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

Students drive innovation for restricted licence journey

An innovative app designed by a group of Sacred Heart College Napier business students is poised to revolutionise the path for students to gain a restricted driver's licence. The students are collaborating with Victoria University of Wellington to develop the app.



The Sacred Heart College Napier students behind Road Ready NZ app: (l-r) back: Adalyn Homan, Amber Wright, Sneha Jenson; front: Sophia Unwin, Chahat Dhama, and Violet Unwin. Photo: Supplied

'Road Ready NZ' is the brainchild of Year 12 students Adalyn Homan, Amber Wright, Sneha Jenson, Sophia Unwin, Chahat Dhama and Violet Unwin who have been taking part in this year's Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme (YES).

The app is being designed to utilise GPS technology to simulate a restricted test around the driver's chosen area with traffic lights, roundabouts and parking manoeuvres. Voice commands will guide users through the simulated test routes, offering tips and highlighting common mistakes to enhance learner drivers' preparation for their driver licence tests.

Adalyn says the idea for the app came from a conversation with her mother when Adalyn expressed frustration over the limited resources available to young drivers preparing for their tests.

'I had just taken my restricted test and I was complaining there weren't a lot of resources out there to help. I ended up going to driving school but it wasn't cheap. It made me realise how unfair it is that people who can't afford the financial cost of getting their licence miss out.'

The students surveyed their wider school community to gauge whether anyone had broken the restrictions of the graduated

driver licensing system and why.

'We found people aren't moving through the licence levels,' Sneha says. 'They don't have the means or the encouragement, or their parents don't have the time to teach them. Therefore, they're just staying on a learner or restricted licence.'

'We believe our app is a solution and will go a long way to helping people graduate through the levels and not break those rules.'

Despite initial doubts about the feasibility of developing an app, the team persevered. They teamed up with five students from Victoria University of Wellington, who will develop the app as part of their post-graduate

programme.

Sophia says they used specific software to design the app, which they have sent to the university students to develop. A draft app is expected to be ready soon, with plans for refinement and marketing over the next few months.

As the project progresses, the group remains focused on their goal of launching the free-to-use app to the public.

For more information and to contact Road Ready NZ visit: @roadreadynz on Instagram and Road Ready NZ on Facebook.

Honouring 70 years of priestly service: Bishop Owen Dolan's milestone anniversary

Emma Dodsworth

On July 25 2024, Palmerston North diocesan and parish staff and local clergy gathered to honour Bishop Owen Dolan's extraordinary 70th anniversary of priesthood. Held at Te Rau Aroha - the Diocesan Centre, Bishop Owen's major milestone was celebrated with kai, speeches, and expressions of gratitude for his unwavering commitment to his faith and community.

Earlier in the week Bishop Owen's 70th ordination anniversary was celebrated at the

9.30am Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Palmerston North.

At 95 years old, Bishop Owen J Dolan is both the oldest and one of the longest-serving priests in New Zealand. His journey began with his ordination on 21 July, 1954, in Hawera, where he was raised by his grandmother and two aunts after his mother passed away when he was just a week old.

Bishop John Adams began the celebration with a reference to *Les Misérables*, drawing parallels between the mercy shown by the bishop in the story and the grace Bishop Owen has extended throughout his priesthood.

He praised Bishop Owen for his welcoming nature, noting how many have found solace and friendship at his door. 'Everyone leaves your presence somehow better for spending their time with you,' Bishop John said. 'You have a wonderful gift for friendship and a pastoral genius that makes you a beacon of compassion and grace.'

Nick Wilson, Diocesan Young Catholics Team Leader, conveyed a vivid reflection of Bishop Owen's life and accomplishments. 'To give context to Owen's life, he was in primary and secondary school when WWII was happening. He was also the Dux of



Bishop Owen Dolan at the episcopal ordination of Bishop John Adams, September 2023.

Photo: WelCom

» Continued on p 3

From the editor

Annette Scullion

Tēnā koutou kātoa

WelCom joins with the Diocese of Palmerston North community in congratulating Bishop Owen Dolan on reaching his significant milestone of 70 years of priestly ordination.

Now 95 years old, Bishop Owen is both the oldest and one of the longest-serving priests in New Zealand, beginning his journey with his ordination on 21 July, 1954.

Bishop Owen has lived a rich, full and interesting life in New Zealand and overseas,

both before and throughout his priesthood. Well accomplished, educated and wise, Bishop Owen is warm, welcoming and open to everyone. His sometimes quiet, intuitive and humble manner can belie his wonderful wit, sense of fun and sharp observations.

Bishop Owen genuinely engages with and cares about people and for many years after making a first encounter. Many people know and cherish Bishop Owen and we wish him every prayer and blessing at this momentous time.

Ngā mihi

Catholic Foundation grants

The Archdiocese of Wellington's Catholic Foundation Board has restructured the focus of the grants it makes available to the archdiocese community, towards spiritual growth and development.

The Board has made available \$25,000 for the 2024/2025 financial year to parishes for spiritual growth and development projects. Parishes are invited to apply for grants to a maximum of \$5,000 towards courses such as The Alpha Programme and other similar projects.

More information and application procedures are on the Catholic Foundation website at: www.catholicfoundation.org.nz/grants-and-



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scholarships/ or contact the Catholic Foundation Secretary, Kathy Whelan on email: k.whelan@wn.catholic.org.nz or phone 021 666 405.

» Tertiary study scholarships – see information on p 15.

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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

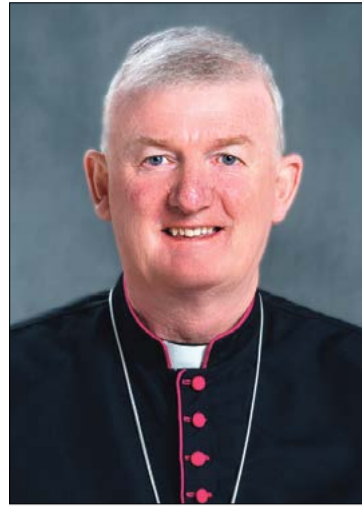
Deadline for September 2024 issue: Monday, 12 August 2024

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Remembering St John Paul II's inspiring evangelisation



Bishop John Adams
Bishop of Palmerston North Diocese

Pope Francis is often quoted as having said, as a Catholic community, we are less living in an era of change than a change of era. I personally agree with this observation. Other commentators have suggested, again correctly in my view, that we are entering once again into an apostolic age, having spent the last 16 centuries as a Church living in the age of Christendom.

"Jesus said, I am the way and the truth and the life." – John 14:6

I offer these observations as we, the members of the Roman Catholic community in New Zealand, face the prospect of bringing the Gospel to those who live in these times. How might we do this with great power and conviction? One answer to this question, as to how

we might overcome the challenges of evangelising in our day, is to turn to those who have gone before us. St Pope John Paul II for instance was faced with a similar challenge. As a young man he found himself living under the grip of a godless regime in his native Poland. He saw and understood what it was to encounter a ruling power, which claimed that our Christian faith ought to be consigned to history.

A useful insight into the nature of this Soviet world view is contained in the story of Nowa Huta an industrial town build by the communist government just on the outskirts of Krakow, the ancient capital city of Poland, and under the pastoral care of the young Bishop Karol Wojtyla. Beginning in 1949, this exercise in social engineering was built around a massive steel works, which was a gift from the Soviet government. This small city was built to model a communist world view. It was carefully planned to foreshadow a society without Christian faith, and consequently was the first city in Poland to be built without a Catholic Church. This decision of the communist regime to block the building of a church for this community played out for the next 20 years, with +Karol Wojtyla

continually advocating for a place of worship within Nowa Huta. Finally, on the day of John Paul's 49th birthday, and shortly before he was to be called to Rome, construction began on a church. The build would take another decade with most of the labour coming from volunteers

who would go to work on the church after a full day at the steel mill. The 'foundation stone' of The Mother of God, Queen of Poland Church was a brick given by Pope Paul VI taken from the ancient Basilica of Constantine in Rome.

After being elected Pope, John Paul returned to Poland in 1979, and he returned then to Nowa Huta to offer his first Mass in Poland as the Pope. It was during the homily at that Mass he first mentioned the term – The New Evangelisation. An evangelisation not new in content, but new 'in its ardour, methods and expression'. This was the 'way' in which John Paul sort to counter the godless agenda of the communist regime.

It seems to this writer the genius of St John Paul II is a powerful guide for us today when we appraise the effectiveness of our current evangelising efforts and look to the future in a less and less accommodating culture. Our efforts to represent the Gospel in a more compelling way are not simply a matter of designing new programmes – for the programme already exists. Our plan is found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition of the Church. Anything that is 'new' is determined by the Holy Spirit, and it is 'new' because of it being necessary.

Let's ask that same Holy Spirit to guide us now – that like John Paul II our determination, perseverance, and openness to the Holy Spirit might bear fruit as our parishes and diocesan structures 're-propose' the person of Jesus Christ as 'the way the truth and the life', (John 14:6).



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Archbishop Gábor Pintér appointed Pope's representative to Aotearoa New Zealand

Pope Francis has appointed Archbishop Gábor Pintér as the new Apostolic Nuncio to Aotearoa New Zealand. The appointment was announced on 27 July 2024, in Rome.

A nuncio is the Pope's chief diplomatic representative in a country, the equivalent of an ambassador.

Archbishop Pintér – who will also serve as Apostolic Delegate to the Pacific Ocean – succeeds Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa,

who returned to Rome in March after suffering a stroke last October.

Archbishop Pintér is the present Apostolic Nuncio to Honduras. He was born in Kunszentmarton, Hungary, in 1964 and ordained as a Catholic priest in June 1988. He has a PhD in Theology and a PhD in Canon Law and speaks Hungarian, Italian, English, German, French, Spanish, Russian, Swedish and Haitian Creole.

He entered the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See in 1996 and



His Excellency Archbishop Gábor Pintér has been appointed by Pope Francis as the new Apostolic Nuncio to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Photo: Supplied

served in Haiti, Bolivia, Sweden, France, the Philippines and Austria, before being appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Belarus in 2016.

He was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Honduras in November 2019, coincidentally replacing Archbishop Rugambwa, who was nuncio there until his appointment to New Zealand that year.

Archbishop of Wellington Paul Martin SM, the General Secretary of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, says the bishops and

people of New Zealand will be delighted to hear of Archbishop Pintér's appointment.

'We are pleased to have a Nuncio of such experience and we look forward to working with him for the good of the Church in our country and the Pacific and as the connection with the Holy Father,' said Archbishop Martin. 'We look forward to welcoming him when he arrives.'

Source: NZCBC

» Continued from p 1

Hawera High School, where he completed his secondary education.' Nick touched on Bishop Owen's significant contributions to various parishes across the Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses, serving in Petone, Wairoa, Patea, Inglewood, New Plymouth, Fielding, Upper Hutt, Waitara, Stokes Valley, and Mt Victoria.

Nick also highlighted Bishop Owen's encounters with four popes, having been in St Peter's Square as Paul VI went past, and having shaken hands with John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and Francis.

In 1973, Bishop Owen went to Peru to serve. He learned the language and embraced the local culture amidst political upheaval. His wide-ranging experience led to his appointments as the National Director of the Pontifical Missions and National Chaplain of the St Vincent de Paul Society, roles that underscored his commitment to social justice and dignity of all people.

In 1995, Bishop Owen was appointed as coadjutor bishop in Palmerston North with the expectation that Bishop Peter Cullinane would soon retire. However, Bishop Peter recovered

from a heart condition and continued to serve for another 17 years, while Bishop Owen retired in 2004. Bishop Owen and Bishop Peter have maintained a close friendship and supporting each other through their clerical duties.

Reflecting on his 70 years, Bishop Owen spoke of the influence of his scripture professor at Holy Cross Seminary, Fr Ronald Cox SM, who frequently emphasised Philippians 2:5: 'Seek the mind of Christ'. This phrase became Bishop Owen's guiding motto upon his ordination as coadjutor bishop.

Bishop Owen highlighted the importance of serving others in alignment with Christian values. He praised the staff working in the diocesan office for their dedication, acknowledging the special grace involved in their service to the Diocese of Palmerston North. 'Thank God for us all, because we're carrying out the work we're called upon to do by Jesus Christ: to serve our sisters and brothers.'

Steph Grantham, speaking on behalf of the Cathedral parish team, said: 'You are a pillar in the diocesan community and an essential ingredient in the Catholic Cathedral parish. We appreciate and



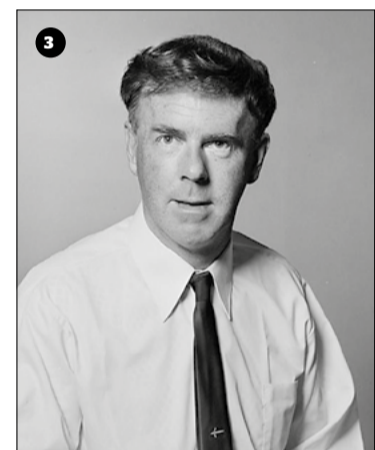
recognise your years of devotion to serving our people and offering support to our priests, locally and throughout New Zealand.'

Steph said, 'Even in retirement, Bishop Owen remains an active and beloved figure in his MetLife community, where his positive influence continues to draw others.'

The Catholic Education Team lauded Bishop Owen's impact on Catholic education, emphasising his warmth, humour, and servant leadership. 'Your steadfast commitment to our faith and education has been a guiding light for us all.'

The celebration concluded with a heartfelt acknowledgment from Bishop John: 'Owen spoke eloquently about service and being a gift to others, so we have a gift for you, Owen, just as a sign of our thankfulness for your being amongst us, for your faithfulness, and for the beautiful gifts that people have recognised today.'

Bishop Owen Dolan's 70 years of priesthood stand as a testament to his enduring faith, dedication, and the profound impact he has had on countless lives. As he continues to serve and inspire, the diocesan community looks forward to his continuing presence and guidance.



1. Nick Wilson speaking at Bishop Owen's 70th anniversary celebration about his life and accomplishments.
2. Bishop Owen cuts his 70th anniversary cake. Photos: Supplied
3. Fr (later Bishop) Owen Dolan, as a young priest stationed at Waitara and New Plymouth, photographed 29 December 1972. Photo: Swainson/Woods Collection, Puke Ariki and District Libraries. WD.036341

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Catholic Church welcomes final report of New Zealand Royal Commission on Abuse in Care

The long-running Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care was made public after being formally tabled in Parliament on 24 July 2024.

The Royal Commission spent six years holding hearings and investigating events from 1950 until the present day.

The final report, weighing 14kg, is almost 3000 pages long.

The final report said abuse was 'unimaginable' in state and faith-run institutions, explaining at least 200,000 people have been abused in these care facilities over the decades. The report said as many as 42 per cent of those in faith-based care by all denominations were abused.

The Government will formally apologise for the abuse inflicted in care and faith-based institutions at Parliament on 12 November 2024.

