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A FAITH RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PAGES 1, 2, 4, 15, 20

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WelCom



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APRIL 2020
ISSUE 381



NauMai

A newspaper for the Wellington and Palmerston North Catholic Dioceses

We are still people of the Resurrection



Resurrection and reconciliation – the magnificent Risen Christ and stunning blue stained-glass panels in the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Chapel in Berlin. The original Romanesque-style church was bombed in an air raid in 1943. Due to public pressure, the scorched spire of the old church has been left untouched and now sits alongside a modern octagonal chapel and tower, made of concrete, steel and glass. The beautiful resurrection chapel was inspired by the stunning blue windows of Chartres Cathedral.

Photo: Mike Fitzsimons

Palm Sunday 5 April, Good Friday 10 April, Easter Sunday 12 April.

Living out our faith at home during Covid-19 lockdown

New Zealand entered Alert Level 4 for Covid-19 on Thursday, 26 March 2020, in an effort to stop the spread of the virus. Cardinal John has been issuing regular updates to Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses about related Government instructions, church announcements, and Sacramental and pastoral restrictions. All Masses, liturgies and church gatherings have been suspended until further notice, churches are closed as public spaces, schools have closed down, everyone is required to remain at home, and we are all asked to 'do our bit' to adhere to the 'no contact' restrictions in place, to help stop the virus spreading.

In his letter to parishes and communities on the first day of the lockdown Cardinal John shares thoughts from Scripture and invites us to join him in daily prayer from our homes.

"We are already filled with the Holy Spirit and we have the chance to show unusual kindness."

The Cardinal stresses that we are all facing an unprecedented situation. 'In my lifetime I have never experienced anything like what New Zealand and the rest of the world are currently dealing with. I don't think even a week ago any of us would have imagined we would be at **Alert Level 4** for the Covid-19 virus. **Alert Level 4** is serious, we are all called to do our bit to stay safe and to protect others.'

The Cardinal is urging Catholics to join him in prayer twice a day at mid-morning, 10.30am, and mid-afternoon, 3pm, while they are in lockdown at home.

'I am not asking for any special prayer, but

I will be pausing at those times to respond to the invitation of Jesus to "remain in my love". This can be an act of solidarity for all of us as we reflect on the unbelievable fact that we are already filled with the Holy Spirit and we have the chance to show "unusual kindness".

Cardinal John acknowledged many people would be sad they cannot participate in Mass. However, he suggested, 'this could be a time in our homes to reflect more deeply on the Sunday Scriptures, and the Gospel in particular, and perhaps to devise Liturgies for the household.'

'The Church has a great treasure in Lectio Divina – why not look up a website and learn to use this treasure to get closer to God and to one another?'

'I assure you all that you are in my prayers and thoughts during these days.'

Cardinal John's letter is online at: www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_community/unusual-kindness/

"To the pandemic caused by the virus, we want to respond with the universality of prayer, of compassion, of tenderness." - Pope Francis

For health advice and information or for people who suspect they have Covid-19, call the dedicated Healthline team on 0800 358 5453 – and phone ahead before visiting a GP clinic or hospital.

**Unite against Covid-19
Visit covid19.govt.nz**

From the editor

Annette Scullion

As April WelCom goes to print, our country is in Covid-19 Alert Level 4 lockdown. We are all being asked to 'do our bit' to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus and to stay at home and to stay safe.

This month we are not distributing printed copies of WelCom to parishes and schools. Instead, an electronic version will be available on our two diocesan websites for people to access online. We will review this situation each month depending on restrictions in place.

This edition features a number of articles about faith response to Covid-19 – Cardinal John, pp 1 and 2; rediscovering what it means to be 'church' at this time, p 15; and a reflection on God's messages in Scripture to 'not be

afraid in times of trouble,' p 20.

As we undergo changes to our lives and routines at this extraordinary time, we offer prayer to those who are sick and our thanks and support to the experts keeping us informed and the many brave people working on the front line.

This month, we also offer heartfelt congratulations to Fr Michael McCabe and Our Lady of Kāpiti parishioners on the completion of their magnificent new church and parish centre, featured in our middle-page section. Due to be opened on Palm Sunday, 5 April, as Fr Michael says, it will now be formally opened and blessed 'in God's good time'.

Stay safe, stay strong, be kind.

Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawa.

A Time for Prayer and Care



+ John A Cardinal Dew
Archbishop of Wellington
Archdiocese
Apostolic Administrator of
Palmerston North Diocese

On 11 March, 2020, Pope Francis visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Love, outside of Rome. While there the Holy Father entrusted Rome and all Italy to the Blessed Virgin Mary's help and protection. He did this of course as the coronavirus pandemic gathered pace in Italy. Various Popes had prayed at this shrine over the years for specific intentions. One was in 1522 at the time of the plague pandemic; another was Pope Pius XII in 1944 praying that Rome would be spared during the Second World War.

This is a time for prayer, as any such times of illness are. We know that many people died as they cared for victims of the Plague centuries ago. One of the stories – and there are many of them – is of St Aloysius Gonzaga who died in 1591 while nursing victims of the Plague in Rome.

This could make us wonder what we are to do today to care for those who might be isolated or who have contracted the virus.

"The experts tell us that the best ways to avoid the virus are truly simple:

- 1. Stay at home. Stay at home. Stay at home!**
- 2. Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands!**
- 3. Don't touch your face. Don't touch your face. Don't touch your face!**

When Pope Francis prayed at the Shrine on 11 March, he had prepared a prayer that he suggested should be prayed during the coronavirus pandemic. It specifically mentions Rome and Italy, but of course can be adapted for wherever we are. The prayer is at the end of this column.

We are being warned very strongly to put distances between ourselves and others so as not to spread the virus. At first this 'distancing' may sound un-Christian, but we must listen to medical experts. As with doctors, the first rule of a Christian at this time is 'Do no harm.' That means not doing anything that might spread the virus to others.

In the time before germs and viruses were understood, people often blamed others, strangers, witches, the poor who probably could not afford to be as hygienic as others, or as today some people are blaming China and Chinese people. Anyone who was 'different' could be the target of people's fear. Even today, conspiracy theories abound and some think prayer will work magically. Again, we need to listen to medical experts and not to conspiracy theorists who use any crisis to make money or stir up hatred and division.

The experts tell us that the best ways to avoid the virus are truly simple:

1. Stay at home. Stay at home!
2. Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands!
3. Don't touch your face. Don't touch your face. Don't touch your face!

We have all heard the story of Naaman in the Second Book of Kings, who scoffed when the Prophet Elisha told him to wash seven times in the Jordan to cure his leprosy. Sometimes we too do not take simple solutions seriously. But we too need to listen to Naaman's servants, who challenged him by saying, 'If the prophet told you to do something extraordinary, would you not do it? All the more since he told you, "Wash, and be clean".'

Some other attitudes worth thinking about and cultivating are:

- Every hand that we can't shake now could become a phone call we make.
- Every embrace that we miss could become a verbal expression of warmth and concern.

- Every metre that we physically place between ourselves and another, could become a thought as to how we might be of help to that other person should the need arise.

The way we will protect and save ourselves is through protecting and saving others. We are being challenged to rethink how we care for others. We are being challenged to rethink our routines and way of life, including our religious practices, and to find new ways to nourish ourselves spiritually. Everyone can contribute to this process, and we have amazing technological ways to share our ideas.

I wish to acknowledge that the above are not all my ideas. I acknowledge the writings of:

1. *Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky is the rabbi of B'nai David-Judea, a Modern Orthodox congregation in Los Angeles.*
2. *Fr Thomas Reese sj of Religion News Service.*

Prayer of Pope Francis

*O Mary,
 You always shine on our path
 as a sign of salvation and hope.
 We rely on you, Health of the sick,
 You who, at the cross,
 united with Jesus' pain,
 keeping steadfast your faith.
 You, Salvation of the
 Roman people,
 you know what we need
 and we are sure that
 you will provide
 for, as at Cana of Galilee,
 may joy and celebration return
 after this trial.
 Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
 to conform to the will of
 the Father
 and to do what we are told
 by Jesus,
 Who has taken our suffering
 upon Himself
 and has burdened Himself
 with our sorrows
 to lead us through the cross,
 to the joy of resurrection.
 Amen.
 Under your protection we seek
 refuge, Holy Mother of God.
 Do not spurn the pleas of we who
 are in trial
 And free us from every danger,
 O glorious and blessed Virgin.*

March 13, 2020, was the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' election. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle said in a recent interview, 'He has brought to the Papacy the simple, humorous and observant person I have always known him to be. In my meetings with him, the first question Pope Francis usually asks is "how are your parents?". While many people rightly consider him one of the most influential movers and shapers of the course of contemporary history and humanity, I see in him and our conversations a simple "parable" of God's closeness and compassion. And by being such a "parable", Pope Francis can move and shape history.' Cardinal Tagle, of the Philippines, is a prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

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 Editor: Annette Scullion. Ph: (04) 496 1712. welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz
 Advertising: Ph: 0274 898 017. welcomads@xtra.co.nz
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Sending articles to WelCom

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

The 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. Please include your name, address and day-time phone number. At the editor's discretion, articles may be edited for length or clarity.

Photos should be in their original format (unedited, uncropped), at least one megabyte (MB) in size and attached to an 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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Episcopal ordination a joyous occasion



Auxiliary Bishop Michael Gielen of Auckland, poses with his father, Deacon Henk Gielen, after his episcopal ordination Mass at the Vodafone Events Centre March 7, 2020.

Photo: Felicity Meijer/NZ Catholic

Bishop Michael Gielen was ordained by Bishop Pat Dunn, Bishop of Auckland, on March 7 in a joyous, uplifting, multicultural ceremony. The Vodafone Events Centre in Wiri, Auckland, was used, rather than St Patrick's Cathedral, because a huge congregation wanted to attend the ceremony and celebrations.

'The joy and excitement was palpable', said Bishop Dunn. 'How uplifting to see so many young people involved. The music and ceremony was extraordinary, representing our ancient traditions as well as the culture of the many communities who form part of our Church.'

Bishop Gielen, aged 48, is the son of Henk and Maureen Gielen of Mount Maunganui. He is the eldest of six children. He is a keen sportsman and enjoys cricket, rugby, cycling and golf.

After working in the justice department for a couple of years, Bishop Gielen began seminary formation at New Zealand's Holy Cross College in 1992.

He was ordained a priest at the age of 26 for his home diocese of Hamilton in 1997 and has worked in a number of parishes in the Hamilton Diocese first as assistant and then as parish priest. In the course of his priesthood, he studied for a

Master's in Theology at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio and completed a Licentiate in Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

He returned to New Zealand in 2014 and was appointed director of formation at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland.

Fr Neil Vaney sm, Pastoral Director of the Catholic Enquiry Centre, was at the ordination ceremony, which he described as one of 'beauty and solemnity'.

Writing about the ordination ceremony, Fr Vaney says: 'As I look back over this ceremony I am struck by the symbolism of the family of faith in Catholic teaching. The ceremonies were solemn, superbly orchestrated, and sustained by the loving attention to detail of hundreds of singers, servers and organisers. But there was also a simplicity and joy that radiated from the loving presence of Michael's family, from his father Henk, who is a deacon and read the gospel, to the youngest nephew who read his bidding prayer with such sincerity and trust.'

'This was truly family, hugely diverse in race, tongue and culture but drawn together by something much greater, the presence of the risen Christ, which filled the Events Centre.'

Abortion Legislation Bill passes third and final reading in Parliament

New Zealand's Parliament has passed a bill decriminalising abortion and allowing women to choose a termination up to 20 weeks into a pregnancy.

The Abortion Legislation Bill has passed its third reading in Parliament, meaning the procedure will now be removed from the Crimes Act.

The final bill passed on Wednesday evening, 18 March 2020, 68 votes to 51. The bill will now go to the Governor-General for the royal assent before becoming law.

Voting to remove the procedure from the country's Crimes Act changes a law that has been in force since 1977.

Previously, two doctors were required to approve an abortion, which could only happen if there was a 'serious danger' to the pregnant woman's health.

Abortions later than 20 weeks will need to meet a statutory test.

The legislative vote in parliament was labelled a 'conscience issue', meaning that MPs did not have to vote along party lines.

Earlier on Wednesday 18 March,

MPs voted against putting abortion law changes to a public referendum, with MPs voting 19 in favour and 100 against.

The referendum was proposed by New Zealand First but was voted down by MPs during the committee stage of the Abortion Legislation Bill on Wednesday morning.

If a referendum had been included, it would have added to the referendum questions on recreational cannabis and euthanasia being put to New Zealanders at this year's general election.

Bishops disappointed at new law's disregard for rights of unborn

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops are deeply disappointed the New Zealand Parliament passed the Abortion Legislation Bill by a margin of 68 to 51, Wednesday, 18 March 2020.

'This Bill ignores the fact there are at least two human lives involved in every pregnancy,' said a spokesperson for the Catholic Bishops Conference, Ms Cynthia Piper.

Ms Piper is a lecturer for the Church's Te Kupenga - Catholic Leadership Institute.

Speaking on behalf of New Zealand's Catholic bishops, Ms Piper said, 'There is no longer any recognition of the rights of the unborn child in this new law.'

'That is a travesty of human rights. To hold that the fetus is not a legal person ignores the reality that a genetically unique human

life has begun, which is neither that of the mother or the father. That the law fails to recognise this does not change what is a biological and human fact.'

The Bishops Conference believes the new law will fail many women.

'Those of us who have experience of supporting women with so-called unwanted pregnancies, or women who have had abortions, know well the coercive realities that drive many women to have an abortion that they later regret,' Ms Piper said.

'That is why we have argued consistently it is in women's best interests that the legal pathway to an abortion needs to be robust. This law does nothing to help those women who, for a variety of reasons, choose an abortion because they feel they have no other

choice, whether because of partner pressure or for economic or social reasons.

