



GLOBAL SYNOD ON SYNODS

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HE HĪKOI WHAKAPONO



ST THERESA'S CATHOLIC PARISH PLIMMERTON PAGES 10-11

THE YEAR OF ST JOSEPH



TRIBUTES FROM FRIENDS

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Aggie Paulo

Fa'amalosi is the name of the Year 12 Business Studies class at Bishop Viard College in Porirua. This is particularly apt given the meaning of Fa'amalosi – a Samoan term meaning to 'Stand Up' – and the success of the group in Standing Up for their cultures and their own identity through their business.

Fa'amalosi students grew sick and tired of hearing their own names of those of their fellow Māori and Pacific classmates spoken incorrectly by teachers at primary and intermediate schools. Using this as motivation they set about to create an app that would assist teachers with the correct pronunciation of Māori and Pacific names.

Currently, Fa'amalosi have over 800 names on their database from six different cultures: Tokelauan, Kūki Āirani, Kiribati, Te Reo Māori, Samoan and Tongan. These can be accessed by a one-off subscription fee of \$4.99 payable at their website www.faamalosi.com

Since releasing their website at the start of September this year the group has seen a huge surge in interest, appearing on the front page of *The Dominion Post* as well as featuring on TVNZ's *Breakfast* and TV Three's *The Project*.

As a result, co-CEOs Mannfred Sofara and To'e Lokeni have had

Fa'amalosi – Say it Right



Fa'amalosi students at Bishop Viard College have created an app that assists teachers with the correct pronunciation of Māori and Pacific students' names. Year 12 Business Studies class – Fa'amalosi, (l-r): Winter Taape, Chevawn Vaoliko, To'e Lokeni (co-CEO), John Jeffrey Latu, Rico Muasau, Mannfred Sofara (co-CEO), John Paul Ualese Taulalo, Hunter Singh and Noah Isaako. Absent: Ocean Matete-Stehlin.

Photo: Supplied

to quickly get used to being in the limelight. Both boys have received praise for their humble nature, which they put down to their Catholic and Christian upbringings.

These Year 12 entrepreneurs

stand on the shoulders of the Year 12 group from 2020, which also received wide recognition for their business – The Hustle. With an innovative concept to design pasifika-centric drink bottles and

other merchandise, The Hustle won regional and national recognition at the Young Enterprise Awards.

The business studies programme at the college is led by Deputy Principal Gina Lefaoeu. At the regional

awards in 2020, Lefaoeu was named Wellington Teacher of the Year in the Young Enterprise Programme.

Aggie Paulo, Bishop Viard College proprietor representative.

Vatican artworks to go on show in Auckland: 'Michelangelo – A Different View'

A unique exhibition being brought to New Zealand this summer will allow visitors an unprecedented closeness to view powerful reproductions of the works of Michelangelo. The originals adorn the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel at a height of 22 metres.

The six-week exhibition, from late December 2021 at the Aotea Centre in Auckland, will allow visitors the opportunity to take in the breath-taking reproduction of Michelangelo's ceiling frescoes at close range.

Kāpiti-based Stewart and Tricia Macpherson of Stetson Productions are bringing the exhibition to New Zealand.

'Under the license of the Vatican Museums, this exhibit offers the most complete and authentic reproduction of Michelangelo's magnificent ceiling frescoes and the Quattrocento frescoes of the Sistine

Chapel, to be shown outside the Vatican,' says Stewart Macpherson.

The Quattrocento frescoes have adorned the walls of the Sistine Chapel since the 15th century with scenes from the life of Jesus and of Moses painted by Botticelli, Perugino, Ghirlandaio and Rosselli. These impressive frescoes will await visitors at the exhibition entrance.

'The images have been reproduced and transferred to special fabric webs using an advanced technique that allows a true-to-life reproduction,' Stewart Macpherson says. 'The exhibition will enable close-up viewing of the works, which, has so far been given to only a few people.'

A *Different View* consists of four main sections: the Genesis with nine pictures; the heroic tales; the 20 Prophets and Sibyls; and The Last Judgement, which at 3.8 sqm will fill the Aotea Centre gallery.

In his lifetime, Michelangelo was often called Il Divino – the divine one. His contemporaries admired his ability to instil a sense of awe.

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni (1475–1564), known as Michelangelo, was an Italian sculptor, painter, architect and poet of the High Renaissance. Born in Florence, he exerted an unparalleled influence on the development of Western art. Scholars have described Michelangelo as the greatest artist of his age and even as the greatest artist of all time.

The exhibition aims to provide observers with a view of the Florentine genius' technique, which is still setting standards today, as well as to develop a very personal perspective of the depictions and intentions of the artist.

