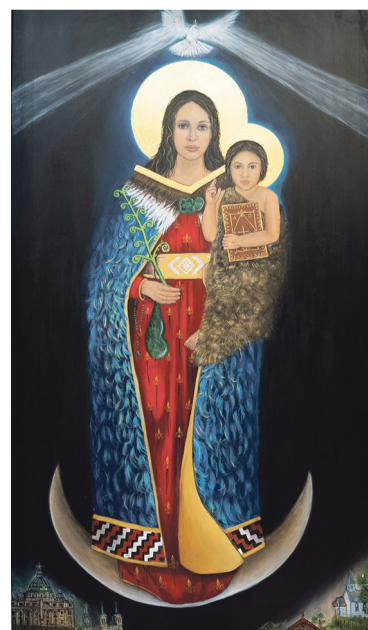
Invoking Mary as *Mystical Rose*, we honour one especially chosen by God. Though much of her life is hidden in mystery, its beauty is evident through her strong yet gentle character, her faithfulness, compassion, and humble acceptance of God’s will. The beauty of the rose inspires confidence and trust, despite its thorns, which not only provide protection for the plant, but ensure the flower will be approached carefully, in awe and wonder.

St John Henry Newman (1801–1890; Canonised 2019) honours Mary with this prayer.

**Holy Mary, Mystical Rose,
you are the most beautiful
flower created by God.
In venerating you,
we praise God for his holiness
and beauty.**



Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary, 15 August, Patronal Feast for New Zealand



Let us pray – Kia inoi tatou

**E te Atua aroha mā te whakapuaki
i tō mātou whakapono**

Loving God in professing this faith
in which we are united as your people,
we unite ourselves with the Yes
of Mary, mother of Jesus and first disciple.

**E te Atua, te Puna o ngā mea ora katoa,
te kaihomai o ngā mea pai katoa**

O God, Source of all life, giver
of all that is good
we, your people of Aotearoa New Zealand,
meet in the bonds of your love.
Keep us faithful in our response to your love
with Mary Mother of God
Assumed into Heaven,
patroness of our land.

**E te Atua aroha, ka karangahia houtia
mātou e koe ki ngā hua o te ora**

Loving God, you call us anew
to the abundance of life
for which we have been created.
In our life with you we mature
in relationship with you,
with one another, and with our land.
We repent the harm we have
caused in this holy place
to our sisters and brothers, and to our land.
In humility we turn to Mary,
Mother of God, Assumed into Heaven,
and in confidence pray.

**E te Atua, mā roto i te korowai o Maria
te whāea o tāu tamaiti, tō
mātou whaea anō hoki**

O God, under the patronage of Mary,
the mother of your son, and our mother,
and with renewed fervour
we turn to Mary, seeking her intercession.
For our/my own intentions (...)
for those we/I love (recall names...)
those who are suffering (...)
and those who have died (...).
United with our ancestors in faith we pray.
Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

Gospel Reading: Sunday 6 August 2023

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD – MATTHEW 17:1-9

¹ Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother, John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

² And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

³ And suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with him.

⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, 'Lord, it is good that we are

here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'

⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.'

⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and

were very much afraid.

⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Stand up, and do not be afraid.'⁸ And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

⁹ As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, 'Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Transfiguration – Matthew 17:1-9

Tom Gibson

Today, we see Jesus taking the initiative. He takes Peter, James and John with him up a very high mountain to be alone and in order to teach them.

While they are with him, Jesus suddenly changes. His face shines like the sun, his clothes become white as snow and he appears as if he has become a different person.

Suddenly Moses, who represents the Old Testament, and Elijah, who represents the prophets appear and begin talking with Jesus. Peter, in his surprise, says to Jesus: 'Let us make three altars here; one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'

While he was speaking, a cloud comes over and a voice from heaven announces: 'This is my son,

my beloved, listen to him.'

At this, the Apostles react by falling on their knees. Is this surprise or is it shock? Jesus says to them, 'Do not be afraid, tell no-one what you have seen until I rise again.'