Immediately following the tabling of the report and its release to the public, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference and the Congregational Leaders Conference Aotearoa New Zealand said in a statement they welcomed the final report.

As the bishops and congregational leaders were only able to get copies of the report following its tabling, they will read its 16 volumes thoroughly and consider the contents before



The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in Care final report and recommendations, Whanaketia – through pain and trauma, from darkness to light, was formally tabled in Parliament and released to the public on 24 July 2024. www.abuseincare.org.nz/reports/whanaketia/

they make any further comments.

The bishops' and congregational leaders' statement is re-published on this page. The statement is also online at: catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/royal/



People arrive at Parliament in Wellington, on Wednesday, 24 July, for the tabling of a wide-ranging independent inquiry into the abuse of children and vulnerable adults in care over the span of five decades.

Photo: AP/Charlotte Graham-McLay

Male Survivors Wellington

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24 July 2024

Catholic Church thanks Royal Commissioners for their final report

Today marks the end of over six years' work for the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care. The Royal Commission has been holding hearings and investigating events from 1950 to today. Starting early in the year 2018 with a consultation process, the Inquiry was required to make various reports and provide a final report with findings and recommendations. That report was delivered to the Governor General on 25 June 2024.

Today the Minister of Internal Affairs tabled the report in Parliament. The Catholic bishops and congregational leaders in Aotearoa New Zealand have received a copy of the Inquiry's Final Report and will now read and review it carefully. As we have done throughout the length of the Inquiry, we will ensure that action follows our review of the Inquiry's findings.

There is work for the government to do and work to be undertaken by many other people.

We understand that within the community, some of us – including leaders in the Catholic Church – have a special role to play to ensure that the findings and recommendations of this significant Inquiry are not lost or confined to words in a report. We commit to that role.

At the same time, everyone must play their part in responding to the Inquiry's report to the extent that they can. There are things that all of us can and must do to eliminate abuse of any kind in whatever context we live and work in. We hope this report and the work that flows from it will result in a better society and a safer environment for all people.

Abuse is not only historical, nor confined to one part of society or another. The Inquiry's report and the material that we heard from victims and survivors make that crystal clear. As we said in our letter of 10 January 2023:

We acknowledge that the abuse of people in the care of the Church is real and the failures of Church leaders in responding to reports are real. The impacts of these are present today; for survivors, their whānau, for faith communities, and for society. This is not just an exercise in looking backwards. We look forwards. We will continue to improve safeguarding in all aspects of church life. There is not, and will not be, any tolerance for abuse in the Church.

We thank the Inquiry's Commissioners for the work they have done. There is much to consider, and the extent of the report shows that there is much to do.

Over the past 30 years, the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand has made significant progress in responding to reports of abuse and safeguarding. We must continue to work to ensure that progress continues and that our church communities are places where people are safe.

We ask you, the Catholic people in Aotearoa New Zealand to join with us, as we continue this journey.

Bishop Steve Lowe
NZCBC President

Father Thomas Rouse
CLCANZ President

Caritas calls for more action on human trafficking

For the fourth consecutive year, the New Zealand Government has failed to address human trafficking in Aotearoa New Zealand, according to the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, released 25 June 2024.

The annual TIP report ranks countries based on their efforts to combat human trafficking. New Zealand slipped down the rankings to Tier Two, after the Government failed to do enough to prevent the growing crime in 2021, after 17 years in Tier One, says Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand.

Caritas has called on the Government to act with urgency.

'New Zealand is falling behind, stalling on action to protect the most vulnerable while this crime

surges' says Mena Antonio, Chief Executive of Caritas.

Human trafficking is the fastest growing global crime, with the Walk Free Foundation estimating approximately 50 million people around the world are currently being enslaved and exploited.

'New Zealand continues to be a destination country for trafficking. Investigations are finding cases of labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, and debt bondage across industries and regions.

'We were relieved when the Government began drafting modern slavery legislation in 2023 – but are disappointed the new Government has decided not to continue this work.

'This Government claims to be tough on crime but sits by while this crime flourishes. They must step up to prevent our status from downgrading further and ensure we do our part in the fight against human trafficking, as good global citizens,' Mena Antonio said.

Other actions the Government could take, Caritas says, include:

Establishing a national referral mechanism to ensure cases are reported and give trafficking survivors the support they need.

Aligning the Crimes Act with International Law to recognise that proof of coercion or deception is not necessary to prosecute someone for child trafficking and exploitation.

Read more at: caritas.org.nz/media

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‘We teach who we are’

Michael Fitzsimons

More than 700 educators and people involved with Catholic education gathered for the National Catholic Education Convention in Wellington in June.

The theme of the convention was *Tūhono Whakapono: Together, one faith community*. It was the first convention to be held since 2018, due to the intervention of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The convention included 23 seminars and featured several keynote speakers, including Dr Joe Paprocki, author and the National Consultant for Faith Formation for Loyola Press, USA, Manuel Beasley, Vicar for Māori in the Auckland Diocese, Tim Wilson, Executive Director of the Maxim Institute and Dr Sandra Cullen, Associate

Professor of Religious Education and Head of the School of Human Development at Dublin City University, Ireland.

‘It was a fantastic conference,’ said Sandra Cullen. ‘I loved the commitment of the people and the warm welcome. I came to the conference following a bereavement, and I was carried along by these great people. I really felt at home and cared for by the people.’

Sandra Cullen’s keynote address was entitled *We teach who we are – drawing on the curriculum as a source of wisdom for ourselves*. Her message was that, at the heart of the curriculum is the storyteller.

‘Supporting the storytellers, the teachers and leaders, is key to the success of the curriculum. The cross-themes of the curriculum are potentially key sources of wisdom

for the lives of the storytellers so that as we “teach who we are”, we do so with integrity and authenticity.’

Sandra Cullen works with many parishes and schools and believes that educators need to get beneath the holy words and constructs and look at what underpins that.

‘We need to try and reach people who maybe feel a bit alienated from the official church and liturgy, which doesn’t always speak to them. They may feel lost. We need to help people to get underneath that to their experience of life and wonder and meaning and love and to see that God is within all of that.’

‘Sometimes you can’t see it but sometimes you can. There are moments when we get that underpinning of existence that we in the Catholic tradition call God, and a light gets shone and we see that.’

It’s important to allow young



‘One of the things which is important in a Catholic worldview is learning to hope, not just hope for me but hope for the world,’ said Dr Sandra Cullen at the NZ National Catholic Education Convention.

people to interrogate their experience, to ask the tough questions and they may not use the same words we would in their responses, says Sandra.

‘My own children, for example, would express themselves through music and poetry and art. They might not use the same language that I use but I think we are trying to express the same longings.’

One of the things which is important in a Catholic worldview is ‘learning to hope, not just hope for me but hope for the world,’ says Sandra.

‘Hope is not about this lovely fairyland after we die. It’s the idea that there is a plan to the universe, that ultimately we are in God’s hands. This is something which is so valuable in today’s conflicted world that is flattening all horizons.’

New Zealand theologian sought for international appointment

New Zealand’s only liturgically trained theologian, Dr Joe Grayland, has accepted the offer of a long-term position teaching at the University of Würzburg, Germany.

Currently on sabbatical and lecturing at the University of Tübingen, Germany, he is recognised for his expertise in liturgy and sacramental theology.

Dr Grayland’s new role at Würzburg includes teaching, research and pastoral responsibilities at the faculty church in the centre of the city.

The news of his appointment was announced by Bishop John Adams of Palmerston North in a letter to



Dr Joe Grayland has accepted the offer of a long-term position teaching at the University of Würzburg, Germany.

the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes where Dr Grayland served as parish priest.

Initially expected back in New Zealand in early August, Bishop Adams told parishioners Dr Grayland’s new opportunity required an immediate decision.

‘I do believe this is a good and fruitful use of his talents,’ wrote Bishop Adams.

Bishop Adams told parishioners that he has written to the Bishop of Würzburg giving Dr Grayland his permission to fulfil his priestly obligations in the Würzburg diocese.

‘I am expecting Fr Joe will be away from our diocese for a number of years,’ he added.

International involvement

Dr Grayland is an internationally published author known for his work on the Covid-19 ‘liturgical lockdown’ and navigating Catholicism in a secular country.

His recent publications include articles in the Australian Journal of Liturgy and the *Australian Journal of Pastoral Liturgy*. He also regularly contributes to *La Croix International*, *CathNews NZ* and *WelCom*.

Since arriving in Germany in October 2023, Dr Grayland has been appointed to an international group writing a continental commentary on Sacrosanctum Concilium.

The group met recently at the Vatican and is managed by two esteemed professors, Stephan Winter and Martin Stuflesser.

Dr Grayland is in the Oceania – Asian writing group and the commentary is in English and German.

Closer to home, Dr Grayland was an expert witness at the Australian Royal Commission into the abuse of minors, where he authored a briefing paper on the theology of

reconciliation.

As well as his expert witness involvement, alongside UK’s Professor Thomas O’Loughlin, he co-hosts the globally acclaimed online discussion channel, Flashes of Insight, which features prominent international figures including Dr Phyllis Zagano, Dr Justin Taylor, Dr James Alison, Dr Margit Echol, Dr Carmel Pilcher, Dr Paul Zulehner, Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Cardinal John Dew.

During his sabbatical, Dr Grayland has also contributed to the German Bishops Conference’s international discussions on synodal theology.

Missed in Palmerston North

In Palmerston North, Fr Grayland served as Vicar Forane, Consultor and parish priest of the Cathedral parish, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St Mary’s Foxton.

He managed these roles during the pandemic, handling the complexities of church closures and government-imposed restrictions.

Source: *CathNews New Zealand*

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Care for creation requires true conversion

In his message for the 2024 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Francis has appealed for humanity's conversion so we acknowledge the disastrous effects of war and set ethical limits on the development of artificial intelligence.

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will be held on 1 September, 2024. The day's theme this year is 'Hope and Act with Creation,' drawn from St Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:19-25).

The message is broken up into nine sections, which all highlight our responsibility to take care of our Common Home. The environment, the Pope says, 'is subject to dissolution and death, aggravated by the human

abuse of nature.' Yet, at the same time, he reassures, 'the salvation of humanity in Christ is a sure hope also for creation, for creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God.'

'In our hopeful and persevering expectation of the glorious return of Jesus,' Pope Francis notes, 'the Holy Spirit keeps us, the community of believers, vigilant.'

In his Message, the Holy Father goes on to explain that hoping and acting with creation means joining forces and walking together with all men and women of good will. In this way, we can help to rethink, 'among other things, the question of human power, its meaning and its limits.'



Image: Vatican News/Goinyk/stock.adobe.com

In this context, the Pope says, 'there is an urgent need to set ethical limits on the development of artificial intelligence, since its capacity for calculation and simulation could be used for domination over humanity and nature, instead of being harnessed for the service of peace and integral development.'

'To claim the right to possess and dominate nature, manipulating it at will,' he says, 'represents a form of idolatry, a Promethean version of man who, intoxicated by his technocratic power, arrogantly places the earth in a "dis-graced" condition, deprived of God's grace.'

Source: Vatican News

New Synod working document released

The newly released working document for the Synod on Synodality offers inspiration, while revealing the journey is far from over in realising the fullness of the Church's mission.

On 9 July, the Vatican's General Secretariat of the Synod released the working document for the second session of the Synod on Synodality, which takes place at the Vatican, 2-7 October. The document centres on the upcoming discussions on the topic of 'how to be a missionary synodal church.'

After an introduction that recaps the timeline of the Synod, it outlines 'the foundations of the vision of a missionary synodal Church,' noting that it does not intend to provide 'a complete treatise on ecclesiology' but rather a reflection 'placed at the service of the particular work of discernment' for the Synod's upcoming 2024 session in Rome.

The document then examines the relationships that sustain the Church; the paths for nurturing such relationships, particularly formation, discernment, participatory decision-making and transparency; and the concrete contexts in which such relationships are found. The document also makes clear that 'synodality is not an end in itself' or 'an alternative' to the Church's communion with the triune God through the salvific work of Jesus Christ; rather, it is a way of living and working ('modus



Pope Francis prays at the conclusion of the first session of the Synod of Bishops on synodality.

Photo: CNS/Vatican Media

vivendi et operandi') together as the Church.

The text is an invitation 'to reflect deeply upon the grace of our relationship to God, the Most Holy Trinity, and to one another as incorporated into Trinitarian life in Christ by the Spirit,' said Bishop Daniel E Flores of Brownsville, Texas, lead coordinator for the synodal process in the United States.

Bishop Flores said that 'these

relations are practically lived out in our local communities and in the universal Church and are at the service of the mission. The quality of our relations, rooted in charity, their theological and practical shape at all levels, are at the heart of synodal discernment and renewal in the Church,' he added.

Source: OSV News

Call for two-state solution in Holy Land

Wrapping up their annual Synod in Baghdad, the Chaldean bishops of Iraq expressed their deep concern over the impact of the war in Gaza on the entire region, and reaffirmed a two-state solution as the only way for a lasting peace.

In a statement issued at the closing of the Synod last month, the Iraqi bishops expressed deep concern for the many conflicts raging in the Middle East, especially in the Holy Land.

While condemning 'all forms of violence,' they urged the international community to always uphold peace and actively engage to put an immediate end to this devastating war.

According to the Chaldean bishops, the only viable solution to the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict is to create two neighbouring states that live 'in peace, security,

stability and mutual trust.'

This stance is strongly advocated, among many others, by the Holy See, but is firmly opposed by the Israeli government, especially after Hamas' terrorist attacks of 7 October 2023.

The statement further focused on the Christian communities living in the region. Regarding specifically Iraq, the Chaldean bishops decried the 'agony' of Christians, 'rooted in this land,' who, they said, 'have suffered greatly in the past two decades' from deprivation of their rights, marginalisation, exclusion and illegal seizure of their properties and goods.'

The Synod called on Iraqi authorities to ensure Christians enjoy the same political and civil rights as all Iraqi citizens.

Source: Vatican News



View of Jerusalem. Two-state solution is the only way to a lasting peace in the Holy Land, say Chaldean bishops.

Photo: Vatican News

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Society of St Vincent de Paul New Zealand

Pope appeals for Olympic Truce

Pope Francis has expressed his hope that the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games provide the opportunity for warring nations to respect an ancient Greek tradition and establish a truce for the duration of the Games.

‘According to ancient tradition, may the Olympics be an opportunity to establish a truce in wars, demonstrating a sincere will for peace,’ he said.

Pope Francis noted, ‘Sport also has a great social power, capable of peacefully uniting people from different cultures. I hope this event can be a sign of the inclusive

world we want to build and that the athletes, with their sporting testimony, may be messengers of peace and valuable models for the young.’

The tradition of the ‘Olympic Truce’ originally aimed to allow safe participation in the ancient Olympic Games for all athletes and spectators from Greek city-states who were constantly engaged in conflict with each other.