'Neither does this law do anything to reduce the overall number of abortions, something a majority of New Zealanders have consistently said they want. It has been rushed through and is ill-considered in so many ways.'

The bishops are dismayed that MPs voted down a host of sensible amendments that would have made the new legislation much more compassionate, said Ms Piper. 'These included amendments that would have required babies born alive to be cared for like any other child, a ban on sex selection abortions and a ban on disability discrimination abortions.'

Source: NZCBC

PASSIONATE DEFENCE OF THE UNBORN

One of the strongest opponents to the Abortion Legislation Bill was National MP Agnes Loheni, who opposed the legislation recommended by the select committee overseeing it, and produced her own minority report.

Ms Loheni has highlighted how of the 25,000 submissions on the bill, approximately 91.6 per cent were opposed to it passing.

She described the legislation as 'an attack on our own humanity'.

In Parliament she said, 'Who are we and [where] are we heading as a society if we allow laws which attack our the most sacred instinct [a mother] has for her unborn child?'

Ms Loheni's passionate defence of the unborn is online at: tinyurl.com/Minority-Report-Loheni

or <https://voiceforlife.org.nz/blog/read-mp-agnes-lohenis-minority-report-on-labours-abortion-bill/>



St Patrick's College Wellington

New Zealand's oldest Catholic boys' college

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, reflection and an opportunity to be compassionate, merciful and forgiving. As a Catholic community we make time with Te Atua, whānau and friends as well as time for ourselves to live out our faith as part of our daily life. We face many challenges in all areas of our lives. It is how we cope with these challenges that can determine how people will respond to us, particularly, when an outcome may not go how we hoped. During Lent, let us all be kind, compassionate and merciful to one another. To think of those less fortunate than ourselves and take the next step in giving of our time or giving to those in need. Let us take time to pray and reflect on God's love and grace for ourselves and others.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention

During the month of April 2020, Pope Francis' Universal Prayer Intention is – **Freedom from Addiction:** We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.





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Well being and social support during Covid-19 lockdown

Lisa Beech

The Archdiocese of Wellington and Society of St Vincent de Paul are supporting parishes in continuing to 'go forth' safely to our communities, within the strict Alert Level 4 lockdown and distancing required by the Covid-19 response.

As Cardinal John Dew said in his letter to parishes, 26 March, 'We know many people are hurting, and that potentially there is further pain to come, because of sickness, isolation, anxiety, practical and material need, unemployment, loneliness, grief and loss. It's important that we use what ways are still available to us to continue to connect, to look after each other and to reach out to the most vulnerable among us.'

The Archdiocese of Wellington Parish Leadership Ministries team have been contacting all parishes to collect examples to share with others, and to see where there are unmet needs. Some ways parishes are staying in touch with isolated or vulnerable members of parish communities include:

- contacting members of the parish who are anxious and/or alone, and offering regular phone calls;
- setting up phone lists and phone trees to maintain communication with elderly, isolated or

vulnerable parishioners;

- checking if parishioners have internet access;

Wellington Catholic Social Services Director Karen Holland says CSS is continuing to provide social worker support to existing clients and is able to be contacted about emerging needs. CSS community facilitation can support parishes, including connecting people to other services and support that is available. Hospital chaplains continue to offer support within strict guidelines. Seasons for Growth is preparing to offer online training and groups to assist with long-term loss and grief.

Wellington area President John Kennedy-Good says the Society of St Vincent de Paul is moving to remote delivery in some services while all offices and shops are closed. Newtown St Vincent de Paul is continuing to support emergency food requests, baby care packs, and some winter packs for essential needs. Other service centres will respond to requests as they are able to.

Contacts

Wellington Catholic Social Services – (04) 385-8642:

- Social workers: reception@wn.catholic.org.nz or 0274055469
- Community facilitation: p.alsford@wn.catholic.org.nz or 021754145
- Seasons for Growth: seasons@

- wn.catholic.org.nz or 021 374 405
 - Hospital chaplains: available through Wellington, Lower Hutt and Kenepuru hospital phones.
- Society of St Vincent de Paul:**
- Wellington area, Newtown office essential packs – phone (04) 389-7122; text 021 215 7098 or email info@vinnieswgtm.org.nz
 - Hutt Valley: (04) 568-6408
 - Kapi-Mana: (04) 237-5968
 - Blenheim: (03) 577-8378
 - Nelson: (03) 548-9372.

PALMERSTON NORTH

In Palmerston North the St Vincent de Paul Society – and many other charitable organisations – are still functioning in limited ways during the lockdown. The city contacts are Mike Keenan (021 1858 969) and Roger Clark (021 678 141). Palmerston North Diocese has a new weekly e-newsletter, UNITED, being sent out every Friday during the Covid-19 pandemic. It has updates and helpful links, prayer resources for home, reflections, and other ideas to help unite as an iwi whakapono. It is online at: www.pndioocese.org.nz/united and you can sign up to receive it at: www.pndioocese.org.nz/newsletter

Advocacy to raise benefit levels

Lisa Beech

The Wellington Archdiocesan Commission for Ecology, Justice and Peace, told the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee on 12 February, that raising benefit levels is essential if the Government wishes to achieve its Budget goals to address child poverty and enhance child wellbeing.

'Benefit levels are so low it is impossible to live on them,' EJP

Commission Poverty Committee member Mary Margaret Schuck told the select committee considering the 2020 Budget Policy Statement.

The EJP Commission supports the overall Budget goals to address child poverty, ensure a just transition to a low-emissions economy, lift Māori and Pasifika incomes, and improve physical and mental wellbeing. However, the Government must implement the Welfare Expert Advisory Group's

recommendations to lift benefit levels, the EJP Commission said.

The Commission told the Select Committee that as well as the permanent financial insecurity that low benefit levels cause for beneficiaries, it is an ineffective and inefficient use of managing social welfare assistance intended to help the most vulnerable. A great deal of public and community time is used support people to get assistance at the margins, the Commission said.

Bishops' Committee for Interfaith Relations letter reflects on Christchurch tragedy

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Committee for Interfaith Relations wrote a letter, 12 March, for parishes and wider Aotearoa communities to reflect on the tragic events at the two mosques in Christchurch, a year on.

The letter expresses a call to be people of peace across all divides and to recall the events of March 15, 2019, so that such a thing may never happen again. It calls for us to respond 'bound to peace and prayer', to have courage and enthusiasm to 'actually enter into rich dialogue in the everyday life of living alongside one another', to seek opportunity to 'share our understandings, joys and concerns in a spirit of openness and trust', and as people of different faiths to 'commit ourselves against hatred and for peace'.

The committee's letter concludes with a quote from Pope Francis and Ahmed Al-Tayyeb in their shared document on *Human Fraternity*.

'As Pope Francis and Ahmed Al-Tayyeb capture so powerfully, "Faith leads a believer to see in the other a brother or sister to be supported and loved." This is how we are called to respond, this is what it means to be people of God.'

The committee's letter is on the NZCBC website at: www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/March-15-2020-A-day-of-prayer-and-of-peace.pdf

A booklet from the committee, *Promoting Interfaith Relations*, is online at: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/PromotingInterfaithRelations.pdf>

Smart phone prayer app released

New Zealand Catholics now have an app for prayers with the launch of the *NZpray2day* app.

The Church's National Centre for Religious Studies (NCRS) – part of Te Kupenga-Catholic Leadership Institute – announced on Wednesday 12 March, the launch of a



prayer app, *NZpray2day*. The app is available for Android devices.

NCRS director Colin MacLeod says *NZpray2day* is designed to support young and old in Catholic schools and parishes to enter simply into the richness of the ancient Christian cycle of seasons, saints and readings.

'It's not an exhaustive source of all information in these areas. But rather, it takes "snapshots" and encourages people to seek a moment to reflect, pray and respond.'

'It also brings in pieces of history to link this liturgical journey with aspects of the story of New Zealand

and the wider world,' he said.

So far *NZpray2day* is only available for Android devices; go to Google Play Store, search for *NZpray2day*, and install. But it could be available for Apple devices by mid-year.

'It is completely free as a gift from NCRS,' Colin MacLeod says. 'We hope it will be an inviting and useful tool for individual, class and staff prayer in schools, and for whānau and parishioners throughout Aotearoa and abroad.'

Colin MacLeod says the project has been a major labour of love and 'was deceptively complicated to create. Our hope is that *NZpray2day* helps people become more easily aware of the gentle cycle of days and months that link us to creation, the life of Jesus and the shared journey of the Church. It is a journey we walk together.'

GENERAL MANAGER

Key Senior Management Position | Organisational Leadership Focus | Palmerston North

The General Manager is the custodian of the physical, financial and staffing resource (people) of the Diocese of Palmerston North and is responsible for ensuring they are appropriately protected, efficiently managed, utilised in the provision of pastoral services (as directed by the Bishop) and that all resources are strategically managed for the future.

With the impending retirement of the current long standing General Manager, the Diocese is now seeking applications from suitably experienced professionals for the position. It is anticipated that the new General Manager will be available to take up the appointment to the role before 30 June 2020.

Reporting to the Bishop, and leading a capable and committed team of people, the General Manager will:

- Take responsibility for the effective and efficient operation of the diocesan office by providing leadership and direction to the organisation and ensuring that the strategic objectives of the Diocese are met;
- Demonstrate excellent all-round skills in financial and resource management, human resource management, planning and risk management;
- Be an excellent communicator with well-developed interpersonal and problem-solving skills and with the ability to relate effectively with stakeholders;
- Hold appropriate tertiary qualifications in business or in a related discipline.

It would be preferable if the applicant had experience of working in a leadership capacity within the wider Catholic Church, whether nationally or in a parish or school context.

This is a challenging and rewarding senior management position. The appointee will have the chance to play a key role in the strategic management and development of the Diocese of Palmerston North.

For more information please contact Mike Hurdle on 04 917 7355 or apply online.

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SVDP goes green

For the first time St Vincent de Paul has included a commitment to caring for the environment as an integral part of its strategic plan for the next five years.

Mike Fitzsimons

Caring for the planet is an essential part of living the Gospel today, says John Kennedy-Good, national leader of the Society's social justice outreach.

'Vincentians are committed to living sustainably and responding to the challenges outlined in Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, On Care for Our Common Home. In the words of the Pope: "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience".



John Kennedy-Good, leader of SVDP social justice outreach.

John says the Society will be asking young Vinnies to take the lead in developing a strategy for practical action in living sustainably and caring for the environment. Conference members of the Society will be invited to engage with that strategy.

'We will be encouraging all Conference members to reflect on the Pope's message in *Laudato Si'* and to discuss ways they



can respond as Conferences, and as individuals.'

John said the Society was well-placed to be an authentic voice advocating against wastefulness in our consumerist society.

'We are striving to be a leader in recycling second-hand goods through our extensive network of shops. We also want to reduce waste by improving sorting methods, expanding recycling opportunities and educating donors.'

Respect for the environment sits alongside respect for people in the Society's thinking, says John.

'We have to find the commitment and courage to act in this area, just as we do to be close to those who are vulnerable and lonely. We must move beyond words and take action to reduce our carbon footprint and live sustainably.'

'Pope Francis puts it very powerfully: "The earth itself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor".

'It is not an option to sit on the sidelines and do nothing while the overwhelming scientific consensus is that humankind is having a devastating impact on the environment in which we live.'

New Zealand Lay Missionaries to Britain

Fr Tom Rouse

In 1920, 16 priests gathered in Ireland to prepare for their journey to China. They were the first Columban missionaries to go overseas on mission. They would have made their oaths of aggregation and signed their membership agreements. They were probably aware that they were travelling under the cloud of the devastating flu epidemic of 1918-1920.

One hundred years later, on 19 February, 2020, we gathered to celebrate the commissioning of the first two Columban lay missionaries in Aotearoa New Zealand - Sophia Ting and Chuah Hui Ling. They were preparing to take up their overseas mission to Britain. The commissioning took place during the celebration of Eucharist in Ss Peter and Paul Church in Johnsonville - a church that is very special to Columbans because it was the home parish of Francis Douglas, the first New Zealand Columban to die overseas. Fr Francis was tortured by Japanese soldiers and died in the Philippines in 1943.

A few years later in 1946 when Bishop Edward Galvin was reflecting upon the founding of our Society and the journey of the first group to China, he remarked, 'It was a mad thing to do'. But I imagine that initial group that went



The first two Columban lay missionaries in Aotearoa-New Zealand, Sophia Ting and Chuah Hui Ling, centre, with families, friends and Columban missionaries.

Photo: Supplied

to China, and Francis Douglas also, would have been amazed by our commissioning celebration in February.

As priests within a highly clerical church, how could they have imagined the Society would one day include lay members, called to mission by virtue of their baptism. What is more, the commissioning took place in Johnsonville parish which is now under lay leadership - surely an appropriate place to recognise a new way of living out the call to mission.

Sophia and Ling chose to keep to the readings of the day, the Saturday after Ash Wednesday. The reading from the prophet Isaiah speaks of the call to free oneself from all that holds us back from living out the call to mission, the call to be a light in the darkness.

And then there was the Gospel

Reading of the day about the call of Levi. It is not about our choice. It is about the Lord's choice. Sophia and Ling had chosen to enter into accompaniment and formation to discern whether or not it is God's choice that they follow the call to become missionary disciples. So, they came to know what these words of Jesus meant, 'It is not you who choose me but it is I who choose you - to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last' (cf Jn 15:16).

The commissioning ceremony was a wonderful and memorable occasion. Please remember Sophia and Ling in your prayers as they complete their preparations for their missionary assignment to Britain.

Fr Thomas Rouse ssc is Columban Leader New Zealand, at St Columbans Mission Society, Lower Hutt.