***"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."* – Matthew 17:5**

What has been the purpose of this divine visitation? Shortly Jesus will be put to death and will rise again on the third day. Jesus, fully divine but also fully human like us, no doubt was experiencing fear and anguish about the suffering he knew he had to go through. But the transfiguration would have

reminded him of the reward that lay before him and provided much needed encouragement for him to do what he had to do as a human before he was to transfigure into the spiritual realm.

This story may provide the encouragement that we might need in our struggles as it did for Christ just before he was crucified. It may be seen as an indication of the reward that lies ahead of us when our physical lives end and we enter into the new life that Christ has prepared for us in heaven.

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



WHY DID THE TRANSFIGURATION TAKE PLACE?

The Catholic Church Catechism explains the Transfiguration this way:

Christ's Transfiguration aims at strengthening the apostles' faith in anticipation of his Passion: the ascent onto the 'high mountain' prepares for the ascent to Calvary. Christ, Head of the Church, manifests what his Body contains and radiates in the sacraments: 'the hope of glory'. [CCC 568]

The Transfiguration constitutes a pivotal moment in the life of Christ, in which his divinity is acknowledged. Having ascended Mount Tabor with the apostles Peter, James, and John, Christ is suddenly transfigured: his face is illuminated by a brilliant light, and his garments turn white, starkly contrasting with the surrounding deep shadows. The prophets Elijah and Moses speak with Christ in an apparition as the apostles look on in awe, their bodies dramatically foreshortened in the foreground. This episode takes place at the threshold between heaven and earth and, similarly, highlights Christ's status as both divine and human.

Raphael (1483–1520) The Transfiguration of Christ, 1516–20, oil tempera on wood, 410 cm x 279 cm, Vatican Museum, Vatican City.

Photo: Wikimedia

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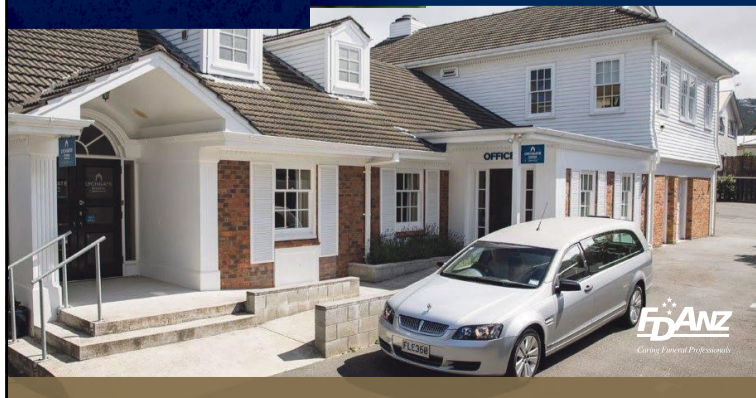


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DATES AND EVENTS – WHAT’S ON

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.

Sunday 6 August

> World Youth Day – Wellington celebrations, 1pm–8pm. Bishop Viard College, Porirua. (See p 12.)

Monday 7 August

Quiet Day for creative soul – facilitator Tracey Young and friends, 10am–2.30pm, Josephite Retreat Centre, Mt St Joseph, 14 Hillside Tce, Whanganui. Koha entry. Register at pam.hopper@sosj.org.au or ph (06) 345-5047 extn 3.

Wednesday 9 August

International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples (un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day).

Saturday 12 August

> Centennial – Knights of the Southern Cross of New Zealand, St Francis Retreat Centre, 50 Hillsborough Rd, Auckland. Includes retreat led by KSC Chaplain Fr Ezio Blasoni, Mass celebrated by Bishop Steve Lowe, banquet dinner. Anyone connected with the Knights and may like to attend, contact Mathew Bland at knightsauckland@gmail.com or ph 021 811 444.

