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A newspaper for the Wellington and Palmerston North Catholic Dioceses

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

Pukekaraka leads World Rosary Day



Pope Francis called for all Catholics to take part in this year's World Rosary Day on 7 October, the Feast of the Holy Rosary, by coming together at their local time of 7pm to recite the Rosary at shrines, in community settings or at home.

The World Rosary began at 7pm in New Zealand at St Mary's Pukekaraka, Ōtaki. Led by Ngāti Kapu, local Māori and Māori Catholic the Rosary was recited in te reo Maori and English. The prayers of people of St Mary's and wider, who gathered in the soft evening light at the Pukekaraka Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, were live-streamed across the globe.

From Pukekaraka, the Rosary moved across time zones with each country beginning their recitation at 7pm as a 'relay' creating a continuous wave of prayer encircling the globe.

Pope Francis invited all Catholics to participate in this 24-hour universal day of prayer and to unite for a single intention in a 'symphony of prayer': the spiritual success of the Jubilee of Hope 2025. The Holy Father asked that we gather in prayer, trusting in the intercession of Our Lady to accompany us on this journey toward hope, renewal, grace and peace.

Wawata Johnson, Ngāti Kapu, led the recitation of the Global Rosary in te reo Māori at Pukekaraka, Ōtaki.

Photo: Annette Scullion

Awe, e Maria, e ki ana koe i te kereatia | Hail Mary, Full of Grace

» More, Global Rosary, p 3.
» Jubilee of Hope 2025, p 3.

Archbishop Pintér arrives as Pope's new ambassador

Pope Francis' new ambassador to New Zealand and the Pacific has formally presented his credentials to Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro, formalising his latest posting as a member of the Vatican's diplomatic service.

The Holy Father announced in July that Hungarian Archbishop Gábor Pintér would take up the Wellington-based appointment, which follows missions as Nuncio in Belarus and in Honduras.

His earlier diplomatic service had included stints in Haiti, Bolivia, Sweden, France, Algeria, the Philippines and Austria.

Archbishop Pintér said his initial reaction when he was asked to move to Oceania was, 'I am following Archbishop Novatus.'

Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, whose time as Nuncio in New Zealand ended after he suffered a serious stroke last year, had served in Honduras immediately before Archbishop Pintér.

He also realised the new appointment would mean that he has served on every continent where the Church has diplomats.

'This continent had been missing from my life, so I can say now that my life is complete,' he said, jokingly.

But at just 60, Archbishop Pintér likely has many years of service ahead of him.

One of the key tasks of a Nuncio is overseeing the process of recommending potential bishops as incumbents approach the mandatory retirement age of 75 or dioceses that become vacant.

In New Zealand, all six dioceses currently have bishops, with no vacancies expected in the next 12 years or more. Across the 17 dioceses of the Pacific, most bishops are also much younger than 75.

With less emphasis on that identification of future bishops in the short term, Archbishop Pintér says he will therefore have more time to visit Catholic communities across the far-flung region and share Pope Francis' vision.



Archbishop Pintér presents his credentials to Dame Cindy Kiro.

Photo: gg.govt.nz

'It is important for nuncios to make pastoral visits, to be among the people and to transmit the message of the Pope,' he said.

'It's a great honour for me to be a representative of the Holy Father and to go to many countries of the

world and to be some kind of bridge between the Pope and the local church.

'We cannot know the future, but I think much of my time will be dedicated to those pastoral visits, to talk to bishops, priests, religious

and laity, to make connections and to have the chance to assure the presence and the closeness of the Pope among these peoples.'

Those pastoral visits will allow Archbishop Pintér to enmesh the information he has received about the Church in New Zealand and the Pacific.

'I have already learned a lot, but normally I would only work in a single country, but here I have New Zealand, but also 11 other territories in the Pacific, each with their own laws, their own government,' he reflected.

'I know also that there are a lot of differences between New Zealand and the islands, and within the Pacific Islands there are a lot of differences. So I have to learn, and to learn I, of course, have to listen to people. That's my first very important task.'

Before that process of listening and learning begins in earnest, Archbishop Pintér has flown to

» Continued on p 2

From the editor

Annette Scullion

Tēnā koutou kātoa

As the people of the Catholic Church worldwide look towards the Year of Jubilee 2025: 'Pilgrims of Hope', Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be dedicated to a 'great symphony of prayer' in preparation.

A Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year – called by the Pope every twenty-five years – of 'forgiveness and reconciliation', in which people are invited 'to deepen their relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation'.

In preparation for the Year of Jubilee 2025, Pope Francis called on all Catholics to participate in World Rosary Day on 7 October, the Feast of the Holy Rosary and to pray the Rosary for that intention.

So it was a privilege for the faith community of St Mary's | Hāta Mere, Pukekarakā, Otaki, to be invited to begin the 'Global Rosary' at 7pm, that would commence a 'relay' of prayer across the world. It was a privilege to attend and take part and it was a privilege for viewers of the livestream from Pukekarakā to witness and hear the Holy Rosary being recited softly and prayerfully in te reo Māori and in English, led by Ngāti Kapu, local Māori and

Māori Catholic, from our part of the world. See stories p 1 and p 3.

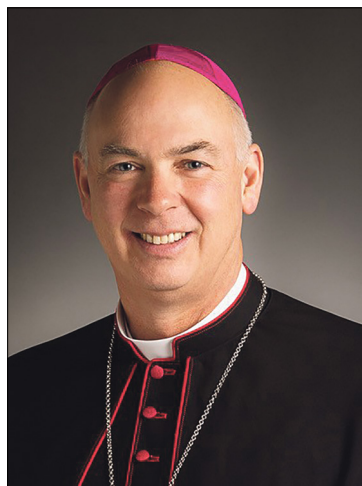
The Jubilee Year will offer Catholics universally opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. The tradition of opening the Holy Door for the Jubilee will begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on 24 December 2024. For many who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world will designate their cathedrals or recognised Catholic shrines as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims.

The Archdiocese of Wellington has developed a comprehensive Jubilee 2025 programme and the Diocese of Palmerston North expects to confirm their programme this month. See p 3.

Other events and news in this edition include Wellington Catholic Social Services' Hope Appeal this month, World Day of the Poor on Sunday 17 November, the Pope's new encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus and our annual WelCom Advent Calendar – well in time for Advent Sunday on 1 December.

Happy reading.
Ngā mihi

Synod: Learning to listen to one another and the Holy Spirit on our missionary path



Archbishop Paul Martin SM
Archbishop of Wellington

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I am writing this at the end of the first day of the third week of the Synod here in Rome. We have just completed the third section of the document that we are working through. It is entitled 'Pathways' and it laid out possible ways that we might move into the future as a Church.

It is a privilege to be at a Synod like this. The majority of the participants were here last year, so it is like seeing your friends again after a long time apart. The way the

Synod is conducted is different from the past, with round-table groups, lots of listening and the opportunity to feed into the reports. It can also be frustrating listening to people talking about things that seem to be off topic at times. It has helped me to become aware of the huge diversity of our Church in terms of culture, contexts and experience. It makes me realise that we are already doing a number of things to work together, to listen and be synodal.

It is apparent also that our context in New Zealand is very different to other places. We are small, relatively isolated, strongly secular in our history and current population. We have become a very multi-cultural nation of people and as a Church. Our worshipping communities are made up of people from many nations, a lot of whom have come to live in this land in more recent times. This is our Church and our society and we need to embrace this reality as the community into whom God has called us. There is no point in pining for the past or wishing it were different. This is our faith community and I am always struck when I gather for Mass in parishes how wonderful to see all these people for whom God is important, who are open to the message of Jesus Christ, who want to celebrate

the Sacraments with their brothers and sisters, and who know that they have a responsibility to share this Good News.

I hope that when the Synod is over there will eventually be some material available to us to help us in becoming a synodal missionary Church. I want us to keep working at it in the context we find ourselves in and to help one another to encounter Christ and to deepen our formation in faith and way of being members of his body, the Church. I'm not looking for instant answers. It is going to take us a significant amount of time to develop the attitudes and actions of working synodally. But this is the time that we were created for, this is the Church that we have been welcomed into and belong to. I have great confidence that God will not abandon us and that the Holy Spirit will empower us with his gifts for our time.

I look forward to continue being on this journey with you. I encourage you to see the face of Christ in those with whom you gather for worship, community and outreach. Pray for our Church, for each other, that we will be faithful to our baptismal calling as disciples of Christ and that we will have the courage to be his witnesses in the circumstances we find ourselves in.

Ngā mihi nui

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Sending articles to WelCom

In our mission to communicate about news and events in the Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses, WelCom publishes information, stories and photos received from readers.

Contributed articles should be no longer than 300 words unless by arrangement with the editor. Please send as a MS Word document attached to an email or pasted into an email message including your name, address and phone number. Articles may be edited for length or clarity at the editor's discretion.

Photos should be in original format (unedited, uncropped), large file size of at least one megabyte (MB) and attached to your email as separate photo files – JPEG, TIFF, GIF or bitmap (BMP). Please include names for a caption.

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

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



Pope Francis, seated centre, is pictured with all the Synod participants at the conclusion of the work of the General Assembly. In his final address at the Synod Assembly on Saturday evening, 26 October, Pope Francis presented the Synod's Final Document as a 'threefold gift'. He highlighted how the Document, written over the course of the 2nd Session of the Synod on Synodality, which began on 2 October following a process of listening and dialogue, is the fruit of over three years of listening to the People of God. It reveals, he noted, a shared path forward toward a 'synodal Church' that embodies the Gospel not merely through words but through every act and interaction. Pope Francis described the Document as a gift with multiple dimensions, serving as both guidance for the Church and as a symbol of unity and shared mission. The Pope announced he has chosen to not write an Apostolic Exhortation following the Synod, but he said, the Synod Document will be immediately available to all. The XVIth Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops officially concluded on Sunday, 27 October, with the celebration of Holy Mass in St Peter's Basilica presided over by Pope Francis.

Photo: Vatican Media

» Continued from p 1

Hungary with a heavy heart. As he was preparing to travel to New Zealand, he received news that his 95-year-old mother had died.

Archbishop Pintér spent about a week with family and friends, before returning to New Zealand and deepening his knowledge of the Church, the countries and the people of his vast territory covering tens of millions of square kilometres – the largest for any papal ambassador in the world.

'I am very happy to be here and to be able to share all of my experiences. I look forward to enjoying this wonderful country,' he said.

In addition to his Church responsibilities, Archbishop Pintér will also participate in civic affairs with governments, with other ambassadors and with the diplomatic corps.

Source: NZCBC

The new Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand and the Pacific, Archbishop Gábor Pintér, will formally present his letter of introduction to the President of the New Zealand Bishops Conference in presence of New Zealand's other bishops at the 7pm Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, on Sunday 10 November. The Nuncio will be the main presider at the Mass. The bishops will be attending their NZCBC meeting in Wellington the next day.

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Global Rosary

Philip Cody sm

Pope Francis wanted the Church to prepare for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope. He asked that on the Feast of the Rosary, 7 October, people pray the Rosary for that intention.

This request was taken up by Monsignor Umberto Angeloni of a Roman Dicastery. He approached Marion Mulhall of Worldpriest Global Apostolate, to ask if she knew some contacts in New Zealand so that the 'Global Rosary' could begin 'at the ends of the earth'.

Marion has previously worked with the Faith Community at Pukekaraka and the Carmelite Sisters in Auckland for a global Rosary for Priests each 16 June. A 'Global Rosary' is a 24-hour, continuous Rosary, going in sequence around the world.

So Pukekaraka was chosen to begin the Rosary at 7pm on 7

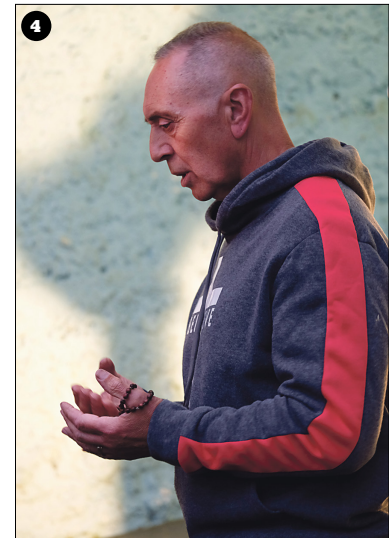
October, 2024. A unique focus was that the Rosary was led by Ngāti Kapu, local Māori and Māori Catholic. One delightful aspect of that was two young children, Te Mauri and Harina Picchi-Cooper, beginning the prayer leading the gathering with the hymn 'Mō Maria'.