Tickets can be purchased at: ticketmaster.co.nz and details are at: www.stetsongroup.com



Die Delphische Sibylle, c 1509, Michelangelo Buonarroti, 1475–1564. Fresco painted ceiling, Sistine Chapel, Vatican.

Image: Courtesy of Michelangelo – A Different View

From the editor

Annette Scullion

Support Life Sunday this year is celebrated on Sunday 10 October with the theme ‘Supporting and honouring health carers’.

Previously called Respect Life Sunday, the change of name for this date on the Church calendar, has a new emphasis. It reflects the need to live out our commitment to the sacredness of life in deeds as well as words.

Health carers include the many people involved in caring for family members as well as those health professionals supporting and protecting life.

Top of mind are the health carers on the front line responding to the ongoing demands of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Delta variant.

For the last 18 months these carers have been selfless in their dedication and response to try and keep the rest of us safe. While this current environment is hard for all of us, it has been unrelenting for our health carers.

It is our responsibility, individually and collectively, to heed the advice and steps offered by experts to protect ourselves against the virus and in turn support our health carers so as not to overwhelm the health system.

Experts are telling us the vaccination is the best means of protection for ourselves and for preventing the spread of the pandemic, and leaders across all sectors continue to encourage community members to get vaccinated.

Our Catholic bishops have been strong in their support of everyone getting vaccinated to protect ourselves and others. The bishops’ ethics agency, The Nathaniel Centre, and many of our parishes have been very involved in setting up vaccination centres and organising high profile events to reach out and encourage everyone to get vaccinated (pp 5, 8, 9).

Get vaccinated; wear a mask; user the tracer app; stay safe.

We are all the people of God



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

In March 2019, almost immediately after the terrorist attacks on the mosques in Christchurch, in which 51 people were killed and many more injured physically and psychologically, the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, coined the phrase ‘They are us’. She was saying as New Zealand reacted in horror to those attacks, the members of the Muslim community are us. They are New Zealanders. They are part of our community, they are us.

We could use something similar to that phrase when we reflect on the Church. ‘All the baptised

are us. We are all the people of God.’ St Paul says in his letter to the Galatians ‘there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus’ – Galatians 3:28.

We are one, we are the people of God.

Because we are the people of God, because we are the Church, Pope Francis has invited all the baptised throughout the world, to be consulted about the topic ‘For a Synodal Church, communion, participation, mission’. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to pick up something of the vision of the 2nd Vatican Council of almost 60 years ago.

The Vatican has sent all Catholic dioceses throughout the world a document to reflect on, to discuss, to discern. The document is for everyone. The consultation, which is to be coordinated by each local bishop, is addressed ‘to the priests, deacons, and the lay faithful of their churches’. Pope Francis has asked for our participation, along with as many groups and organisations within the Archdiocese and the Diocese of Palmerston North as possible.

The final sentences of the

Preparatory Document conclude by saying: ‘We recall that the purpose of the Synod and therefore of this consultation is not to produce documents but to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands.’

These words say something wonderful about what our Church is, and what it is to continue to become. Would it not be wonderful to describe the Archdiocese of Wellington and the Diocese of Palmerston North as a Church that allows hope to flourish, inspires trust, binds up wounds, weaves together relationships? This is our chance to start something new, this can be a new dawn of hope, where we learn from one another and create bright resourcefulness that enlightens minds, warms hearts gives strength to our hands.

All are invited to participate in the consultation in preparation for this synod. There are 10 themes that we are asked to explore on this journey of walking together, as set out below.

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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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In preparation for the Synod everyone is being asked to explore these 10 themes.

1. **The Journeying Companions** – *in the Church and in society, we are side-by-side on the same road.*

2. **Listening** – *listening is the first step, but it requires having an open mind and heart, without prejudices.*

3. **Speaking Out** – *all are invited to speak with courage and parrhesia (boldness), that is, integrating freedom, truth, and charity.*

4. **Celebrating** – *‘journeying together’ is only possible if it is based on communal listening to the Word.*

5. **Co-responsible in the Mission** – *synodality is at the service of the Church’s mission, in which all her members are called to participate.*

6. **Dialogue in Church and Society** – *dialogue is a path of perseverance that also includes silences and sufferings, but which is capable of gathering the experience of persons and peoples.*

7. **With the other Christian Denominations** – *the dialogue between Christians of different confessions, united by one Baptism, has a special place in the synodal journey.*