Fostering understanding and friendship

Fr Ron Bennett

The Wellington Abrahamic Council, of which I am a member, is a small group of committed Jews, Muslims and Christians who seek to build better relationships between the three Abrahamic faith communities. They do this through getting to know each other and providing opportunities

for the wider community to do the same. On Sunday 23 February, our group organised 'Peacenic' at Te Ngākau-Wellington Civic Square. Peacenic began in Auckland in 2016 out of a desire to replace polarising negative stories with real experiences of hospitality and friendship over a picnic. At our Wellington Peacenic, food and conversation provided the backdrop for a wonderful coming-

together of the three faiths. It was a great success and organisers hope it will become an annual event. In our increasingly multi-religious, multi-ethnic community, we want to help build bridges across the historic divisions that have separated us. (www.abrahamic.nz)

Fr Ron Bennett is parish priest at the Catholic Parish of Otari.



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LOOKING FORWARD TO WHAT IS TO COME

For us in the southern hemisphere, Easter is an Autumn festival when leaves fall and life seems to close down. Yet, even in this "dying" we glimpse signs of new life as nature stores her reserves in anticipation of Spring. This is exactly the Christian approach to death: a folding up of what has been, with thanksgiving; a looking forward to what is to come, with undying hope.

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2020 Election Year: Catholic Education

Comment

Memory lapse puts partnership at risk



Paul Ferris
Chief Executive
New Zealand Catholic
Education Office

Integration was introduced in 1975 and while the legislation describes a binding agreement between the State and the Church it seems that the memory of many involved in education needs to be continually refreshed so that the tenets of the agreement made 40 years ago are not lost. When Integration was agreed in 1975, it was preceded by a set of principles that defined how we would retain our Special Character but become part of the State network of schools.

Over the years people have not always understood the fundamentals of our agreement with government and so the New Zealand Catholic Education Office (NZCEO) has to remind them of the principles that form the Integration Agreements. Millennials, who populate the halls of power today, often have a limited appreciation of the two-party agreement made so long ago because it is not part of

their experience.

The 2020 election provides us with an opportunity to see if politicians remember the basis of our Integration Agreement. The promise of a partnership which adopted us as full partners within the State system is often diminished in its interpretation of policy today. People assume they understand what the 1975 Private School Conditional Integration Act says and make assumptions in policy that preclude us from participating in the full benefit of being a State Integrated School.

A Māori world view says: 'Ko ngā tahu o tapuwae inanahi. Hei tauira ora mo Apopo.' 'The footprints that we lay down in our past create the paving stones of where we stand today.' It is our past that is in front of us as we make progress today. We stand with our backs to the future.

"The 2020 election calls on us to stand with our backs to the future and gives us the opportunity to remind politicians what we agreed to in 1975."

The 2020 election calls on us to stand with our backs to the future and gives us the opportunity to remind politicians what we agreed to in 1975. It is our chance as Catholics to ensure that our human right to a have a faith-

based education is respected and honoured now and in the future.

What should parents, grandparents and ex-pupils do as voters in 2020? Ask the candidates what they understand Integration means for our schools. See if the candidates appreciate that Catholic schools are part of the State network in every way except for our Special Character. Ask the candidates why the Government chose not to fund the maintenance of faith-based schools in the December 1 announcement last year when they had agreed to fund us as if we were a similar State school. Does failing to fund children whose parents chose a faith-based education amount to a breach of human rights based on religious belief?

Ngā mihi nui.

ONGOING DISCUSSIONS

APIS (Association of Proprietors of Integrated Schools) continues to work with the Ministry of Education to clarify the basis of the decision to exclude faith-based schools from the maintenance package announced in December 2019. We have spent some time understanding each others' positions and are looking to find a way that provides an equivalent package for Integrated schools. No agreement is in place at this time.

Catholics invited to observe *Laudato Si'* Week

Five years on from the publication of the landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis has urged Catholic communities around the world to take bolder actions to care for creation.

In a video message he invites Catholics to participate in *Laudato Si'* Week, in May. The week aims to celebrate what has been achieved and to accelerate our ambitions in caring for the environment.

'What kind of world do we want to leave to those who will come after us, to children who are growing up?' Pope Francis asks in the video message. 'Motivated by this question', he says, 'I would like to invite you to participate in *Laudato Si'* Week from 16-24 May 2020. It is a global campaign on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the encyclical letter *Laudato Si': On the care of our common home*'.

The Pope also renews his urgent call to respond to the ecological crisis: 'The cry of the earth and the cry of the poor cannot continue', he says. 'Let's take care of creation, a gift of our good Creator God. Let's celebrate *Laudato Si'* Week together.'



The Pope's video message and suggestions for action can be found on the *Laudato Si'* website: www.laudatosiweek.org/

Laudato Si' has been widely heralded as a document of abiding beauty and insight. Its vision of integral ecology, which sees connections between how we treat God, nature and each other, offers profound truths about the conversion that is needed to overcome ecological sin.

The fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'* coincides with other significant environmental events to take place later this year. In November, at the 26th United Nations climate-change conference (COP 26), countries will announce their plans to meet the goals of the Paris climate agreement. The UN's conference on biodiversity, in which humanity will have the opportunity to set meaningful targets to protect the places and species that sustain all life, will take place in October.



Pope Francis has invited Catholics around the world to observe *Laudato Si'* Week from May, 16-24, 2020.

Photo: La Croix International

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Cattle cross image goes viral

The scene that unfolded on Dan and Judy Gotto's farm in Bankston, Iowa, shortly before Christmas last year became a beautiful testament to faith. On December 23, 2019, members of the family had carefully laid out many small piles of cattle feed in the shape of a giant cross on one of their fields, attracting 171 hungry cows into a planned position. In the distance, the steeple of St Clement Church in Bankston reached upward toward a clear sky.

At the right moment, Fr Michael Schueller, pastor of the area, sprang into action. Fr Schueller flies drones in his spare time and enjoys taking aerial photographs. He flew his

camera-equipped drone high above the herd, capturing both still shots and video and posted the image on his Facebook page.

Almost immediately, the image went viral. There were dozens of comments, hundreds of shares, thousands of views and the image featured in the area's biggest daily newspaper, which ran the story with the headline: 'Holy cow: Bankston cattle photo going viral ahead of Christmas'.

Fr Schueller believes the photo went viral for two reasons. 'I think it is the faith aspect,' he said. 'There is a yearning when you see a symbol like that. I also think people like cows.'



Fr Michael Schueller's viral photo of a cattle cross.

Photo: Michael Schueller/CNS

Chad Gotto's son Dan, also a farmer, said that people can make faith part of their daily lives, even if they are engaged in something as simple as feeding cows. 'I just wanted to tell everyone to involve Christ in everything you do,' he said.

Pope Francis sets up child protection taskforce

Pope Francis has established a task force 'in order to assist the Episcopal Conferences in the preparation and updating of guidelines for the protection of minors'. The intention to form such a group had already been announced by the Pope at last year's Meeting for the Protection of Minors in the Church, which ran from 21-24 February 2019. One year later, after the details of the project had been worked out, Pope Francis has made the plan a reality.

In a statement released on Friday 28 February, the Holy See Press Office explained that the task force will be supervised by Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra, the Substitute for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State, together with the members of the organising committee for last year's meeting: Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay; Cardinal Blase Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago; Archbishop Charles Scicluna, Archbishop of Malta and Deputy Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine



Pope Francis bows his head in prayer during the Meeting for the Protection of Minors in the Church, February 2019.

Photo: Vatican Media

of the Faith; and Father Hans Zollner, SJ, Dean of the Institute of Psychology of the Pontifical Gregorian University and member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

The task force itself is composed of a Coordinator, Dr Andrew Azzopardi, head of the Safeguarding Commission of the Maltese Bishops (established by the Archdiocese of Malta, the Diocese of Gozo, and the Conference of Religious Major

Superiors); and a number of canon law experts of different nationalities. The Coordinator will report quarterly to the Substitute for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State on the work undertaken by the task force.

According to communiqué, the task force will assist Episcopal Conferences, as well as Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life, in preparing and updating guidelines for the protection of minors, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and current canonical legislation, especially the motu proprio *Vos estis lux mundi*.

The task force's mandate will last for two years, beginning 24 February 2020. It will be supported by a special fund established by benefactors.

Episcopal Conferences, Institutes of Religious, and Societies of Apostolic Life can request assistance at email: taskforce@org.va

Source: Vatican News

Ecological sin

Following through on a proposal made at the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon, Pope Francis has said there are plans to include a definition of ecological sin in the Church's official teaching. Speaking to a conference on

criminal justice, he told participants, 'we should be introducing – we were thinking – in the Catechism of the Catholic Church the sin against ecology, ecological sin against the common home.'

Burn-out a major issue

The International Union of Superiors General (UISG) in Rome has set up a three-year study to find ways to respond to Religious sisters' needs. Stress and burnout have been identified as major reasons many women Religious abandon religious life. Of the world's 650,000 women religious, it appears burnout is causing a weakening of vocations.

Sisters who feel overworked and exhausted are leaving. Burnout is known to be a major factor for people working in the social or service professions. Commenting on the Sisters' situation, a priest who is also a medical doctor says burnout is a 'disease of giving'. When the vocation involves 'giving one's life', there are no limits, he says.

L'Arche reports sexual misconduct by founder

Jean Vanier, revered for his work with people with physical, mental and emotional disorders, has been accused of sexual misconduct.

The allegations of sexual misconduct follow months of investigation into the founder of L'Arche communities – a global network of institutions serving adults with physical and intellectual disabilities.

The accusations involve six women of various 'ages, geographic origin and status – married, unmarried, vowed celibate', says a report following the investigation.

The identity of the women has been kept confidential. However, it is alleged sexual activity with Vanier, who died in May last year aged 90, 'was coerced or took place under coercive conditions', says the report.

Four of the six women brought their allegations against Vanier after his death, while two came forward while he was still alive, the first in 2016. The women 'reported similar facts associated with highly unusual spiritual or mystical explanations

used to justify these sexual behaviours,' the report states.

L'Arche International commissioned the investigation by GCPS, an independent UK consultancy to investigate Vanier's links to his spiritual mentor, Fr Thomas Philippe. In 2015 a canonical inquiry had found that Fr Philippe had sexually abused multiple women.

During the GCPS investigation, the inquiry received 'credible and consistent testimonies' from six adult women without disabilities that Jean Vanier initiated sexual behaviours with them often 'in the context of spiritual accompaniment' over a period of more than 30 years from 1970 to 2005.

The GCPS report's discoveries 'shocked' L'Arche International leaders, Stephan Posner and Stacy Cates-Carney. They 'unreservedly condemn these actions, which are in total contradiction with the values Jean Vanier claimed and are incompatible with the basic rules of respect and integrity of persons, and contrary to the fundamental principles on which L'Arche is based'.

Prison Chaplain for Rimutaka and Arohata Prisons

We are seeking to employ a suitably qualified person to work as a member of the Prison Chaplaincy Services Aotearoa New Zealand Chaplaincy Team, which delivers Ecumenical Chaplaincy services to persons in prison at Rimutaka and Arohata. The role is a permanent position of 37.5 hours a week.

The Catholic Prison Chaplaincy service is a separate but integrated ministry that promotes and shares the Gospel message, and provides for the celebration of the Sacraments, pastoral care, counsel and support.

The person we are looking for will come from a committed Catholic ministry background, have undertaken ongoing formation and had at least two years of pastoral ministry.

For a copy of the role description please email: reception@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz
Please send a cover letter and CV to Karen Holland at: reception@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz



Hospital Chaplain Wellington Hospital

Part-time role 20 hours a week

We are looking for a suitably qualified person to work as a member of the Wellington Hospital Chaplaincy Team.

The Catholic Chaplaincy service provides for pastoral, spiritual, ethical and religious needs of patients and staff at Wellington Hospital.

This is a permanent, part-time position.

The person we are looking for will come from a committed Catholic ministry background, demonstrate the maturity of outlook and resilience required to be a chaplain. You will have undertaken ongoing formation and had at least two years of pastoral ministry. The successful applicant will need some experience of, or demonstrated aptitude for, working within mental health. You will need to commit to an ongoing CPD programme, specifically, completing CPE and attending mental-health awareness courses like MH101 and become a registered healthcare chaplain with NZHCA.

For a copy of the role description please email: reception@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz

Please send a cover letter and CV to Karen Holland at: reception@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz



Catholic Theological College



Catholic Theological College is the name of the new Catholic tertiary education provider created by the merger of The Catholic Institute and the Good Shepherd College, effective from January 1, 2020.

Adult Educations Courses 2020 Archdiocese of Wellington and Diocese of Palmerston North

In light of the COVID-19 situation, we have moved our upcoming scheduled courses online.

To see the timetable of upcoming courses online, and to enroll, visit www.tci.ac.nz

For more information, contact Dr Chris Longhurst c.longhurst@tci.ac.nz

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Missionaries come together

Mary-Ann Greaney

"We are called to participate in the mission of the Church given to us at Baptism." – Cardinal John Dew

The first-ever Mission Expo 2020 in the Archdiocese of Wellington showcased the vast range of missionary outreach in the Archdiocese. On Saturday 14 March, hundreds of people from around the North Island came to Bishop Viard College, Porirua, to explore Mission Expo's 30 booths, attend some of the 20 workshops on offer, and to join over lunch outside in the sunshine.

In his welcoming address Cardinal John Dew said, 'People watch us; our witness is in the way we do things. Sometimes it is in the words we say, but our task as missionaries is mostly in what we do – with love and kindness; with joy and with peaceful hearts; with simplicity and transparency of soul. I am a Mission. You are a Mission in what you say and in what you do. Thank you for being here, enjoy Mission Expo.'