Various people of St Mary's and wider gathered at the Pukekaraka Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and, accompanied by the singing of birds in the surrounding bush in the evening air, prayed the Rosary in te reo Māori and English.

This carries on the tradition established by the first French Marists with the blessing of Tangata Whenua who focused prayer at this shrine of Mary. Pukekaraka is a place of pilgrimage for the Archdiocese of Wellington as noted for the coming Jubilee Year. The Global Rosary focused on the foundation and continuing life of the Archdiocese around Mary.

1, 2. Faith community in prayer. 3. Two young children, Te Mauri and Harina Picchi-Cooper, began the prayer leading the gathering with the hymn 'Mō Maria'. Orewia Raueti (l) lived-streamed the Rosary recitation from Pukekaraka. 4. Wawata Johnson led the recitation of the Global Rosary in te reo Māori.

Photos: Annette Scullion



Year of Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

"...May the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus..." - Pope Francis, Spes non Confundit

Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a year of Jubilee with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. In his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025 the Holy Father stated: 'We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire...'

The Jubilee 2025 will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. The tradition of opening the Holy Door will begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on **24 December 2024**. Other holy doors will be opened at the Rome basilicas of St John Lateran, St Mary Major and St Paul Outside the Walls. The Holy Doors, present in each of the four papal basilicas in Rome, are destination points for pilgrims who travel to Rome during a Jubilee and who pass through seeking special graces and God's mercy.



For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for the Holy Year 2025, offering opportunities for reconciliation and other events to strengthen and revive faith.

Archdiocese of Wellington programme

Lucienne Hensel

The Jubilee Year of Hope is an opportunity to pause, make time for renewal and reconciliation, and enter more deeply into the mystery of the hope we have in Christ. Traditionally, the Jubilee Year is marked by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door at St Peter's, while on pilgrimage in Rome. Few of us will travel that far, but all are invited to set out on pilgrimage, to cross boundaries and be open to a

new experience of conversion. Our physical distance from Rome is no barrier to the abundant graces God offers us in this Jubilee Year, and several events and opportunities have been planned so that all may experience those graces.

A calendar of Jubilee events for the Archdiocese of Wellington, sent to parishes in September, is on our website. Key events, such as the opening of the Jubilee Year on **Sunday 26 January**, will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral while others will be celebrated in parishes or other sacred sites.

Pilgrimage is an important element of the Jubilee Year. Visiting our sacred sites helps us to dig deeper into our Catholic story, remember those on whose shoulders we stand and be inspired by their faith and courage. There are a number of sacred sites around the Archdiocese, such as Pukekaraka Hāto Mere Parish in Ōtaki, St Mary of the Angels National Shrine, Garin Chapel in Nelson and many more. Parishes are encouraged to identify any sacred sites within their geographical boundaries and organise local pilgrimages. A pilgrimage resource will be available early in 2025.

The worldwide '24 Hours for the Lord' will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral on **Friday 28 and**

Saturday 29 March. This event will bring Catholics around the globe together in Spirit to pray for signs of hope in our hearts, our families, our nations and our world. May we, in this Jubilee Year, become signs of hope for the world around us.

For more information, please visit wn.catholic.org.nz/jubilee-2025/ or contact Lucienne Hensel, pastoral ministry adviser, Church Mission, at l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz

Diocese of Palmerston North programme


The Diocese of Palmerston North is currently finalising their Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope programme. Details are expected to be advised to parishes and on the diocesan website this month.

Towards the Jubilee

Pope Francis wants 2024 to be dedicated to prayer for the Jubilee of 2025. He invites the whole Church to a time of intense commitment in preparation for the Opening of the Holy Door on **24 December 2024**. A prayer booklet can be downloaded from: tinyurl.com/Teach-us-to-Pray-booklet

The Dicastery for Evangelisation's 24-page booklet *On the path towards the 2025 Jubilee: Useful Information* can be downloaded from: tinyurl.com/Jubilee-Useful-Information

Further information about Jubilee events and materials are on the Vatican Jubilee 2025 website: iubilaeum2025.va/en.html and local diocesan websites.



St Patrick's College Wellington

New Zealand's oldest Catholic boys' college

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded Academic Scholarships for Year 9 2025:

- Academic Excellence Entrance Scholarships – Tom Adams from St Anthony's School, Seatoun and Eliaz Zych from St Benedict's School, Khandallah.

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Bringing hope to communities since 1960s

Wellington Catholic Social Services' Hope Appeal, from 1 to 30 November, asks for the community's continued support for their 'important work', bringing 'hope to individuals and families', says Chris Ward, Director of Catholic Social Services. CSS is the Archdiocese of Wellington's social outreach agency.

'I believe the Church has a key role to play in addressing those experiencing real needs in our community, and collectively we can make an impact,' says Chris. 'We are committed to expanding our reach to meet the needs in the community and journeying alongside people.'

'Our work is guided by Catholic Social Teaching. It includes social work, parenting programmes, providing prison and hospital chaplaincy, supporting people through grief and loss, refugee resettlement work, advocacy and community facilitation.'

Archbishop Paul Martin sm said, 'As we prepare for the Year of the Jubilee, I have been reflecting on Pope Francis' call to us all to be tangible signs of hope for people in our community who are experiencing hardships and need our support. Catholic Social Services has been bringing hope to the community since the 1960s and needs our support to continue this important work.'

Over the past year, CSS has brought hope to:

- those in hospitals and prisons, providing over 5000 hours of chaplaincy support to patients, prisoners, whānau and staff;
- over 50 newly arrived refugees by providing household items and food, and supporting family



Bringing hope... through welcome and encounter. Our Women's Friendship Project creates a space of hope. A series of gatherings hosted by CSS community co-ordinators are designed with safety, kai and fun, to nurture intentional friendships between locally connected women and newly settling women from the Ahmadiyya Community.

Photo: Supplied/CSS

- reunifications;
- children and adults experiencing grief and loss, training over 40 Companions to work through these issues in school and community settings;
- over 30 men seeking parenting support, providing training and mentoring to become the 'Best Dads' they can be;
- over 60 people seeking accommodation, access to health services, support dealing with government agencies, and others with significant needs in our communities.

Archbishop Paul invites people to support the annual appeal; either donating to fund the important work of the agency, donating time as a volunteer in one of the programmes, or through prayer.

'I ask you to pray for individuals

and families in our communities who may be going through hardships and looking for signs of hope at this time in their lives, and that the work of Catholic Social Services will provide an anchor of stability and security amidst the anxiety,' said Archbishop Paul.

You can donate to the Hope Appeal online at catholicsocialservices.org.nz/donate or via internet banking 02-0560-0213864-000; PARTICULARS: your Surname & Initials, REFERENCE: your Phone Number, CODE: CSS - HOPE.

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

The synod and a hui are nearly the same

Taking part in the Synod on Synodality is much like participating in a hui says Manuel Beazley, who was in Rome last month as a New Zealand member of the Synod.

Beazley is also Vicar for Māori in the Auckland Diocese.

'As Māori, synodality is nothing new to us. In a sense it's part of our DNA as Māori people,' Beazley says. Both synodality and hui emphasise collective decision-making and inclusivity.

Māori come together to hui and to wānanga, to gather and to reflect on the big issues facing the community, Beazley explains. 'Through the combined wisdom of the community we come out the other end of it with something new to take us forward.'

Beazley says he finds the similarity between the synodal and hui approaches 'quite reassuring'.

It's something we are already familiar with here in Aotearoa and the Pacific, and among the many indigenous people through the Pacific who practise synodality in some shape or form, he says.

Coming together, sharing wisdom and then moving forward together will mean we will be a Church that journeys together, Beazley observes.

'If we are to say that we are a Church for all then we should be a Church where everyone is welcomed, a Church where everyone can belong and be accepted.'

'For me that would be the ultimate sign of the Church that we are a place where all people can find a home.'

Community collaboration shapes the Church of the future, he says.

Last month's Synod in Rome was the second time Beazley represented Aotearoa New Zealand during the Synod on Synodality process.

Getting there with a sense of everyone's views has been hard work. He's read the *Instrumentum Laboris*. And spoken to countless people.

He's sought to maximise everyone's participation 'so that we can journey together on this road towards synodality through listening and dialogue and also

forming a co-responsible church' he says.

When Beazley was at the Synod last year, a key outcome was contacting like-minded ministers and joining them as if they were another family. He said they continue to keep in touch using modern media.

Since then, Beazley says he has thrown himself deeply into parishes and communities, spreading the word about synodality and helping parishes and communities form their synodal structures.

'I think that's key to how we are to go forward, the more we can speak about synodality as not being something new but reaching back into the great treasure of our Catholic history and bringing all of that into the future.'



Manuel Beazley attended the Synod on Synodality in Rome last month as a New Zealand member of the Synod.

'It's really just about sitting down, talking with people, sharing...their hopes, their aspirations for the Church and also their frustrations at some of the things that they see happening in their local church,' he says.

'And just hearing the depth and the breadth of all of that Catholic experience - that's what I had hoped to take to the Synod...to be able to share with the global church all of those things that affect people from outside the world.'

Sources: Facebook; NZ Catholic; CathNews NZ

Govt confirms details of abuse in care national apology

The Government has confirmed further details about the national apology to survivors of abuse in care. On 12 November Parliament will apologise on behalf of the nation for the failures of the State across many governments. Following a mihi whakatau, proceedings will begin mid-morning with survivor voices and apologies from some government agency chief executives. The Prime Minister will deliver the

national apology in the House of Representatives at 11.30am. This will be followed by a statement from the Leader of the Opposition. Proceedings will be streamed online and to concurrent events at Due Drop Events Centre in Auckland, Shed 6 in Wellington, and the Christchurch Town Hall. The apology will also screen on Parliament TV.

Source: beehive.govt.nz



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St Joseph's legendary principal steps down



Retiring Principal of St Joseph's Māori Girls' College and tikanga advocate Georgina Kingi became a Dame Companion to the Order of New Zealand (DNZM) in the New Year 2017 honours list for services to Māori and education. A teacher at the Catholic college since 1969 and its principal since 1987, 'Miss Kingi' retired from the college at the end of Term 3, September 2024.

Photo: File/Supplied

Dame Georgina Kingi, DNZM, principal of St Joseph Māori Girls' College in Taradale since 1987, is retiring after 60 years at the college.

She was a pupil at the college and then a teacher. She took over as principal in 1987 when the Sisters of Our Lady of the Mission stepped away from running the school.

Māori education is her passion. When asked why she stayed at St Joseph's so long, she says 'I guess...because of Maori achievement...I stayed to help...and you do get fond of teaching staff.'

'Miss Kingi', as she is known, is widely respected as an educational leader. Her pupils do well because her standards are high. Homework and discipline are priorities.

Former pupil Dame Hinewehi Mohi says Miss Kingi is known for her refusal to compromise over what she thought best for St Joseph's girls.

'She's not one to mince words either,' well-known former pupil Moana Maniapoto recalls.

She is much honoured, though – 500 former pupils turned out for her last karakia

as principal at the end of last term to sing her praises.

'In her speech, she was having none of that,' Mohi says. 'She was still talking about the importance of supporting young Māori women as leaders of our people. I'm in awe of what she has done – she set me on a really inspired process of finding where I can do my duty and do my bit based on her role-modelling and leadership.'

Perhaps not surprisingly, given Miss Kingi's passion for education, the next phase of her life will involve serving on a four-person Māori education advisory group to improve outcomes for Māori learners.

Established by Education Minister Erica Stanford, the group will focus on improving achievement for Māori learners and 'closing the equity gap that has persisted for too long in the education system.'

The group will provide independent advice on 'all matters related to Māori education in English and Māori medium settings.'

Source: CathNews NZ

Brian McGuinness and Erskine Chapel upgrade honoured

Brian McGuinness has been honoured for 'exceptional leadership' by the Wellington Chamber of Commerce.

'The Wellington Chamber of Commerce is delighted to recognise Brian McGuinness as an honouree of the 2024 Wellington Address,' said Chamber CEO Simon Arcus. 'With over 50 years of commitment to the family business, LT McGuinness, Brian has shown exceptional leadership and made enduring contributions to the Wellington urban landscape. An award for Brian is, in a very real sense, a recognition of the contribution of the McGuinness family.'

The Wellington Address recognises those who serve the community beyond the call of their professional duty.

'Nobody else has literally built a legacy on Wellington's footprint quite like Brian McGuinness,' said Simon Arcus.

LT McGuinness' work includes seismic strengthening of St Mary of the Angels Church and Sacred Heart Cathedral, both critical projects for the city's heritage preservation.

Archbishop Paul Martin sm commended McGuinness' dedication at the June re-opening of Sacred Heart Cathedral.