8. **Authority and Participation** – *a synodal Church is a participatory and co-responsible Church.*
9. **Discerning and Deciding** – *in a synodal style, decisions are made through discernment, based on a consensus that flows from the common obedience to the Spirit.*

10. **Forming Ourselves in Synodality** – *the spirituality of journeying together becomes an educational principle for the formation of the human person, of the Christian, of families, and of communities.*
- Synod
2021
2023

For a synodal Church
communion | participation | mission

The opening Mass for the Synod of Bishops will be celebrated on **Sunday 17 October**. For the Archdiocese of Wellington, the Mass is 10am, at St Teresa’s Pro-Cathedral, Karori. For the Diocese of Palmerston North, the Mass is 6pm, at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

‘The People of God’

The phrase ‘The People of God’ appears in the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium)* of the 2nd Vatican Council. This document opened the way for a new understanding and theological insights into appreciating what the Church is and who its members are.

When the document was being prepared in the early 1960s it began with a reflection on the Mystery of the Church and then went straight on to speak of the pope and the bishops, the clergy and then the laity. After much thought and discussion those gathered placed the topic of The People of God straight after the discussion on the Mystery of the Church, so that the People of God came first, then pope, bishops,

clergy etc.

The People of God is the promise of full equality and the full inclusion of men and women, lay and ordained, rich and poor, saints and sinners. The Church is us. We are all invited to be part of the synod process that will lead up to the Synod Assembly in 2023.

‘I would love to see hundreds of people involved. It is our journeying together that most effectively shows what the Church really is, people on a journey together, the pilgrim and missionary people of God. Everyone has the opportunity to respond to this consultation that has come from Pope Francis,’ says Cardinal John Dew.

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Global Synod calls us to ‘communion, participation and mission’

The Vatican announced in May that the synod on synodality would open with a diocesan phase lasting from October 2021 to April 2022. A second, continental phase, will take place from September 2022 to March 2023. The third, universal phase will begin at the Vatican in October 2023 with the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, dedicated to the theme: ‘For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission’. Pope Francis has outlined his vision and hopes for the synod, which some Vatican commentators have described as the most significant Catholic event since the Second Vatican Council in 1962-1965.

Pope Francis calls for a Road Trip



Fr Craig Butler
Local Administrator
Diocese of Palmerston North

Pope Francis has spent much of his papacy seeking to renew our Church by reminding us of what’s truly important and challenging us to be Christ’s body here on earth, in new and creative ways. And, he’s doing it again. Earlier this year Francis announced a global synod entitled *‘For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission’*. Synod is a church word that requires defining. Calling on the language skills of Bishop Peter Cullinane, he described it this way, ‘it’s an experience of being *“on the road together”*’. I immediately resonated with this translation because it evokes in me the idea of a *road trip* – being together with friends, sharing good conversations, being open to adventure and working things out as you go along. In this synod, Pope Francis wants us to really listen to one another and the Holy Spirit. In the same way a road trip has a destination, a synod is about going somewhere. Exactly where we are going will become clearer along the way. Pope Francis is pointing us in a direction, knowing the Holy Spirit is

ultimately in charge and, wherever we end up, one thing is for sure, it’s going to be an interesting journey. For those looking for a more precise translation, a synod is a process by which open and honest dialogue is promoted between members of the Church, with the opportunity for every baptised person to have their say and be listened to, in a prayerful and respectful environment, especially those whose voices are seldom heard. Canonically, synods are decision-making tools. As with every journey, in a Church context, being on the road together cannot but help remind us of the Emmaus story, which was and continues to be both transformative and surprising for the disillusioned. St Luke’s telling of this story reminds us, our Lord is with us, even when we don’t recognise him. It’s also a story about walking and talking, about opening hearts and minds and ultimately, making sense of life in the darkness of grief and uncertainty. Here in Palmerston North, we haven’t experienced a synod before, so this is new territory for us. With the blessing of Cardinal John Dew, the Archdiocese of Wellington has generously offered to share with us their experience from their own previous synods. Right now, we are in the process of creating a team to plan and lead our diocese’s involvement. This group will be responsible for resourcing parish communities, promoting the synod and for encouraging maximum participation. Finally, they will bring

our submissions together, which will then be submitted to the next stage of the global synodal process. This particular synodal process is unique, as it is both a global and a local experience. Pope Francis is addressing the whole world and we want to do our very best to respond and involve as many people as possible. Given the expansiveness and importance of this project, we must give of our best.