In the 1990s the International Olympic Committee decided to revive the concept of the Olympic Truce with a view to protecting the interests of the athletes and sport in



The moon, the Olympic rings and the Eiffel Tower ahead of the Paris Olympics.

Photo: OSV News/Kai Pfaffenbach/Reuters

general and to harness the power of sport to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation more broadly.

Source: Vatican News

Notre-Dame reconstruction nears completion

Less than six months before the re-opening of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, how is the Archdiocese of Paris preparing to welcome the anticipated 15 million annual visitors to the cathedral?

‘With joy, impatience, and gratitude for the tremendous work accomplished,’ says Monsignor Olivier Ribadeau Dumas, the cathedral’s rector.

Most elements of the interior redesign are nearing completion. The baptistery, main altar, ambo, cathedra, and tabernacle, commissioned from designer Guillaume Bardet and cast in bronze, will be reinstalled in November. Bardet has also designed a full set of liturgical vessels in silver and gold, following the same minimalist style.

Out of the 1,500 chairs designed by Ionna Vautrin for the assembly, a thousand chairs using solid oak from Sologne have already been manufactured. They will be supplemented with kneelers, prie-dieux for the front rows, and benches.



New liturgical furniture and items for Notre-Dame du Paris, designed by Guillaume Bardet.

Photo: galeriekreo.com

The chapel at the eastern end, behind the choir’s Pietà, will house a new reliquary for the Crown of Thorns, designed by Sylvain Dubuisson. Seven tapestries for the eastern wall of the north side chapels still need to be commissioned.

Given the expected high traffic – 40,000 visitors a day – a reservation system will be implemented, ensuring entry within 30 minutes. Tickets will also be available on-

site to allow spontaneous visits. A downloadable app will offer tours for tourists, pilgrims, and children.

Individual visits will start on 16 December 2024, following the grand re-opening celebration on 8 December and an octave of Masses celebrated by the Archbishop of Paris.

Source: La Croix International

Plea to address First Nations challenges

Darwin Bishop Charles Gauci, the chair of the Australian Bishops’ Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, has called on all Australians to unite in addressing the critical issues faced by the First Nations people.

Bishop Gauci highlighted the enduring and significant presence of First Nations communities in Australia, who have lived on this land for untold thousands of years.

Bishop Gauci emphasised the numerous challenges these communities continue to face, including disparities in life expectancy, high incarceration

rates and pervasive violence.

‘We face a number of challenges together with First Nations communities at the moment,’ Bishop Gauci said. ‘We know that there is not much narrowing of the gap at all with life expectancy, incarceration, housing and violence. In some ways, the situation is getting even more complex as generations come and go.’

Bishop Gauci acknowledged there are no quick fixes and that any solutions must be rooted in the dignity of each human person, with profound respect for ancient cultures and the voices of the people affected.

He called for all sectors of society to rise above self-interest and political agendas to work towards the common good.

‘I am making a heartfelt plea for all of us – whether it’s governments, local, regional, federal, the Aboriginal communities, the churches – to come together,’ he urged.

‘Rise above self-interest. Rise above politics and work out a way of moving forward.’

Source: ACBC Media Blog

Baby recession’ hits Australia

Not since the stagflation-hit 1970s has Australia experienced as sharp a drop in fertility as it has in recent years, an analysis by KPMG Australia reveals. Sydney is leading the nation’s baby drought as cost-of-living pressure and out-of-reach house prices dampen the desire of young couples to start or expand their families. Birthrates in Melbourne and Perth are also plummeting. Since the post-Covid lockdown baby spike in 2021 – when 315,200 babies were born – the national birthrate has nose-dived, with 289,100 babies born last calendar year, the lowest annual number since 2006.



After a post-Covid-19 boom, Australia’s birth rate has dropped to lowest level since 2006.

Photo: Bigstock/CathNews Australia

Catholic missions burned down

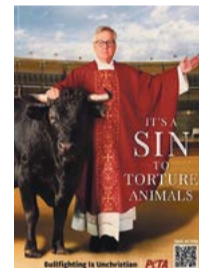
New Caledonia’s Catholic community is in shock and disbelief after two of its historic missions were burned down by rioters. On 16 July, the 165-year-old Catholic Church in St Louis, near Nouméa, disappeared in flames. The iconic church was the last building standing after the Mission’s presbytery and residence for the Marist Sisters were also burned down by rioters following gun exchanges between a group of rioters and French gendarmes.

Eritrea arrests over 200 Christians in year

Eritrea, located in Eastern Africa, ranks among the top ten countries in the world where following Jesus is an extremely dangerous enterprise. A 3 July report by the UK-based Release International, which covers the persecuted Church worldwide, says at least 218 Christians had been arrested in Eritrea within the past 12 months, many of them women and children. The Report says around 400 Christians are currently imprisoned – indefinitely, without trial or charge – because of their faith.

Priest asks Pope to denounce bullfighting

A British priest has appeared in an advertisement for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals UK, denouncing bullfighting and calling on Pope Francis to condemn the sport. Fr Terry Martin has long been outspoken in advocating for the welfare of animals, having sent a joint letter with priests from Canada and France to Pope Francis last year calling on him to condemn the ‘torture and violent slaughter of innocent bulls.’ The ad appeared in the 18 July issue of *The Tablet* UK.



‘Mystical Rose’ apparitions approved

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has announced the approval of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Pierina Gilli, an Italian visionary, in 1947 and 1966. The apparitions took place in Montichiari and Fontanelle, Italy. In a letter approved by Pope Francis, Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández indicated the ‘spiritual proposal that emerges from the experiences narrated by Pierina Gilli in relation to Maria Rosa Mystica does not contain theological or moral elements contrary to the doctrine of the Church.’ In one of the apparitions, on 13 July, 1947, the Virgin Mary was dressed in white and held three roses: a white one, a red one, and a yellow one, that symbolised the spirits of prayer, sacrifice, and penance.

Poster found in a church in France

Church communications do not need to be humourless, as the following poster words demonstrate: ‘When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear “the call of God”. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your mobiles. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send a text while driving.’



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Tributes flow for Willie Leota

Michael Fitzsimons

A huge gathering assembled at St Patrick's College Wellington Assembly Hall last month to farewell much-loved and respected First XV rugby coach, Willie Leota.

At the funeral, many speakers paid tribute to Willie as a much-loved family man who gave generously to his community, a man of great mana, a natural leader and a loyal friend. The very large gathering was a testament to the many communities he belonged to and the multitude of lives he has influenced.

The 46-year-old had a long affiliation with St Pat's, having been an old boy of the college



Willie with his daughters (l-r) Mollie, Moana and Billie-Rose.

before going on to help the school's sporting staff with his involvement in rugby. College spokesman Matt Buck said that there had been an 'outpouring of grief' when the news



Willie and his wife Frances.

broke that Willie had died suddenly of a heart attack.

'It's been a massive shock – not to just lose the First XV coach, but to lose an old boy of the college and

someone who spent half his life as part of our community. He had a huge impact on the team.'

Willie passed away during the mid-year school holidays. St Pat's opened up the school to allow the school community to come together and grieve.

Several days before the funeral, the school held a service to mourn Willie's passing, with students and alumni gathering to recognise his legacy. Rector Mike Savali spoke at the service, recognising Willie for his 'loyalty and dedication to service, not just to our community but to the wider community. He always wanted the best to improve the skills of our young men, but more importantly, he wanted them

to be good men.'

Willie's wife, Frances, told the students that St Pat's was 'one of his many homes'.

His long hours working and coaching had meant he missed dinners at home, but the family didn't mind because they knew the joy that coaching brought to him, she said.

'We knew he was spending time meaningfully with friends, with brothers... He loved seeing the light in your eyes.' She asked the students, going forward, 'to honour him with the values he's tried to pass on'.

He leaves behind four children – Moana, Mollie, Billie-Rose and Solomon and a large extended family.

New Vinnies Palmerston North Conference President

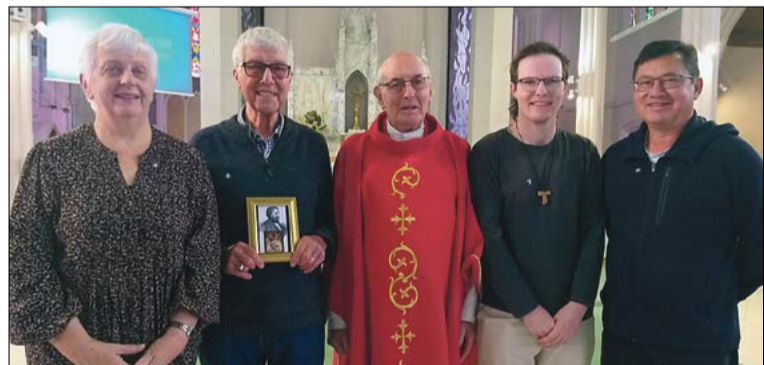
During a special time at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit midday Mass on Friday 3 May, Kevin Frost was installed as the new Conference President for Palmerston North, taking over from Rose Semmens. Two new members, Rick Field and James Kissell, were also commissioned.

At the end of Mass, Kevin took the opportunity to thank Rose for her 'ever-positive leadership and unstinting example of helping people over the three years of her presidency'. He also thanked parishioners for their food and

monetary contributions that enable SVdP to continue its service to those in need.

The Palmerston North Conference is experiencing a significant increase in the number of requests for food and other help. In the month of May, 108 food parcels (normally some 70 parcels) were delivered, which fed around 400 adults and children.

Source: Society of St Vincent de Paul New Zealand, News in Brief e-newsletter, July 2024



Installation at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, l-r: Rose Semmens, Kevin Frost, Monsignor Dave Bell, James Kissell, Rick Field.

Photo: WelCom

Fr Craig shares overseas journey with parishioners

Sue Seconi

Fr Craig Butler, parish priest for the Catholic Parish of Whanganui – Te Parihi Katoria Ki Whanganui, recently spoke to parishioners at St Mary's Parish Centre about his experiences in Rome the Synod on Synodality and travels that followed.

Held in Rome from 28 April to 2 May, the international synod event brought together 300 parish priests from 100 countries around the world to engage in roundtable discussions, liturgical celebrations, workshops on pastoral proposals, dialogue with experts and to meet Pope Francis.

The purpose was for the Synod on Synodality process to hear from 'ordinary' priests over the five-day gathering of 12 to 14-hour days, about their involvement with synodality in action and other issues facing the Church at the parish level.

Fr Craig's group included priests from Ukraine, Tanzania, Malta, Korea, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Africa and Taiwan. The shared experiences of walking with people on their life journeys were diverse Fr Craig said.

'All up, I found it a very humbling experience, meeting with others who share the same joys and sorrows as we do. Most humbling was listening to priests from Ukraine, Iraq and central Africa and about how they



Fr Craig speaking to parishioners in Whanganui, names those in his group in Rome at the Synod meeting for parish priests from around the world. Fr Craig is second from right in the slide photograph.

Photo: Sue Seconi

suffer from violence,' Fr Craig said.

The information gathered from the parish priest meeting, has since been processed to be included in the final working document in readiness for the Synod meeting in October this year in Rome.

Before leaving Rome, Fr Craig met a priest from Myanmar who knew Fr Joe Tha Khu very well. Fr Joe had served with Fr Craig in Hawera. For the previous six months, nothing had been heard from Fr Joe and because of the military rule, there were fears for his safety. Fr Craig said it had been with much relief he learnt that Fr Joe is

safe and well.

'This was a miracle,' he said.

After Rome, it was on to Lourdes for three days for Fr Craig, which included a mini-retreat and bringing parishioners' prayer petitions for healing. Ireland was next on Fr Craig's travel agenda where he visited Fr Wally Cook who had served in the Palmerston North Diocese. The Cavern in Liverpool, where the Beatles began their musical career, was the final must-see before his long-haul flight home.

New Director of Catholic Social Services

Archbishop Paul Martin sm has announced the appointment of Mr Chris Ward as the Director of Catholic Social Services for the Archdiocese of Wellington.

Chris was born and raised in Falkirk, Scotland, and migrated to Nelson with his wife Cat and children in 2008. He has spent 10 years working at Nelson City Council, mostly in the Community Services group. For the last two years, he has been the Diocesan Manager at the Anglican Diocese of Nelson, working to support their bishop with church revitalisation, and has been heavily involved in the work of Anglican Care locally.

Chris will be moving to Wellington with his wife Cat and will be starting at Catholic Social Services at the beginning of August.



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Te Awakairangi baritone bound for the Netherlands

Kevin Plant

Patrick Shanahan, a Wellington-born baritone and parishioner at Te Awakairangi Parish in Lower Hutt, has recently completed his Bachelor of Music with Honours in vocal performance at The New Zealand School of Music – Te Kōkī, at Victoria University of Wellington. With an extensive repertoire Patrick is now embarking on an exciting journey to the Netherlands, where he will perform the title role in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the International Bel Canto Academy. 'This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is a significant step

toward fulfilling my opera dreams,' says Patrick.

Patrick has studied under renowned vocalists Margaret Medlyn and Wade Kernot. His performance repertoire includes roles such as Rhadamanthus in Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, Pandolf in Massenet's *Cinderella* with NZSM, Handwerker II in Berg's *Wozzeck* with Wellington Orchestra, and chorus roles in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Verdi's *La Traviata* with Wellington Opera. He has also participated in the Days Bay Opera production of Bellini's *La Sonnambula*.

Patrick's concert performances are equally impressive. Highlights

include having sung in masterclasses for New Zealand opera singers Simon O'Neill and Madeleine Pierard, and for American opera singer Sasha Cooke. He featured in the role of Jesus for Dunedin City Choirs' production of *St John's Passion* with the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra, and performed DeLalande's *Te Deum* with The Queen's Closet – a New Zealand period-instrument baroque orchestra. Patrick has also portrayed the roles of Raphael and Adam in Haydn's *Creation* with St Peter's Orchestra and Cantoris Choir, conducted by Thomas Nikora.

Raised in a loving Catholic household with two siblings, Patrick was baptised in Lower

Hutt's St Martin de Porres Church and was educated at Ss Peter and Paul Primary School and St Bernard's College. He has been an active member of Te Awakairangi Parish, playing music at Ss Peter and Paul Church for the last decade, sharing his talent and faith with his community.

Patrick says he hopes to use classical music, particularly sacred vocal music, 'to connect people and demonstrate God's love through its beauty'.

'I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported me in reaching this milestone and I am deeply thankful and eager to see what this adventure will bring.'



Patrick Shanahan, baritone and parishioner at Te Awakairangi.

Photo: WelCom

Confirmations at Ōtaki for whānau

Speaking to the Confirmation candidates Archbishop Paul reminded them, as well as everyone in the congregation, that the values displayed behind the altar during Mass, are sealed in us by the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation: love, peace, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, chastity, patience, humility, generosity, joy, goodness and self-control.