'It seems that all over this city, we see signs

of this fine company whose work ethic, skill and integrity have them being asked to lead so many significant projects in our capital. We're deeply grateful to you, Brian, and the wider family and the firm.'

Other honourees at the Wellington address were Doug Hauraki, Adrian Orr and the Wellington Company for its outstanding work on the restoration of the Erskine Chapel in Island Bay.

Many others would have shied away from the challenge of restoring the Category-1 listed Erskine Chapel. The 1929 landmark had been neglected, vandalised and red-stickered for many years.

However, rather than walking away from the project, The Wellington Company took the step many would not, undertaking a \$7 million restoration and strengthening project to preserve it for generations to come.

The Wellington Pasifika Business Network (WPBN) recognised Dr Adrian Orr as the Pasifika honouree for this year's Wellington Address and Te Awe Wellington Māori Business Network recognised Doug Hauraki as its honouree.

Source: CathNews, Stuff



Brian McGuinness and the Wellington Company recognised for 'exceptional leadership' and heritage restoration.

Photos: LTM; Erskine Chapel



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HASTEN TO MEET THEM, ANGELS OF THE LORD”**

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This month, November, the Church gives special remembrance to the Faithful Departed. We pray for them and for ourselves, with thanksgiving and loving memory. May they rest in peace.

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'Shameful inability' to stop Israel-Hamas war

Pope Francis has strongly criticised what he called the 'shameful inability' of the international community to end the war in the Middle East, one year after Hamas' devastating attack on Israel, 7 October 2023.

'A year ago, the fuse of hatred was lit; it did not sputter, but exploded in a spiral of violence,' he said in an open letter to Catholics in the region.

'It seems that few people care about what is most needed and what is most desired: dialogue and peace,' he wrote. 'Violence never brings peace. History proves this, yet years and years of conflict seem to have taught us nothing.'

Pope Francis has spoken more openly in recent weeks about the Hamas-Israel conflict, and has become more vocal in his criticism of Israel's military campaign.



Destroyed buildings in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Photo: AFP

On 29 September the 87-year-old pontiff criticised Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon, suggesting they went 'beyond morality'.

Earlier in September, the Pope called Israel's actions in Lebanon 'unacceptable' and urged the international community to do everything possible to halt the fighting.

In another letter, Pope Francis directly addressed Gazans: 'I am with you, the people of Gaza, long embattled and in dire straits. You are in my thoughts and prayers daily.'

'I am with you, who have been forced to leave your homes, to abandon schooling and work and to find a place of refuge from the bombing. ...I am with you, who are afraid to look up for fear of fire raining down from the skies,' he wrote.

Source: Vatican News

Australia's new cardinal

In a surprising move, Pope Francis has named Ukrainian-born Bishop Mykola Bychok as Australia's new cardinal.

Bishop Bychok, 44, who leads the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Australia, was appointed only four years after arriving in the country. His elevation has surprised many within the Church, especially those who expected more senior figures such as Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney or Melbourne's Archbishop Peter Comensoli to receive the title.

Bishop Bychok's appointment has also been interpreted as recognising the growing multiculturalism within the Australian Church.



Pope Francis has named Ukrainian-born Bishop Mykola Bychok as Australia's new cardinal.

Photo: Supplied

Data from the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office shows

that nearly a quarter of the clergy in Australia are overseas born.

The new cardinal-elect, who learned of his appointment through the news, said he was in shock. 'For me, it's a great mystery. God works in mysterious ways, and the Pope works in mysterious ways, under God!'

Bishop Bychok acknowledged the weight of his new role, particularly for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia and worldwide.

'To fulfil this will of God will be a huge challenge for me, and a really difficult cross,' he said.

Source: Catholic Weekly

'Peace is possible' in Myanmar

Myanmar has been wracked by violence since a military coup in 2021 overthrew Aun San Suu Kyi's democratically elected government and plunged it into conflict.

Speaking to Vatican Media, the Archbishop of Yangon, Cardinal Charles Maung Bo reflected on the grave situation, where an estimated 40,000 migrants are currently crossing borders in search of safety.

'People are hiding in the jungles,' Cardinal Bo said, adding that many of the young are becoming migrant workers, forced to leave because of the very complex situation in the country.'

The conflict, which has involved not just the military and insurgents but also the People's Defence Force, shows no signs of abating.

'For the moment, it is unpredictable,' said the Cardinal. 'We don't see the future very clearly. It's

hard to know what will happen next.'

Despite international efforts, including a recent meeting of ASEAN countries who met in Laos to find a way to tackle the war in Myanmar, Cardinal Bo said progress towards peace remains elusive.

'Both sides were urged to stop fighting, but on the ground, the insurgents are taking positions while the military uses air raids. It's very difficult,' he said. 'We don't blame any side. Instead, we call on them to come to the table for reconciliation.'

When asked about reported calls for peace talks by the military junta, Cardinal Bo acknowledged the challenges of trust between the warring factions but said he maintains hope: 'For the time being, fighting continues. But we remain firm in our belief that peace is possible.'

Source: Vatican News

Synod's grand finale

After three years of discussion, debate and, at times, division, the concluding act of Pope Francis' Synod of Bishops on Synodality took place in October (2-27).

A total of 368 participants gathered for the second and final Roman assembly in order to continue the work of the Synod on Synodality around the theme 'For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission.'

This year's session differed from the previous meeting because many of the more highly charged issues discussed in last year's assembly (such as polygamous families and women in the diaconate) were handed over to study groups to

address. That meant the focus of the second session was on synodality in the Church.

As during the first session of the Synod last year, the Synod began with a retreat led by Dominican Father Timothy Radcliffe and Benedictine Mother Ignazia Angelini. The retreat included a penitential liturgy, in which, among other things, victims of abuse, of war and of indifference to migrants offered testimony.

Of the 368 Synod participants, 272 were bishops and the rest were a mix of priests, deacons, male and female religious and laity. There were also eight papally nominated 'special guests,' and

16 representatives from other churches.

The schedule provided for a rotation among plenary sessions and exchanges within 36 smaller working groups, organised into five round tables by language: two in English, one in Italian, one in French, one in Spanish and one in Portuguese.

The Synod will come up with a final document as a way of submitting its suggestions to the Pope, who will then decide how to present the results to the Church and the wider world.

Source: Crux



Members of an insurgent militia in Myanmar.

Photo: Vatican News



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‘Solidarity Martyr’ still influential today

Forty years after the murder of Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko, Polish Catholics are urging people everywhere to revisit and learn from his heroic testimony.

‘He was treated as a criminal and killed by state agents for daring to proclaim the Gospel,’ explained Fr Jan Sochon, a childhood friend.

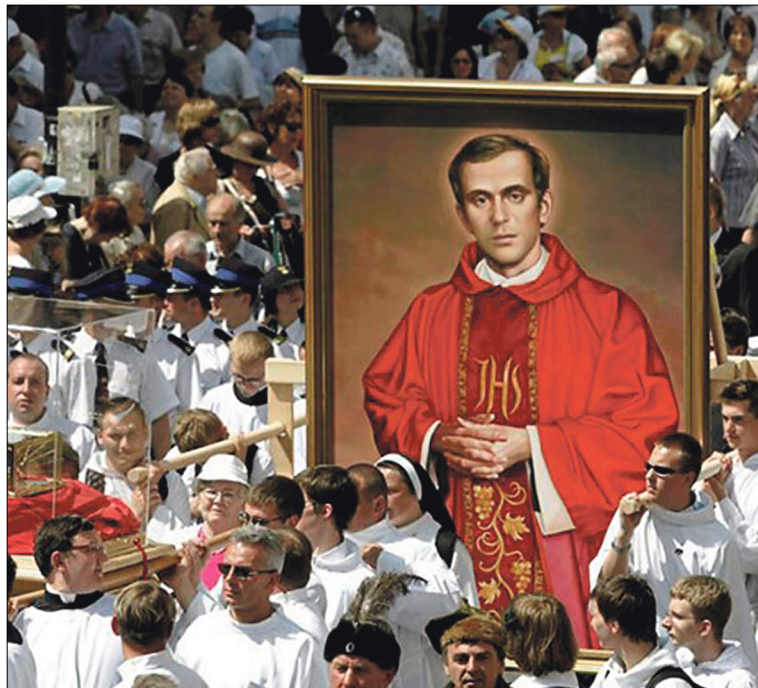
‘Though times have changed, some of the mechanisms used to rule over people are still in place today. This is why he remains influential, a sign of the times summoning us to reflect and change,’ he said.

Fr Sochon spoke ahead of 40th anniversary commemorations of the death of Blessed Popieluszko (1947–1984), chaplain of Poland’s Solidarity union. Jerzy Popieluszko was brutally murdered by officers of Sluzba Bezpieczenstwa – communist Poland’s security service.

Ewa Czackowska, a biographer of the priest, said his cult remained strong among Solidarity veterans, but had also been passed on to younger people raised after communist rule.

‘Father Jerzy is still alive – not just in the memory of those who encountered him all those years ago, but also in the contemporary imagination.’

‘Large numbers still visit his grave, and turn to him at moments of personal crisis, while his teachings about solidarity, justice,



The relics of Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko are carried through the streets of Warsaw, Poland, June 6, 2010. Photo: OSV News photo/Agencja Gazeta, Reuters

mutual respect and living in truth remain relevant today in very different circumstances,’ she said.

The bound and gagged body of 37-year-old Fr Popieluszko, known nationwide for homilies defending human rights, was dredged from a Vistula River reservoir on 20 October 1984, 11 days after he was abducted while returning overnight from a Mass in Bydgoszcz.

The priest’s funeral, the largest in Polish history, was attended by between 600,000 and a million people at Warsaw’s St Stanislaus Kostka Church, where his grave has since been visited by 23 million. Fr Popieluszko was beatified in June 2010.

Source: Catholic Review

Pope Francis announces Consistory for creation of 21 new Cardinals

Pope Francis announced after his Sunday Angelus, 6 October, that he would hold a Consistory for the creation of new Cardinals, on 7 December 2024, in the Vatican.

The Consistory, set to take place with representatives from all over the world, will fall before the opening of the 2025 Jubilee of Hope and after the conclusion of the Second Session of the Synod on Synodality in the Vatican. Pope Francis’ most recent consistory to create new Cardinals had taken place ahead of the First Session of the Synod on Synodality on 30 September 2023.

The Holy Father pointed out that the Cardinal-elects hail from around the world.

‘Their origins,’ he said, ‘expresses the universality of the Church, which continues to proclaim God’s merciful love to all people on earth. Their inclusion in the Diocese of Rome also manifests the inseparable bond between the See of Peter and

the particular Churches spread throughout the world.’

Moreover, he asked the faithful to pray for the future Cardinals.

‘Let’s pray for the new Cardinals, that by confirming their adherence to Christ, the merciful and faithful High Priest, they may help me in

my ministry as Bishop of Rome for the good of all God’s holy people.’

With the upcoming Consistory, the College of Cardinals will enlarge to 256 Cardinals, 141 of whom will be Cardinal electors.

Source: Vatican News



Pope Francis announces a consistory for the creation of 21 new Cardinals from around the world to be held in the Vatican on 7 December 2024.

Photo: File photo of consistory for the creation of new Cardinals/Reuters.

Abuse crisis impacts Mass attendance

A third of Catholics in England and Wales have reduced their Mass attendance due to concerns over the child sexual abuse crisis within the Church, according to a new report. In response, Bishop Paul Mason, lead bishop for safeguarding in the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, has vowed to ensure the Church is safe for all, assuring Catholics ‘we will not rest in our efforts to make the Church a place of safety and sanctuary for all.’

‘Be careful what you wish for’

The Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, has warned people to ‘be careful what you wish for,’ as British MPs prepare to debate a new bill to allow assisted suicide. The Cardinal said he feared that a ‘right to die’ would inevitably become a ‘duty to die’ and that pressure would build on the vulnerable to end their lives to ease the burden on carers or protect an inheritance. ‘The radical change in the law now being proposed risks bringing about for all medical professionals a slow change from a duty to care to a duty to kill,’ he said.

Brazilian Catholic nun honoured



Sr Rosita Milesi Photo: File/Marina Calderon/UN Refugee Agency via AFP

Scalabrini Sr Rosita Milesi has received the prestigious Nansen Award from the United Nations Refugee Agency. This award is given annually to individuals, groups or organisations for their work in protecting refugees. Seventy-nine-year-old Sr Rosita has personally helped thousands of displaced people in Brazil to access legal documentation, shelter, food, healthcare, language training and the labour market over four decades.