On common ground – ‘The Road to Emmaus’. Image: Supplied

So, where to from here? While we are at the ‘build’ stage, there is a Vatican website with more information about this whole process at: www.synod.va. Don’t panic about the Church language. All will become clear once we’re on the road. Our diocese will begin the local phase with an **Opening Mass, at 6pm, Sunday 17 October, at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit**. Everyone is welcome to attend. On that day each parish will also mark the beginning of this process during Sunday Eucharist. The actual synodal process will begin locally in November; and in January next year we will hold a pre-synodal meeting with representatives from across the diocese. Pope Francis is reaching out, inviting us to respond. This is an exciting opportunity and a wonderful responsibility for us all as Catholics to answer the Pope’s call to truly listen to one another and share voices from our diocese with our global Church in Rome in 2023. Lastly, and most importantly, this new process will only bear fruit if we make it a prayerful experience and open ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May our good God bless you and your companions on the road.

Synod and the Archdiocese



Chris Duthie-Jung
Director Church Mission

On Sunday, 17 October 2021, Pope Francis invites every Catholic diocese in the world to celebrate the opening of the Synod of Bishops on the theme *‘For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission’*. The word ‘synodality’ means journeying or ‘walking together’. We, ‘the People of God’, are invited to reflect together on what this mutual journey means for us as Church. This call is for every baptised person. In the Archdiocese of Wellington, we have experienced the fruits of synodality, with our most recent Synod taking place in 2017. People in our parishes had the opportunity to participate in a process of discernment, which enabled us to listen to one another, and to reflect on what the Holy Spirit was saying. A similar process is being encouraged here. The Vatican recently released two documents – the ‘Preparatory Document’ and the ‘Official Handbook’. These documents will help us to reflect, listen and share new ideas, energy and creativity. The documents are available online at www.synod.va

Synod’s fundamental question
A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, ‘journeys together’: How is this ‘journeying together’ happening today in your particular Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our ‘journeying together’?

Themes
To help us explore this question, Pope Francis invites us all to reflect on ten themes: The Journeying Companions; Listening; Speaking out; Celebrating; Sharing Responsibility for the Mission; Dialogue in Church and Society; With the other Christian Denominations; Authority and Participation; Discerning and Deciding; Forming Ourselves in Synodality.

Responding
To respond, we are invited to reflect deeply on any experiences the fundamental question calls to mind. Where have we found joy, what difficulties have we encountered? Where, in those experiences, can we hear the voice of the Holy Spirit? What is the Spirit asking of our Church?

Participation
Over the coming weeks, you are being invited to take part in this global synodal journey by taking the time to pray and reflect on the above themes – both individually and with others, and through the detailed information and materials that will be available through parishes, the archdiocesan website and social media pages. **Everyone** is encouraged to take part. People are also encouraged to find creative ways to connect with others in this process, for example with uni friends, coffee groups, family members and friends who may feel disconnected and so on. Submissions can be made online individually or by participating in a group. Please visit wn.catholic.org.nz for more information. The Synod of Bishops **Opening Mass for the Archdiocese of Wellington will be celebrated on Sunday 17 October, 10am, at St Teresa’s Pro-Cathedral, Karori**. Parishes all over the archdiocese will also celebrate the Synod’s opening that weekend.



St Patrick’s College Wellington

New Zealand’s oldest Catholic boys’ college

Congratulations to Zack Kimmins (Plimmerton School) and Nelsson Tiernalu (Tawa Intermediate) who were both awarded Sports Scholarships for Year 9 2022.

The Friends of St Patrick’s College would like to invite members of the College community to attend our Family Mass on Sunday 31 October in the Chapel at 10.00am. Mass will be followed by a light luncheon afterwards in the College staffroom.

St Patrick’s College Senior Prizegiving will be held on Wednesday 10 November at 4.30pm at the Wellington Anglican Cathedral of St Paul, 2 Hill Street, Wellington.

Sectare Fidem – Hold firm to the Faith



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Surge in demand for food parcels

Michael Fitzsimons

The need for assistance from the Society of St Vincent de Paul escalated rapidly during the latest Covid-19 lockdown, especially in Auckland under lockdown Level 4.

St Vincent de Paul Auckland General Manager Del Soti says numbers seeking food packages catapulted from a weekly average of 900 to 2000 during the first weeks of lockdown.

Vinnies in Auckland also support young Aucklanders in the form of a ‘daily virtual chat’ to help them get through lockdown, says Vinnies worker Lupesina Koro.

‘It’s a really heavy time, because a lot of students are struggling with mental health in lockdown,’ says Lupesina. They feel that teachers think that during lockdown they have all the time in the world to study, ‘but for a lot of our students they also have an obligation to their families – to look after siblings, do the feaus [chores], you know, and that can be overwhelming.’