> Rhythms, Cycles and Season – facilitator Merita Holder, Josephite Retreat Centre, Whanganui, \$20. Register at pam.hopper@sosj.org.au or ph (06) 345-5047 extn3.

Tuesday 15 August

Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity – Patronal Feast for New Zealand. (See p 17.)

Friday 1 September

Day of Prayer for Care of Creation.

Saturday 9–Sunday 10 September

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

Sunday 24 September

Ecumenical river prayer walk – follow Te Awa Kairangi | Hutt River from Harcourt Park, Upper Hutt to Petone foreshore. Walk all or section of river trail. Details in September WelCom. Further information on

Facebook: Te Awa Kairangi Prayer Walk (public group.)

Friday 13–Sunday 14 October

Centenary – St Anthony’s Catholic School, Seatoun, invites all past and present students, staff, families and supporters to this occasion. Register by completing form online at: tinyurl.com/St-Anthony-Seatoun-Centenary or St Anthony’s School Centenary Facebook Page. Email centenary@stants.school.nz for more information or contact Julie O’Brien on 021 377 192.

Saturday 14–Sunday 15 October

Jubilee weekend – St Joseph’s Catholic Church, 32 Allardice St, Dannevirke, celebrates 125 years of St Joseph’s Parish throughout 2023. Jubilee Mass and luncheon on Saturday 14, and Mass Sunday 15. All past and present parishioners, families, and supporters invited. Please register interest at stjodvke@xtra.co.nz by 10 September.

Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission 2023 programme

The archdiocesan Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission and its three committees contribute and participate in work for justice and peace, inspired and informed by Catholic social teaching.

The commission’s activities and events this year include:

- an online campaign for *Laudato si’* week, with practical suggestions to support people put LS teachings into action. The Integral Ecology Committee is planning activities for the the Season of Creation, 1 September–4 October;
- the Poverty Committee’s work on issues of food security, death without debt, and the Living Wage movement;
- the Bi-Cultural Relationships Committee’s focus on engaging with parishes to widen participation;
- an ‘Election Forum’ ahead of the 2023 General Election on 14 October.

Other coming events include Day of Prayer for Creation, 1 September; a formation day for EJP and its committees including producing a video about its purpose and mahi; Season of Creation Miha, 1 October with the Home of Compassion and Suzanne Aubert celebrations; and World Day of the Poor, 19 November, with Catholic Social Services.

To learn more about the commission visit: wn.catholic.org.nz/about/commission-for-ecology/ and join their public Facebook group: facebook.com/groups/1187210511417501

Please contact Deirdre Meskill, EJP adviser, d.meskill@wn.catholic.org.nz for updates about the commission’s events and activities.

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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 17 August, 7:30pm
Contact: David 027 447 7280

Palmerston North
St Mary's Church foyer, Ruahine Street
Tuesday 15 August, 7:00pm
Contact: John 027 688 7750

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

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Faith Leadership in Education

Te Rohe Pīhopa o Te Papaioe – Diocese of Palmerston North

Annette Scullion

The Diocese of Palmerston North's primary and secondary school faith leaders – principals and directors of Religious Education – gathered at the diocesan office and at Hato Pāora College near Feilding, for a two-day conference in June.

The conference was an opportunity for the faith leaders to reconnect in person having been unable to gather as a group kanohi ki te kanohi – face-to-face – for several years. It was also an opportunity to experience the richness of wairuatanga – spirituality – and its connection to Katorikatanga – Catholicism.

The Palmerston North Catholic Education team had been organising the conference for several months to ensure a successful gathering. The team includes Teresa Edward, Pauline Balm, Jane Dravitzki, Candice Adams and Theresa Logan.

The conference began in welcome at Te Rau Aroha, Palmerston North Diocesan Centre, by Debbie Marshall Lobb, Nuwyene

Te Awe Awe Mohi and Meihana Durie who represent mana whenua Rangitane Iwi.