Catholic numbers rise

The number of Catholics and permanent deacons in the world rose in 2022, while the number of seminarians, priests, men and women in religious orders, and baptisms declined, according to Vatican statistics. At the end of 2022, the number of Catholics in the world reached 1.389 billion, up 0.79 per cent from 1.378 billion Catholics at the end of 2021, according to the Vatican’s Central Office of Church Statistics.

Bishop declines cardinalate

Pope Francis has accepted the request of Indonesian Bishop Paskalis Bruno Syukur, not to be created a cardinal at the upcoming Consistory on 7 December, 2024. Sixty-two-year-old Franciscan Paskalis Bruno Syukur was appointed a bishop by Pope Francis in 2013, after serving as Provincial of the Order of Friars Minor in Indonesia. Bishop Syukur expressed his wish not to be made a cardinal but to continue his personal spiritual growth and further deepen his priestly life.

‘Father of liberation theology’ dies

Gustavo Gutiérrez, the influential Peruvian priest known as ‘the father of liberation theology’ and hailed as a ‘prophet of the poor,’ has died in Lima at the age of 96. Gutiérrez, a theologian and Dominican friar, was a celebrated – and sometimes controversial – proponent of the idea that the Church needed to side with the poor to fight to improve their lot. Liberation theology, which emerged in the turbulent Latin America of the 1960s and 1970s, argued that the Church had a duty to push for fundamental political and structural changes that would end poverty.

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Celebrating the life of 'Faith and Service with Action' exemplified by St Margaret Clitherow, members of the Wellington Archdiocese Catholic Women's League gathered in August at St Thomas More Church, Wilton, for Mass celebrated by Fr Joy Raphael Thottankara, parish priest of the Catholic Parish of Otari. Lunch and social activities followed, filling the day with fellowship and blessings.

St Margaret Clitherow was an English laywoman, wife and mother who lived during the 16th century. A convert to Catholicism, she valued Mass as essential in Catholic life, at a time when practising Catholic Faith was a serious offence and English Catholics were persecuted under the rule of Queen Elizabeth I. Margaret was martyred for her Faith, especially for harbouring priests. She was canonised in the 1940s as one of the English martyrs at the request of the UK Catholic Women's League. St Margaret is the patron saint of professional women and converts as well as the Catholic Women's League worldwide.

Words and photo: Christine Paterson, Chaplain

Jubilarians' Mass celebrated at Palmerston North Cathedral

The Diocese of Palmerston North's annual Jubilarian Mass of priestly ordination was celebrated at the 12.05 Mass on Tuesday 29 October, in the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, with Bishop John Adams presiding. Celebrating their Jubilees this year are: Bishop Owen Dolan 70 years

Fr Percy Kimble sm 50 years
Fr Nicho Verkley oco 50 years
Fr Barry Scannell sm 30 years
Deacon Danny Karatea-Goddard 10 years

An article about the Jubilarian Mass is planned for next month's WelCom.



The Passionist Family Group (PFG) Movement is about living out Christian faith by showing love for one another as Jesus did, supporting one another's joys and sorrows, and enjoying ordinary times together on life's journey. Recently, some 40 women of all ages, from PG groups across three Palmerston North parishes came together over high tea. Set up in Our Lady of Lourdes Church foyer, tables were decorated with lace and embroidered tablecloths, tiered plates with cakes made from favourite family recipes, and tea served from polished silver teapots, with matching sugar bowls and milk jugs. Many brought their own inherited or gifted bone-china cups and saucers, prompting conversations about their origins and fond memories. The gathering connected groups of family and friends including long-standing and recently joined PFG members as well as those keen to join, all who shared much in common through the PGF movement. Source: Jenny Poskitt, PFG coordinator for Palmerston North City, passionistfamily.org.nz

Photo: Helena Pedley, PFG leader, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

Photographic exhibition of Whanganui churches

Sue Seconi

'Our places of Worship' was the title for Whanganui Camera Club's annual members' week-long exhibition, which this year featured churches around the city. Local clergy, guests and photographers came together for the official opening on 6 October.

Three photos of St Mary's Catholic Church were among the 40 selected as framed prints for display

from over 2,000 images entered.

Around 70 churches in the Whanganui region were approached for the project. Club members said they were impressed with the positive response and opportunities to photograph church interiors as well as exteriors.

'Photographers are naturally attracted to churches due to their aesthetic appeal,' camera club president John Smart said.

In a spirit of ecumenism, representatives of each church

exhibited were in awe of the 24 club members' expertise and respect for capturing the sacred beauty of their churches.

All prints entered for the exhibition will be archived in the Alexander Heritage and Research library – Te Renenga mai o te Kauru.

Sue Seconi, Catholic Parish of Whanganui – Te Parihi Katorika Ki Whanganui.



Bishop John Adams (l), in Whanganui for a pastoral day, attended the exhibition opening with parish priest Fr Craig Butler (c) and parishioner Patrick Seconi (r).

Photo: Supplied/Sue Seconi



Whanganui parishioners were treated to 90 minutes of Irish singing in St Mary's Church Hall after Sunday 9.30am Mass on 25 August. Members of a music group for Mass, Chris Cantillon, Paula Carter, Beth Savage and Andre Watson, were in full voice as their band 'That's Irish' sang a range of songs including 'Oh Danny Boy', 'Bog Down in the Valley', 'Whiskey in the Jar'. The audience sang along with toe tapping and dancing in the aisles. The event raised everyone's spirits after the impacts of winter viruses and long, wet and cold months. 'Just what the doctor ordered,' said a parishioner.

Words and photo from Sue Seconi.



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St Catherine's College 75th Jubilee: 2025

Stephanie Kitching rsm

In 1950 St Catherine's School, Kilbirnie, which had been on the site in one form or another since 1918, was officially recognised by the government as a registered High School. Next year, 2025, over Labour Weekend, 24–26 October, the college will be celebrating its 75th Jubilee.

Since 1950 approximately 5000 students and many staff have entered its doors, establishing life-long connections.

The Jubilee weekend will have functions on the Friday night, on Saturday from morning until mid-afternoon, and on Sunday morning into lunch time. The college hall, classrooms

and grounds will be buzzing and alive with people renewing acquaintances.

Former students and staff are invited to send their name and email address to scjubil2025@gmail.com to ensure they receive information about our exciting weekend of reconnecting, remembering and fun. The college songs, photographs and memories will be there in abundance!

Please do come and add to the joy – and even have your photo taken with former school mates if that is your wish.

We look forward to meeting you on our Mercy site on the hill, Labour Weekend, 24–26 October 2025.



St Catherine's College Sewing Class, 1950.

Photo: Supplied

Invitation to learn about traditional Māori musical instruments

Henare Walmsley, a parishioner of Te Ngakau Tapu Church in Porirua, is an exponent of Taonga Pūoro and wants to share his knowledge of Māori musical instruments with you.

Henare is offering a unique opportunity to listen to the traditional instruments of Te Ao Māori and start your collection of Taonga Pūoro.

At a two-day wānanga you will get to make three simple instruments, learn the art of sound, and compose a waiata.

Sessions are available Saturday and Sunday 9.30am to 3pm on these dates:

9 and 10 November 2024; or

23 and 24 November 2024; or

30 November and 1 December 2024.

The venue is at Tū Hono Hall and Te Ngakau Tapu Church just off the Viard College Campus, 20 Kenepuru Drive, Porirua.

You can apply for one weekend session only – they are all the same. Classes are limited to 12 people so please book early.

This is a free course with materials provided so our rangatahi and whānau can



Henare Walmsley, an exponent of Taonga Pūoro, will be sharing his knowledge of Māori musical instruments at a two-day wānanga, over three weekends in November and early December.

Photo: WelCom

participate with no barriers,' says Henare.

Contact Henare directly on 027 4848 179 or email walmsley1@actrix.co.nz to book a session or if you have questions.

Sarah and Hajjar/Hagar: Our Abrahamic Matriarchs

Abraham is the father of Isaac and grandfather of Jacob, who is renamed Israel and whose 12 sons represent the tribes of Israel. Abraham is the esteemed patriarch of Jews and Arabs and is seen as 'father of faith' for Christians.

The Wellington Abrahamic Council invites you to this second of their discussion events in November. The focus will be on the vital roles of the women in Abraham's life – Sarah and Hajjar/Hagar – his wives and mothers of his children, who are pivotal to the unfolding stories of our faiths and religious narratives.

Three speakers – each one from the three Abrahamic religions and each learned and distinguished members of their religious communities – will introduce the stories from their traditions and explore their past and contemporary meanings.

What: Sarah and Hajjar/Hagar – Our Abrahamic Matriarchs

When: Wednesday, 20 November, 7pm

Where: St Joseph's Church, 152 Brougham St, Wellington

Speakers:

Claire Massey (Jewish) Former Chair of the Wellington Jewish Community Centre

and current Chair of its advisory board, a professor emerita of Business, and currently teaches yoga.

Rota Stone (Christian) An ordained priest in the Anglican Church, and an ordained pastor in the Latvian Lutheran Church. She recently received a PhD on early Jewish-Christian relations.

Rehanna Ali (Muslim) A founding member of the Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand and long-time promoter of interfaith dialogue. She has a background in law, including Islamic Shariah, and has spent the last two decades working in international development.

Free or Koha tickets for this event are essential, and are available at: events.humanitix.com/sarah-and-hajjar

Visit tinyurl.com/Our-Abrahamic-Matriarchs for more information.

All attendees are expected to uphold and respect the Abrahamic Council values.

» 'Young People in Faith', Wellington Abrahamic Council event, 13 November, p 12.

A discerning hui

Bernie Kernot

When seventy people gathered at the 'Ko Te Tiriti Mai Rāno: The Treaty Is Always speaking. A Covenant for the Generations' hui in July they were asked to reflect on aspects of Te Tiriti from moral and religious perspectives. They were led by presenters speaking on Catholic Social Teaching, Te Tiriti as a covenant, and building a vision for a bicultural future.

Responses from the eight groups discerned four broad conclusions, which are offered as a resource for groups and individuals seeking guidance.

1. A clear need to build relationships and

listen to mana whenua.

2. A need for reconciliation for past injustices, and better education leading to greater awareness of Te Tiriti.

3. The integration of Māori perspectives and values into church practice.

4. It is important for the whole Church to take a systematic, proactive approach to fostering unity, advocating for social justice, and addressing societal challenges.

In contrast to the current negative rhetoric of division and disharmony, the insights of the hui offer Catholic parishes and institutions positive ways of responding to Te Tiriti and helping create a just Te Tiriti-based social order. Already we have seen over 400 religious leaders expressing concern at the



Seventy people gathered at a hui the Home of Compassion in July to consider Te Tiriti in its religious dimensions.

Photo: WelCom

corrosive rhetoric of politicians, with a call for reconciliation. It is an invitation for all Christians, and especially Catholics with a rich tradition of social justice, to examine our social reality and respond through a gospel lens. The insights of the hui are offered as a helpful resource for parishes and social

justice groups taking up the challenge for social justice.

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

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The Season of Advent

**Sunday 1 December
- Tuesday 24 December 2024**

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth through prayer and reflection and we look for practical ways to observe the holiness of the season in our everyday lives.

Te Wā o te Aweneti

**Rātapu 1 Hakihea
- Rātū 24 Hakihea 2024**

I ngā wiki e whā o te Aweneti, mā te karakia me te whakaaroaro ka whakariterite tātou i a tātou mō te kaupapa nui, arā te whānautanga mai o te Karaiti, ā ia rā, ia rā ka rapu tātou i ngā tikanga hei whakanui i tēnei wā tapu.