Te Ngākau Tapu workshop, began with a kōrero by Pā Gerard Burns and Whaea Rangī Hau on the history of Te Ngākau Tapu – a 'personal parish to Māori' – and inclusion of taha Māori in liturgy; followed by a taonga puoro demonstration and korero, and concluded with reciting a decade of the Rosary in te reo and hīmene.

Throughout the day, students, priests and others took part in a variety of concerts, there were spaces for children to play games and for people to join in prayer and praise, and there was an opportunity to meet with professionals for advice about preparing a will. A big attraction was the basketball tournament, won by St Patrick's College, Kilbirnie. The team of

priests was elated to score a win against St Mary's College team.

Catholic College students shone on the day. They were all well presented, professional and willing as parking wardens, guides, guardians, referees, performers, basketball players, and preparing and leading the liturgy to conclude the day.

By the end of the day, participants were more aware of the rich cultural diversity, the variety of spirituality, and the many organisations that reach out to the vulnerable in our communities every day.

Mission Expo 2020 was developed from one of the Synod 2017 outcomes. It brought to life



Catholic Women's League members (l-r) Anne McGrath and Christine Paterson with displays of archdiocesan CWL branches' work for National and Oceania Mission communities. Photo: WelCom

many Synod recommendations – promoting existing agencies, drawing on others' experience of engaging at the peripheries, identifying and encouraging leadership, trusting and supporting young people, and showing how parishes and schools can work together and more.

The Mission Expo planned for Saturday 21 March at Garin College, Richmond, was postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Mary-Ann Greaney is Director Parish Leadership Ministry, Archdiocese of Wellington.

Ōtaki welcome for Pā Dennis Nacorda

Brilliant Ōtaki sunshine along with the parishioners of Ss Mary and Joseph Parish welcomed Fr Dennis Nacorda to Pukekaraka Marae on Sunday March 1.

Parish priest Fr Alan Roberts led the Miha Māori celebrated on the Marae. Frs Phil Cody and Peter Healy carried out a brilliant portrayal of 'The Temptations of Jesus'.

Fr Dennis was supported by the Filipino community and presented with a korowai by

Kuia Janet Marino and Whaea Debbie McAsey.

Fr Dennis will be taking a year in Māori Studies at Te Wānanga o Raukawa in Ōtaki. He will also be doing online studies in Hebrew with the University of Jerusalem. Dennis will live at the presbytery in Levin with Fr Raymond Soriano and will assist in parish work.

Fr Dennis Nacorda in his korowai with Whaea Debbie McAsey.

Photo: Pā Phil Cody



New Ownership for Vincentian Home and Hospital

Wellington Catholic Homes Trust is selling its Vincentian Home and Hospital in Stanley St, Berhampore, but life for the elderly residents will be little changed, Trust chair Tony Walsh has announced. Mr Walsh said most of the staff will be offered work by the new owner, meaning stability for residents of the facility, which is home for up to 52 people.

The Trust has sold Vincentian to Steeple Rick Consultancy Ltd, a company owned by Paul Renwick of Wellington. Mr Renwick is a former executive of a retirement home company and has lengthy experience in elderly-

care management.

Mr Walsh said the trustees decided the Trust was not the right kind of organisation to take Vincentian forward and sought a new owner who would be good for residents and staff.

'Mr Renwick offers what the Trust wanted to ensure – someone with the skills and passion for the elderly-care profession who would provide stable staffing and continuity of care for residents.

'Vincentian has built an outstanding care reputation and the Trust is sincerely grateful to the staff for their dedication and commitment to ensuring residents

have a safe and enjoyable life in the home,' Mr Walsh said.

The sale was due to take effect on March 31, 2020, subject to conditions.

Vincentian opened in 1977. Its name reflects the Society of St Vincent de Paul, whose Wellington members helped to create the Trust to provide care, welfare and housing for the elderly. The Trust owns and operates Bishop Snedden Retirement Village in Waikanae, which is currently being expanded.

Source: Wellington Catholic Homes Trust

New Upper Hutt family centre

Monica Devine



Peter Ryan, Irish Ambassador to New Zealand, opens the Chanel Family Centre. Photo: Supplied

After lying vacant for many years, Upper Hutt's St Peter Chanel church building has been spruced up, repurposed and reopened as the 'Chanel Family Centre'. An initiative through partnering Greenstone Doors Charitable Trust and St Joseph's Parish of Upper Hutt, this new community asset will be a beacon of hope for many families.

Opened officially on 22 February by His Excellency Peter Ryan, Irish Ambassador to New Zealand, and Fr Kevin Connors, the centre will cater for a wide range of needs within the community. Initially these will include professional counselling services, whānau support, pregnancy testing, young-mother support groups, a free baby-clothes service, playgroups and tailored parenting courses. Other services to come include men's programmes and groups.

The atmosphere on the opening day was filled with happiness and hope. At the core of the Greenstone Doors' kaupapa is hospitality and welcome. Guests experienced this in a real way with delicious food and hot drinks, entertainment for children and a profound sense of community mission.

The Chanel Family Centre is at the corner of Bernadette St and Fergusson Dr, Brown Owl, Upper Hutt. Opening hours are 10am-4pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Greenstone Doors – Te Tatou Pounamu Charitable Trust, is set up to facilitate information and care support for families and whānau through an independent network of counselling and support professionals.

If you wish to support Greenstone Doors Charitable Trust's new venture by donation or volunteer hours please call (04) 566 5037, or visit www.greenstoneddoors.co.nz



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Congratulations to Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish

New church and parish centre created

Ngā mihi nui ki te Pāriha o tō tātou Kahurangi o Kāpiti

Kua hangaia tētehi whare karakia me tētehi Huimanga Pāriha hōu

When Cardinal John Dew, Archbishop of Wellington, called for our parishes to 'build a future full of hope that builds on the past', Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish – Te Whaea Tapu o Kāpiti, responded with fervour. Over the last six years the parish community has rallied, along with their talented project teams, to dream, plan, design, fundraise and build a brand-new church and parish centre alongside their three-year-old school and hall. The combined site lies within the gaze of the statue of Mary, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, high on the Paraparaumu hill overlooking Kāpiti Coast. The construction of Our Lady of Kāpiti Church and Parish Centre is now complete. Congratulations to the parish and all involved. Reflections and highlights about their remarkable journey are shared in this special feature.

The official opening of the church was due to take place on Palm Sunday, 5 April 2020. However, it will not now be open until the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. As parish priest Fr Michael McCabe says, 'It will be formally opened and blessed in God's good time'.



Our Lady of Kāpiti – Te Whaea Tapu o Kāpiti, features in stained-glass windows around the church.



The Parish Leadership Team (l-r): John O'Sullivan, Development Group Chair; Stephen Cook; Fr Michael McCabe, parish priest; Wullie Grant; Bob Houston, Parish Council Chair; Mary Cook.

Photos: Bernie Velasco, Our Lady of Kāpiti parishioner; and Annette Scullion, WelCom



Carved Celtic Cross from Our Lady of Fatima Church, Waikanae, now present in the new church.



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New Our Lady of Kāpiti Church integral to community prayer life



**+ JOHN A. CARDINAL DEW
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We are privileged to be with Jesus in so many ways – in prayer and in responding to his invitation ‘Remain in my love’ (John 15: 9). If we do not take time or create time to be alone with Jesus in prayer and contemplation, our time when we are together with others in our Christian communities will not bear much fruit.

Our personal prayer enhances our prayer as a community and our community prayer enhances our personal prayer. Our places of prayer are essential and important. The new Our Lady of Kāpiti Church is integral to the prayer life of this community and of everyone.

The new church will enable us to pray personally and in community. In turn, that prayer will determine how we share the Gospel with society around us, and how we will

respond to the poor and needy. This church is beautiful. Our churches need to be places of beauty and not just functional. The engagement of all the people, the beauty and all that happens in prayer, in music, enables our growth as followers of Jesus. Here people will meet God in all sorts of ways and will be sent out into the world.

I love the line from the document *Ecclesia in Oceania* that says, ‘The purpose of being with Jesus is to go forth from Jesus in his power and with his grace.’ In this church people will know the presence of Jesus in Word and Sacrament, in one another, in the presence of the servant priest, and from here they will go out in his power and with his grace.

I thank everyone who has been so generously involved in the building of this new church. This is a wonderful place to come to give thanks to God and to be nourished for our baptismal Mission in the world around us. Sincere thanks and warmest congratulations to all concerned.



The Blessing of Accompaniment

**MICHAEL MCCABE,
PARISH PRIEST**

Pope Francis speaks often about accompaniment – the gift of being present with the people of God on our journey of faith. He also writes beautifully about the gift of discernment – the active process of listening to the signs of the times and the particular needs of the Church within a particular culture and time.

To walk with the people of God in Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish since its formation six years ago has been my privilege as its pastor. The leadership groups of finance, pastoral council and liturgy, from the earlier parishes of St Patrick’s and Our Lady of Fatima combined and, in an admirable spirit of unity, formed its new pastoral vision as our response to Cardinal John Dew’s pastoral letter, ‘A Future Full of Hope.’

The completion and opening of our new parish church and parish centre is the fruit of much patient discernment and prayer. We began with a series of memorable breakfast meetings as the redevelopment group began to dream and plan for the future needs and good of the parish. Our journey has involved the heartache of closing three churches and parish school but these losses have now become a wellspring of hope for our future ministries in Christ.



Fr Michael and Tuki Takiwa leading parishioners at the site blessing. Joining us along the way on the journey Tuki and Pauline Takiwa, local kaumatua, have always been with us to celebrate the milestones.



A Sunday congregation assembles outside the new church construction to celebrate the ‘roof shout’ for the roof going on.



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Proud to have played a big part in the construction of Our Lady of Kapiti

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‘Mā te Atua tātou katoa e manaaki – May God keep us all in His care.’

Ngā Pakeke: Marguerite Osborne, Tuki and Pauline Takiwa.



‘The end of the beginning!’

NICK MAHER, CHAIR OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

We have been led to this new church by God’s providence. This has been supported by the generosity of parishioners, the dedication by the building people and tradespeople alike and the wisdom and determination shown by our parish priest and members of the steering committee.

This is the end of the beginning. The call now is to use this spiritual place as a springboard in developing our faith and sharing it with others by our deeds.

“Behind them stretched the roadway they had travelled Ahead, mist hid the Track.” – Trasnā by Raphael Considine

We are a Pilgrim People still! Having arrived at this point of reflection and change we also acknowledge with gratitude those that are providing bridging finance of about \$1.6m, interest free.

Tomorrow’s duty must be to repay this generosity as quickly as possible.

What a journey!



BOB HOUSTON, PARISH CHAIR

Fr Michael often speaks of the everyday miracles that happen in our lives. Couldn’t the completion and commission of new Our Lady of Kāpiti Church and Parish Centre be another one?

When a particular job had to be done and a specialised talent required, someone was always there to help. There are have been too many involved to nominate individuals. However I make a special mention to our friend and master communicator, Justin du Fresne, who was on hand from the start to tell the story as it unfolded. Then God took him, plus a few of our other dedicated supporters, from us. But that is life as we know it.

I also acknowledge the magnificent leadership and contributions of Fr Michael – an inspired and gifted preacher, whose immense priestly workload continued in addition to overseeing the massive building project.

Funding for this multi-million dollar project was achieved through the generosity of so many – bequests, planned giving, donations, and a raft of social fund-

raising initiatives. These included home dinner parties, luncheons, a weekly after-Mass produce and baking shop, karaoke evenings, Filipino entertainment and food, selling goods on Trade Me, dine and dance evenings and countless other events. These events as well as adding valuable dollars to the cause, were all brilliant in the mission of building community.

Throughout the project with so many variables, prayer and consensus won out along the way.

We had a parish that continued to operate, without our own bricks and mortar, in a variety and often novel venues. I think our parish is stronger today than when this pilgrimage commenced. Step back six years, and we entered this exercise as two parishes, Paraparaumu and Waikanae. Today we move forward, as a large parish united as one – Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish – Te Whaea Tapu o Kāpiti.

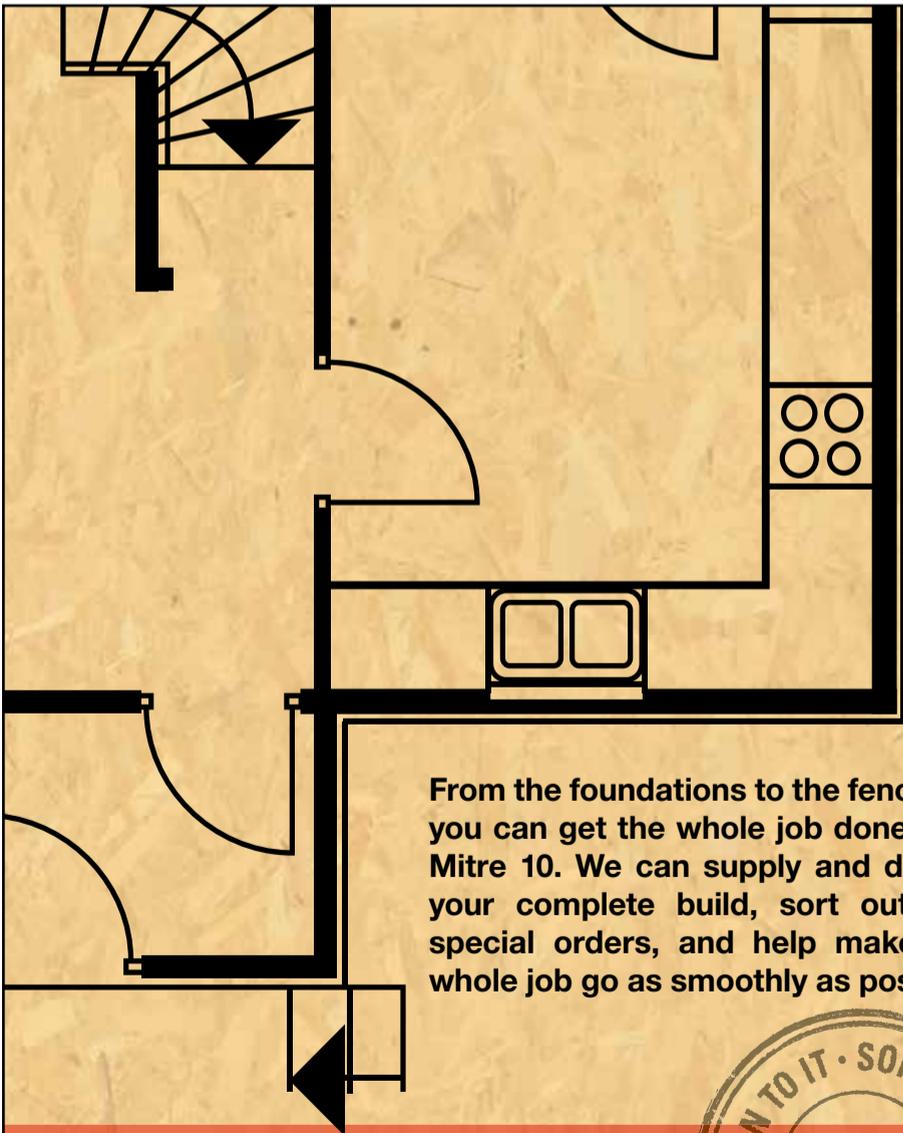
Everyone is welcome to join us on the journey.