Archbishop also invited all those confirmed, including those in the congregation, to say the name of their chosen Confirmation saint every day in their prayers 'as that name is now part of you'.

Special readings have been chosen for the confirmation programme throughout the archdiocese this year.

The reading at Mass was from the Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:9-11.

'Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John.

No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him.

And a voice came from heaven,



Several members of Ken Mihaere's whānau were among the group of parishioners who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Archbishop Paul Martin sm at Holy Mass at St Mary's | Hata Mere, Pukekarakā, Ōtaki, Sunday 21 July. Pictured from left, back: Pa Peter Healy sm, Archbishop Paul Martin sm, Fr Alan Roberts, parish priest, and Steven Findlay; front: Tina Mihaere-Rose, Ken Mihaere, Gracie Hill, Lola Hill, Cherie Hill, Frank Hill, and Dith Dunn. Photo: WelCom

"You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you"

Speaking the many languages of love

Maya Bernardo

The sun was shining, and the air was filled with warm festivity. The winter chill was no match for the colourful celebration of Fr Donal Hornsey's 60th year of ordination was held at Te Awakairangi Parish on 6 July.

Fr Don is a Columban missionary who first was posted to Rome then later to Latin America where he served for many years. Looking at the sea of faces, Fr Don said he felt emotional with an overwhelming gratitude to God, to his parents, the Columban congregation and the many people he encountered in his missions.

Fr Tom Rouse who was one of Don's students, gave a tribute. Like a typical Columban, Don goes where no one dare to go – the slums of Brazil, to Chile amidst a political upheaval among others. To date, in his 80s, he pastorally supports the migrant communities of Myanmar, the Spanish-speakers, and Zimbabweans of the Hutt Valley.

Fr Don is a polyglot who speaks many languages – German, Portuguese and Spanish, among them – but his best language is that of love and compassion to those in



Fr Don Hornsey's 60th year of ordination was celebrated at Te Awakairangi Parish in July.

Photo: Supplied

need. He was ordained on 4 July 1964 in Morrinsville. His celebration was also marked by a multicultural Mass followed by a reception where people rendered songs and music to celebrate the life and ministry of this exceptional New Zealand missionary. The celebration was attended by family, friends, and the communities he serves.

Mass for priestly jubilees and thanksgiving for Cardinal John Dew's ministry

The 2024 Clergy Jubilee Mass was held at Ss Peter and Paul Church Lower Hutt on 6 July, marking significant milestones of priestly ministry by the jubilarians. It was also a Mass of thanksgiving for Cardinal John Dew following his retirement from his role as the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Wellington last year. This was an expression of gratitude for the

many years of his ministry and service rendered to the local and universal Church.

The celebrations began with Mass presided by Archbishop Paul Martin sm. Fellowship and refreshments among the clergy followed at the Silverstream Retreat Centre in Lower Hutt.

Archdiocese of Wellington priestly jubilees 2024	
John Loft sm	70 years
Dennis Collins	65 years
Michael Steller	65 years
Pat Dooley sm	65 years
David Orange	60 years
Don Hornsey ssc	60 years
Tikoua Kautu	25 years

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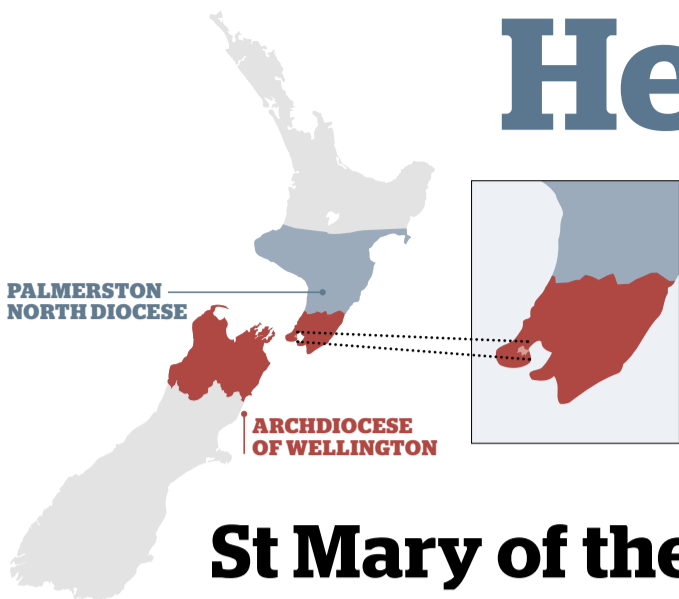


Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

During the month of August 2024 Pope Francis' intention is: *for political leaders.*

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.

He Hiko Whakapono



This month our Hikoi Whakapono | Journey of Faith, takes us to the parish of St Mary of the Angels Central Wellington. The parish includes St Mary of the Angels Church on Boulcott St, one of the major churches of the city, and St Joseph Church, Mt Victoria. The pastoral area extends from the heart of the city and inner-city streets to its harbour wharfs, and suburbs of Kelburn, Highbury, Aro Valley, Te Aro, Mount Cook, Mount Victoria, Oriental Bay and Roseneath, to the base of the city's east and west town belts. Photos: Supplied and WelCom

St Mary of the Angels - a second home for many

The parish has been witness to change, to arrivals and departures and connections between people, communities and nations, in a way that is unique in our nation's history. From the hospitality and trade offered by local Māori to the early settlers decades before Wellington was declared New Zealand's capital and the seat of Parliament in 1865, those who gather in faith today do

so in time-honoured tradition.

The church of St Mary of the Angels – now declared the National Shrine of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven – and the church of St Joseph near the Basin Reserve and Government House, define a pastoral area that has seen a remarkable cast of characters, long associated with public service and social support. The schools

and family homes once within the parish are largely gone or rezoned into other parishes.

The parish today is for many something of a 'second home'. Anyone who has set foot in either church, volunteered at the Soup Kitchen, joined in the singing or lit a candle in prayer is part of an enduring story of faith, no matter where their lives take them.

The Nature of St Mary of the Angels

Fr Kevin Mowbray

In 1939 the Second World War began. December 1941 saw the entry of the United States of America into this conflict because much of its navy was destroyed or severely damaged at Pearl Harbour by the Japanese Navy. Consequently, Wellington became the host to many American servicemen and women, destined to fight in the Pacific campaign. Their presence in the city, especially their sacramental and devotional expression of their Faith, helped initiate a change in the character of St Mary of the Angels.

No longer was it to be just an inner-city parish, a parish much like any others in Wellington during those years. It very quickly became a centre of devotion, spiritual care and reconciliation:

long lines waiting for confession; groups approaching priests to talk and pray; Rosary devotions in the early evening crowded with service men and women about to board ship for a future unknown. All of this was particularly marked during the years of 1942 and 1943 when threats of an imminent Japanese invasion swirled through the streets of the city.

This emphasis on the church itself as a centre of devotion, spiritual care and reconciliation was further strengthened upon the return of Fr Tom Heffernan from a term with the parish Missioners in Australia. He was convinced St Mary of the Angels could further develop this turn away from being a parish community to a devotional church by following the example of a similar church run by Marists in Sydney. He organised a programme of times for Mass, confessions, exposition and also

Instruction in the Faith.

With various changes, this post World War programme has been continued to the present day. Of course, much has changed but the quest for God still brings many off the busy streets and up the steps to experience a different space. The threat of invasion and death may no longer hang over the city but many, from far and wide, continue to appreciate the quiet, the holy beauty of the church, the opportunities to take stock, to acknowledge greater truths. It provides the chance for anyone and everyone to enter and rest awhile, to reflect or pray, to enjoy solace and peace. For generations of Wellingtonians, whether Catholic or not, it is a reassuring point of reference, a haven, a still point in a turning world. It comforts and strengthens simply because it is there, a grounded memory of eternal realities.

The Marist story

Emblazoned on the top of the steps leading up to the main doors of St Mary of the Angels Church is the Latin motto, *Sub Mariae Nomine* – the motto of the Fathers and Brothers of the Society of Mary. It means, *Under the Name of Mary*, and reflects the long association of the Marists with St Mary of the Angels, stretching back to 1875.

On 1 May 1850, Bishop Viard sm, arrived at Port Nicholson (Wellington) accompanied by five Marist Fathers and ten lay Brothers. They established their headquarters in Thorndon. A further mission station was established in the Hutt Valley. In 1875 Fr Kearney sm became the first Marist to be directly associated with St Mary of the Angels. He was appointed to assist the founder of the parish, Fr Jeremiah O'Reily OFM Cap, who was by then elderly and ailing, having served the Catholic community continuously in central Wellington since his arrival in 1843.

As the needs of the growing Catholic community increased, the Marist Fathers were active in establishing more churches and parishes in central Wellington. In 1885 the church of St Joseph's was built in Buckle St, while in 1902 a new parish was established in Newtown. In 1913 St Joseph's was erected as a separate parish and staffed by diocesan priests. The parish of Newtown was further subdivided in 1919 and the Marist Fathers accepted responsibility for Island Bay, a smaller part of the former Newtown parish, on Wellington's south coast.

The original wooden St Mary of the Angels church, opened in 1874 to replace the first chapel built on the Boulcott St site and further expanded in 1892, then burnt down in 1918. Through the extraordinary efforts of the parish priest of the time, Fr Stan Mahoney sm, the church was completely rebuilt by 1922. This is the present-day church of St Mary of the Angels on Boulcott St that looms over Willis and Manners Sts,

though somewhat dwarfed now by the Majestic Tower on the opposite corner of Boulcott St.

In 1936 Thorndon parish, with the Basilica of the Sacred Heart as headquarters, was transferred to the care of the diocesan priests. Finally, the parishes of the Holy Family (1960) and Brooklyn (1961) were separated from St Mary of the Angels.

Almost 100 years of division and sub-division of the original inner-city parish of St Mary of the Angels was partially reversed in 2021 when the community of St Joseph's, now in a new church opposite the Basin Reserve, was reincorporated into St Mary of the Angels.

For almost 150 years, virtually from the arrival of the first European settlers, the Marist Fathers and Brothers have been working in the heart of Wellington city. Though the parish of St Mary of the Angels has shifted in shape and size many times in those years the present community of priests still tries to breathe life into those



The quest for God brings many off the busy streets and up the steps to experience a different space at St Mary of the Angels Church in the heart of Wellington City.



The gardens at St Mary of the Angels are open to the public each day; a popular lunchtime spot and somewhere for friends to catch up.

words that greet all who climb up Boulcott St and into the church – *Sub Mariae Nomine*: you are welcome and sheltered here, *under the name of Mary*.

Emblazoned on the top of the steps leading up to the main doors of St Mary of the Angels Church is the Latin motto, *Sub Mariae Nomine* – the motto of the Fathers and Brothers of the Society of Mary. It means *Under the Name of Mary* and reflects the long association of the Marists with St Mary of the Angels, stretching back to 1875.



Waiho: A Journey of Faith

Te Ao Māori

John Sullivan

When the first New Zealand Company settlers arrived in Te Whanganui-a-Tara [Wellington Harbour] in January 1840, the region was home to Māori from a number of different tribal groups, most of whom had moved south during the previous two decades as a consequence of intertribal conflict in their whenua. The area from Ngauranga south to Te Aro was home to Te Atiawa, Taranaki, Ngāti Ruanui and Ngāti Tama. Te Aro Pā, occupied by Taranaki and Ngāti Ruanui, was on the foreshore near the intersection of present-day Manners St, Taranaki St and Courtenay Place. Its people harvested kaimoana [seafood] from the harbour, eels and flax from the Hauwai Swamp (south to the Basin Reserve), and had extensive cultivations extending south to Pukeahu (Mount Cook). They were early converts to Wesleyan Christianity, received from missionaries who had arrived



Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Lambton Harbour, Port Nicholson, Wellington, c.1840, by Charles Heaphy, from hand-coloured lithograph.

Image: Public Domain, via Wikimedia Commons

in 1839.¹ Despite this, and the friction caused by the New Zealand Company practice of selling to its colonists, sight-unseen land to which it had not yet gained title², Māori from Te Aro Pā were well represented at services held by

Catholic settlers.

A deal of credit goes to the leader of the Catholic community, Dr John Patrick Fitzgerald, the consulting physician at the Wellington Infirmary, who was proactive in extending his medical

practice to Māori, and spoke Te Reo. He made extensive visits to Māori communities, promoted public health measures, and a successful vaccination campaign among Māori after the introduction of smallpox from a visiting ship in 1840³.

When Fr O'Reily arrived in 1843 he was, initially at least, apprehensive of Māori⁴, and he did not speak Te Reo. His mission was to the newly arrived settlers, rather than to tangata whenua. When Bishop Pompallier visited in 1844, he left behind Fr Jean-Baptiste Comte sm, who was fluent in Te Reo, as Fr O'Reily's assistant for Māori. Within a year Fr Comte had relocated to Ōtaki, where he built up a thriving community, which became a base for his ministry to Māori throughout the southern North Island.

During the 1840s the rapidly increasing settler population put pressure on Māori to leave Te Aro Pā and their cultivations, to provide land for colonists. In consequence many returned to Taranaki, and

Māori representation in the parish dwindled.

Today we celebrate every year on Waitangi Day with the communities of Te Ngākau Tapu and to Kainga, to acknowledge our partnership under Te Tiriti, and we honour the memory of Dr Leo Buchanan (1941–2017), devoted parishioner and kaumatua, whose tipuna lived at Te Aro Pā.

Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa. Let us keep close together, not wide apart.

- 1 Empire city: Wellington becomes the capital of New Zealand / John E. Martin. Wellington: Te Herenga Waka University Press, 2022. Pp 16-17.
- 2 Steadfast in hope: the story of the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington 1850-2000 / Michael O'Meehan. Palmerston North, Dunmore, 2003. P 36.
- 3 Empire city: Wellington becomes the capital of New Zealand / John E. Martin. Wellington: Te Herenga Waka University Press, 2022. P 41.
- 4 Apostle in Aotearoa: a biography of Father Jeremiah Joseph Purcell O'Reily, O.F.M. Cap., Wellington's first Catholic pastor / by Owen O'Sullivan. Auckland: The Word Publishers, 1977. P 30.

Parish priorities – working for justice and peace

Suzanne O'Rourke

The 2017 and 2021 Archdiocese Synod processes arrived at the right time for the parish. By 2021 the decision had been taken to incorporate St Joseph's Church and community into St Mary of the Angel's Parish, returning the parish pastoral area to what was in place in the early 1900s. In the interim, much had changed and much had not.

The Compassion Soup Kitchen, established in 1901 has shifted locations and remains operating today within 100 metres of its original site, close to St Joseph's Church. In more recent times, social justice activities have focused on refugee support and resettlement

alongside the enduring work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul and Catholic Social Services. At the other end of the parish, daily access to the sacraments and a quiet space to sit in St Mary's brings a steady flow of people to lay ministries such as Rachel's Vineyard Retreats, which focus on resolving the grief of pregnancy loss through abortion.