WelCom's Season of Advent calendar is for whānau to reflect on each day during Advent Season, 1-24 December 2024. This calendar is available in pdf format on our website and can be downloaded to print as a poster: welcom.org.nz

Right: The Adoration of the Magi, tempera on wood, gold ground, painting by Giotto di Bondone, Italian, ca. 1320. The Met Collection. Image: Public Domain

**SUNDAY
1 DECEMBER**
First Sunday of Advent
“The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah.”
JEREMIAH 33:14-16

**SATURDAY
7 DECEMBER**
“Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: ‘The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”
MATTHEW 10:6-7

**TUESDAY
10 DECEMBER**
“Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; Cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news!”
ISAIAH 40:9

**FRIDAY
13 DECEMBER**
“Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.”
JOHN 8:12

**MONDAY
16 DECEMBER**
“Show us, LORD, your love, and grant us your salvation.”
PSALM 85:8

**THURSDAY
19 DECEMBER**
“I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news.”
LUKE 1:19

**MONDAY
2 DECEMBER**
“For the peace of Jerusalem pray: ‘May those who love you prosper! May peace be within your ramparts, prosperity within your towers.’”
PSALM 122:6-7

**SUNDAY
8 DECEMBER**
Second Sunday of Advent
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”
LUKE 3:4

**WEDNESDAY
11 DECEMBER**
“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name.”
PSALM 103:1

**SATURDAY
14 DECEMBER**
“Blessed is he who shall have seen you and who falls asleep in your friendship.”
SIRACH 48:11

**TUESDAY
17 DECEMBER**
“May his name be blessed forever; as long as the sun his name shall remain. In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed; all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.”
PSALM 72:17

**FRIDAY
20 DECEMBER**
“Who is this king of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the king of glory.”
PSALM 24:10

**TUESDAY
3 DECEMBER**
“Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.”
PSALM 72:7-8



**SATURDAY
21 DECEMBER**
“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”
LUKE 1:45

**WEDNESDAY
4 DECEMBER**
“Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.”
PSALM 23:5-6

**SUNDAY
22 DECEMBER**
Fourth Sunday of Advent
“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”
LUKE 1:38

**THURSDAY
5 DECEMBER**
“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call him while he is near.”
ISAIAH 55:6

**MONDAY
23 DECEMBER**
“Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my saviour.”
PSALM 25:4-5

**FRIDAY
6 DECEMBER**
Wait for the LORD with courage; be stout hearted, and wait for the LORD.”
PSALM 27:14

**MONDAY
9 DECEMBER**
“Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women.”
LUKE 1:28

**THURSDAY
12 DECEMBER**
“Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the LORD.”
ZECHARIAH 2:14

**SUNDAY
15 DECEMBER**
Third Sunday of Advent
“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.”
PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

**WEDNESDAY
18 DECEMBER**
“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us’.”
MATTHEW 1:23

**TUESDAY
24 DECEMBER**
“Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he has come to his people and set them free.”
LUKE 1:67

Young Catholics

St Marcellin School, Whanganui, honours teacher aide's 25 years of service

St Marcellin School honoured teacher aide of 25 years, Selina Wilks, in August, with a special liturgy service with students singing and presenting gifts of appreciation.

Principal Belinda Backwell spoke about Selina's achievements. 'The inspiration from people like Whaea Selina is indeed what makes us what we are today,' she said.

'The dedication, passion, discipline and acts of kindness are the fruits of Selina's work. We can proudly say she is an excellent teacher aide, staff member and colleague.

'Just like a candle consumes itself to light the way for others, we congratulate Selina on 25 years of service and thank her for her dedication and loyalty.

'The most important resource in this school is the employees. This school has undergone many changes in the 25 years Selina has been here and she has continued to serve the school and the community.

'This is a testament to her character and her loyalty.'

Fr John Roberts led the



Selina Wilks (seated) with senior and junior students from St Marcellin School, Whanganui, Fr John Roberts and principal Belinda Backwell.

Photo: Whanganui-Midweek

liturgy and told the story of Mary MacKillop, who was living in Australia in the 1800s when it was still being settled by people from around the world.

'There was nobody to help people in need, nobody to lead the children with reading, writing and arithmetic,' he said. 'She worked hard to gather a group of people around her who would do just that.

'She is reminding us today one of the natural things about being a Christian is that we reach out to

others in the course of our lives. Some of the things I see in Selina are "if there's something that needs to be done, she does it and makes a profound difference," he said.

Carl Bates, MP for Whanganui, was unable to attend as he was in Parliament, but sent a message of congratulations.

Source: Steve Carle/Whanganui-Midweek

New principal welcomed to Titahi Bay school

Julie de Boer, St Pius X School

St Pius X School in Titahi Bay is delighted to have Dr John Young join the school as its new principal. John was welcomed to school with a pōwhiri in August.

He brings over 30 years of experience as an education leader, mostly from within the Wellington region including as principal at St Anne's in Newtown, St Teresa's in Karori, and St Joseph's in Upper Hutt. Dr Young has also had stints leading schools in Libya and Australia. 'My wife Anna and I returned to New Zealand in September last year, after working in Aboriginal Education in Australia for the last 12 years. It's been a great experience, but I am excited about the challenge of this new role,' he said.

John spent the first two terms of the year as acting principal at St Joseph's school in Taihape. 'It will certainly now be a shorter trip from home to work in Porirua,' he says.

Board of Trustees presiding member Geoff Hayward says he is thrilled with the appointment. 'We see



New principal for St Pius X School, Dr John Young, was welcomed with a pōwhiri.

Photo: Supplied

this as a positive tohu for us as we start a new chapter at our school,' he said.

'No school can grow without the nurturing of those whose leadership and experience is valued, and as we confront the new challenges ahead we know John will do a great job for our tamariki, kaiako, kaimahi, as well as the broader communities within the Bay and beyond.'

Dr Young was raised in Christchurch, which has left him a passionate love of rugby and a devotion to the Crusaders, 'even with this season,' he says.

Celebrating the Voices for Peace in 2024!

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand's SINGout4JUSTICE 2024 song competition invited students across New Zealand to 'Be the Voice for Peace'.

Students from Catholic schools, from Year 1 to Year 13, showcased their musical talents by composing original peace songs or performing heartfelt covers, inspiring everyone with their powerful messages.

Caritas congratulates the winners for their outstanding contributions to this important theme and thanks everyone who participated, whose voices have truly made a difference!

Congratulations to all the students who have participated in SINGout4Justice. You can view some of the compositions and performances online at: caritas.org.nz/singout4justice

SINGout4JUSTICE

Original composition	Winners	College or School	Song
Senior category	Oliver Lodge, Anamika Jones, Liam Clifford and Harry Lodge	Trinity Catholic College, Dunedin	<i>Silent Cry</i>
Middle category	Students from 8A and 8H	Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth	<i>Kia Tau te Rangimārie</i>
Junior category	Alyssa Kubala, Ngaika Rapsey & Olivia Reju	St Mary's School, Dunedin	<i>Hold My Hand</i>
Cover performance			
Senior category	Chris Anne Barrientos, Claire Anne Barrientos, Carter Lambert, Janelle Casitas, Ianna-marie Abuyabor and Franz Lauglaug	St Kevin's College, Oamaru	<i>Over the Rainbow</i>
Middle category	Year 7 and 8 Singers	Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth	<i>The Peace Song</i>
Junior category	Lewis Tao, Gus Knowles, Kennedy Tuli	St Francis Catholic School, Auckland	<i>What a Peaceful Day it is</i>
Highly commended	Juri Lee, Jamie Gardner, Sophie Waterman	Pompallier Catholic College, Whangarei	<i>How Far We'll Go?</i>
	Georgia Jeffrey	Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth	<i>Shades of Grey</i>
	Herbie Concolis	Carmel College, Auckland	<i>Greatest Love of All</i>
	Arabella Thomson	Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth	<i>Put a Little Love in Your Heart</i>
	Ruth Hagenson	Sacred Heart Girls' College, New Plymouth	<i>Heal the World</i>
	Ryder Cross	St Joseph's School, Taihape	<i>Fighting for Freedom</i>
	Violet McPoland	Suzanne Aubert Catholic School, Papamoa	<i>Rivers of Your Peace</i>
	Yo-1 Class	Holy Cross Catholic School, Henderson	<i>Light a candle for peace</i>
	Rata whānau (Year 1-2 Students)	St Claudine Thevenet School, Wainuiomata	<i>Keep the Peace</i>
	Y3-6 Choir	St Joseph's School, Timaru	<i>Rivers of Your Peace</i>

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Save the Date: Catholic Schools Day 2025

The New Zealand Catholic Education Office has announced the next Catholic Schools' Day will be celebrated on 28 May 2025. Catholic schools are the outward sign of a long commitment from both the Church and parents of Catholic children in 'helping form Christ in the lives of others'. Catholic Schools Day provides an opportunity to celebrate and showcase our unique identity to both our communities and our wider nation.

Rangatahi Katorika

‘Our History, Our Voice, Our Spirit’

St Theresa’s School celebrates 75 years, 1949–2024

Annette Scullion

Past and present students, parish priests, whanau, members of the parish community and guests, including Archbishop Paul Martin and representatives from the Archdiocese of Wellington, gathered at St Theresa’s Catholic School in Plimmerton on Thursday 12 September to celebrate the 75th Jubilee of their kura.

The celebrations included the blessing of a newly commissioned artwork added to the decorative murals and paintings on the school’s outside walls.

The morning began at 9.30am, gathered by the big pohutukawa tree for a welcome, karakia, waiata and the blessing of the artwork. Mass at St Theresa’s Church next to the school, and morning tea in the church hall followed.

The sound of a conch signalled the start of proceedings.

Welcoming everyone, Principal Donna McDonald said, ‘It is a great honour to have you join us today. Your presence adds immense value to this special occasion, as we reflect on the rich history, achievements, and community spirit that have shaped our school over the decades. We are deeply grateful for your support and spiritual guidance, which continue to inspire and uplift our school community.’

‘Today we honour those that have come before us, their memory and we value the lessons we have been taught. At every stage of our journey we are reminded to live as Mary MacKillop did and “never see a need without doing something about it”. We endeavour to stay true to our vision, to live, learn and love with Jesus, being the best we can be.’

‘As we gather to bless this artwork, which illustrates St Therese looking out to Mana Island, and depicting the past, present and future, let us reflect on how beautifully it captures the essence

of who we are. Together, as a school community, we will continue to be a beacon of faith and learning, nurturing future generations to carry this legacy forward with pride and purpose. May God bless us as we celebrate the past, embrace the present, and look forward to a future filled with hope and growth.’

Archbishop Paul spoke to everyone gathered then blessed the new artwork.

Local artists Deidree Hutchins, whose family have been involved in the school for nearly 20 years, and Alan Wehipeihana, from Holtams Studios, created the work, entitled *Our History, Our Voice, Our Spirit*, using wood from original floorboards from the junior block as the base, with the image painted in acrylics then printed onto aluminium to be displayed outside.

The students formed a ‘guard of honour’ to lead everyone into Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Paul, along with Frs Andrew Kim, Bill Warwick and Ravi Kumar. Students read the Prayers for the Faithful and took up the Offerings. The school’s choir and musicians led the music.

Speaking to the children Archbishop Paul reminded them about St Mary MacKillop and the Australian Sisters whose charism live on with the school today. ‘The school began 75 years ago in what was then a very different small rural Plimmerton setting’, he said. Archbishop Paul asked everyone to reflect on the day’s reading of St Paul and to remember ‘it is really important to be kind to each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.’

The celebrations concluded over morning tea with much reminiscing and at which founding pupil Basil McManaway and St Theresa’s newest pupil of just three days, Jacob Grant, jointly cut the celebration cake.



1. St Theresa’s students gather by the pohutakawa tree for their school’s 75th Jubilee welcome and blessing. 2. Archbishop Paul blesses the school’s new artwork. 3. The new three-panel artwork depicts St Therese looking out to Mana Island. 4. Children take part in offering the gifts at Mass. 5. St Theresa’s foundation pupil, Basil McManaway, and its newest student, Jacob Grant, jointly cut the 75th Jubilee celebration cake.

Photos: Annette Scullion

Young People in Faith

The Wellington Abrahamic Council in conjunction with Pearl of the Islands Foundation invites you to an inspiring evening of dialogue, connection and exploration about challenges and aspirations of young religious people in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam today.

What: Young People in Faith
When: Wednesday 13 November, 6pm

Where: Connolly Hall, 10 Guildford Tce, Thorndon
A light supper will be provided.

Speakers:
Ahmet Ozturk (Muslim)
Manager Islamic Sciences and Research Academy, Sydney.

Abi Buchhalter (Jewish)
Youth Counsellor
Darlene Adrian (Christian)
Environmental consultant

Everyone is welcome to attend, but tickets (free or koha) are essential. You can get your tickets at: events.humanitix.com/abrahamic-young-people-in-faith

Visit tinyurl.com/Young-People-In-Faith or email info@abrahamic.nz or ph 027 220 2202 for more information.

All attendees are expected to uphold and respect the Abrahamic Council values.

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St Patrick’s School fundraiser – 800 cans donated to the Vinnies Annual Food Drive in Christchurch.

Hallmark compassion and authenticity

Michael Fitzsimons

Fr Denis O'Hagan sm made a life's work out of companionship and compassion, said Fr Tim Duckworth sm in his homily at the Requiem Mass for Denis in August.

'Denis loved being a priest. However, I was looking for clothes to bury him in and couldn't find one black garment. It was hard enough to find one formal thing at all. Denis was not big into lauding his priesthood over others. His ministry was one of teaching by example and of reconciliation and healing. Denis was the epitome of not being affected by clericalism.'