One of the many fundraising events, ‘The Justin du Fresne Roast,’ with (l-r): Bob Houston; (the late) Justine du Fresne; Pinky Agnew; and Fr Michael McCabe.



Parishioners and catering after an outdoor Mass at Southwards, Paraparaumu.



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Our Lady of Kāpiti Chu

OUR LADY OF KĀPITI TIMELINE

22 November 2009

Closing of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Paekakariki.

15 June 2013

Promulgation by Cardinal John Dew forming the Parish of Our Lady of Kāpiti – Te Whaea Tapu O Kāpiti, from St Patrick’s Paraparaumu and Our Lady of Fatima Waikanae and appointment of Fr Michael McCabe as Parish Priest.

June 2013

Formation of Pastoral Plan from combined Parish Councils and Development Group breakfast meetings begin.

November 2014

Purchase of land at Milne Drive – later renamed as Presentation Way – Paraparaumu.

28 June 2015

Site blessing – Tuki and Pauline Takiwa, Ake Taiaki, Margeurite Osborne and Fr Michael McCabe.

26 January 2016

Site blessing for new school and hall by Cardinal John Dew.

1 February 2017

Opening of Our Lady of Kāpiti School.

5 February 2017

Closing Mass for St Patrick’s Church and Presbytery, Paraparaumu.

17 March 2017

Formal blessing of new parish school and hall by Cardinal John Dew.

10 June 2017

Blessing and opening of new L’Arche community homes by Fr Michael.

28 October 2018

Outdoor Mass and re-dedication of site for Church and Parish Centre by Cardinal Tom Williams, Fr Michael and other priests.

November 2018

Earthworks and construction begin.

22 November 2018

Dawn blessing and burial of three kete containing precious taonga.

18 August 2019

Closing Mass for Our Lady of Fatima Church and Presbytery, Waikanae.

In God’s good time

Formal opening and blessing of Our Lady of Kāpiti Church and Parish Centre.



To arrive at the chosen plan was a massive undertaking, with inputs from a number of sources. DLA Architects listened to the many requirements and designed a church that will service Kāpiti Catholic needs for over 100 years to come. There is a tremendous feeling of satisfaction and pride in what has been created.

Below: Fr Michael and Tuki Takiwa lead parishioners at site blessing, 28 June 2015.



22 November 2018, dawn blessing and burial of three kete containing precious taonga.



A significant ingredient in Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish, is the school adjacent to the church and parish centre. It is a most effective outdoor Mass venue and some Masses have had upwards of 800 people in attendance. The parish recognises the school as its future and the shared strength from working together.



This has been a building project that has been truly blessed, with the weather, then major contributors like Goodman’s Construction, then LT McGuinness and their team of subcontractors. The project was completed below budget and ahead of time.

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Church and Parish Centre



Outdoor Mass at Our Lady of Kāpiti School, concelebrated by Cardinal Tom Williams, Fr Michael McCabe and Fr Terry Carr, with support from a combined guitar group. A procession to the new church site followed in preparation for the foundations to be laid.



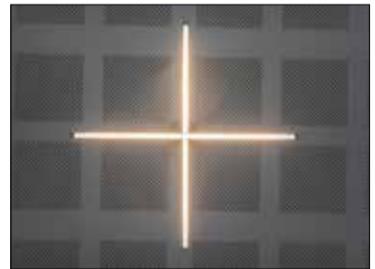
One of the many fundraiser events that called in the professionals featured a celebrity debate entitled, 'Cricket, a game invented by God to teach the English the meaning of the word eternity?'. L-r: John Morrison, Karl du Fresne, Pinky Agnew, Brian Waddel, Kathryn Ryan, Tim Gordon, Jim Bolger.



Fundraising dinner for parishioners and friends at Southwards, Paraparaumu.



Whilst the brief for the new church and parish centre was to construct a building that will last over 100 years, many relics and elements from the previous three churches have been incorporated within the new church and centre.



OUR LADY OF KĀPITI

Thank you to Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish for putting your faith in us to complete this wonderful project.

LT McGuinness appreciates the superb efforts of the consultants, sub-contractors, suppliers and LTM staff in delivering this beautiful church.



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New church is a sign of hope

NOREEN MCGRATH, COMMUNITY LEADER, PRESENTATION SISTERS AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

This is truly an exciting time in the evolution of this parish. Since we Presentations Sisters began here in Paraparaumu, away back in 1954, we have seen many changes down the years. As Cardinal Newman (St John Henry Newman) said, 'to live is to change'. We are standing on the shoulders of all those who lived and worshipped in this area.

The beginnings are contained within the structure with St Patrick's statue in the foundation and the stained-glass windows in the hall. The story continues to evolve and the driveway named 'Presentation Way' is a constant reminder we were part of this parish. It will lead the children to school and parishioners to the Sunday Mass in the spirit of all that has gone before, while our presence continues with our links through visits to the school and Associate Friends of Nano group.

Now is a new era and we are proud of all who have made this possible. This new church reminds us we are the people of God who see the need to gather as a community to worship God our creator and be at one with each other as a community of faith caring for and loving each other.

It calls us forward to be today a sign of hope for future generations to come.



Presentation Sisters under the new road sign 'Presentation Way', (l-r): Regina, Teresa, Breda, Ruth, Frances.



Celebrating the opening of Our Lady of Kāpiti School, 2017, l-r: (the late) Sr Theresa Tierney; Sr Breda Ryan; Fr John Carde; and John O'Sullivan.



Creating a journey together

MARY JACKSON KAY RC, CENACLE CONGREGATIONAL LEADER

The Cenacle Community was warmly welcomed to the Kāpiti Coast 10 years ago. We love being parishioners and celebrating the birth and growth of the Parish of Our Lady of Kāpiti. A visible sign of growth has been the building of the new church, community and school facilities. The generosity and hard work of so many people is inspiring.

After the Ascension, Our Lady of the Cenacle, with the relatives and friends of Jesus, gathered together in the Cenacle to share their memories of Jesus, to pray and

try to work out what next – they shared their grief, their dreams. And as they shared, they found courage to move forward together. This describes the pain and the grief of letting go and creating a new parish together.

Four words sum up the experience of this journey together: vulnerability, hospitality, solidarity and communion.

***"The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for their own use anything they had as everything they owned was held in common."* – Acts 4:32**



A parish on the move

DAVID AND CATHERINE CARRUTHERS, PARISHIONERS

This is an extraordinary parish! Vibrant, inclusive, outward looking, prayerful, compassionate and welcoming.

The injunction to silent prayer on special days is hard to maintain. A considerable distance from the church at any Mass time, the hum of many voices can be heard as friends greet one another, new friends are welcomed and news exchanged. There is an energy here, and concern for others;

the old/new message of hope and joy can be heard in the music and liturgy.

Close by the new school another wonderful thing has been achieved – our impressive new church reflecting the guardianship of Our Lady.

Not for this parish the defensive, protective, negative retreat so often typifying Church today. Blessed with an energetic, positive parish priest and with a strong collective revolving leadership, this is a parish on the move. The new church is the result of that and the foundation for another beginning.



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We congratulate Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish on the completion and opening of the church and parish centre and we are proud to have been the steel subcontractor for the project.

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PROJECT MANAGERS

Possenniskie Consultants Ltd, appointed Project Managers for the new Our Lady of Kāpiti Church, wish to congratulate all consultants and LT McGuinness, Building Contractors for completion of the wonderful new Our Lady of Kāpiti Church on Kāpiti Coast, constructed on time and to budget.



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Parishioners at Jim and Joan Bolger's garden party at their home in Waikanae.

A True Spirit of Christianity

JIM AND JOAN BOLGER, PARISHIONERS

Joan and I arrived in Waikanae in January 2013 and very soon became aware of plans to bring the Catholic Community of Paraparaumu and Waikanae into a single parish, Our Lady of Kāpiti.

Then St Patrick's Church, Paraparaumu, was declared an earthquake risk and so the discussion moved to building a new church for a new parish.

A huge but exciting challenge and as relatively new parishioners we watched how the parish came together to face that challenge and now we can see the result

of the work of many, expressed in our beautiful new church.

I acknowledge some parishioners have found the changes stressful but change is always happening as we have all found out in recent days with the changes we have had to make with the coronavirus pandemic.

I congratulate fellow parishioners who guided by Fr Michael and our lay leaders have led us through the challenges. Now it's up to us parishioners to show the true spirit of Christianity and the generosity of our faith and go out and embrace a tomorrow that will hold many more challenges and changes.

God Bless.

Memories of the Journey

DAVID KNIGHT, PARISHIONER

Looking back over the past five years my mind halts in disarray as I try to recall all the many events that have taken place in our parish journey towards building and completing our new church. My wife Velma and I have attended and assisted with events we would never have envisaged during retirement and have been so much the richer for doing so.

So many parishioners have become our good friends, we've enjoyed memorable films, quiz and curry evenings, a garden party, fashion parades, a very special high tea, and a vast number of other events to raise the fiscal barometer along the way. What a journey! I am certain our parish has drawn ever closer for not only have we built a church, we've built a new parish too.

Prayer Group Coming Home

GLEN MCCULLOUGH, PARISHIONER

For at least one prayer group in Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish, the opening of the new church and parish centre means we can come home. Previously the 'Monday Afternoon Prayer Group' used the meeting room at Our Lady of Fatima. After that church was closed, we were fortunate in finding a temporary home at the Baptist church in Waikanae. Their prayer room was let to us for a nominal fee and we had access to their kitchen facilities, so we will remember with gratitude our fellow Christians, the Baptists.



Now we are looking forward to meeting in our own building with all the facilities we need in our familiar Catholic environment.

Forging new friendships

VELMA KNIGHT, PARISHIONER

As part of our fundraising for our new Our Lady of Kāpiti Church our weekly produce stalls after Sunday Mass have been immensely popular during the past four years. Dozens of faithful patrons have made this effort truly worthwhile and many new friendships have been made along the way. The smell of hot cheese and date scones contributed to the

excellent patronage each week as parishioners bought their morning tea after Sunday Mass. And let's not forget the variety of baking, garden produce, biscuits, jams and preserves. Our produce stalls have proved an excellent source of fundraising – we have raised over \$52,000 for our new church – and make no mistake we have not finished yet!

The Kapiti Coast Funeral Home is pleased to support the development of Our Lady of Kapiti Church and Parish Centre

It is great to be able to be a sponsor at all the fund raising events for Our Lady of Kapiti – We call this "Putting our faith into action"

For Merryn and I (Andrew) our faith is the most important element of our lives and business. Our backgrounds as Christians and current faith commitment forms the ethos of our operation, it is a part of the way we think and live our lives. Not only are we as the owners committed Christians, we are pleased also to have four professing Catholics as part of our support staff.

And just as Pope Francis encouraged us all, as believers to work together for the good of the church, we as believers and a business have endeavoured to demonstrate this to the Kapiti Catholic Community and look forward to continuing to practically demonstrate this, and for it to be a part of our focus moving forward. As a part of this motivation, we are extremely blessed to be part of this Church building project from the start and look forward to being associated with this amazing facility and the support we are pleased to provide over the many years to come.



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Our Own Sacred Space

JACQUI MCLAUGHLIN, YOUTH COORDINATOR

Up on the Kāpiti Coast, we have a vibrant and well-supported youth ministry where we aim to provide as many opportunities as we can to support young people on their spiritual journey and foster their love of God. Youth groups are but one facet of ministry and we are always seeking to widen our doors to look at the possibilities that will enable us to communicate with and minister to our youth where they are at. Our new church offers an amazing new opportunity to encourage our young people to increase their love of God in a space dedicated to prayer whether through the celebration of the Mass or through prayer experiences in both the church and chapel. Our community is so blessed to have a new sacred space in our own backyard.



Warm Congratulations from Kāpiti Coast Mayor

K (GURU) GURUNATHAN JP, MA, MAYOR, KĀPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Catholic Church has played a significant part in the development of New Zealand from 1838, the time of the first Mass, in a new settlement. Similarly, the Catholic Church has had a real presence here on the Kāpiti Coast dating back to 1840 with the establishment of Pukekaraka, the oldest continually-used church in the country.

A number of Catholic churches have served the Kāpiti Coast well, ensuring the Catholics of Kāpiti have always had a home for devotion.