‘We’re catering to about 700 to 800 students each week,’ says youth co-ordinator Reuben To’a. ‘We want them to feel supported and connected, knowing that just

because they’re not in our space, they are still a part of us.’

It’s a lot to take on for a small team of staff and volunteers. The determination of these young volunteers to look after their community never fades, says Del Soti.

‘You see these girls. They’ve barely slept, and they’re not part of our staff, but they’re here at the crack of dawn, and they leave when it’s dark, you know. And they’re still going. We are really proud of them and moved by just who they are.’

The need for assistance from St Vincent de Paul has greatly increased in other parts of the country as well.

In New Plymouth Vincentian Gabrielle Carman reports that within days of the sudden lockdown, requests for food parcels ramped up.

‘We work hand-in-glove with our local foodbank. Thus, there have been numerous trips to the foodbank to pick up and deliver parcels for families who have asked for our help.’

In the first lockdown, Civil Defence was helping with the delivery of food parcels. Not so this time around. Masked and contactless delivery by St Vincent de

Paul volunteers has been standard, and we have seen some new clients this time around.’

As soon as the lockdown level went down, the Vinnies were back on the job, ‘serving the meals in take away boxes, remaining carefully distanced and masked up as we hand out hot boxed meals from the kitchen door,’ says Gabrielle.

The New Plymouth Vinnies also run a Whare Kai programme, which involves weekly cooking sessions in a church hall kitchen, ‘where we provide the ingredients and recipes, then cook healthy meals alongside the Mums of young families. During lockdown the meal ingredients and the recipes were dropped off at people’s homes every week, a bit like My Food Bag – only better!’ says Gabrielle.

In Napier, the St Vincent de Paul St Patrick’s Conference team and the Sacred Heart School Young Vinnies provided food through lockdown to many families from the local Catholic school communities. Young Vinnies, working alongside Vinnies youth workers Paola Minehan and Victoria Vo, packed and delivered the parcels. There was a higher demand for food this lockdown compared with the previous one.

Salvation Army calls for rent freeze as lockdown struggles worsen



Government urged to connect the dots to help families facing food hardship. Image: salvationarmy.org.nz

The Salvation Army has called on the Government to impose a freeze on rent increases, among other measures, to help those most in need as demand for food and housing support skyrockets.

Between mid-August when lockdown began and the first week of September, there was an 84 per cent increase in demand for emergency food parcels, with the rising need concentrated most heavily in south Auckland, says the Army. More than 2200 parcels were distributed across the country in the last week of August alone.

The proposal to freeze rent increases is one of several outlined in the Salvation Army’s second *COVID-19 Lockdown Briefing*, released on 2 September 2021. Since the first lockdown was introduced in March 2020, the number of people waiting for social housing has increased by 8200, and the number of those receiving welfare support has risen by around 45,000.

The briefing illustrates the plight of Kiwis struggling with the stresses of lockdown, including those living in crowded or substandard housing in the private rental market, casual contractors currently unable to work, and sole parent families. There is also a cohort with health or mobility challenges who are struggling to access the essential items they need, as well as those with limited access to the internet or digital devices who are unable to shop online.

‘You’ve got that double combination of lack of income and lack of access to food,’ the Salvation Army’s senior social policy analyst, Paul Barber, told The AM Show.

The Salvation Army says many families rely on the Ministry of Education’s Ka Ora, Ka Ako programme, which provides healthy lunches for school children. But when schools are closed, these families struggle to afford enough food for their tamariki, says the Army.

In the *COVID-19 Lockdown Briefing*, the Salvation Army also calls on the Government to:

- bring forward the implementation of the April 2022 benefit increases with immediate effect
- implement immediate assistance to help families meet rents
- implement a freeze on rent increases, at least for Auckland for the duration of levels 3 and 4 and beyond
- ensure the Ministry of Education is connected and supporting families who usually receive their healthy school lunches programme
- ensure migrant workers have full entitlement to the Emergency Benefit with Ministry of Social Development, following the end of the Manaaki Manuhiri programme.

Catholic bishops generally support bill to ban ‘conversion practices’

The Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand presented their submission on the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill, on 23 September 2021, to Parliament’s Justice Committee.

The bishops’ submission generally supports the aims of the bill as being in line with the Catholic Social Teaching principles of human dignity and common good. But it says parents and advisers to young people should not be restricted in giving advice for fear of breaking the law.

Bishop of Hamilton Stephen Lowe and National Centre for Religious Studies resource developer and lecturer Lyn Smith spoke to the committee by Zoom on behalf of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops’ Conference (NZCBC).