The synodal process of discussion and discernment, ultimately led to the development of the St Mary of the Angels Parish Priorities, from which various spiritual formation, community and mission activities are being determined. 'Working for Justice and Peace' is one key priority area, the others being 'Sharing our Living Faith' and 'Growing in Community'.



After each Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, participants add fabric shapes to the Rachel's Vineyard Quilt – a particular ministry of healing, open to all and faithfully supported with prayer and sensitivity from within the parish. A perfect blend of justice and peace.



St Mary of the Angels is open during the day and for visitors and quiet reflection. Lighting a candle is a universal act of prayer.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

A Ladies Branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society is first recorded at St Mary of the Angels in 1892. It folded around the turn of the century, but the society re-formed in 1907 and there has been a conference at St Mary of the Angels ever since – although numbers have fluctuated with the changing inner-city population. Early activities included visiting the sick, the Terrace Gaol and homes for the elderly, care for visiting mariners, and providing for orphans and families in need.

Today we are active in visiting the sick, the housebound, and social housing; providing food parcels and other practical assistance; helping inner-city schools provide for pupils in need; and assisting former refugees to settle in Wellington. SMOA SVdP members meet monthly and always welcome new members.

Visit vinnies-wellington.org.nz or Facebook [vinnieswgn](https://www.facebook.com/vinnieswgn) or ph (04) 369-7122 for information.



People Helping People: James Ring, right, is the St Vincent Paul contact for St Mary of the Angels.

Architecture of St Mary's and St Joseph's

The architectural treasure of St Mary of the Angels' and St Joseph's churches each represent a gift of living faith from generations past to generations to come. In these structures, so important as places of gathering and worship, there is much for which to be grateful.

St Joseph's Church and community complex is a contemporary design which, when viewed from above, mimics a koru, the centre being the baptismal font unfolding first to the Blessed Sacrament chapel, then to spaces for gathering, sharing, hospitality and public worship. It is a building that claims by its very design, to be interested in people.

St Mary of the Angels Church stands as a much-loved place for public and private reflection, built in the gothic style of European sacred design. On entering the church, the splendour of the stained-glass windows, each telling a biblical story of everyday life, provides an easy prompt to prayer. Parables and miracles are depicted in windows on opposing sides of the nave and the story of how such



Offering hospitality at St Joseph's Church complex are (l-r) parish priest Fr Kevin Mowbray sm with Simalu Feleti and Suliana Savali.



The parable of the Sower.

beautifully crafted pieces, initially destined for a much grander church in Australia, is worth a window on its own. St Mary's celebrated its centenary quietly in 2021, amidst pandemic restrictions.

BRIEF HISTORY

1840: Arrival of Dr John Patrick Fitzgerald (1815-1897), consulting physician to Wakefield settlement infirmary and leader and catechist of Wellington's Catholic community. Other notable Catholics arriving: Baron Charles von Alzdorf, Rowland Davis. 24 Dec, Bishop Pompallier celebrates Mass in home of Police Magistrate, Michael Murphy.

1841: Arrival of Jane Maria Sharp, first organist and choir conductor for Wellington Catholic community.

1842: Fr Michael Borjon sm lost at sea off East Cape while sailing to Wellington to take up role of parish priest. Arrival of Charles Clifford and William Vavasour.

1843: Arrival of Fr J J P O'Reily aboard *Thomas Sparkes* with Henry and Eleanor Petre, for seven-year posting as chaplain to Catholic settlers in Wellington. 5 Feb, Fr O'Reily celebrates first Mass in room at Baron von Alzdorf's hotel, cnr Woodward St and Lambton Quay. St Mary's Chapel opens in rented premises on Willis St opposite Southern Cross Hotel.

1844: New Chapel on Hinau Hill (Boulcott St), purchased July 1843, blessed by Bishop Pompallier as Church of the Nativity of Our Lord. Referred to as St Mary's Catholic Chapel until consecration of St Mary's Cathedral in 1851. Early 1850s referred to as Chapel of the Nativity of Our Saviour; from early 1860s as Chapel of the Nativity of Our Lord.

1847: School opens in St Mary's Chapel, Boulcott St. Teacher James Fryer.

1850: Arrival of Philippe Viard as Bishop of Wellington; appoints Fr O'Reily as Vicar General.

1851: Consecration of St Mary's Cathedral, Hill St. Chapel of Nativity becomes part of Wellington parish based on Cathedral.

1855: Baron von Alzdorf dies in collapse of his brick hotel; only casualty of second major Wellington earthquake.

1873: St Philomena's Convent School (Sisters of Mercy), opened on Willis St.

1874: Consecration of St Mary of the Angels Church. Fr Kearney sm appointed assistant to Fr O'Reily. Convent School moves to Dixon St.

1875: Te Aro Parish, based on St Mary of the Angels, created by division of Wellington Parish into Te Aro and Thorndon parishes. Comprises Te Aro plus southern and eastern suburbs.

1876: Marist Brothers' School opens on Boulcott St, near Plimmers Steps, replaces Fr O'Reily's school.

1878: Fr O'Reily retires as parish priest, replaced by Fr Patrick Kerrigan sm.

1880: Death of Fr O'Reily.

1883: Societies of Sacred Heart, St Vincent de Paul and Children of Mary participate in blessing of statue of St Joseph. Groups' first mention at SMOA. Bishop Redwood grants Parish of Te Aro (St Mary of the Angels) in perpetuity to Society of Mary.

1885: St Patrick's College, Wellington opening. Wooden octagonal church of St Joseph's in Buckle St, opening.

1892: St Mary of the Angels first pipe organ, opening.

1897: St Joseph's pipe organ, opening.

1900: St Joseph's Home for Incurables, Sussex Square, opening.

1902: Southern suburbs of Newtown and Island Bay, eastern suburbs of Kilbirnie and Seatoun, separated from Te Aro Parish.

1903: St Mary of the Angels second pipe organ, opening. St Joseph's Creche, Buckle St, next to St Joseph's Church, opening. Te Aro Parish headquarters, Boulcott St, moves to new Buckle St presbytery. Frs O'Shea and Moloney move to Buckle St. Soup Kitchen attached to Home for Incurables.

1908: St Gerard's Church, Oriental Bay, opening.
1911: Pupils of Boulcott St School move to Marist Brothers School, Tasman St (opened 30 Jan) and Marist Brothers Hawkestone St (permanent building opened Jan 1912). Convent School on Dixon St moves to Boulcott St building. St Anthony's School, Brooklyn, opens in church building on Jefferson St. Archbishop Redwood opens and blesses St Anthony's Church, Brooklyn, SMOA Choir (conductor Ted Healy) sang.

1913: Ordination of St Mary's Rector Rev Thomas O'Shea as Co-adjutor Archbishop; new parish of Wellington East became his home parish based on St Joseph's in Buckle St. With new church of St Anthony's in Brooklyn, SMOA becomes Wellington Central.

1915: Te Aro Parish renamed Wellington Central.

1918: St Mary of the Angels Church destroyed by fire.

1922: New St Mary of the Angels Church, opens.

1925: St Mary of the Angels School, Aro St, opens.

1926: Funeral of Suzanne Aubert at SMOA.

St Mary of the Angels

Fr Barry Scannell sm

I was privileged to be parish priest of St Mary of the Angels from 2009 to 2018. I very much enjoyed my time as parish priest. The church is such a beautiful building and a sanctuary for prayer and reflection in the inner city of Wellington.

The Seddon earthquakes in 2013, especially the 6.5 quake on Sunday 21 July, resulted in the church being closed for four years. The quake at 5.09pm happened during the 5pm Sunday Mass. The building had already been assessed as being below the acceptable seismic rating for a public building and while there was no damage during the quake it was a frightening experience for all attending Mass.

Fortunately, Brian McGuinness (managing director of LT McGuinness Ltd) was in the church at Mass and he told me of the enormous stress the building came under during the earthquake. Brian's understanding of engineering and building practices were instrumental in the decision to close the church and begin the planning of the seismic upgrade.

During the next four years we focused on the engineering and building solutions to earthquake protect this Category 1 Historic

Place and to bring it up to the highest possible seismic rating under the new building code.

During the following four years I think many miracles happened including:

1) being able to access the best seismic engineers and consultants to design the best possible way of strengthening the church without compromising the ascetic beauty of the building;

2) having the expertise and generosity of LT McGuinness Ltd as our major building contractor;

3) the generosity of so many people and organisations who contributed \$12 million to fund the project;

4) being able to undertake the fundraising and work at a time when many other seismic strengthening projects did not become apparent until after the 2016 Kaikōura earthquakes.

St Mary of the Angels Church was reopened with much fanfare on 17 March 2017 – on St Patrick's Day. The seismic strengthening has ensured this beautiful Gothic reinforced concrete church retains its status as one of the most beautiful churches in New Zealand. All of this was possible because of the generosity of so many and the skills of our consultants and building contractor. This Category 1 Historic Place has been preserved for future generations.



After four years' closure St Mary of the Angels Church was reopened with Mass on Holy Thursday night, April 2017.

Our musical heritage

Music has been part of St Mary of the Angels since Irishwoman Jane Maria Sharp arrived in Wellington in 1841 and established a small choir. The choir sang vespers at Catholic house gatherings, and later in the Chapel of the Nativity on Boulcott St.

When the first SMOA church was consecrated on 26 April 1874, a choir led by Mr Frank Weber assisted with the Mass. Since then, a choral Mass has been celebrated at St Mary of the Angels every Sunday at 11am.

Initially the choir was accompanied by an orchestra and sang Mass settings and hymns influenced by popular theatrical music. Following the liturgical reforms introduced in 1903 by Pope St Pius X, the choir was accompanied by the organ only, and began the transition to Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony. This continues to form the core of the choir's repertoire today under Musical Director William McElwee. At its heart is the music of Palestrina, Victoria and their contemporaries. Our range has expanded to include more modern works, including music composed within the parish by former musical directors Maxwell Fernie and Robert Oliver and currently William McElwee.

When St Joseph's (1885) and St Gerard's (1908) opened they both formed choirs, which have since gone. They played a major role in supporting worship in Te Aro. At St Gerard's, Frank Oakes (St Mary of the Angels choirmaster 1892-1903) moulded a

group of former SMOA choristers into the pre-eminent Catholic choir in Wellington during the 1920s and 1930s. Maxwell Fernie was introduced to church music at St Joseph's and was organist and choirmaster there from 1929 to 1940. Eighteen years later he returned from England as director of music for St Mary of the Angels from 1958 to 1999.

The liturgy has been supported by dedicated organists who support the congregational singing at Mass, benedictions, funerals, weddings and many other parish events. From the 1890s all three churches had pipe organs built and installed by local craftspeople, culminating in the magnificent instrument installed in SMOA in 1958, designed by Maxwell Fernie and played by him to great effect. St Joseph's also has a pipe organ donated by the Wellington Hospital Nurses Chapel. David Trott is the current organist at St Mary of the Angels, ably supported by James Young, who selects and accompanies hymns sung by the congregation at 9am Mass.

Following Vatican II, which brought renewed emphasis on congregational participation in the liturgy, new forms of music began to be heard. St Mary of the Angels and St Joseph's have been blessed by singers and musicians who have brought music that reflects the national backgrounds and traditions in our community.

The impetus was provided in 1991 by Joanne Oliver and Lucia Kwa, who were

based at St Joseph's. With other singers and guitarists they also led the music at St Mary of the Angels evening Mass.

Today at the 5pm Mass, a small group of musicians and singers led by Kathy Perreau, provide enjoyable contemporary music chosen to fit the liturgy. On the last Sunday of each month the 5pm Mass is a youth Mass planned by the young adults' group (SMAYACs) who also do the music for that service.

At St Joseph's, the music group founded by the Magnificat Community continues and is led by Moyra Pearse.

Over the years, groups from the Polish, Filipino, Samoan and Korean communities have also enriched worship in both churches, and a Korean choir supports the 11am Mass at St Mary of the Angels during January and throughout the year.

A highlight is the Waitangi Day Mass. In 2003, an initiative of musical director Robert Oliver, after discussion with Pā Colin Durning saw the choirs of St Mary of the Angels, Te Ngākau Tapu and Te Kainga coming together to celebrate our national day at a Mass in St Mary of the Angels. This has become an annual event.

All of the choirs and music groups in the parish are keen to attract new members, and none require an audition. St Augustine is reputed to have said 'those who sing pray twice'.

Come and help us pray.

Source: John Sullivan, William McElwee

Sr Frances Gibbs OSB QSM

Sr Frances Gibbs OSB QSM has met and spoken to many of the thousands of people who have been parishioners or crossed the threshold of St Mary's church as visitors since 1974, when she was first invited to help with the Sacristy, alongside her full-time nursing and chaplaincy tasks. She has effectively been the sacristan ever since and while she retired from nursing in 2001, her commitment to the parish and people as a pastoral worker remains more than a full-time role.

Visiting the sick in hospital, Te Hopai, or in their homes is a large part of Sr Frances' work, as is preparation for the public liturgies and special occasions. She has worked with dozens of clergy over the years and she remembers a time when the schedule included five Masses each day. Today there are still three Masses every weekday, one on Saturday and four on Sundays to prepare for. Weddings and

funerals must be accommodated, recognising these are events create an enduring and personal connection to the parish for families. Sr Frances is the first person to say she doesn't do all this on her own and she is happy to accept offers of help.

In recent years security concerns have highlighted the importance of having Guardians present in the church during the day, so the church can remain open for casual visitors and for private prayer. Sr Frances concedes getting the balance right between improved security measures such as CCTV cameras, the switch to online donations and allowing for privacy.

Sr Frances maintains her Brigidine community connections and credits her 99-year-old flatmate, Sr Cyrprian, as a significant prayer-support for her work. Sr Frances was recognised with a QSM honour in 2010.



Venerable Suzanne Aubert – Meri Hohepa

Sr Josephine Gorman dolc

Awareness of the influence of Suzanne Aubert – Meri Hōhepa in forming our nation's social conscience, is gaining in momentum now that the Cause for her being declared Aotearoa New Zealand's first saint is working its way through the myriad of Vatican channels and committees. Already declared Venerable for her 'heroic virtues', Aubert is recognised for her command of Te Reo and rongoā, traditional medicines and healthcare, her collaborative commitment to those made

vulnerable by the times and not least, for her founding of the Sisters of Compassion.

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel, named in her honour at St Joseph's Church is a fitting reminder she saw God's presence and love in every person.

Her funeral at St Mary of the Angels church in 1926 was unprecedented in its scale, inclusion and outpouring of public gratitude.