As history has progressed and the needs have changed, the Catholic community of Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish made both a brave and wise decision to relocate the school and construct a brand-new church, to 'future-proof' Catholicism in the district for the next 100 years and more. All of this virtually in the shadow of a local landmark, and part of our Heritage Trail, the statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception on the hill in Paraparaumu.

Our Kāpiti Coast District Council has and will continue to work diligently with Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish in any future developments. We congratulate Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish – Te Whaea Tapu o Kāpiti, on achieving this significant milestone.



DLA Architects for the
Our Lady of Kapiti and Parish Centre

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had the pleasure of working again with L T McGuinness & Co in the successful construction of the Our Lady of Kāpiti Church and Parish Centre.

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We are pleased to have provided Quantity Surveying and cost advice to Our Lady of Kāpiti parish for their fabulous New Church and Parish Centre.

.....

We congratulate the parish on the successful completion of the project.

PROUD TO HAVE ASSISTED WITH CATERING FOR FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES IN THE JOURNEY TO THE OPENING OF OUR LADY OF KĀPITI CHURCH AND PARISH CENTRE.

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Young Catholics – Rangatahi Katorika

Imagine that!

Life Teen Summer Camp 2020



2020 Life Teen Summer campers and missionaries bring alive the Life Teen kaupapa – 'leading teens closer to Christ!' Photos: Supplied

Nick Wilson

What a colossal success this programme was! In January 2020, two week-long summer camps were run with over 150, 13–17 year old campers at each week! More than 60 summer missionaries and the leadership team working to bring alive the Life Teen kaupapa – *leading teens closer to Christ!*

This reinforces for us that young people want to know and love Jesus. Feedback from the event says that our young people are reinvigorated in the mission across the country! Imagine that!

Life Teen Summer Camp has now run for the sixth year in New Zealand under a small group of young leaders who have a passion to bring teens closer to Christ. Particular mention has to go to Isabella McCafferty who is now the official Life Teen International New Zealand Liaison. She is part of the group that has worked to grow Life Teen in numbers and energy to the point where two camps have been necessary! Imagine that!

Pope Francis in *Christus vivit!* (Christ is alive!) reminds young people they are the Church of today (n.178). It is vital that

young people are invited to be fully part of the life and mission of the Church. But young people cannot necessarily do this by themselves. Our Catholic theology calls us to community to live faith. We are well past the point of letting someone else do this. We ALL have a baptismal responsibility to share and mentor in our faith with those who are still discovering, daring to see, curious to know. And they want to grow! Imagine that!

A mentor should believe wholeheartedly in a young person's ability to participate in the life of the Church. A mentor should therefore nurture the seeds of faith in young people, without expecting to immediately see the fruits of the work of the Holy Spirit (CV. n.246). So, older disciples – **your** job in this mission is now to actively engage them and encourage them in their faith journeys – just as you have been in yours! So together let us reinvigorate ourselves with the Gospel to continue to invigorate our young people! Don't just imagine that!

Nick Wilson, Pou Ārahi o te Mana Whānau Mana Taiohi – Diocesan Young Catholics Team Leader.

Joint study day for teachers and clergy

Catholic principals, directors of Religious Education, priests and lay pastoral leaders spent a day together in Lower Hutt, in mid-February to update and share how best to prepare Mass with children. Fr Patrick Bridgman, Archdiocesan Liturgy Adviser, and Fr James Lyons, were supported by Michael Mangan, an Australian composer, teacher, and music liturgist. The presenters provided an engaging workshop exploring the Directory for Masses with children and the many options available to help active, conscious, and authentic participation of young people attending Mass. Schools are extremely busy at the beginning of a school year, so recognising the value and significance of collaborating as one faith community drew the group together to this valuable workshop.



Fr James Lyons presents an engaging homily to young Catholic students at Mass in Lower Hutt.



With the cancellation of Masses due to Covid-19, St Joseph's School in Hastings, came up with a novel way of celebrating our St Joseph's day Liturgy together – by broadcasting the Liturgy from the staffroom to each classroom. The teachers beamed the Liturgy onto their televisions and the Liturgy went ahead. Photo: Lisa Jones



Celebrating their First Holy Eucharist last year with Fr Joe Grayland at St Joseph's Church, Shannon, are Ella Greaves, Jack Greaves, Sophia McKenzie, Hanna Greaves, Lucy Greaves, joined by a 'little one'.

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Anzac Day 25 April 2020

God Present In Our Darkest Hour

A King's Call to Prayer

Brian Fennessy

Two recently produced war-drama movies, *Darkest Hour* and *Dunkirk*, both released in 2017, were able to re-ignite peoples' awareness of the desperate situation that Britain and her allies, including New Zealand, faced during 1940 in World War II.

The two movies portray the almost unbelievable rescue of the British Expeditionary Force from the clutches of the German Army. However, one thing that both movies overlook is King George VI's call to a National Day of Prayer as the situation developed. To survive the Fall of France, Britain needed a miracle.

In a broadcast, on 24 May 1940, to Britain and the Commonwealth, the King said: *'Let us with one heart and soul, humbly but confidently, commit our cause to God and ask his aid, that we may valiantly defend the right as it is given to us to see it.'*

This Prayer Day was held on Sunday 26 May 1940. There is no reference in either of the two movies to the King's request for a National Day of Prayer and the peoples' overwhelming response.

As we come to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) and VJ (Victory of Japan) Days, in May and August this year, it is opportune to acknowledge a forgotten feature of the 'Dunkirk Story' during those crisis days of the War.

"Two events may be considered an answer to prayer."

God doesn't take sides; he is not a puppet on a string. But thankfully Hitler, perhaps hoping to rely on the dominance of the Luftwaffe [German air force], overruled his generals and halted the advance of his armoured columns at the very point when they could have proceeded to the beaches and annihilated the British army.

Then, two days after the Day of Prayer, there was the phenomena of a storm over Flanders, which grounded the Luftwaffe and prevented them from flying over the beaches. Dovetailing with this event was the presence of calm seas in the English Channel that allowed the small boats to undertake their remarkable contribution in the 'Dunkirk Story'.

These events may be considered an answer to prayer.

Operation Dynamo rescued 335,000 soldiers, ten times the number that Churchill initially thought could be rescued. My father, serving with the RAF, was part of the evacuation from France.

The movies edited out an important component of the 'Dunkirk Story'.

The National Day of Prayer, under the leadership of King George VI, helped to unite the people and gave hope at a critical time. It preceded some extraordinary events that led to the deliverance of Allied troops.

In gratitude and recognition that 'the prayers of the nation had been answered', a fortnight later, there was a Day of National Thanksgiving for the 'Miracle of Dunkirk'. The singing of Psalm 124 was apt for the Service.

Psalm 124 A Song of Ascent of David

*If the LORD had not been on our side —
let Israel say —
if the LORD had not been on our side
when people attacked us,
they would have swallowed us alive
when their anger flared against us;
the flood would have engulfed us,
the torrent would have swept over us,
the raging waters
would have swept us away.*

*Praise be to the LORD,
who has not let us be torn by their teeth.*

*We have escaped like a bird
from the fowler's snare;
the snare has been broken,
and we have escaped.*

*Our help is in the name of the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*



Padre Brian Fennessy, Military Chaplain in the Army Reserve and Parish Priest of the Selwyn Parish.

Anzac Day is within the Easter Season; it's a gentle reminder to Christians that God is present in peoples' darkest hours. The Easter Season celebrates God's pledge that we are his people and that evil and death have been overcome.

The observance of Anzac Day provides a forum for New Zealanders to express their gratitude and pride in New Zealand fulfilling its duty, at great cost, in order to achieve peace and well-being for people throughout the world.

Fr Brian Fennessy ED RNZChD is a Military Chaplain in the Army Reserve and Parish Priest of the Selwyn Parish. He is based in Lincoln.



People lined up for National Day of Prayer, Sunday 26 May, 1940.

CORONAVIRUS: ANZAC DAY SERVICES ACROSS NEW ZEALAND CANCELLED

In an unprecedented move, the RSA cancelled all Anzac Day services around the country as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

RSA national president BJ Clark announced the cancellations on 19 March, before the before the Covid-19 lockdown was in place. He said it was not worth risking the health of veterans and the wider public by going ahead.

Anzac Day parades regularly attract thousands to dawn parades and commemorations, with the majority of the attendees being older, and who are the most vulnerable to the coronavirus.

'Now is the time to look after our whānau and family and to fight the invisible enemy, which has declared war on our way of life. Values of service, sacrifice and support that have given our country strength in times of war, adversity, strife and natural disaster will protect New Zealand communities again,' Mr Clark said.

Mr Clark says that Anzac Day still provides the opportunity for New Zealanders to have a conversation around the real sacrifices and loss of life that our serving and ex-serving military people face and to thank them for their service.

For first time since 1922, the national Poppy Day appeal has been postponed. Mr Clark said RSA will work to organise another date for Poppy Day 'when everyone can support those New Zealanders who have served their country.'

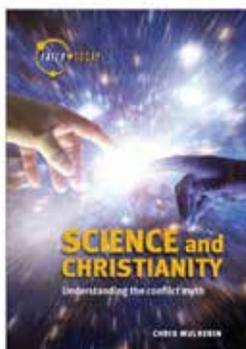
The Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced on 18 March that the joint New Zealand and Australian Anzac Day services at Gallipoli in Turkey were cancelled due to restrictions posed by the coronavirus.

If you have symptoms of the coronavirus, call the NZ Covid-19 Healthline on 0800 358 5453

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Catholics Thinking

Coronavirus and the Eucharist

Thomas O'Loughlin is Professor of Historical Theology, University of Nottingham, UK, a priest of the Archdiocese of Arundel and Brighton on England's south coast, and a contributing writer for WelCom. He shares his observations from the UK about our faith response amidst the increasing Covid-19 restrictions.

'Let's discover what it means to be church'



Professor Thomas O'Loughlin.

'All Masses Cancelled'. That sign went up today, Sunday 15 March, 2020, outside my local church in a normally bustling suburb of Nottingham. Who could have imagined it just a couple of weeks ago? Most Catholics are simply glad: large gatherings are just what we do not want at the moment. The loving thing right now is to keep our distance lest we catch and transmit Covid-19.

But in every parish there are Catholics who do not like the idea of 'missing Mass' and wonder could they not 'get Mass' even if they did not gather? In a more worrying vein, I have heard at least two priests say that they will not have 'the state' – imagined as 'the church' enemy – telling them to close. They want to take 'the high ground' of defending the freedom of religion: but if they go ahead and 'provide Mass' – note the phrase – they may actually be endangering the very people they are claiming to serve.

But the fact that many regular Mass-goers will not be in a church over the next few weekends – and maybe not even over Easter – might actually help us to broaden our understanding of the Eucharist and deepen our spirituality.

Object or action?

For far too long – some historians would say since the 7th century – Latin Christians

have had an attitude of thinking about the Eucharist as an object (something that happens due to the priest's work and they are in attendance) or as a commodity (and we behave like religious consumers). The language we use is the giveaway. We talk about 'getting Mass' and 'attending a Mass', and of 'getting communion' and 'taking communion'. The image is that the Eucharist is 'out there' – and then we somehow obtain it or make it our own. But the word 'eucharist' relates to a verb: it is something *we*, the whole People of God, *do*. It is *our activity* of thanking God the Father as a gathered community – and we offer this praise and thanks through Christ our Lord. The focus is on thanking the Father. The access to the Father is provided to us in the Spirit through Jesus Christ – and the prayers are led by the priest. It is our basic activity as Christians, not some 'thing' that the priest does for us or makes for us.

The virus has struck

So if we cannot gather because of the virus, can we still offer thanks to the Father through Christ?

Let's re-learn some basics.

1. Jesus is present with us

Many Catholics treat church buildings as if they were pagan temples: as if God is only 'in there.' But God's presence is everywhere and the risen Christ is not limited by space. This presence of the risen Jesus among the community was captured in this saying preserved in Matthew's gospel: 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them' (18:20). Even the smallest

gathering – just two people staying two metres apart so as not to spread the virus – has the Risen Lord among them. This might be two people in a house, or it might be people linked on the phone or on Skype.

This was expressed in another ancient Christian saying – preserved in the *Didache* (a first-century new disciples' guide): 'wherever the things of the Lord are spoken about, there the Lord is present' (4:1).

2. My room is basic place of prayer

We sometimes think we are only commanded to pray in a church building – we have grown up with the idea of Mass on Sunday as a regulation – but it is always sobering to recall this instruction by Jesus:

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the gatherings and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you' (6:5-6).

We are now being told to stay off the streets, out of the churches, and away from people. So we can rediscover shutting the door and praying alone – knowing that the Father will listen to our prayers.

3. Centre and summit

We describe the Eucharist as the centre and summit of our Christian lives, but often it is the sole part of our religious lives. This crisis calls on us to build up the surrounding foothills by caring for one another and thanking God at home as well as in the church. If we are not

thankful for the meals we share at home, we are hardly ready to be thankful at the Great Thanksgiving that we call 'the Eucharist.'

4. Every table is a sacred place

Jesus encountered people and taught at their tables: every table is a place where we can encounter the Lord in those with us. We will not be eating together as sisters and brothers in a church for the next few weeks, so let's start recalling that whenever we eat, we should be thankful: 'You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you' (Dt 8:10). We should be thankful for the food (grace before meals) and for enjoying it and the pleasure of being together (grace after meals).

Let's discover what it means to be church

We will not be gathered as large groups for the next few weeks – let's use this experience to rediscover that *we are the church* (it is not a building), *we must be eucharistic every day* but especially at meals (it is not an object we 'get', 'take', 'receive', or 'attend'), and *the risen one is with us* interceding for us in these worrying times with the Father.

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The Cries In A Week When Death Disappeared

James Lyons

HOSANNA! It is a dramatic cry of welcome and honour. It is a shout of sheer delight. It expresses pride, expectation and hope in one amazing word: HOSANNA!