The bill would ban practices that seek to change or suppress a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. The Justice Committee received more than 100,000 submissions on the bill.

The bishops’ submission says: ‘The Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand does not support, provide or participate in any kind of “conversion therapy”, by which we understand to be any programme that seeks by medical, psychological and/or spiritual means to “convert” people from a homosexual or transgender orientation or identification towards a heterosexual one. Evidence shows that such programmes cause harm and suffering. Any harmful, coercive or abusive practice under any name is abhorrent to the Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.’

It adds: ‘We would not wish to see parents and advisers to young people restricted in giving advice consistent with both moral theology



The screen of the Justice Committee Zoom meeting with Lyn Smith and Bishop Lowe in attendance. Image: Supplied

and Catholic Social Teaching out of fear of being seen to be breaking the law.’

Lyn Smith told the Justice Committee that Catholic teaching was pastoral and promoted the dignity of the human person made in the image and likeness of God: ‘Children and young people seek out those in their lives they feel comfortable talking to when it comes to matters regarding sexuality. The Church’s pastoral approach to this area, especially under the guidance of Pope Francis and our bishops here in New Zealand, means that staff in Catholic education need to feel safe in continuing to provide this vital support to children and young people without the risk of or fear of prosecution.’

Bishop Lowe, who is also secretary and vice-president of NZCBC, told the committee that ‘conversion therapy’ did not respect a young person’s sacred journey from childhood to adulthood and that was why the Catholic Church

supported the legislation.

‘At the same time, I would like to say...that I am concerned that there are many influences our society is putting on our rangatahi (young people), which are sexualising them far too young and encouraging them to make big decisions before they have adequately come to adulthood,’ Bishop Lowe said.

A copy of the statement is on the bishops’ website: tinyurl.com/NZBishops-Submission or: www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/NZCBC-submission-on-the-Conversion-Practices-Prohibition-Legislation-Bill.pdf

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Photos: Supplied

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covid19.govt.nz

The infographic is set against a background of diagonal yellow and white stripes at the top. It features three circular icons on a yellow background. The first circle shows a light blue surgical mask. The second circle shows a gloved hand holding a syringe. The third circle shows a smartphone with a Bluetooth symbol and a radar icon, with the text 'NZ COVID TRACER APP' at the bottom. The title 'UNITE AGAINST COVID-19' is at the top, and the website 'covid19.govt.nz' is at the bottom.

Pope warns of ‘self-absorption’



Pope Francis, flanked by Slovakian President Zuzana Caputova, attends a welcoming ceremony at the presidential palace in Bratislava, Slovakia.
Photo: Gregorio Borgia/AP

Christianity is a relic that no longer speaks to many people nor affects the way they live their lives, Pope Francis said during his four-day pastoral visit to Slovakia, in Central Europe, September 12–15, 2021. It was the fourth papal visit to that country and the first by a pope in 18 years.

Pope Francis made the comments to Catholic Church clergy and lay leaders in St Martin’s Cathedral, Bratislava. Christianity is the predominant religion in Slovakia and more than 60 per cent of the population are Catholic.

‘The centre of the Church is not the Church itself’, the Pope said encouraging the leaders to avoid

‘self-absorption’ and attempts to ‘make ourselves look good.’

Francis urged the leaders to foster dialogue with both believers and those who do not believe.

‘How great is the beauty of a humble Church, a Church that does not stand aloof from the world, viewing life with a detached gaze, but lives her life within the world,’ he said.

‘Living within the world, let us not forget: sharing, walking together, welcoming people’s questions and expectations. This will help us to escape from our self-absorption, for the centre of the Church...is not the Church.’

Warning against becoming

nostalgic for the past or defending Church structures, Francis said, ‘We have to leave behind undue concern for ourselves, for our structures and for what society thinks about us’.

Pope Francis said the Church throughout Europe must face the challenges in front of it and find ‘new languages for handing on the Gospel’, asking, ‘Isn’t this perhaps the most urgent task facing the Church?’

He went on to praise a Church that leaves room ‘for the adventure of freedom’, rather than ‘becoming rigid and self-enclosed’.

‘A Church that has no room for the adventure of freedom, even in the spiritual life, risks becoming rigid and self-enclosed. Some people may be used to this.

‘But many others – especially the younger generations – are not attracted by a faith that leaves them no interior freedom, by a Church in which all are supposed to think alike and blindly obey.’

During his visit, the Pope went out of his way to embrace the most excluded members of society, visiting a homeless shelter and the impoverished Roma minority in Slovakia’s far east.

His trip also included a brief stop-over in Budapest where he closed the 52nd Eucharistic Congress.