Funeral procession of Suzanne Aubert, at St Mary of the Angels, Wellington, 5 October 1926. Photo: Crown Studios Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library. Reference: 1/1-038919-F



Polish Community

Since the mid-17th century Polish Catholics have had revered the Blessed Mother as 'Mary, Queen of Poland'. Throughout the centuries they have turned to St Mary for succour and comfort at times of conflict and grief. So it was in 1977 when a plaque dedicated to those who perished in the Katyn massacre at the hands of the Soviet NKVD (the secret police) during the Second World War, was unveiled at St Mary of the Angels Church. This memorialisation, at the height of the Cold War, occurred when the Soviet regime was still denying its involvement in these brutal events. Even during the war, information on the massacre had been suppressed in the interests of maintaining good relationships between the Soviet Union and its Western Allies.

The Polish Community in Wellington comprised, at that time, the largest proportion of the Polish diaspora (or 'Polonia') within New Zealand. Many had survived forced deportation from their homeland to Siberia, or other far-flung corners of the Soviet Union, at the hands of the NKVD. Several hundred children and their caregivers, who had eventually escaped Russia through Iran,

were given refuge in New Zealand in 1944. Most were housed in the Pahiatua refugee camp, which after the war also served to accommodate displaced persons. Polish ex-service personnel who came to New Zealand to reunite with their children or other relatives also passed through the Pahiatua camp, many later moving with their families to Wellington for work. It was these Pahiatua Polish Children, by then grown up, together with the remaining older Polonia generation, who commissioned this plaque.

In Poland, the Katyn Massacre Victims Remembrance Day is commemorated on 13 April. However, for the Polish Community in Wellington each year on ANZAC Day, the Community remembers those tragic events that occurred in the Katyn forests, and other places within the Soviet Union in 1940. They attend the Mass, proudly displaying their national dress, when honouring all those who gave service in defence of their country. The plaque reminds us the sacrifice of the victims of tyranny should not be forgotten – as salient today as it was when the plaque was initially dedicated.



National Shrine of Our Lady Assumed into Heaven

When Bishop Jean-Baptiste Pompallier celebrated the first Mass in New Zealand at Totara Point in the Hokianga on 13 January 1838, he dedicated New Zealand to Mary as 'Our Lady Assumed into Heaven'.

During the nationwide Covid-19 lockdown in 2020 many Catholic parishioners urged the bishops to re-dedicate Aotearoa New Zealand to Mary to seek her protection.

On the Feast of the Assumption, 15 August 2021, also the patronal feast of the Catholic people in New Zealand, the Catholic Bishops of New Zealand gathered in Wellington for a Mass to renew Bishop Pompallier's 1838 dedication. The bishops believed the idea of a renewal of that dedication could help revitalise people in their faith during a period of pandemic crisis.

An icon artwork was commissioned and St Mary of the Angels Church was designated the National Shrine for 'Ko Hāta Maria, te Matua Wahine o te Atua – Holy Mary, Mother of God'.

The artwork went on a hikoī, called 'Te Ara a Mary – Mary's Way', visiting the six Catholic dioceses across the country, and returning to its final destination at St Mary of the Angels in



August 2022.

Visitors to the shrine are invited to touch the pounamu in front of the artwork and to pray with Mary that God will continue to protect our land and our people.

The Feast of the Assumption on 15 August is celebrated with particular significance at St Mary's every year. All are welcome to participate in the Mass and to join the celebration and hospitality that follows.

tearamaria.nz

Korean Catholic Community of Wellington

Thirty years ago, a few Korean people met in their homes to promote fellowship among Korean Catholics throughout Wellington. Soon a regular gathering was formed, but we still went to the Mass in different parishes on Sundays. We felt the necessity of joining a parish where we were able to participate in liturgy and the Mass together.

Some Korean people were baptised at St Mary of the Angels, so it was only natural for our community to make SMOA our parish in early 1995. Since then, we have been actively involved in various liturgical activities and ministries, such as altar serving, collecting, being extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and singing at Mass and at the 'Carols with Angels' Christmas event.

I was working as a coordinator of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) for some years and have been an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. Now I'm also involved in the Liturgy Committee of our Parish.

As a community we gather in the parish hall after Mass each Sunday. We have Catholic teaching and Scripture reading, we pray, and practice singing with organist David Trott. We have Scripture-sharing groups each fortnight. We celebrate our anniversaries together with the SMOA pastoral team.

We are very proud of our history of the Catholic Church in Korea that began with lay people without any formal missionary priests and was strengthened by the century-long persecution that produced thousands of martyrs. In 1984 Pope John Paul II canonised 103 martyrs and in 2014 Pope Francis beatified 124.

This year our Korean Catholic community in Wellington will celebrate our 30th anniversary. We remember our martyrs and will try to follow the example of their spirituality.

We thank Fr Kevin Mowbray, the pastoral team and parishioners of SMOA for their support.

– Cecilia Kim, Korean Catholic Community/ Chair, Liturgy Committee of SMOA



The Korean Catholic community and their choir add to the rich musical tradition and life of the parish. Along with the St Mary's choir, the Band of the Salvation Army and thoughtful narration, the Carols with the Angels is a popular public Christmas event.

BRIEF HISTORY, continued

- 1932:** First issue of *Catholic News*, monthly organ of St Joseph's parish.
- 1935:** Investiture of Archbishop O'Shea. St Mary of the Angels chosen as Pro-Cathedral. Sisters of Mercy convent, Abel Smith St, opening.
- 1940:** Solemn Pontifical Mass for National Eucharistic Congress.
- 1942:** SMOA damaged by Wairarapa earthquake.
- 1944:** Arrival in Wellington of Polish Children.
- 1945:** Closing and subsequent demolition of wooden octagonal St Joseph Church, Buckle St. Parish shifted to east of Wellington's Basin Reserve into renovated hall beside parish school, staffed by Sisters of Mercy in Paterson St.
- 1949:** St Anthony's Church moved from Jefferson St, Brooklyn, to new site in Taft St. New St Anthony's School built on Taft St site.
- 1954:** Funeral of Archbishop O'Shea at SMOA. Investiture of Archbishop McKeefry at SMOA. Basilica, Hill St, becomes his Pro-Cathedral.
- 1956:** Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Webb St, founded as Mass Centre under Wellington East (Mt Victoria) Parish.
- 1958:** Blessing by Archbishop McKeefry of third organ at SMOA.
- 1960:** Webb St Parish, incorporating western parts of Wellington East Parish and southern parts of SMOA Parish, inaugurated, based on Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (renamed Holy Family Church), and included St Mary of the Angels School in Aro St, (renamed Holy Family School).
- 1961:** Brooklyn parish, incorporating southern parts of SMOA parish, inaugurated, based on St Anthony's Church and School, (renamed St Bernard's to avoid confusion with St Anthony's, Seatoun.)
- 1961:** Inauguration of New Zealand Catholic Enquiry Centre, 140 Austin St.
- 1964:** Webb St Parish renamed Te Aro Parish.
- 1965:** Oriental Bay Parish, based on St Gerard's Church, separated from Wellington East Parish.
- 1969:** Liturgical reception for Cardinal McKeefry at SMOA.
- 1973:** Funeral of Cardinal McKeefry at SMOA.
- 1974:** Installation of Archbishop Delargy at SMOA.
- 1975:** Oriental Bay Parish closes, folded back into Wellington East Parish.
- 1977:** Installation of plaque by Polish Community commemorating death of Polish Prisoners of War, at hands of Soviet forces during WW2.
- 1978:** Requiem Mass for Pope Paul VI at SMOA.
- 1979:** Requiem Mass for Cardinal Delargy at SMOA. Investiture of Archbishop Thomas Williams at SMOA.
- 1981:** Requiem Mass for Bishop Owen Snedden. Christmas morning worship service on Radio Concert Programme presented from SMOA by Wellington Polish community
- 1983:** Restoration of SMOA organ starts, includes completion to original design.
- 1984:** Restoration plaque unveiled by Rt Hon David Lange, marking completion of SMOA exterior restoration.
- 1988:** Redemptorists sell St Gerard's Church, Oriental Bay.
- 1989:** Papal medal awarded to Maxwell Fernie for services to Church music. SMOA Midnight Mass broadcast live on TV1.
- 1995:** SMOA closed for interior restoration. Choral Mass held at St John's Presbyterian Church, Willis St.
- 1996:** Korean Community at SMOA established.
- 2002:** Te Aro Parish closes. Northern section incorporated into SMOA.
- 2003:** First Choral Waitangi Day Mass at SMOA with combined choirs of Te Ngākau, Te Kainga and SMOA, featuring concurrent singing of Lord's Prayer in Māori and Latin. Has become annual event.
- 2004:** New St Joseph's Church, Ellise St, opens.
- 2009:** Sr Frances Gibbs osb awarded QSM for Services to the Community (sacristan, pastoral worker, hospital chaplaincy).
- 2010:** Introduction of Pastoral Areas in Archdiocese. Wellington Central (SMOA) and Mt Victoria (St Joseph's) parishes linked in Wellington Central area.
- 2013:** Mt Victoria Parish joins Brooklyn, Newtown and Island Bay parishes in Wellington South Pastoral Area. Seddon earthquake struck during 5pm Mass, 21 July. SMOA immediately closed for seismic strengthening and renovation.
- 2016:** Wellington South Pastoral Area becomes one parish.
- 2017:** SMOA reopens after completion of earthquake strengthening.
- 2021:** St Joseph's transfers from Wellington South to old alignment with Wellington Central, integrated into St Mary of the Angels Parish Wellington Central. Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa celebrate Mass at SMOA, 15 August, rededicate Aotearoa to Mary, Mother of God, Assumed into Heaven.
- 2022:** SMOA dedicated as National Shrine.

Young Catholics

NZ young Catholic leader meets Pope at international youth ministry congress

Around 300 delegates from bishops' conferences and international movements from 110 countries met in Rome, from 23 to 25 May, to take part in the 2024 International Youth Ministry Congress. Organised by the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life, the event marked five years since Pope Francis published his document to young people, *Christus vivit: Christ is alive*. Two youth ministry delegates from each country were invited to the event and to explore and discuss, 'Synodal youth ministry: new leadership styles and strategies'. Among them were Jessica Jackman of Christchurch and **Nick Wilson** of Palmerston North. Nick, chair of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Council for Young People, shares his observations from Rome.

The New Zealand bishops asked me to attend the International Youth Congress. It was incredible to be invited to serve our national Church and go to Rome.

We were hosted at the Il Carmelo Catholic Conference Centre, close to the Vatican City. I stayed at Rosmini House at the invitation of Fr Robin Kurian ic, former priest at St Mary's Parish in Palmerston North.

The conference included examining learnings from the World Youth Day (WYD) 2023, in Lisbon, to prepare for WYD 2027 in Seoul, Korea. We also discussed challenges young people face as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and current war zones; as well as young people and synodality.

We were fortunate to have Sr Nathalie Berquart XMCJ, Under Secretary of the General Secretariat of the of the Synod, speak to us about the synodal way and how it is impacting not just young Church, but the whole Church.

We discussed youth leadership in the synodal process and how young people engage in the mission of the Church and bringing Jesus to life. We worked specifically on how we achieve formation and spiritual accompaniment of young leaders



Some 300 delegates gathered at the 2024 International Youth Ministry Congress in Rome.

Photos: Supplied

in a synodal way with reference to Pope Francis' *Christus vivit*. Accompaniment is a main theme in his document.

Fr Franco Galdino, Coordinator of the Youth Office of the Dicastery, gave a keynote address about the role of technology in youth ministry. He provided practical and viable ways of changing the style of youth ministry. He said the digital world is itself a 'land of mission', a place where one can become closer with young people who inhabit the 'land', many of whom are far from the

Church and any kind of faith.

As well listening to the speakers and taking part in group discussions we celebrated Mass every day. Each day began at 7am and went late into the night. The multiple languages used throughout were interpreted via a special apparatus.

A highlight for us was a private audience with Pope Francis with just over 300 people in the Sala Clementina. Seated in a wheelchair and flanked by the Swiss Guard and his entourage, the Pope, 84, was excited to meet us.



Nick Wilson meets Pope Francis while attending the International Youth Ministry Congress.

He reminded us to take care not to neglect the journey of young people in daily life, in ordinariness; accompaniment in spiritual discernment – synodal, personal, and oriented towards truth. And he recalled the importance of listening to young people, 'real listening, which does not remain half-hearted, or just superficial'.

After the conference, I met with our New Zealand Marist seminarians in Rome, and took a day to visit Assisi. It was important to go there because that is where

Carlo Acutis is. He was recently announced as the Church's first millennial saint and was just 16 when he died.

I recommend going to Rome, to visit St Peter's Basilica and other famous historical aspects of the Church there. The Pope has called a Jubilee Year for 2025, which will happen predominantly in Rome. More information will be coming soon, including about the Jubilee of Youth, 28 July–3 August 2025. So, let's be excited to be young Church together.

Bishop John Adams visits St Marcellin School

Palmerston North Catholic Diocese's Bishop John Adams led a special midweek Mass on 26 June at Holy Family Church in Whanganui, with the children and staff of St Marcellin School.

At the beginning of Mass, Bishop John had a special message to share with the parishioners and the school community. He announced he had been meeting with the school board and the principal, Belinda Backwell, to discuss the investment the diocese would be making in the school property and grounds.

Bishop John said he was very impressed with the school, 'the calibre of the students' and 'the wonderful work being undertaken by the principal and staff'. He confirmed the diocese would be starting phase 1 of the refurbishment project this year, providing improved classrooms and furnishings, with phases 2 and 3 to follow.

The principal and board said they are very excited about the investment the diocese is making in the school and that 'they are

looking forward to showcasing the new refurbished facilities in due course'.

Principal Belinda Backwell said the St Marcellin School students, Fr John Roberts and Bishop John conducted a beautiful service, 'where the students were able to showcase their singing abilities, with heartfelt renditions of *Mo Maria* and *Hosea*'.

'During his sermon Bishop John bestowed three key messages on the students,' she said. 'Firstly, the best reading they could ever undertake could be found in the Bible. Secondly, we must always ensure our words and actions align; and thirdly, Jesus is always there for us. No matter how challenging our lives may be, Jesus will never abandon us.'

After Mass, a special morning tea was held for the Bishop at the school. Bishop John spent some time with the students in the classrooms talking about aspects of his role as the newly appointed Bishop of the Palmerston North Diocese.



Bishop John Adams and Fr John Roberts with students and staff from St Marcellin School at Holy Family Church, Whanganui.

Photo: Steve Carle, MidWeek

Award for distinguished contribution to Catholic education

Candice Adams
Palmerston North Catholic Education Office

Tom Silverwood was awarded a prestigious Laureate Award for a distinguished contribution to Catholic education at the 2024 New Zealand Catholic Education Convention held in Wellington in June. The award recognises Tom's outstanding contribution to Catholic education at school, regional, diocesan and national levels.

Tom lives in Napier and teaches at Sacred Heart College. Tom and his wife Angela are committed members of the Catholic Parish of Napier.

Over the course of his career, Tom has held faith leadership positions at all three Catholic Colleges in the Hawke's Bay area: St John's College, Hastings; St Joseph's Māori Girls' College Greenmeadows; and Sacred Heart College, Napier.