That's exactly how people reacted when they recognised Jesus of Nazareth entering Jerusalem. 'Hosanna!' said it all!

There was speculation over whether this increasingly popular wonderworker and preacher would come to the great festival week of Passover, and now here he was. There was fuel here for a popular uprising and the authorities were very concerned. Something had to be done, and quickly, before the Romans stepped in and punished the whole city.

The week now unfolds as a political and religious drama that could have only one outcome: Jesus of Nazareth had to be discredited and, if necessary, killed. As the High Priest would prophetically declare: *Better for one man to die, than for the whole nation to suffer.* [John 11:49]

Christians know the drama well, including the unexpected conclusion that denies death the last word. But perhaps we know it too well, with the danger that we miss its impact and fail to grasp its life-changing message.

Holy Week is best lived with open-mouthed wonder at God's redeeming love in Jesus. A difficult stance, because this is the week that tests the mystery of faith to the limit. For believers, it is hard to accept that God would ask such a sacrifice; for unbelievers, the situation is utter madness.

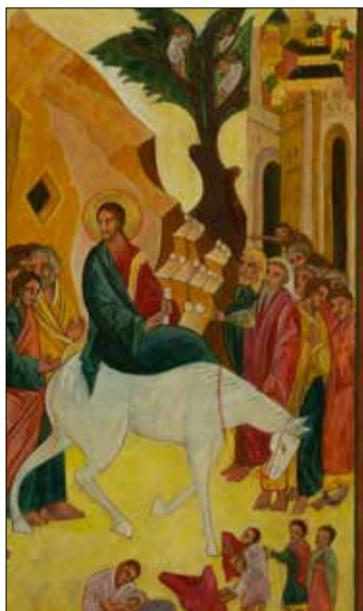
“Holy Week is best lived with open-mouthed wonder at God's redeeming love in Jesus.”

St Paul confronts the difficulty head on, acknowledging the 'foolishness of the cross', but showing it to be an expression of the 'power and the wisdom' of God. [1Corinthians 1:18-23]

This Palm Sunday, 5 April, picture yourself in a Palm Sunday procession; picture yourself present in the 'Hosanna Crowd' as it follows the events of this amazing week. Find your position in the gathering outside Pilate's palace where the cry 'Hosanna!' changes to 'Crucify him!'.

Now take the road to Calvary. Are you a curious bystander as the climax nears, or are you offering support to those grieving? Afterwards, what do you do? Where do you go?

The often-sung spiritual asks, *Were you there when they rolled away the stone?* This was when a new cry went up: ALLELUIA! A cry of jubilation, of victory, of speechless joy. The empty tomb remains the ultimate sign that death has disappeared, defeated by love.



Hosanna! Jesus enters Jerusalem.

Image: Christine Hales, 2016

Alleluia! Resurrection! Jesus lives! Life is not ended by death!

Ponder these questions and images as another Easter dawns. They help focus on the drama, observing its details, catching its flavours of joy and sadness, fear and terror, wonder and awe. They will propel you to a quiet but resolute appreciation of the story ever old and ever new, one that transformed society of long ago and can do the same again.

James Lyons is a priest of the Archdiocese of Wellington.

Gospel: Sunday 5 April 2020

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION – MATTHEW 26:14-27:66

Jesus triumphal entry takes place in the days before the Last Supper, marking the beginning of his Passion. Crowds gather around Jesus and believe in him after he raised Lazarus from the dead, and the next day the multitudes that had gathered for

the feast in Jerusalem welcome Jesus as he enters Jerusalem. The Gospel Reading for Palm Sunday, 5 April 2020, Matthew 26:14-27:66, records: The Betrayal by Judas, 14-16; Preparations for the Passover, 17-19; The Betrayer, 20-25; The Lord's Supper, 26-30;

Peter's Denial Foretold, 31-46; The Agony in the Garden, 36-46; The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus, 47-56; Jesus before the Sanhedrin, 57-68; Peter's Denial of Jesus, 69-75.

Gospel Reflection

Hosanna, Son of David, King and Prophet; Alleluia.

Tom Gibson

Passover is a most important period in a Catholic's life. Palm Sunday, the first day of Passover, follows shortly after the miracle in Bethany in which John writes that Jesus raised His friend Lazarus, from the dead to life (Jn 11:1-45). As this was the ultimate miracle, mourners present at Lazarus' home would have had no difficulty believing in Jesus and the news of the miracle would have spread quickly and widely. After the miracle, Jesus sent two of His disciples into the village to borrow a donkey.

Jesus now enters Jerusalem. 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem. The city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!' (Mt 23:37). Entering Jerusalem was a prophetic act. It was deliberate, planned and prearranged. Today the crowds cheered and sang 'Hosanna to the son of David,' tossing flowers and branches in His path.

In all four Palm Sunday accounts of the canonical Gospels, symbolism is captured prophetically. Five hundred years earlier, Zechariah had prophesied about the Messiah: 'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem! See now, your king comes to you. He is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey' (Zech 9:9).

Local crowds understood the purpose of Jesus' action; they knew a king riding a donkey was a sign of peace. They cried, 'This is the

prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.' (Mt 21:11)

During that Passover there was another procession. Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor who administered Judea and Samaria from his base Caesarea Maritima on the Mediterranean coast, made his Passover show of force riding into Herod's palace. Imagine these mounted horsemen with foot soldiers. Palm Sunday is the only time the gospel tells us that Jesus did not walk.

The scribes and the Pharisees also understood the symbolism of Jesus riding on a donkey but closed their minds to the Lord's action. They sought His death but because of the crowds they were unable to arrest Him. Jesus' teaching in parables this Passover were the strongest in the synoptic gospels.

By the fourth day of Passover week enemies of Jesus were becoming desperate. Their motives were spurred on because the first three days of the week saw Jesus' numbers increasing in the Temple as prophetic indictments were directed against the rulers of His own people, the scribes and Pharisees. How relieved and excited they were when Judas Iscariot came and asked what price they would pay for Jesus' betrayal? The chief priests and elders offered him 30 pieces of silver. Later that night, after prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane with Peter, James and John, Judas knowing where Jesus was, conspired with a cohort of soldiers who arrested Him.

Meanwhile Pilate, having heard rumours rife in Jerusalem about Jesus capturing the imagination of the Jewish people, and knowing the

High Priest and elders were wanting Jesus killed, was worried. Pilate was the Roman administrator for the area and was more worried still when the Jewish leaders brought Jesus before him. His question to Jesus was, 'Are you a king?' To which Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it' (Mt 27:11).

As Jesus answered no more questions, Pilate's worry became fear and he endeavoured to avoid liability by 'passing him over to Herod' (Lk 23:7). Jesus remained silent, so Herod returned Him to Pilate. In front of the chief priests Pilate lost his courage. He had Jesus scourged hoping that action would placate the crowd whom the chief priests had assembled for the occasion. No luck there. The final effort to have Jesus released was an offer to the crowd of a choice as to who he would release; a murderer, Barabbas – or Jesus. The crowd demanded the release of Barabbas and shouted to Crucify Jesus. Pilate, in an act of self-justification, 'publicly washed his hands, claiming to be innocent of this man's blood' (Mt 27:25).

The introduction of the world's Saviour came on the back of a donkey. As we consider the greatness of Our Lord and the enormous sacrifice He made for each and every one of us, let's also think about how He likes the small and not so great things to work with. Could that include us?

And if the answer is yes to that question, what should we do about it?

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

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Review

The dishevelled Christ

Syrian Boy and other poems
By Jim Consedine
Published by Ploughshares Publications

Reviewed by
Michael Fitzsimons

The great American poet, Mary Oliver once said when it comes to writing poetry the idea comes first. Form follows. And indeed when it comes to Jim Consedine's poetry, the idea is always front and centre.

Jim Consedine is a priest whose ministry over five decades has taken him to the margins of society, working as a prison chaplain for 23 years at the five Christchurch prisons and helping to run houses of hospitality for the homeless, the addicted and the inner-city poor.

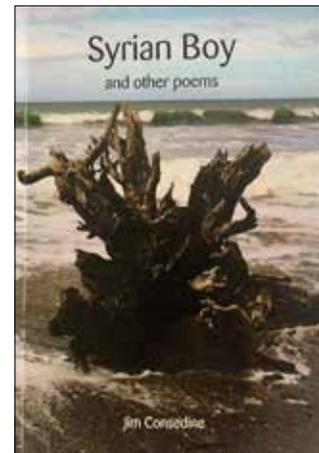
Unsurprisingly, the 'idea' that sits at the centre of many poems in this collection is the identification between Christ and the suffering poor. And implicitly a question is posed about our response to that reality.

'with no room at the inn
he sits, cap extended
the face of Christ at South City'
– *the cap*

'face taunt, razor thin
pale in the fading light
she sits across the table
devouring a pie
warm only now
washed down with coffee
four o'clock her first meal of
the day'
– *living with poverty*

The writing is direct and powerful, paying attention to the 'outsider, the dishevelled Christ', to 'the margins/where Christ prowls', the very places our society likes to ignore. There are personal poems honouring his brothers, the prophetic priest Daniel Berrigan and a few swipes along the way at 'clerical dieback' and the 'purpled wolves' who circle 'Francis the free'.

In contrasting tone, the collection concludes with a series of poems acutely observing the beautiful



natural world where 'the universe is held together by divine glue'.

Paying attention is the secret to good writing and good living. There's plenty of good writing in these poems, as well as provocation to think about whether as Christians we are living by what we say we believe in. A bracing, stimulating read.

Syrian Boy and other poems can be purchased from the publisher: Jim Consedine, Ploughshares Publications, PO Box 33135, Christchurch 8244. Price \$20 (includes postage).

Obituary

Tireless champion for human rights

Sr Sue Cosgrove dolc

Sr Catherine Hannan dolc, who lived a life of compassion and service to the disadvantaged for more than 60 years, passed away in March.

Catherine Hannan was born in New Plymouth in 1935 and joined the Sisters of Compassion in 1953. After her profession, she completed her teacher training and taught at Homes of Compassion at Island Bay, Carterton, Hiruharama-Jerusalem, Ranana and Wilcannia, Australia. She was a senior social worker at Catholic Social Services in Wellington for

several years and was chaplain at Arohata Women's Prison.

Sr Catherine had major leadership responsibilities during a time of great change for her religious order, leading the Sisters of Compassion from 1986 to 1999.

Following her leadership term, Sr Catherine was the chair of the board for Caritas and represented Caritas New Zealand at the Asian Partnership for Human Development. This took her to countries in Asia to review projects they were founding, including sustainable agriculture, empowerment of poor women and implementing ways to counteract human trafficking.

She served as a member of the Wellington Catholic Archdiocese Pastoral Council and was a member of the Wellington Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission. She was part of a Church social justice watch group that presented submissions to Parliamentary Select Committees on the Employment Relations Bill, Prostitution Reform Bill and the Responsible Gambling Bill.

Sr Catherine served on the board of Challenge 2000 and was a founding member and Trustee of the Wellington Homeless Women's Trust.

For a number of years she worked at the Compassion Centre Soup Kitchen in Wellington and in

2014 and 2015 she was President of the Wellington South Rotary Club. She was awarded a QSM for services to the community in the New Year Honours this year.

Sr Catherine wrote in an article for WelCom: 'My life has become an adventure into love, a passion, a spiralling down into the mystery of God, a God search that consumes more and more of my being. It is not only that the love of God is the impelling force but I am endeavouring to give truth to St Paul's words "I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me". Would I do it again? I would want to do no other.'



Sr Catherine Hannan dolc, 1935–2020. Rest in Peace.

Photo: Supplied

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Parting Shot

We continue our photo feature where WelCom offers readers a visual reflection by way of a 'Parting Shot', to inspire and provoke contemplation. Readers are invited to participate. This month's *Parting Shot* photo has been sent in by OG Gueco.



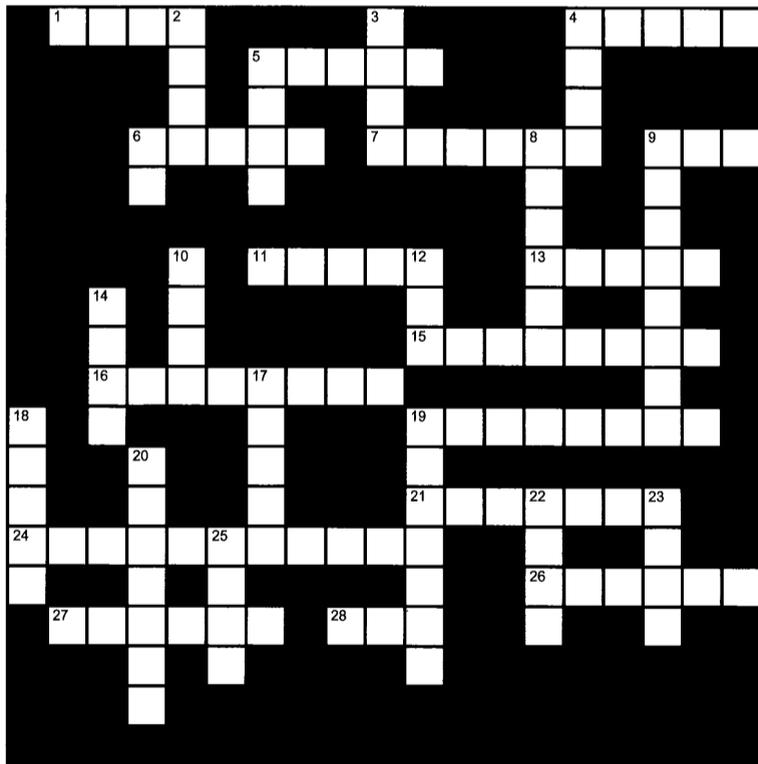
The Irish writer, Frank Delaney, tells of 'a curling wave from the sea coming to the shore'. It contains a story, a song, a glimpse of tomorrow or a memory of yesterday. 'From my hilltop perch there are discoveries to be made and treasures to be enjoyed.'