Sources: Catholic News Agency, La Croix

Christian leaders issue stark warning on environmental sustainability



Christian leaders (l-r) Archbishop Justin Welby, Pope Francis, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew have issued an unprecedented joint declaration warning of the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on poverty, and the importance of global cooperation.
Photo: ctni.org.uk

The leaders of the Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Anglican Communion have jointly warned of the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on poverty, and the importance of global cooperation.

It is the first time the three faith leaders have felt ‘compelled to address together the urgency of environmental sustainability’.

In an unprecedented joint declaration, Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the Orthodox church, and the archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who is the leader of the global Anglican communion, call on the world population – ‘whatever their beliefs or worldview’ – to ‘listen to the cry of the Earth and of people who are poor’.

Issued at the start of the Season of Creation | Creation Time, 1 September to 4 October 2021, their statement says: ‘Today, we are paying the price [of the climate emergency]... Tomorrow could be worse.’ It concludes: ‘This is a critical moment. Our children’s future and the future of our common home depend on it.’

The faith leaders have asked people to pray for world leaders ahead of UN COP26, the global environment summit to be held in Glasgow in early November 2021, and for individuals to make ‘meaningful sacrifices for the sake

of the planet, working together and taking responsibility for how we use our resources’.

People with ‘far-reaching responsibilities’ should lead the transition to just and sustainable economies.

They said, ‘We stand before a harsh justice: biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change are the inevitable consequences of our actions, since we have greedily consumed more of the Earth’s resources than the planet can endure.

‘But we also face a profound injustice: the people bearing the most catastrophic consequences of these abuses are the poorest on the planet and have been the least responsible for causing them.’

The world is ‘already witnessing the consequences of our refusal to protect and preserve [the planet]. Now, in this moment, we have an opportunity to repent, to turn around in resolve, to head in the opposite direction. We must pursue generosity and fairness in the ways that we live, work and use money, instead of selfish gain.’

For the sake of today’s children, ‘we must choose to eat, travel, spend, invest and live differently, thinking not only of immediate interest and gains but also of future benefits. We repent of our generation’s sin.’

Sources: The Guardian, Episcopal News Service

‘Laudato si’ inspires young adults to take action

It was after reading Pope Francis’ encyclical, ‘Laudato si’, on *Care for Our Common Home*, that Emily Burke began wondering what she, as a student at Jesuit-run Creighton University, could do to help protect the environment.

‘I was really energised,’ Burke recalled after reading the teaching document. ‘That message informed my time at Creighton.’

She became involved in a student-led campaign to convince university trustees to divest school resources from fossil fuel companies. The work, rooted in Church teaching, led school officials to announce on 31 December 2020, that full divestment would occur within a decade.

Burke and other students had something to celebrate and realised their generation could make a difference.

After graduating from Creighton, Burke, 22, is ready to turn the Pope’s teaching into a career as she begins doctoral studies in community and environmental sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

She is among a growing cadre of young adults who have been inspired by Pope Francis’ calls to understand the integral connection between people and the Earth, care for creation and the harmful effects of climate change on all life.

Burke’s role in the divestment movement led to an invitation to be a leader of the young adult track during the Catholic Climate Covenant’s second biennial *Laudato si’* and the US Catholic Church’ conference in July. The conference saw more than 2,700 participants join a series of online programmes to learn more about



People rally at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, calling for the Jesuit-run school to fully divest from fossil fuels.
Photo: Emily Burke/CNS

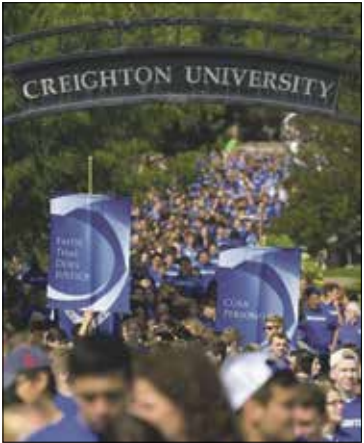
how to bring the encyclical’s teaching on climate change into the US church.

‘It’s excited a lot of people who were at the conference to realise that there’s a mass of young people who are trying to move the needle on climate within the Catholic context,’ Burke said of the three-day online conference.

The interest and energy expressed by young adults is understandable, said Dan Misleh, executive director of the Catholic Climate Covenant. ‘Young people are concerned about the future,’ he said.

The Catholic climate group is looking to tap that energy by encouraging young people to ‘challenge their own parish and diocesan leaders to listen to them and their concerns and to take creation care as seriously as the science demands,’ Misleh said.