On a diocesan level, Tom worked for the Palmerston North Diocese as the secondary adviser/tertiary lecturer in the Catholic Education Office for four years.



At the 2024 NZ Catholic Education Convention in June, Tom Silverwood received a Laureate Award in recognition of his distinguished contribution to Catholic education.

More recently, Tom's wisdom and experience have been shared with the Ministry of Education's review of Religious Studies Achievement Standards as part of their Subject Expert Group.

We congratulate Tom and celebrate his deserving recognition.

Rangatahi Katorika

Sacred Heart School Petone

Our May 2024 WelCom's Te Hiko Whakapono - Journey of Faith series featured the Parish of the Holy Spirit - Te Wairua Tapu. This article about Sacred Heart School in Petone was inadvertently omitted from the feature.

Liz Heatley
Principal

Sacred Heart School Petone was opened in 1904 and staffed by the Sisters of Mercy, who travelled out from Wellington. In 1909, the Mission Sisters (RNDM) took over the school and there was a Mission Sister on the staff until 2014, when Sr Annette Young retired. We are very lucky to have the RNDM Archives, Provincial Office and Sr Annette's residence next door to the school. This enables the current staff and students to have contact with the sisters and their Charism. We support a free school that the sisters run in Bangladesh.

The current Sacred Heart School is the second school on the site and

was opened in 1988. Our school serves the Petone area and we have a maximum roll of 165, which is presently full.

We have a great diversity of cultures in our school. Our school RISE values - Respect, Integrity, Sense of Community and Excellence - are supported by Gospel stories and are part of every aspect of school life.

We are very proud of our school and all the students. Our older students look after the younger students and we provide many leadership, artistic and sporting opportunities for all the students.

Sacred Heart School is a vibrant multi-cultural environment with Christ at the centre, which provides wonderful learning opportunities for all the tamariki every day.



Our Lady of the Bays: First Reconciliation

Thirty-four children participated in their First Reconciliation at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in the Parish of Our Lady of the Bays, Tasman, on 9 June. They are pictured with the Parish Priest Fr Michael Bellizzi and Fr Ravi Kumar Voliganti.

Photo: Supplied



Sacred Heart students perform a religious play for Easter. Gospel stories are reflected in the school's RISE values that are part of every aspect of school life.

Life Teen Aotearoa Leadership Convention

Life Teen Aotearoa is a faith-centred movement that works nationally with dioceses and parishes to lead teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church.

Life Teen Aotearoa is partnering with the Archdiocese of Wellington to run a three-day, youth-leadership convention based at Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt, from 30 August to 1 September. It is open to people who are serving in youth ministry and working with young people. Registration is \$120 per person.

The convention, the first held since 2019, is in response to renewal of youth ministries around Aotearoa. Following Covid-19, those working in youth ministry have seen the formation and renewal of many youth ministries throughout Aotearoa and the

revival of some of the country's largest youth events say the convention organisers. 'There is a real growth and real need in the youth ministry space.'

The convention is open to all those serving young people from across New Zealand, including priests, youth ministers, DRSS, interested parents, or young people Year 13+ wanting to step into ministry.

The weekend will involve dynamic talks and training from Life Teen International staff, Divine Renovation, local youth ministry leaders and other special guests. There will be opportunities to discuss youth ministry, network, resources to put learnings into action, as well prayer and worship and faith renewal.

Visit lifeteen.nz/convention or contact the Convention Planning

Team at: registrations@lifeteen.nz or admin@lifeteen.nz to register and to download an information pack.

Life Teen Leadership Convention

Friday 20 August to Sunday 1 September 2024

Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt, Wellington

\$120 per person Year 13+

lifeteen.nz/convention registrations@lifeteen.nz

Catholic Foundation tertiary study scholarships

The Archdiocese of Wellington's Catholic Foundation continues to promote its scholarships to students for tertiary studies. However, the Board has moved the availability of its scholarships from 1st year tertiary students to 2nd and 3rd year tertiary students.

- The Foundation will provide:
- three scholarships of \$2,000 each for young Catholics in 2nd and 3rd year tertiary education (with each scholarship potentially worth \$4,000); and
 - two scholarships of \$2,000 each for former refugee students attending Catholic schools for tertiary or trade development

and growth. The Foundation invites parishes and schools to make the availability of these scholarships known to parishioners and students. Applications open on 1 August 2024.

Visit: catholicfoundation.org.nz/grants-and-scholarships



A treaty that is always speaking

Bernie Kernot

Public debate around Te Tiriti o Waitangi has provoked a strong Catholic response.

Under the auspices of the *Ko Te Tiriti Mai rāno: The Treaty Is Always Speaking. A Covenant for the Generations* hui, nearly 70 people gathered at the Home of Compassion in Island Bay over a weekend in July, to consider Te Tiriti in its religious dimensions.

As History Professor Jim McAloon pointed out in his address, missionaries – both Catholic and Protestant – participated actively in the proceedings surrounding its signing; and Anglican theologian, Rev Dr Rangi Nicholson, told the hui he believed it was the trust relationship between rangatira and the missionaries that was instrumental in realising the Treaty relationship.

Professor McAloon referred to principles imbedded in Catholic social teaching applicable in Te Tiriti discourse. These included principles of human dignity, the common good, subsidiarity, participation, distributive justice, and stewardship. He asked the hui to consider what Te Tiriti means for us as a people of faith, and whether faith helps in thinking about the past and future of our country.

Dr Nicholson developed the covenant theme, observing that the nature of covenant lies in its sacred element that Māori have incorporated into their world view. That contrasts with the secular view of Te Tiriti as a contract.



Nearly 70 people gathered at the Home of Compassion over a weekend in July, to consider Te Tiriti in its religious dimensions.

Photo: WelCom

Coming from the public sector where he has extensive experience in implementing Te Tiriti objectives, Paora Ammunson, Deputy Chief Executive, Treaty Outcomes, at Te

how well the archdiocese practised synodality with its Treaty partner.

One session of the hui was a practical exercise in the pronunciation and use of te reo in

Matheison Ammunson-Fyall of Wellington South Parish.

Participants broke into small groups after each presentation to consider and discern questions posed by the speakers. The discussion groups followed the synodal method that allowed each participant space to express their personal thoughts, feelings, fears, hopes or objections in a respectful and non-confrontational environment. Facilitators guided the groups through the process and reported their group's discussion at plenary sessions. These reports are

“Principles imbedded in Catholic social teaching are applicable in Te Tiriti discourse, including human dignity, the common good, subsidiarity, participation, distributive justice, and stewardship.”

Pukenga, presented a challenging vision of what a bicultural Church might look like. Noting that ‘synod’ meant ‘walking together’ he asked

prayers and hymns. Participants represented many ethnicities, and entered enthusiastically into the spirit of the exercise, guided by

being collated, and summaries will be sent to all registered participants, to ensure the work of the hui will continue to have a life.

Some overall insights emerging from the groups include:

1. listening to mana whenua in building authentic relationships;
2. the need for greater awareness of Te Tiriti, reconciliation where breaches have occurred, and better education;
3. integration of Māori perspectives and values in church practices;
4. importance of the whole Church taking a systematic and proactive approach to fostering unity, advocating for social justice, and addressing societal challenges.

The sponsoring organisations, the Christian Life Community and the Bicultural Committee of the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology, Justice, and Peace, are working to have all presentations from the hui available online. Please email d.meskill@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz if you would like a link to the presentations.

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

Standing with migrant workers

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand's push for dignity in the RSE Scheme

Grace Morton and Ben Sokimi
Advocacy Analysts, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is a founding member of the Migrant and Refugee Oceania Network, advocating for the dignity of migrants and refugees throughout the region.

The network is a regional collaboration between Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, the Australian Catholic Migrants and Refugees Office, the bishops' conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands (CBCPNGSI), the Australian Vincentian Refugee Network, and the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific (CEPAC) General Secretary.

A focus of this work is on the wellbeing of seasonal workers in New Zealand and Australia.

In New Zealand, the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme enables business owners to employ workers from Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea, and Nauru.

The scheme currently caps at 19,500 workers and the New Zealand Coalition Government plans to

double this cap to meet industry demands. However, reviews have revealed significant concerns about exploitation within the scheme.

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) has reported instances of workers being misled, forced to work without pay, housed in cramped and cold accommodations, and threatened with deportation if they complained. Thousands of seasonal workers are coming to New Zealand seeking better opportunities and incomes for their families, yet due to a lack of checks and accountability within the RSE Scheme, many end up severely disadvantaged.

Caritas believes such treatment of people is unacceptable, and we have urged substantial efforts be made to address it. In our recent statement on the 2024 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, we noted with disappointment the lack of action from the Government to address exploitation and human trafficking. Despite having clear recommendations for improvement from the TIP Report and the HRC's review, not enough is being done to protect people who have been exploited, nor to prevent future cases of exploitation.

Before expanding the RSE Scheme, the New Zealand Government should address the



Caritas is pushing for dignity in the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme. Image: Caritas/via Getty Images

current concerns. This includes ensuring both employers and employees know their rights and responsibilities, conducting regular reviews, and implementing effective reporting mechanisms for workers to safely report exploitation without fear of consequences.

It is essential we do not turn a blind eye to the exploitation

happening in our communities but stand up for human rights.

Through the Migrant and Refugee Oceania Network, Caritas is working to support seasonal workers and their employers to ensure workers are being treated with dignity. By raising awareness, supporting advocacy efforts, and holding our leaders accountable, we

can contribute to a more just and equitable system.

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand remains committed to fighting for the rights and dignity of migrant workers, but real change requires a collective effort.

The other boats

A reflection on unity

James B Lyons

Mark's Gospel tells of the occasion when, responding to Jesus' instruction to 'cross over to the other side', the disciples 'took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him'. [Mk 4:35; Jerusalem Bible]

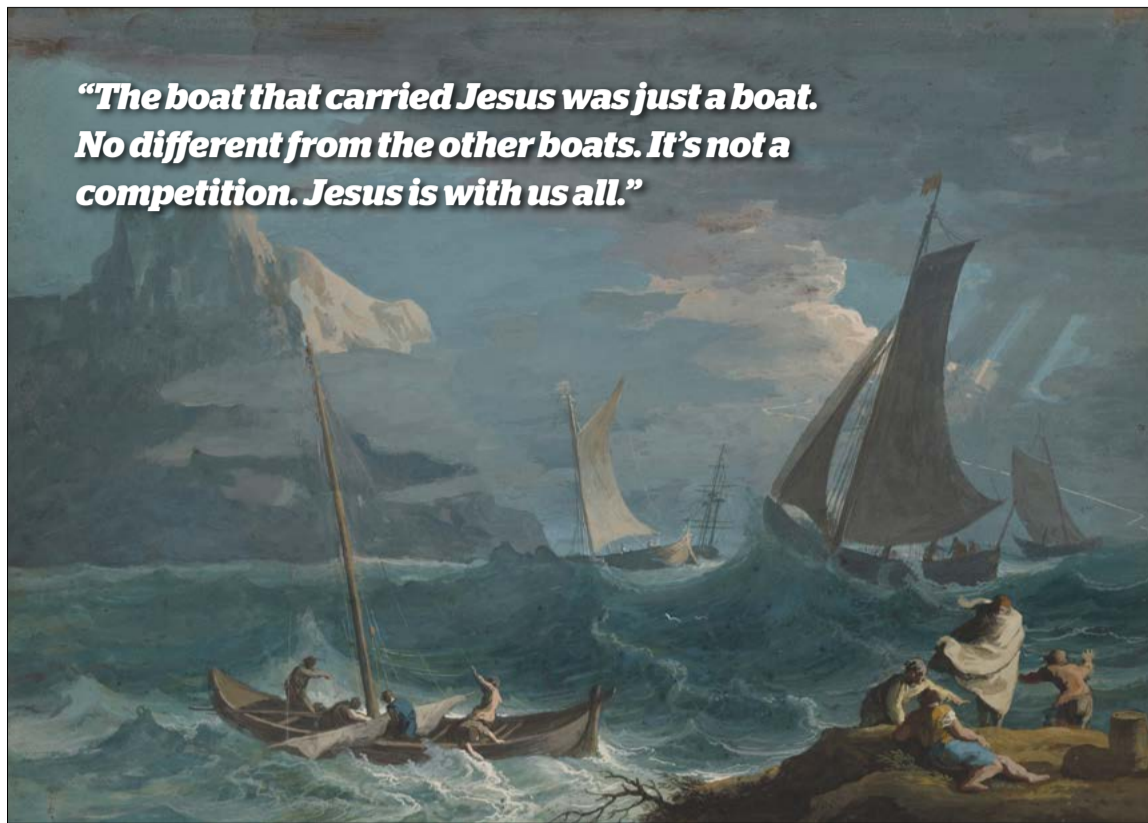
On the crossing they encountered a severe windstorm. Terrified they would drown, the disciples woke the exhausted Jesus and he calmed the storm. 'And the wind dropped, and all was calm again.'

I've often wondered, and perhaps you have too, about 'the other boats'. They couldn't have missed the storm. Did the disciples in those boats also cry out in fear? Jesus wasn't with them, but surely when he calmed the storm they benefitted as well as those who had Jesus in their boat.

My wondering has led me to think of times when I've been caught in a storm or witnessed the struggle of others in their storms. Not just the 'raindrops keep falling' kind of storm, but emotional hurricanes that rip your confidence, shatter your ability to cope, sap your energy, and drowning seems inevitable.

When normal life is difficult or threatened in some way, reactions are varied from, 'God, help me!' to 'Where is God?' Disasters provide ammunition for those who deny the existence of God - 'What sort of God allows terrible things to happen?'

Jesus wasn't physically present in the other boats, but his concern



"The boat that carried Jesus was just a boat. No different from the other boats. It's not a competition. Jesus is with us all."

Fishing Boats in a Storm (c 1715), Marco Ricci (Italian, 1676–1730).

Photo: Wikimedia Commons

and his power made his presence felt. Perhaps the faith of the 'others' was greater than those who had the 'real Jesus' with them. When calm returned Jesus was critical of those in his boat for their lack of faith!

There's something else here. None of us can have an exclusive claim on Jesus. You cannot confine Jesus to your own boat. He would not abandon those other boats to their fate simply because he wasn't with them.

The boat that carried Jesus was

just a boat. No different from the other boats. It's not a competition. Jesus is with us all.

"Christians have much to offer the world as well as each other by way of healing and cooperation."

As St Peter would preach after he had more fully absorbed the meaning of the Good News, *God has no favourites!* (Acts 10:34-35)

I was born into a time when, among Christians, we Catholics thought we were the only ones

who mattered. In those days, other Christian denominations, such as Anglican, Methodists,

Presbyterians, etc, were regarded as breakaways from the Catholic Church and Christian unity would only be achieved when they all became Catholics again!

Fortunately, that perception has no longer any official standing.

