**From:** Ngira | Kiingitanga
**Sent:** Sunday, January 1, 2023 11:11 AM
**To:** Cardinal John Dew
**Subject:** Condolences from the Maaori King

Your Excellency Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, Your Eminence Cardinal John Dew,

Teenaa koorua.

His Majesty Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII received with sadness the news of the death of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. The Kiingitanga for generations have maintained a close relationship with the Holy Catholic Church including, as you are both aware, two visits of our Monarchs to the Vatican for meetings with Pope Paul VI and our current Pope, His Holiness Pope Francis.

His Majesty wishes to express his personal greetings to all Catholics of Aotearoa who share in the grief of the world and also a personal expression of aroha to Pope Francis at this time. The loss of Pope Benedict brings a deep sadness for the entire world. His papacy continued to promote the Gospel and its messages of peace and goodwill, which are cornerstones of the Kiingitanga and indeed all of Maoridom.

Finally, the King asked that I extend his personal greetings to you both as you lead our nation in grieving the loss of a world leader.

Paimaarire,

Ngira

*Archdeacon Ngira Simmonds PMSP*

**Ranga Tiki | Chief of Staff & Private Secretary**

**Te Tari o Te Kiingitanga | The Office of the Kiingitanga**