Please send your photo that you think may inspire others for the next edition of WelCom to: Frank Wafer at f.wafer@wn.catholic.org.nz by Monday 13 April 2020. Please attach your photo to your email as a high-resolution jpeg of at least 1MB in file size, with your name and contact details included in your email. You are also invited to include a short reflection with your photo.

The Holy Triduum

The Easter Triduum is the period of three days that begins with Holy Thursday evening liturgy, continues with the Easter Vigil, and closes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday. How much do you know about the Sacred Triduum and related Bible verses? To complete the clues below read the article online at: www.getfed.com/the-easter-triduum-what-is-it-6028/

Due to the Covid-19 Alert Level 4 lockdown, this month we are not inviting entries for correct answers to the crossword. Please enjoy completing this crossword at home. The March crossword winners, drawn from a number of correct entries, are Kevin McDonnell, Richmond, Sebastian Withanage, Tawa, and Debbie Brighthouse, Porirua.



ACROSS

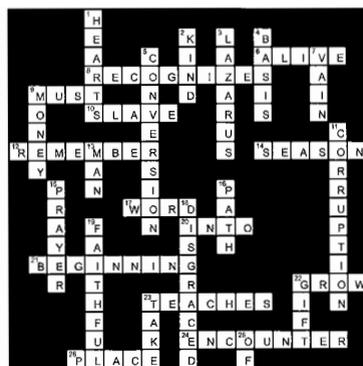
1. I do not ... the man. (4)
4. The ... of Blood. (5)
5. Opened heaven's ... for the just. (5)
6. My ... poured out for many. (5)
7. The Mass of the Lord's ... (6)
9. Let this ... pass from me. (3)
11. Could you not stay ... with me? (5)
13. You will deny me ... times. (5)
15. Holy ... (8)
16. Washing of the feet ... (8)
19. This man was with Jesus of ... (8)
21. The Easter ... is three days. (7)
24. Eli Eli lema ... (11)
26. I am with you ... (6)
27. I am ... grieved, even to death. (6)
28. The one I will kiss is the ... (3)

DOWN

2. Wait let us see whether Elijah... come. (4)
3. Are you the King of the ...? (4)
4. The Easter Vigil is divided into ... parts. (4)
5. ... Friday. (4)
6. Do not ... afraid. (2)
8. ... Sunday. (6)
9. This is my blood of the ... (8)
10. The destroying angel passed ... the homes. (4)
12. Take ... this is my body. (3)
14. At that moment the ... crowded. (4)
17. They went to the ... of Olives. (5)
18. Veneration of the ... (5)
19. Make disciples of all ... (7)
20. God brought the Jews out of ... (7)

22. He has been raised from the ... (4)
23. The Passover ... is recollected. (4)
25. ... Saturday. (4)

March solution



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DATES AND EVENTS

All public Masses and liturgies are postponed until further notice

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the New Zealand Catholic Bishops announced that all public Masses and liturgies have been suspended from now until further notice. Parish gatherings are also suspended or cancelled. The Church is posting online Mass links on its National Liturgy Office website. The page has regular updates of links in New Zealand and overseas, including to the Pope's daily Mass, held at 7pm New Zealand time. (Please check NZ-time adjustment after daylight saving ends, Sunday 5 April.)
www.nlo.org.nz/news-and-events/media-releases/celebrate-mass-online/

The following previously advertised events in The Archdiocese of Wellington and the Diocese of Palmerston North have been cancelled or postponed due to current Covid-19 restrictions.

Monday 6 April

Cancelled – Chrism Mass of the Oils, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North Diocese.

Tuesday 7 April

Cancelled – Chrism Mass, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Richmond, Archdiocese of Wellington, South Island.

Wednesday 8 April

Cancelled – Chrism Mass, St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral, Karori, Archdiocese of Wellington, North Island.

Friday 10 April

Cancelled – Good Friday, The Way of the Cross reflections, Chapel of Our Lady of Compassion, Island Bay.

Thursday 9-Monday 13 April

Cancelled – Te Hui Aranga (Māori Catholic Easter Meeting) to have been hosted by the Wellington Clubs over Easter Weekend. This year would have marked the 75th jubilee of this Easter Hui, which began at Pukekarakara, Ōtaki, in 1944.

Friday 24-Sunday 26 April

Postponed until later in the year – Takirua 2020 Conference in Wellington organised by the NZCBC Council for Young People and The Catholic Network of Marriage Educators. www.takirua2020.nz

Sunday 26 April

Postponed until further notice – St Joseph Church, Wakefield, Tasman, 150th anniversary celebrations and reunion.

Tuesday 26-Friday 29 May

Postponed – 2020 Pacific Ocean, Pacific Climate Change Conference, Apia, Samoa. Situation to be reviewed in June-July 2020.

Compassion Soup Kitchen

Staff and volunteers at the Compassion Soup Kitchen are continuing to provide meals for Wellington's vulnerable while taking measures to minimise risk to people. The Compassion Soup Kitchen has closed only once in 118

years, for a period in 1927, and was open during the 1918 Influenza epidemic, serviced by the Sisters of Compassion. Updates on this situation will be posted on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SoupKitchenWellington/

Archdiocese Safeguarding Workshops Postponed

All scheduled safeguarding workshops in the Archdiocese of Wellington have been postponed due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Brendy Weir, Safeguarding Adviser, has contacted the safeguarding administrators throughout the Archdiocese about the

postponements. Brendy will communicate with the administrators to reschedule training opportunities. If you have any questions, please email Brendy at b.weir@wn.catholic.org.nz or phone 021 195 8307.

St Joseph's Church Wakefield 150th Celebrations Postponed

The organising group of St Joseph's Church 150th Anniversary Celebration in Wakefield, Nelson, over Anzac weekend, have advised that due to Covid-19, this event has been postponed until a future time when it is safe

to once again reschedule it. For information please email stjosephs150years@xtra.co.nz or ph (03) 541 9555 or 027 454 4121; PO Box 3640, Richmond, Nelson 7050.

Marist St Pat's 50th Jubilee Celebrations Postponed

Marist St Pat's Rugby Club have postponed their 50th Jubilee celebrations scheduled for Queen's Birthday Weekend, June 2020. MSP wanted to provide certainty to those who are making travel arrangements for that weekend and for their own preparations. A new date is tentatively Queen's Birthday Weekend 2021. If you have already paid for the planned Jubilee Dinner and would like a refund, please contact MSP RC. Alternatively, any bookings already paid will carry forward and hold your place. For information contact Marist

St Pats RFC, email msprugby@xtra.co.nz or visit www.msprugby.co.nz/tools/clients/new.aspx?SECT=50-jubilee.

Updates will be circulated via MSP Facebook page, on msprugby.co.nz, by post, and the Red Machine newsletter.

Tim Donoghue's book documenting 50 years of Marist St Pats rugby will still be published in 2020, most likely by the end of April. MSP will share more about the launch and how to purchase in due course.

Wellington Archdiocese Youth Ministry

We have suspended all young church gatherings organised by Young Church Ministries' office until further notice.

We will be regularly updating our facebook page 'Young Church - Archdiocese of Wellington' where all our events are advertised.

Look after each other and stay safe! Marian Lima, Danielle Webb, and Chris Duthie-Jung - Young Church Ministries.

Palmerston North Diocese

Gatherings organised by Young Church Ministries are cancelled until further notice.

Our Lady's Home of Compassion services and spaces closed

The Heritage Centre exhibitions, Chapel, Resting Place and Cloister Café are closed until further notice. The Retreat House is closed until 1 May 2020.

The Spirituality Programme events are cancelled: Encounter with Mercy (1 April); The Way of the Cross (10 April); Poetry and Prayer with Anne Powell (16 May).

The following services and events are postponed until further notice: Christian

Meditation, Mondays 7pm, Thursdays 8.30am; Quiet Days, 2nd Thursday of the month, 10am-2pm; Taizé services, First Friday of the month, 7pm; Sunday Miha, 11am; One-day Retreat - 'All Creeds and None' (6 June); Two-day Retreat - 'Art, Action and Contemplation' (3-5 July)

Please check www.compassion.org.nz and www.facebook.com/sistersofcompassion for updates.

Sometimes everyone just needs a break...

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A respite break can be paid for privately or may qualify for subsidy by the District Health Board.

Sue Delahunt, the manager, will be pleased to answer any questions about respite and Vincentian Home. Give Sue a call, or make an appointment to see her.

04 380 0294

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Vincentian is owned and operated by the Wellington Catholic Homes Trust and welcomes all spiritual denominations.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 5 April – Palm Sunday.

Sunday 5 April-10 April – Holy Week.

Friday 10 April – Good Friday.

Sunday 12 April – Easter Sunday, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Saturday 25 April – Anzac Day, National Day of Remembrance.

Tuesday 28 April – Feast of St Peter Chanel, Pro-Martyr of Oceania, Patron Saint of Oceania.

PUBLICITY OFFICER REQUIRED

Voluntary Position

The Catholic Women's League of Aotearoa New Zealand requires a National Publicity Officer. This position would suit an individual able to create and maintain our website, prepare publicity material and edit our national newsletter.

For a full job description please reply to: Christine Paterson, Archdiocesan President, 021 303 808, chrispatcwl@gmail.com

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A FAITH RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The coronavirus outbreak is stirring up anxiety, confusion, and major inconveniences. It is a situation in which we can easily overreact or underreact. How can our faith guide and comfort us through this troubling time?

A good starting point is to remember the often-repeated phrase in Scripture: ‘Do not be afraid!’ or ‘Have no Fear!’. God probably sends us this message frequently because fear is such a big part of human nature. Fear can alert us to dangers in our lives to keep us safe, but fear can also lead us astray, towards selfish responses.



**“Don’t Be Afraid,
Just Believe.”**

– MARK 5:35

Enough for Everyone

We see these same dynamics play out in Scripture, where fear leads to hoarding. When the Israelites are in the desert without food (Exodus 16), God rains down manna from heaven but also cautions them to take only what they need for now. They disobey but find that the food they attempt to store away goes bad immediately.

The consistent message in Scripture is that we need to trust in God, who will provide enough for everyone. The problems begin when people take more than they need.

Fear of the coronavirus has caused some to stockpile and hoard unreasonable amounts of hand sanitisers, face masks, toilet paper, tissues and other supplies against recommendations of leaders. This wipes out supplies for those who truly need them most – healthcare workers and those more vulnerable to the disease – without making the buyers safer.

Protect the Vulnerable

Scripture and Church social teachings remind us again and again that we – as individuals and a society – must protect and give priority to those who are most vulnerable and at risk. We see this from the laws in the Old Testament that looked out for the poor and the widows, to Jesus’ embrace of people on the margins of society, to the early church’s adamant support of those who had less. Scripture urges us to put those who are most at risk first.

In the midst of Covid-19, the vulnerable take many forms. Most obvious are those who are elderly or have other health conditions that make them most susceptible to illness. If we help pass on the virus, it can be a life-or-death situation for others. Others are financially vulnerable and that puts them in an even more difficult situation if they become ill; and the situation is impacting many who already may be on shaky financial ground.

A Spirit of Sacrifice

This health crisis is challenging all of us to make sacrifices in our lives. Some are huge, such as those made by exhausted healthcare workers around the world, desperately trying to keep patients alive, while avoiding the illness themselves.

Other sacrifices fall into the category of inconveniences – cancelled events, school closures, and lockdown. It is inconvenient to wash our hands intentionally and regularly.

But this kind of sacrifice is at the very centre of our faith. Every time we gather around the Lord’s Table, we celebrate the powerful way Christ showed us how to love others. He sacrificed everything in self-giving love for us, and he invited us to do the same. In turn, we die to ourselves – through inconvenience and more – in order to love those around us. Truly loving will always cost us something.

We may grumble about changing our habits, but we need to remember that many of these actions are more about protecting others. Perhaps the invitation amidst this crisis is to embrace the inconveniences fully, and then move beyond them to seek out the best way to serve those who are most in need.

Loving Our Neighbour

Community is essential to us as Christians. We are the Body of Christ, and we know that when two or more gather in Jesus’ name, he is present with us. So it can be hard for us to handle the ‘social distancing’ required of us at this time.

Our call to community is not only in the context of our church but also in the neighbourhood community and we can do this online or over the phone. Be positive in any online neighbourhood communities and find ways to support each other through this crisis.

**“Don’t be Afraid,
Take Courage!
I am here!”**

– MATTHEW 14:27

Living the Virtues

Ultimately as with life in general, we are called to live out the four cardinal virtues.

Prudence – carefully discern the best course of action, not just for ourselves but for the good of all. Ask: What does God want me to take?

Justice – seek fairness for everyone, especially those who need it most. Ask: Who is not getting the help they need?

Temperance – find a healthy balance between selfcare and care for others. Ask: Do I err toward selfishness or an unhealthy co-dependence?

Fortitude – persevere in times of trial and difficulty. Ask: Do I have the courage to do the right thing even when the going gets tough?

What You Can Do

Stop the spread

- **Wash your hands well for at least 20 seconds with soap and water – often.**
- **Avoid touching your face – eyes, nose, mouth.**
- **Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue.**
- **Clean surfaces regularly.**
- **Follow the rules and guidelines of national and local officials.**
- **During New Zealand’s Covid-19 lockdown – stay at home.**

For health advice and information, or people who suspect they have Covid-19, call the dedicated Healthline team on 0800 358 5453 – and phone ahead before visiting a GP clinic or hospital.

Unite against Covid-19
Visit covid19.govt.nz

Pray for all those affected by the crisis.