Fr Duckworth paid tribute to his authentic human qualities that inspired so many. 'Denis was honest

and forthright and strong, as well as gentle and forgiving.'

The eulogy at the funeral, held at St Mary of the Angels, was given by Denis' nephew, Tim Gordon who outlined the family history. Denis was the youngest of six children, coming from Polish and Irish stock. He was ordained in 1969 and taught for 10 years at St Patrick's College Wellington. This was followed by seven years at Chanel College, Samoa, which he later said were the happiest and most formative years of his ministry.

Back in New Zealand Denis worked at Hato Pāora College and in the parish of Feilding. He then moved into administration and in time was elected Provincial of the Society of Mary. His time as Provincial saw a 'big push into

youth ministry with lay partners, and more open and honest community life,' said Tim.

'He met every challenge that arose, and there were some biggies, during that time with his hallmark compassion and authenticity.'

Denis was involved with many ministries when he stepped down from being Provincial.

Said Tim: 'This morning Denis' many and varied worlds collide – he used the word family to describe the various groups he was part of, be he your spiritual director, a team member of the Compassion Soup Kitchen, your chaplain, your mentor, your friend, your brother, your uncle – he moved seamlessly between us all.'



Fr Denis O'Hagan sm (20/12/1944–14/08/2024) 'made a life's work out of companionship and compassion'. Rest in Peace. Photo: Supplied

Tim Faith - a loved life well lived

Timothy Ross Faith of Ōtaki died on 20 September 2024. 'Tim' was a well-known personality, especially for his 33 years' service at the local New World.

Tim lived with Down syndrome but he worked hard to master his job, taking his task very seriously, making sure people returned their trolleys and helping people with their groceries. It was his first and only job.

Tim was born and raised in Ōtaki as the youngest of four children to Marie and Paul Faith. He lived with his mother at the Te Horo property that has been in the family for decades. His father died several years ago.

Tim went to kindergarten in Ōtaki and was briefly at St Peter Chanel School before joining a special needs class at Levin School, and later Waiopēhu College also in Levin.

Tim retired from his job at New World's a couple of years ago, after the Covid pandemic forced him to stay at home.

Tim was a sensitive person and would assist anyone who needed help with their shopping bags. That sensitivity showed one day at the races. Coming from a family well known for racing, Tim would don his binoculars and follow the horses. One day a horse fell. Tim anxiously went to the assembly area to ensure the jockey was alright.

Another area he enjoyed being part of was the Special Olympics. His bedside was bedecked with medals and certificates, especially for swimming. He was a special fan of the Hurricanes and Lions.

Tim was involved in various occasions in the community. He dressed as Santa for the Christmas party and had perfected his 'Ho, Ho, Ho!'

As a Down Syndrome person, his long life (till 54) testifies to the love and care of his family, especially his mother and sister.

Tim was very engaged in his faith community of Pukekarakā, Ōtaki. He

Parish priest Fr Alan Roberts led the Requiem for Tim Hope, concelebrated by Fr Phil Cody sm and Fr Peter Healy sm. The following is from Fr Alan's homily.

Tim Faith has a history in this town that everyone admires so much. His dedication to sport, his working at New World for over 30 years, his commitment to his faith community. What a wonderful life he has had.

Sunday after Sunday after ringing the bell calling us all to silence, Tim carried the cross into our Mass. Simple gestures, yet profound in meaning.

It is as though Tim is saying to us in the ringing of the bell: 'now is our time to give thanks to God.

Keep a place for this in your life just as I do. And, reminding us by taking up our cross in life, we find the path to happiness.

Those who face their difficulties, will rise above them. This is achieved in a far more fulfilling way when we realise God is at our side. With this knowledge we do what we have to do, with contentment, with peace and with joy. Tim reflected the joy found in the risen Jesus, perhaps, more than anyone I've known.

For those who recognise God as creator of the world, there is a saying: All is gift. Today, we are reminded Timothy Faith was a gift. A gift extraordinaire.

How many people, after coming to know and being inspired by

Tim, have asked themselves deeper questions about the purpose of life and found an answer by observing his determination and his gift of doing well just ordinary simple tasks? But more importantly enjoying whatever he does. There is no doubt, Tim Faith was a gift who inspired us all.

To you Marie, along with your husband Paul and family, you have loved Tim into life. Your extraordinary love turned Tim into the beautiful person he was. Tim carried within himself those qualities handed down from you as parents. He became the treasure who inspired us all. For this we must be forever grateful. Thank you.

Now Tim's race has been run. You know the rest of the story.



Tim Faith represented New Zealand at the Special Olympics. Butterfly was the multiple medal-winning swimmer's speciality. He won gold, silver and bronze in Dublin in 2003.

was so loved by his family, the church community, and the Ōtaki community and he was blessed that God chose the Faiths to be his family to be surrounded by so much love.

Tim loved songs and music and would spend hours listening, singing and dancing. He loved ABBA, in particular the song 'I Have a Dream'. He knew all the words. Perhaps the words from this final song he sang provide a blessing for him. 'I Have a Dream, a song to sing. To help me cope, with anything.'

Sources: Community of Pukekarakā Ōtaki, Hātā Mere | St Mary's Church; Ōtaki Today.

Tim Faith at Ōtaki New World managing the trolleys as he did for 33 years. Photos: Supplied



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‘He Loved Us’: Pope Francis’ new encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Pope Francis has published a new encyclical focusing on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the context of a world ‘which seems to have lost its heart’.

‘*Dilexit nos*’ (He Loved Us), released on 24 October, is Pope Francis’ fourth encyclical, and comes at a time of profound global challenges.

The world today is scarred by war, social and economic imbalances, rampant consumerism, and technologies that threaten to undermine human nature.

With this document, Pope Francis calls for a change of perspective, urging humanity to rediscover what is most essential: the heart.

The encyclical examines the transformative power of Jesus’ heart as a font of healing for a divided world.

The full title of the encyclical is: ‘*Dilexit Nos* – Encyclical Letter on the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ’.

The Pope had previously shared his intent to publish the document at his 5 June general audience in St Peter’s Square, during the month traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart.

At the time, Pope Francis expressed his hope the text would invite reflection on aspects of the Lord’s love that could illuminate the path of ecclesial renewal and resonate meaningfully with ‘a world that seems to have lost its heart’.

He also noted the encyclical would incorporate reflections from previous magisterial teachings and the rich tradition of Scripture, reintroducing the Church to this spiritually profound devotion.

Pope Francis has consistently

demonstrated a deep devotion to the Sacred Heart, often relating it to the priestly mission. In 2016, he concluded the Jubilee of Priests on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, urging priests to orient their hearts like the Good Shepherd towards the lost and the distant.

During the same Jubilee, in his first *Meditations on Mercy*, Francis recommended bishops and priests revisit *Haurietis Aquas*, noting ‘the heart of Christ is the centre of mercy. This is the nature of mercy: it gets its hands dirty, it touches, it engages, and it involves itself with others.’

Dilexit nos, Pope Francis’ fourth encyclical, follows *Lumen fidei* (29 June 2013), co-written with Benedict XVI; *Laudato si’* (24 May 2015), on the environmental crisis and the need for care for creation; and *Fratelli tutti* (3 October 2020), which calls for global fraternity and social friendship in a world fractured by a pandemic and conflicts, including wars fought in the name of God.

‘*Dilexit nos*’ retraces the tradition and relevance of thought on ‘the human and divine love of the heart of Jesus Christ’, calling for a renewal of authentic devotion to avoid forgetting the tenderness of faith, the joy of serving, and the fervour of mission.

‘He loved us’, St Paul says of Christ (cf *Rom* 8:37), ‘in order to make us realise nothing can ever “separate us” from that love (*Rom* 8:39)’. Thus begins Pope Francis’



‘*Dilexit nos*’ (He Loved us) is Pope Francis’ fourth encyclical.

Image: Vatican Media

fourth encyclical, which takes its title from the opening words, *Dilexit nos*.

The encyclical is dedicated to the human and divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ: ‘His open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us His love and friendship,’ the Pope writes in the introductory paragraph. ‘For “He loved us first” (cf. 1 Jn 4:10). Because of Jesus, “we have come to know and believe in

the love that God has for us” (1 Jn 4:16).’

In our societies, the Pope writes, ‘we are also seeing a proliferation of varied forms of religiosity that have nothing to do with a personal relationship with the God of love’ (87), while Christianity often forgets ‘the tender consolations of faith, the joy of serving others, the fervour of personal commitment to mission’ (88).

In response, Pope Francis proposes a new reflection on the love of Christ represented in His Holy Heart. He calls for a renewal of ‘authentic devotion’ (163) to the Sacred Heart, recalling that in the Heart of Christ ‘we find the whole Gospel’ (89). It is in His Heart that ‘we truly come at last to know

ourselves and we learn to love’ (30).

The text concludes with this prayer of Pope Francis:

‘I ask our Lord Jesus Christ to grant that His Sacred Heart may continue to pour forth the streams of living water that can heal the hurt we have caused, strengthen our ability to love and serve others, and inspire us to journey together towards a just, solidary and fraternal world. Until that day when we will rejoice in celebrating together the banquet of the heavenly kingdom in the presence of the risen Lord, who harmonises all our differences in the light that radiates perpetually from his open heart. May he be blessed forever’ (220).

The full text of the 220-chapter encyclical can be found online at this link: tinyurl.com/He-Loved-Us

Source: Vatican Media

Dilexit Nos: 7 takeaways from Pope Francis’ New Encyclical on the Sacred Heart

1. Nothing Can Separate Us From the Love of Christ.
2. The Power of the Heart in a Fragmented World.
3. The Cross as the Ultimate Expression of Christ’s Love.
4. Love as a Missionary Impulse.
5. Acts of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
6. Saints and the Sacred Heart.
7. The Wounded Heart of Christ as a Wellspring of Peace and Unity.

Read more online at this link: tinyurl.com/7-Takeaways

Source: National Catholic Register



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Catholics Thinking

A wider discussion

Bishop Peter Cullinane shares a letter to Pope Francis about greater diversity within ordained ministries in the Church.

Oversimplified headlines have been giving the impression that Pope Francis has spoken definitively on the matter of women deacons. That is not my understanding. I understand that wider possibilities for the sacrament of Holy Orders need to be explored first, and simply latching on to the existing structures could further delay the wider discussion that needs to take place. We may lament the time this takes, but we can hardly dispute the need.

I can illustrate what I mean by sharing a letter I wrote to Pope Francis in July 2016, albeit abbreviated for the sake of space.

His Holiness, Pope Francis, Vatican City.
18 July 2016

Dear Holy Father,

First, may I introduce myself...

I wish to make a suggestion concerning the possibility of greater diversity within the ordained ministries of the Church.

As you know, a greater variety of ministries existed in the early Church before they coalesced into the ministries of bishop, presbyter and deacon. Of course, other charisms, prophetic ministries and movements continued to exist alongside the ordained ministries, and continue to inspire and nurture the Church – not least of all the Religious Orders, and now the new ecclesial movements. But the focus of this letter is ordained ministry.

Greater diversity of ministries within the early Church is not, *per se*, sufficient reason for greater diversity in today's Church. But there are other good pastoral reasons pertinent to our own times. I do not think our current ordained

ministries are adequate for meeting the needs they are meant to meet, even with the support of various lay ministries.

This is not reducible to *how* ordained ministries are carried out. I take for granted that it needs to be 'collaborative ministry'. Many lay people have shown exemplary leadership in exercising pastoral, spiritual and liturgical ministries, and formation for them. I am not advocating more forms of lay ministry because we must not obscure the fact that laity carry out the mission of the Church, and grow in holiness, in their secular callings. The Church's mission is not reducible to ministries, ordained or lay. And ordained ministries are not reducible to their functions; all ministries are representative, in the sense of giving voice and visibility to what the Risen Christ is doing through them.

"...all ministries are representative, in the sense of giving voice and visibility to what the Risen Christ is doing through them."

Having made the above clarifications, I now ask whether the Church's universal episcopate should consider *redistributing the 'powers' currently enshrined within the ministries of episcopacy, presbyterate and diaconate into a wider variety of ministries...*

'Powers' presently distributed among the existing ordained ministries would live on, but in a wider configuration. The fullness of authority vested in the college of bishops (*cum et sub Petro*) would also live on. But the lesser participations in its teaching, sanctifying and governing roles would be redistributed among ordained ministries – old and new.