As part of whakawhanaungatanga – connecting and building relationships among one another – the group spent some time with introductions and formalities getting to know one another.

'We have been blessed in our diocese with a number of new faith leaders and acting faith leader appointments since 2021 so we would like to take this opportunity for everyone gathered to introduce themselves,' said Teresa Edwards, Education Office Manager.

The representatives from each school were invited to stand and introduce themselves. Included was an invitation to conference supporters Aaron from Programme Maintenance and Steve from Education Services.

The afternoon included a session on spiritual nourishment led by Palmerston North-based lecturer and Te Kupenga site coordinator Br Kevin Dobbyn fms. Time was also spent discussing the Education Office aspirations and strategic direction for

'thriving Catholic schools in partnership'. A team from the diocesan office gave an update about property, attendance dues and edition. The day concluded over a conference dinner with keynote speakers Dr Kevin Shaw and Rosalie Connors of the New Zealand Catholic Education Office.

The following day the group travelled to Hato Pāora College near Feilding and were welcomed onto the school marae with a pōwhiri.

Tumuaki Dr Nathan Matthews facilitated the visit by immersing the group in the unique dual special character of being Māori and Catholic. He talked to the faith leaders about the history and purpose of Hato Pāora and the challenges of reaching Māori and Catholic young people with a dual charism – Māori knowledge, Catholic perspective and the space in-between. He described the importance of daily singing and the college chapel as 'a really big part of our Katorikatanga and fundamental to the life of Hato Pāora. It is at the heart of the school, a living space.'

Dr Matthews guided the visitors through

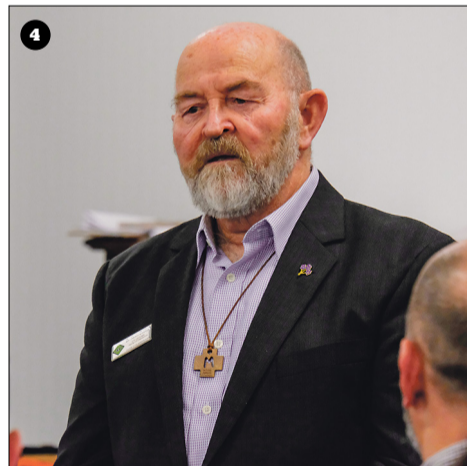
the meaning for the four pou in the chapel: Mary as loving and fierce; Joseph as loyal and hardworking; Paul as strength, a 'warrior', ability to change your life if you need to; and Peter Chanel as sacrifice.

He said to the teachers, 'I can see myself here. That's what we want for Māori. Speaking Māori, singing Māori songs.' He asked them, 'How are you doing that for your students?'

'Wairuatanga is spirituality, not religion. How is wairuatanga, in a meaningful way, in your strategic plan for your students? We walk a line that equally supports Māori and cultural knowledge, but the Catholic faith is a compass. If you are not confident culturally, you are not confident in life.'

The two-day conference concluded with Miha – Mass in the college chapel.

Teresa Edwards said, 'Our time together at our Faith Leadership conference was collaborative, enriching, and inspiring. Our diocese is truly blessed with wonderful faith leaders in our Catholic school communities.'



1 & 2. The conference began in welcome at Te Rau Aroha, Palmerston North Diocesan Centre, by (l-r) Debbie Marshall Lobb, Nuwyene Te Awe Awe Mohi and Meihana Durie who represent mana whenua Rangitane Iwi.

3. Groups discussed the aspirations and strategic direction for 'thriving Catholic schools in partnership'.

4. Br Kevin Dobbyn fms led a session on spiritual nourishment.

6. St John's College Hastings Tumuaki – Principal, George Rogers, Teresa Edwards, Manager Palmerston North Diocese Education Office, and Dr Nathan Matthews.

5, 7 & 8. Tumuaki Dr Nathan Matthews immersed the group of faith leaders visiting Hato Pāora College in the unique dual special character of being Māori and Catholic.

Photos: Annette Scullion/WelCom