Gospel Reading: Sunday 4 August 2024

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JOHN 6:24-35

²⁴ When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵ And when they found him across the sea they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you get here?'

²⁶ Jesus answered them and said, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled.'

²⁷ Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that

endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal.'

²⁸ So they said to him, 'What can we do to accomplish the works of God?'

²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.'

³⁰ So they said to him, 'What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do?'

³¹ 'Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: "He gave

them bread from heaven to eat.'"

³² So Jesus said to them, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.'

³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

³⁴ So they said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

³⁵ Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.'

'I am the bread of life' - John 6: 24-35

Dr Elizabeth Julian rsm

This morning on my way to Church a woman swore at me as I bent down to pick up something she had dropped. So what? What's the connection?

'In today's gospel Jesus is faced with hungry crowds. They had recently experienced bread in such quantities that there were twelve baskets left over! They knew they were on to a good thing — they weren't really looking for signs of who Jesus was. Jesus told them not to bother working for perishable food like the manna their ancestors experienced in the desert but instead for 'food that endures for eternal life.' How? By doing the works of God, that is, by believing in Jesus. But the people are still not satisfied. They ask for a sign, a reason for believing in Jesus who answers, 'I am the bread of life.'

So how are we to get this bread? We get this bread by believing in Jesus — total dedication to him and his Way. (Remember it's the Jesus who reached out to the poor, sick, marginalised, etc.)

But how does Jesus nourish us so we will be satisfied?

First, through his Word in

Scripture — feeding our minds and hearts, helping us find meaning and direction.

Second, through his Church — our active participation in a Christian community.

Third, through life-giving experiences and events — for example, with people, nature, music, art, sports, education, and so on.



Fourth, through the Eucharist — the sign of that Bread of Life by which we celebrate God's extraordinary love shown through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is here we come as a community to give thanks for the many ways God, through Jesus, comes into our daily lives. It is here we come to be transformed so we can be bread for the hungry, for the woman who swore at me.

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Evangelising through the Catholic Enquiry Centre

Early last year, **Rebecca Taylor-Hunt** was announced as the new Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre. CEC is the agency of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, dedicated to evangelising in Aotearoa New Zealand. Now, almost 18 months into her new role, Rebecca gives an insight into her busy and outreaching mission.

One of the joys of working at the Catholic Enquiry Centre is getting out and about and meeting people. I do this to help tell the stories of our Church in Aotearoa New Zealand. Taking photographs and writing about events and parishes shows people how inclusive, interesting, quirky and welcoming the Catholic community truly is. I have established a blog on our website *catholicdiscovery.nz* called Sowing Seeds, and we manage accounts on most of the social media platforms. In this way I try to reach as many people as I can.

Last month, I was at an ethnic communities Mass hosted by the Archdiocese of Wellington. It was a joyful occasion with much laughter



Rebecca Taylor-Hunt, Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre.

Photo: Supplied

and heartfelt worship, after which I busily wrote a blog post about it to share the story. Future events

include the Prayer Conference in Christchurch, World Youth Day in Auckland and the Life Teen Convention in Lower Hutt. This is on top of my visits to parishes.

Why tell stories? Because this is a crucial element our primary mission of evangelisation. People respond to stories, and the more familiar the Church is, the more people are likely to return or try it out for the first time. This strategy is clearly working, because we are very busy here at the Catholic Enquiry Centre.

If you are aware of any events in your area that may help us in our mission, please email us at rebecca@catholicenquiry.nz to let us know.

Columbaria option for Catholic parishes

Late last year, in response to a new set of *dubia*, or doubts, on the Catholic Church's cremation practices, the Vatican's doctrinal office – the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith – reaffirmed a ban on spreading ashes in nature, but said they can be conserved in 'sacred places'.

Earlier this year, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference circulated policies and procedures which allow for the establishment of Columbaria in New Zealand Catholic parishes. A Columbarium is a place for the reverent conservation of the ashes of the faithful departed.

The policies are a recognition that while in the past the Church saw cremation as something to be avoided, cremation is becoming a choice for many Catholics.

'The Columbarium provides a resting place that is recognisably Catholic for the ashes (cremains) of the faithful, consistent with Christian teaching on the dignity of the human body,' says the Bishops' statement. 'It provides an opportunity for families to remember their loved ones and pray for them and will in general inspire a sacred reverence for this



Pietà Columbaria, Calvary Cemetery, Catholic Diocese of Portland, USA.

Photo: portlanddiocese.org

life and hope for eternal life.'

The policies state that eligibility for inurnment will normally be restricted to current or prior members of the parish, their spouses/partners and their children/stepchildren.

Columbaria constructed on parish or diocesan land must be permanent structures and any columbaria built on church land is to be canonically owned by the parish or the diocese. The parish, and ultimately the diocesan bishop, hold the ashes 'in trust' so that the

Columbaria and contents are cared for with the same deliberation as the parish church. Deposited cremains are to be cared for in perpetuity.

Permission to construct a Columbarium must be obtained from the diocesan bishop.

'The decision to construct a Columbarium,' says the New Zealand Bishops' statement, 'will be guided solely by a desire for the parish to provide a burial place for the cremains of parishioners, recognising the deceased's faith commitment to the Catholic Church'

Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary, 15 August, NZ Patronal Feast

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...



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Wellington 6140

DATES AND EVENTS – WHAT’S ON

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

Saturday 3 August

- Fill the World with Love – Music for the Soul and Spirit, evening of music and song featuring Kathi Craig & Voices of Inspiration, guest Marla Kavanaugh from US, 7.30pm, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Koha entry.
- Quiz and bingo – 1.30pm–4.30 pm, St Joseph’s Church Dannevirke, \$20 pp. Funds raised go towards heat pump installations. Email butlerfamily.cb@gmail.com to register.

Sunday 4-Saturday 10 August

Cook Islands Language Week.

Tuesday 6 August

- Season of Creation workshop, Ss Peter and Paul Hall, Te Awakairangi Parish, 60 Knights Rd, Lower Hutt, 6.45pm for 7pm–9pm. (See details this page.)
- ‘What is Philosophy?’ – ‘A Taste of Theology’ Zoom series, 5.30–6.30pm, Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College. Introduction by Rev Dr John Owens sm. Fee \$60 access to nine courses in series and remaining live sessions. Go to tekupenga.ac.nz/tasteoftheology to register.

Wednesdays 7 August to 4 September

Alpha – 6.30pm to 8.30pm in Connolly Hall, Guildford Tce, Wellington. All welcome. Go to: <https://mcshwellington.org/alpha24/> to register.

Saturday 10 August

- Season of Creation workshop, Our Lady of Kapiti Meeting Room, 1 Presentation Way, Paraparaumu, 9.45am for 10am–12noon. (See details this page.)

Friday 9 August

International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples.

Monday 12 August

International Youth Day.

Monday 12 August-Tuesday 13 August

Seasons for Growth – Adult Companion Training, professional development training that enables educators and professionals to facilitate Seasons for Growth seminars and/or small groups. St Anthony’s Church, Seatoun. \$420 for training and resources. Email Jess at seasons@wn.catholic.org.nz for application form and to register.

Friday 16 August

Hato Pāora College – Open Day, 1314 Kimbolton Rd Feilding. It is the only Catholic Māori Boys’ College in New Zealand. Come along to the open day or contact office@hatopaora.school.nz for more information.

Saturday 17 August

Liturgy workshop series – Sunday Eucharist: Liturgy of the Eucharist, 10am–12pm, St Joseph’s Mt Victoria, for anyone interested in liturgy. Presented by Fr Patrick Bridgman, archdiocese liturgy adviser.

Sunday 18 August

- PN Voice for Life – AGM, 1pm, Cathedral of Holy Spirit gathering area. Bishop John Adams guest speaker, all welcome. Contact vflpalmerstonnorth@gmail.com for more information.
- ‘All Creation Sing’ – concert and worship with new music and songs by Rev Silvia Purdie, 7pm, Island Bay Presbyterian Church. Includes creation care, prayer, bilingual songs and contemporary hymns. Performed by Silvia with Island Bay Presbyterian Band and local artists. Free tickets or koha. Visit facebook.com/events/1854498228401793 or events.humanitix.com/all-creation-sing for more information.

Monday 19 August

World Humanitarian Day.

Sunday 8 and 15 September

‘Love is a Decision’ – marriage preparation. Archdiocesan course for engaged couples planning wedding. Contact Simone at marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz for more information.

Monday 8 October-Tuesday 9 October

Seasons For Growth – Children and Young Persons’ professional development training, provides knowledge and tools to plan and facilitate educational intervention programme supporting young people after change or loss, and help to better understand grief. St Anthony’s Church, Seatoun. \$420 for training and resources. Email Jess at seasons@wn.catholic.org.nz for application form and to register.

Wednesday 16 October

Liturgy workshop series – Sunday Eucharist: It’s Impact on our Lives, 7pm–9pm, St Theresa’s, Plimmerton, for anyone interested in liturgy. Presented by Fr Patrick Bridgman, archdiocese liturgy adviser.

15, 16, 17 November

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

Palmerston North Young Catholics

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

Church Calendar Dates

August:

- 6:** Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.
- 15:** Solemnity of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary, Patronal Feast for New Zealand.
- 19:** Memorial of St John the Baptist.
- 22:** Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Preparing for the Season of Creation

Two workshops organised by the Integral Ecology Committee of the Archdiocese of Wellington EJP Commission, are being held this month to prepare for the Season of Creation: 1 September to 4 October. Everyone is welcome.



Tuesday 6 August

- ‘Hope and Act with Create – workshop to animate Care for our Common Home in our communities. Guest speaker is Amanda Joe, discussing a programme about Catholic Social Teaching in action. Amanda is Vinnies’ Youth Co-ordinator for Catholic Primary Schools in Porirua and Tawa, and Viard College. Hosted at Ss Peter and Paul Hall, Te Awakairangi Parish, 60 Knights Rd, Lower Hutt, the event begins at 6.45pm with a ‘cuppa’ for a 7pm start and 9pm finish. All welcome. Please email Deirdre Meskill at: d.meskill@wn-catholic-socialservices.org.nz to register.

Saturday 10 August

- Hope and Act with Create – workshop. ‘The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago, the second best is now’, with guest speaker Di Buchan, QSM, JP, who aspires to this philosophy as a social and environmental researcher, volunteer and founder of the Di Buchan Environment Trust. Di is also a trustee of Energise Ōtaki and an Honorary Life Member of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand. Come and hear her experience of working across a variety of community-based organisations like Energise Ōtaki, ‘powered by vision of living in a town (and world) where there’s enough good energy for everyone’. Hosted at Our Lady of Kāpiti Meeting Room, 1 Presentation Way, Paraparaumu, beginning 9.45am with a ‘cuppa’ for 10am start and 12noon finish. All welcome. Please email Deirdre Meskill at: d.meskill@wn-catholic-socialservices.org.nz to register.

Archdiocesan programme for lay support begins 2025

Applications are now open for the archdiocese’s new one-year adult formation programme that will begin next year. Entitled, ‘Called and Equipped’, the programme is designed to support and encourage lay people serving in parishes. The programme will run from February until mid-November each year, starting with the Alpha Course followed by fortnightly evening seminars, monthly Saturday workshops and a

weekend retreat mid-year. There is a combination of face-to-face and online learning. It includes one-on-one accompaniment as well as small group dynamics. It is not an academic course, and no qualifications are needed to apply. Applications are open until 15 October. Please email Lucienne at l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz or call (04) 496-1715 or go online to: tinyurl.com/Called-and-Equipped-Programme for more information.

We offer counselling, family support, parenting programmes, and support groups for suicide bereavement.

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Year of Jubilee 2025

Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a year of Jubilee with the theme ‘Pilgrims of Hope’, to foster a greater sense of global sisterhood and brotherhood, solidarity with the poor, and caring for the environment.

In Rome, millions of pilgrims are expected to visit holy sites around the city next year. In the Archdiocese, plans are underway for Jubilee Year, which will be inaugurated on Sunday 26 January 2025 with a special Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Events such as the 24 Hours of Prayer, pilgrimages, Youth Masses and formation opportunities will be announced in coming months.

Contact Lucienne Hensel at l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz or visit the archdiocese Jubilee page at tinyurl.com/Archdiocese-Jubilee-Year-2025 for information.

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Treasured new Mission House blessed and opened for Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt



A beautiful new Mission House has been created for Sacred Heart College.

Photos: Supplied.



Katrina Kerr-Bell Principal

At 6am on Saturday 20 July, Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt school community gathered at dawn to celebrate the opening of our new Mission House and the blessing of the kaitiaki gifted by Mana Whenua.

This moment marked not just the completion of an important project for the college, but a continuation of a cherished legacy and the beginning of a new chapter in our community's story.

A special thanks to Mana Whenua Te Āti Awa ki te Ūpoko o te Ika and Wiremu Moeahu for the generous gift of the kaitiaki 'Te Iho o te Manawa' | 'The Beating Heart'. It is such a beautiful and treasured taonga.

The kaitiaki at our front entrance has enabled us to transform this new space to a project that reflects the land it rests on and the young wāhine of Te Āti Awa, whom the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions came to serve.

The day began with a blessing of the kaitiaki, then Archbishop Paul Martin sm blessed the entire building. We all followed Archbishop Paul and prayed in each space.

The morning concluded with kai, after which tours of the building were conducted throughout the morning.

The new Mission House was built on the site of the original

Mission House at Sacred Heart, which had been the Sisters' convent. In 1972, due to the college's rapid growth, Mission House became dual-purposed as home to the Sisters and as well as containing the administration block and six classrooms.

In 2017 this building was deemed unsafe in the case of an earthquake. The costs for strengthening it were prohibitive, so the difficult decision was made by the then Mission Colleges Lower Hutt Trust Board to take it down and build a new Mission House.

IR Group and Maycroft Builders with Robinson Architects have created a beautiful new Mission House. This is home to our college's administration team, business manager, senior leadership personnel, a library, a staffroom, and four classrooms as well as numerous other offices and staff workrooms.

We are so proud of what has been created for us and we are especially proud that one of the architects involved with the project, Hannah Kelly, is one of our own alumni.

Sacred Heart College is grateful to the Mission College's Lower Hutt Trust Board for their bravery, vision and dedication to this build. And a special thanks was given to Bill Davies who was a driving force behind the funding of this build.

This is the first stage completion of the new refurbishment of Sacred Heart. Stage two will involve refurbishing the old library into two new modern art rooms.



Opening ceremony in the foyer.



Blessing of kaitiaki by Wiremu Moeahu.



Archbishop Paul Martin with principal Katrina Kerr-Bell cut the ribbon to open the new Mission House.



Sacred Heart College Kapa Haka group greet the guests.



Sacred Heart College principal Katrina Kerr-Bell with past principal Sr Valerie Lawson.



The new Mission House is home to a library, a staffroom, four classrooms as well as numerous other offices and staff workrooms.