Bishop Peter Cullinane

Photo: Jonathan Cameron/Manawātū Standard

As you know, ordained ministries carried out in the name of Christ ultimately have their origin in Christ, but their structure and concrete forms were determined by the Church, during the apostolic period and continuing until late in the second century. Under the

guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church of those times shaped its ministries to meet its needs. What the post-apostolic Church could do then, it can still do now. Being faithful to the Tradition involves more than just receiving what the early Church did; it involves *doing* what the early Church did, which includes shaping its ministries to meet the needs of its mission...

Adaptation to today's circumstances has resulted in lay women and men becoming chaplains, or members of chaplaincy teams, in our hospitals, prisons, secondary colleges and tertiary institutions. We have all heard the occasional laments of some of these

that they could have done so much more if they had able to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation, and the sacrament of Anointing the Sick. They were available at certain *kairos* moments when a priest could not be; or in places where priests are not usually present.

A greater diversity of ordained ministries would also create a needed new context in which to discuss other questions that are still waiting to be resolved... Some answers that make sense within our current perspectives do not seem to fully satisfy, including questions whose lack of resolution has negative consequences for the Church. For example: questions about participation in governance and its relationship to Holy Orders; the ongoing distraction of clericalism; Anglican Orders, the ordained ministries of other Christian churches, and Christian unity; real and perceived inequalities based on gender...

The primary repository of what the apostles 'handed on' is, of course, the whole body of the baptised faithful. This body will always produce the ministries it

needs for its nurture, and has the right to be adequately ministered to. Of course, the development of greater diversity in the Church's ordained ministries would need to allow for differences arising from inculturation. This suggests the need for Bishops' Conferences to take more responsibility...

I realise this far-reaching proposal should also involve the Churches of the East. Such dialogue would be mutually enriching, but given the different situations we experience in the West, the outcome of dialogue should not ultimately depend on East and West being able to move at the same pace...

In one sense, my proposal seems a 'big ask'. In another sense it seems a small thing. You yourself have spoken of a 'missionary option' that is 'capable of transforming everything'. I am reminded of a comment by Hans Urs von Balthasar:

...(the) Church will suffer the loss of its shape as it undergoes a death, and the more so, the more purely it lives from its source and is consequently less concerned with preserving its shape. In fact, it will not concern itself with affirming its shape but with promoting the world's salvation; as for the shape in which God will raise it from its death to serve the world, it will entrust (that) to the Holy Spirit.

Holy Father, I believe that what I am proposing is possible doctrinally speaking, and that it could have far-reaching pastoral advantages. I will respect your own judgement on what to do with it.

Be assured of my prayers – for yourself personally and for your ministry. (You and I were born within 18 days of each other, and I am amazed at your energy).

Yours respectfully, etc.

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Crisis or opportunity?

A question of survival for Christianity

James B Lyons

'Genuine renewal of the Church will not be generated at the desks of bishops or in councils...; it requires powerful spiritual impulses, through theological reflection, and the courage to experiment.'

This strong opinion expresses the heart of a new book by a Czech priest, theologian, scholar and pastor, Tomáš Halík, *The Afternoon of Christianity*, which he dedicates to Pope Francis.

The title comes from Halík's use of Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung's comparison of the human lifetime with the course of a day.

In the **Morning** of life, the person is immature, dependent, searching for an identity.

Noonday becomes a time of crisis as what supported life earlier is no longer sufficient or attractive; there's fatigue and dissatisfaction.

The **Afternoon** of life brings an opportunity to complete the lifelong process of maturing.

Halík applies the metaphor to the history of Christianity and across 16

chapters provides well researched, historical and theological arguments and experiences to suggest a most positive outlook for Christians as they live today and prepare for tomorrow.

The *Morning* of Christianity saw a gradual development of its brand of religion, emerging as a 'Christian civilisation' and the identity of the Christian faith with all things relating to society and culture. This would persist in varying ways across several centuries.

"There is a climate of spiritual awareness dawning as people, powerless to personally affect events in our war-torn, damaged world, re-examine their faith and its purpose. There's a wealth of opportunity here for Christianity."

The *Noonday* crisis evolved with the fragmentation of this worldview. The natural sciences became a challenge to theology; the splintering of Christianity into 'denominations' and the warring that followed fuelled the rise of secularism. Halík judges the division of Christians as 'one of the grievous features of the noonday crisis'.

More firmly walking the path of ecumenism, signalled by the

Second Vatican Council (1962–65), 'remains a task for the afternoon of Christianity'.

For Tomáš Halík, the greatest threat to faith today is not secular humanism and atheism but 'a religiosity that is beyond the control of the Church'.

For instance, there may be less people at Mass or formal worship these days, but the virtues of faith, hope and love have not disappeared. They have 'a life of their own beyond the institutional

boundaries of the churches' [p.21] and hold the potential to turn what might be considered a crisis into an amazing opportunity.

The *Afternoon* of Christianity opens the way to transformation – to make our faith more than just 'going to church'!

Through technology the world is now so connected that distances hardly exist. But this phenomenon has not really brought us closer to

one another.

For Halík, the greatest task of our time – and a particular challenge for Christians – is 'to transform the process of globalisation into a process of cultural communication and sharing of true closeness.' [p 144]

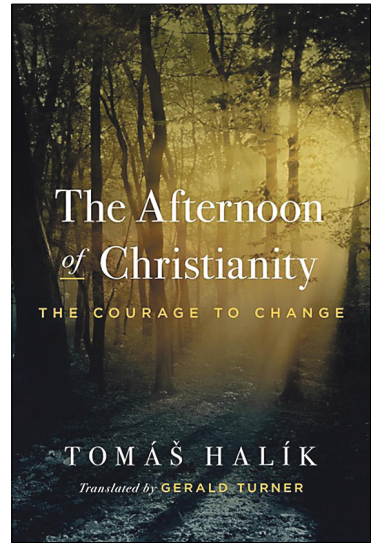
The Afternoon of Christianity echoes much of what Pope Francis is pioneering in his emphasis on 'Synodality' – the importance of listening to one another in order to share more deeply both troubles and joys and so realise more meaningful and more lasting solutions.

There is a spirituality taking root in many places as monasteries open their doors to people seeking times of quiet and reflection; new religious movements and community groups seek to counter the 'noisiness' of life and the isolation many feel.

There is a climate of spiritual awareness dawning as people, powerless to personally affect events in our war-torn, damaged world, re-examine their faith and its purpose. There's a wealth of opportunity here for Christianity.

Halík's book is more about HOW we believe as distinct from WHAT we believe. In this, he challenges

today's Christians to show HOW they live out their faith, recognising faith as 'a journey of trust and courage, of love and faithfulness... The greatest danger to faith today is indifference!' [p 2]



The Afternoon of Christianity – the courage to change. Tomáš Halík, 2024. University of Notre Dame Press. Available from Pleroma Christian Supplies.

Questioning the King

Feast of Christ the King: Sunday, 24 November 2024

James B Lyons

What would you like to ask God? I put that question to some under ten-year olds at one of our schools. They were given time to think about it. Here are some of the results.

- 7-year-old: *How many miracles have you done in your life?*
- 4-year-old: *How do you feel when somebody falls over?*
- 5 years: *What do you do in the rain?*
- Two 9-year-olds: *Why do sins happen? How does prayer get up to you?*

Thoughtful, challenging questions. They show an easy relationship with God – a personal connection, and also a deepening faith. The older ones starting to

think more deeply: *Why do sins happen?*

We're created to ask *why* and *what* and *where* and *who* and *how*. Life is lived from question to question. We learn by questioning. And nearly all our questions have to do with finding our way in life: *What's my life about? What's it for? Where's it going?*

Pilate has a question for Jesus: *Are you the king of the Jews?*

It's a serious, probing question from a mind filled with anxiety, uncertainty: Who is this Jesus? Why is he causing such division? Why is he not afraid? Why am I so troubled about this case?

Pilate's restlessness allows Jesus to identify himself. He takes Pilate's question seriously and answers clearly: *Yes, I am a king!*

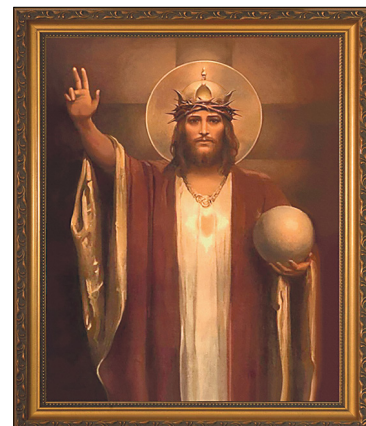
But Pilate can't get much further. His understanding of kingship is modelled on his own culture where power is strength, not weakness. So, he can only conclude that Jesus is deluded. He feels sorry for him, but he can't help him.

What questions do you have for Jesus? Especially relating to his claim to be king.

You and I have the advantage over Pilate, because we know more of the story.

We know the followers of Jesus were so convinced he came back to life after his crucifixion, that they overcame their fear to spread that conviction throughout the known world. They gave their own lives for that belief! All that must mean something!

The children's questions, simple



'Christ the King' by CB Chambers, circa between 1920s and 1950s.

and honest, came out of their own young life experience. They really wanted to know.

But regardless of age, we can

imitate the honesty of children and ask because we really want to know? And, like children, we ask those special questions only of those whose love and tenderness we trust. Our hearts tell us there'll never be any need to fear the answers.

The Church celebrates the Feast of Christ the King, also called the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, on the last Sunday of the Liturgical year. The Feast was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas*, to respond to a world that was rejecting Christ and was being dominated by secularism.

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Gospel Reading: Sunday 6 November 2024

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – MARK 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?'

²⁹ Jesus replied, 'The first is this: *Listen, Israel! The Lord our God is the one only Lord!* ³⁰ *You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*

³¹ The second is this: *You shall love your neighbour as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than these.'

³² The scribe said to him, 'Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, "He is One and there is no other than he." And ³³ "to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all

your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself" is far more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice.'

³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him anymore.

'You are not far from the kingdom of God' Mark 12: 34

Fr Patrick Bridgman

Often when people who are Church shy – or who may never have entered a church before – come to the doors of a church, they remark, 'If I go in the roof will fall in!' Naturally the phrase is intended to induce merriment in those nearby who are listening, and yet isn't there both sadness and misunderstanding in their words?

Sadness for us who are at home in churches by the thought that God's house would be anything but a place where others find a welcoming home. And misunderstanding for those who may utter such words, for God's outstretched arms are always open to them, waiting to warmly embrace them.

Locating love of God in our love of others and ourselves is a radical interconnection which Jesus proclaims. Yes, the scriptures he had heard in the Synagogue of Nazareth and in the Temple of Jerusalem spoke of the *Shema*, and also of the call to love neighbour. Yet it is the 'and', the all-important link between both that sheds light on human longing and God's desire for beloved humanity.

The scribes and the pharisees were not usually able to maintain

clear insight when confronted by Jesus' challenging words and images. His parables and teachings could be seen to be subversive, up turning the accepted religious thinking of the day. Yet this scribe was able to listen, to understand, and Jesus was able to respond, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.'

I wonder how people would respond if when we recognise in them the movement of God's spirit we were repeat to them the words that Jesus spoke to the scribe? There are so many examples of people who Karl Rahner [German Jesuit priest and theologian] would refer to as 'anonymous Christians'. People who love deeply, who seek for the good of others, who put the needs of the other before themselves. When hearing from you of their closeness to the kingdom of God could a door open? Yes, a door to the church which yearns for their presence!

Fr Patrick Bridgman is Cathedral Administrator, Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

'God's house is a welcoming home' – Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Wellington.

Photo: David Lupton



"And when Jesus saw that the man had answered with understanding, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him anymore."
– Mark 12: 34

Is it true that you must be baptised to get into Heaven?



Rebecca Taylor-Hunt
Director
Catholic Enquiry Centre

What an enormous question from a visiting enquirer this week. Variations of this query are common, as people struggle to understand a God who seems to allow good people to perish just because they are not baptised, or perhaps practice a different faith.

For those who hear the Gospel and find faith, it is natural that their desire to know God completes itself in Baptism. Through Baptism, we are joined to Christ in His Death and Resurrection, and we are cleansed of our sins.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.' – John 3:5

We become children of God through our Baptism, and we join the body of His Church. This is why infant Baptism is celebrated in the Catholic Church.

Yet, what about the people who have never heard of Jesus, or are so immersed in another culture that the idea of Christian Baptism is as far away to them as the moon? The Catholic Church is clear that God's mercy extends beyond the sacraments. The Catechism explains: 'God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but He Himself is not bound by His sacraments' (CCC 1257).

The documents from the Second Vatican Council, especially, emphasise how the story of God's love works in the world through history and time.

This understanding reflects the Church's belief in a God who desires all people to be saved and who provides the means for salvation in ways known only to Him. Do you have to be baptised to be saved? No, in the end, it is not absolutely essential for salvation. However, the Church teaches us that through her sacraments the greatest assurance of salvation is provided. We are invited to trust in God's infinite mercy and to recognise the importance of Baptism while also acknowledging that God's grace reaches beyond our human understanding.

Visit the Catholic Enquiry Centre online at catholic.discovery.org.nz or email info@catholicenquiry.nz or contact Rebecca at rebecca@catholicenquiry.nz



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DATES AND EVENTS – WHAT’S ON

To list your parish and school events free on this page, please email welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz with event name, date, time, location and contact details.

Friday 1 November - Saturday 30 November
Catholic Social Services Annual Appeal – bringing hope to communities since 1960s through social work, parenting programmes, Hospital Chaplaincy, Prison Chaplaincy, Seasons for Growth programmes, community facilitation and advocacy. See p 20 and visit catholicsocialservices.org.nz for more information.

Sundays 3, 10 November
‘Love is a Decision’ – Archdiocese marriage preparation course for engaged couples. Contact marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz for information.

Saturday 9, Sunday 10 November; or 23, 24 November; or 30 November, 1 December

Henare Walmsley, of Te Ngakau Tapu Church, Porirua, wants to share his knowledge of Māori musical instruments with you at a two-day wānanga where you will get to make three simple instruments, learn the art of sound, and compose a waiata. (See p 8 for details).

Sunday 10-Sunday 18 November

Papua Niugini Tok Pisin Wik – Papua New Guinea Pidgin Language Week.

Wednesday 6 November

Singing for Peace – Waiata Rangimārie | Sing for Peace featuring Hukarere and Iona girls’ choirs with choir master Boiboi Tevivi Daniel, 5.30pm to 6.30pm, St Columba’s Presbyterian Church, Havelock North. Koha for charity. All welcome.

Saturday 9 November

> St Peter’s PTFA Car Boot Sale and Massive Plant Sale – 7.30am to 12 noon at St Peter’s College, 2 Holdsworth Ave, Milson, Palmerston North. Please join us.

> ‘Glimpses of God Through the Kitchen Window’ – Christian Meditation Community Day facilitated by Raymond Eberhard, reflection session and

‘awakening arising in everyday life’, 10am–3pm, Lyon Room, Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine St, Island Bay. Bring own lunch. All welcome. Koha appreciated. Contact Anne Cave on 022-097-2939 or annecave@gmail.com for more information.

Sunday 10 November
Mass with the new Apostolic Nuncio and Bishops, 7pm, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon. (See p 2).

Monday 11-Tuesday 12 November

Wellington Catholic Social Services – Seasons for Growth: Companion Training in Children and Young People Programme, two-day professional development opportunity, 9.30am–4pm, NET Pasifika Hug, 2 Dudley St, Hutt Central. Cost \$300 plus resources. Email Jess at seasons@wn.catholic.org.nz by 1 November to register.

Wednesday 13 November

Young People in Faith – first of two Wellington Abrahamic Council events in November. In conjunction with Pearl of the Islands Foundation, focus for discussion evening on challenges and aspirations of young religious people in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, 6pm, Connolly Hall, 10 Guildford Tce, Thorndon. (See details p 13).

Friday 15-Saturday 16 November

NZ Catholic Medical Assn – Catholic Medical Retreat, Home of Compassion, Wellington. (See details this page.)

Friday 15 Saturday 16, Sunday 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.

Saturday 16 November

International Day for Tolerance.

Sunday 17 November
World Day of the Poor. (See p 20.)

Wednesday 20 November
Sarah and Hajar/Hagar – second of two Wellington Abrahamic Council events in November. Focus is on Sarah and Hajar/Hagar, matriarchs of our three Abrahamic religions, 7pm, St Joseph’s Church, 152 Brougham St, Wellington. (See details p 9.)

Friday 22-Saturday 23 November

‘Open House’ – Divine Renovation event at The Catholic Parish of New Plymouth, 573 Devon St East, Fitzroy, New Plymouth. Begins 3pm, Friday, and concludes 4pm, Saturday. Visit divinerenovation.org/openhouse to register.

Saturday 23 November 2024

The Send – national ecumenical reanimation of Jesus’ Great Commissioning in Aotearoa New Zealand, on the Feast of Christ the King. Significant Catholic Young Church presence expected at this event, Mystery Creek, Hamilton. Visit thesend.org.nz for more details and promo video.

Sunday 24-Saturday 30 November

> World Youth Day
> Solomon Aelan Pijin Langguis Wik – Solomon Islands Pidgin Language Week.

25 November-15 December

The Archdiocese Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission invite faith communities to host the video *Stand up for Te Tiriti: Christian Perspectives on the Treaty Principles Bill*. Visit wn.catholic.org.nz/about/commission-for-ecology/ejp-commission-activities for information.

Friday 29 November

> International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
> XLT – night of music, worship, Eucharistic Adoration and more for teens and young adults, 7pm–9pm, St Anne’s Newtown.

Friday 29 November-Sunday 1 December

‘Don’t Miss the Mystery’ – residential Advent Retreat at Home of Compassion, 2 Rhine St, Island Bay. Contact Tania Halliday at taniahalliday@challenge2000.org.nz to register.

Monday-Thursday 5 December

Archdiocese Young Catholic Leaders (YCL) Camp for students entering leadership positions in their colleges in 2025.

Saturday 7-Sunday 8 December

Bake sale fundraiser for ongoing restoration work of the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart after each weekend Mass.

Monday 16-Sunday 23 December

Cribs on Kāpiti – Nativity scenes nightly display, 7pm–9.30pm, Our Lady of Kāpiti Church, 1 Presentation Way, Paraparaumu. (See this page.)

Tuesday 14-Saturday 18 January 2025

Life Teen Aotearoa Summer Camp 2025 – hosted by Hamilton Diocese. Visit: lifeteen.nz/camp/summer-camp-info for information.

Friday 24-Monday 27 January 2025

Festival One – join the Palmerston North diocesan group heading to Festival One, the largest Christian music festival in Aotearoa, held at Hartford Farm, Karapiro. A wonderful opportunity to encourage up-and-coming musicians! Enquiries: please speak to your local youth minister or contact Nick at the Youth Office: nwilson@pndiocese.org.nz

Friday 24-Sunday 26 October 2025

St Catherine’s College 75th Jubilee – Labour Weekend 2025. (See p 9.)

NZ Catholic Medical Association retreat and seminar

New Zealand Catholic Medical Association (NZCMA) provides community support and chaplaincy for those involved in providing health care in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We invite doctors, nurses, midwives, students, carers, pharmacists, physiotherapists, psychologists, counsellors, social workers, chaplains, dentists, health administrators, lawyers, and anyone in allied roles to join us at our retreat and seminar in Wellington.

Theme: ‘Working in the spirit of the beatitudes’.

Date: Friday 15 to Saturday 16 November 2024.

Venue: Home of Compassion, Rhine St, Island Bay.

Cost: Adult \$150, student or spouse \$75.

Please visit newzealandcatholicmedical.co.nz/2024-retreat-wellington for more information about the retreat programme and to register.

Accommodation: onsite option additional cost to retreat. You can book onsite accommodation by calling the Home of Compassion and asking for a ‘Catholic Medical retreat pre-booked room’ at email: islandbay@compassion.org.nz or ph: (04) 383-7769. Spaces are limited.

Note: please quote ref BGRP-21024 when making your accommodation reservation for the NZCMA event.

Please email newzealandcatholicmedical@gmail.com for updates about NZCMA events.

‘Cribs on Kāpiti’

Nativity scenes are back with cribs on display for eight evenings in December at Our Lady of Kāpiti Church, 1 Presentation Way, Paraparaumu.

Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish is delighted to invite you and your friends to come and visit our Nativity ‘Cribs on Kāpiti’ ‘come to life’, nightly from Monday 16

December through Sunday 23 December. Viewing hours are 7pm–9.30pm. Our hosts will be available to facilitate your visit. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

Entry is a gold coin or food item for St Vincent de Paul’s food pantry.

Everyone is welcome.



Church Calendar

November

1. All Saints – Solemnity
 2. All Souls – Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
 16. St Margaret of Scotland – Memorial
 17. World Day of the Poor
 18. Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter and St Paul in Rome
 21. Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Memorial
 22. St Cecilia – Memorial
 24. Our Lord, Jesus Christ the King – Feast
 30. St Andrew, Apostle – Feast
- December**
1. Advent Sunday

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Annual Grant Invitation

The Knights of the Southern Cross, Wellington, Charitable Trust Board is seeking applications from organisations based in, and operating primarily within, the Archdiocese of Wellington who need financial assistance to carry out religious or charitable or educational works.

Requests for application forms can made to: patrickmcgill46@gmail.com

Applications for grants should be made by **Thursday 23 January 2025**

and should be sent to:

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or email to: patrickmcgill46@gmail.com

World Day of the Poor: A Call to Prayer and Action in the Pacific

Te Rā o te Hunga Pōhara i te Ao: He Karanga ki te Īnoi, ki te Manaaki i te Moananui-a-Kiwa



Grace Morton
Advocacy Analyst
Caritas Aotearoa
New Zealand

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand invites communities around the country to come together in prayer and action for the World Day of the Poor on Sunday 17 November. Established by Pope Francis in 2017, this day reminds us of our collective responsibility to break cycles of poverty and help everyone to thrive. The New Zealand Catholic Bishops have endorsed the day as a Caritas initiative, encouraging solidarity with the poor and vulnerable both locally and globally.

“The prayer of the poor rises up to God”
- Sirach 21:5

Pope Francis’ new encyclical *Dilexit Nos* [on the Sacred Heart of Jesus] calls us to embody Jesus’ love for all in what he describes as ‘a world that seems to have lost its heart’ and is a timely reminder as we commemorate the World Day of the Poor.

Caritas has prepared special Prayers of the Faithful for use in liturgies and community gatherings, encouraging reflection on our responsibility to care for the poor. These prayers call for compassionate leadership, support for organisations serving



The Phea family, supported by Caritas’s local partner Development and Partnership in Action, harvesting rice in Cambodia. Photo: Caritas



Caritas Tonga was there when Mavae Tu’itupou’s home was destroyed in the Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha’apai eruption and tsunami. Photo: Caritas

vulnerable communities, and a shared commitment to recognise and respond to those most in need.

We know prayer is powerful alongside contemplation and action. At Caritas, we are committed to working with communities in the

Pacific to break cycles of poverty. Through community-led initiatives, we support local organisations who are creating sustainable solutions for specific challenges their people face. These projects ensure long-term positive change.

In Fiji, Caritas is supporting

training programmes for young people to improve their farming skills and address food security concerns. As the Pacific faces increasing threats from climate change, these crops provide families with a sustainable way to adapt and thrive, improving their financial independence even in the face of environmental challenges. By equipping farmers with training and resources, we are helping them provide for their families and strengthening the resilience of their communities.

In Tonga, we focus on disaster preparedness, a vital need in a region regularly impacted by tropical cyclones, floods, and other natural disasters. By partnering with local organisations, we help communities develop response plans that protect lives and livelihoods when disasters strike. This work is essential to prevent families falling deeper into poverty due to the devastation caused by these events.

This World Day of the Poor, we invite you to join Caritas in prayer and action. Together, we can help build a world where every person lives with dignity and hope. Let our prayers inspire us all to make real change in the lives of those in need, and we welcome your support of our work.

For the Prayers of the Faithful and other resources, visit caritas.org.nz/world-day-of-the-poor including a video message from Caritas Chief Executive Mena Antonio about our collective responsibility to work for a world free of poverty.

Give more than just a card - change a life!



Give for good this Christmas!

caritas.org.nz
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Pope Francis’ Message for World Day of the Poor, 17 November 2024

Pope Francis begins his 2024 message with the words: ‘The prayer of the poor rises up to God’ (Sirach 21:5). In this year dedicated to prayer in anticipation of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, this expression of biblical wisdom is most fitting as we prepare for the Eighth World Day of the Poor, which will be observed on 17 November. Indeed, Christian hope embraces the certainty that our prayer reaches God’s presence; not just any prayer but rather the prayer of the poor! Let us reflect on this word and ‘read’ it on the faces and in the stories of the poor whom we encounter daily, so that prayer can become a path of communion with them and a sharing in their suffering’ (1)

‘We are called in every circumstance to be *friends of the poor*, following in the footsteps of Jesus who always began by showing solidarity when dealing with the least among us.’ (10)

Read Pope Francis’ World Day of the Poor message online at: tinyurl.com/World-Day-Poor-2024



Pope Francis at a lunch on World Day of the Poor in 2022.

Photo: Vatican Media