He also expressed hope that the



work on environmental concerns can be an evangelizing tool directed at young adults by helping them understand they can ‘fix their future with their faith.’

Sources: Catholic News Service, Crux Now

Beatification of ‘the smiling Pope’ likely



The beatification of Albino Luciano, better known as Pope John Paul I, could finally be green-lighted with the approval of a miracle that has been presented of a scientifically inexplicable healing of an Argentine girl. An article published in Italian newspaper *Avvenire* said the beatification process has reached the final stage and has just one more hurdle to face with the final approval of the miracle. Albino Luciano, ‘the smiling Pope’ was found dead the morning of 30 September 1978, just 33 days after his election. His cause for canonisation formally opened in November 2003, 25 years after his death, and was formally submitted to the Vatican in October 2016.

Photo: L’Osservatore Romano/CNS

Pope Francis: ‘I have never denied the Eucharist to anyone.’

The debate about denying Communion to politicians who support abortion must be handled in a pastoral way, not by public condemnations that seek to ‘excommunicate’ Catholics who are not in line with church teaching, Pope Francis has said.

During his return flight from Slovakia in September, the Pope said that while there is no question that ‘abortion is homicide’, bishops must take a pastoral approach rather than wade into the political sphere.

‘If we look at the history of the Church, we can see that every time bishops did not act like shepherds when dealing with a problem, they aligned themselves with political life, on political problems,’ he said.

The Pope told journalists that when defending a principle, some bishops act in a way ‘that is not pastoral’ and ‘enter the political sphere.’

‘And what should a shepherd do? Be a shepherd. Not go around condemning,’ the Pope added. ‘They must be a shepherd, in God’s style, which is closeness, compassion and tenderness.’

The Pope said he preferred not to comment directly on the issue of denying Communion



Pope Francis answers questions from journalists aboard his flight from Bratislava, Slovakia, to Rome, 15 September 2021. Photo: Paul Haring/CNS

in the United States, ‘because I do not know the details; I am speaking of the principle’ of the matter.

Seventy five percent of US bishops recently approved the drafting of a document on eucharistic coherence. During long discussions on the document, several bishops specifically pointed to President Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, who are Catholic, for not actively seeking to end legal abortion, and they said such politicians should be denied Communion.

When asked if he had ever publicly denied Communion to someone, Pope Francis emphatically said, ‘No, I have never denied the Eucharist to anyone; to anyone! I don’t know if someone came to me under these conditions, but I have never refused them the Eucharist, since the time I was a priest.’

But, he added, ‘I was never aware of anyone in front of me under those conditions that you mentioned.’

Source: Catholic News Service

Religious safely exit Afghanistan

Four Missionaries of Charity nuns and two Indian Jesuit priests stranded in trouble-torn Afghanistan after the Taliban took control have been moved to safety. ‘Our four nuns have been shifted out of Afghanistan and are safe,’ said Sr Christy, based in Kolkata, the headquarters of the congregation. Two Indian Jesuit have returned to India from Afghanistan. Since they arrived in Afghanistan in 2002, the Jesuits trained more than 300 young teachers, helping the education of more than 25,000 young boys and girls in four provinces.

Five nuns die from Covid-19

Six nuns from the convent of the Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Family of Mary congregation in Curitiba, Brazil, died in less than a week, five of them from Covid-19. Other nuns at the convent also came down with the illness and some were admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). Sr Madalena Ryndack of the Curitiba convent said the sisters don’t know how the virus got into the convent. ‘There was an outbreak, an almost uncontrollable situation, but we managed to take care of the sisters and we are coming out of this situation,’ she said.

Bishops sorry for treatment of ingenious children

Canada’s Catholic bishops have expressed their ‘profound remorse’ for the treatment of Canada’s indigenous population at the network of resident schools the Church ran across the country. Their move came months after the discovery of more than 1000 unmarked graves at the sites of three schools the Church operated as part of Canada’s forced assimilation programme. ‘We acknowledge the suffering experienced in Canada’s Indian residential schools,’ the bishops said following a plenary meeting in Cornwall, Ontario.

Pell trial a ‘vendetta’ by police, prosecutors

Jesuit Fr Frank Brennan, an Australian writer and legal scholar, says he believes the proceedings against Cardinal Pell were the result of a political vendetta against the prelate. According to Fr Brennan, Victoria’s policing and criminal justice systems erred so seriously in relation to Cardinal George Pell that it shows not even victims of abuse or bona fide complainants, let alone an accused person like the cardinal, could rely on them. The law professor and rector of Newman College at the University of Melbourne attended key parts of Cardinal Pell’s trials and appeals and had access to court transcripts. In April he published a book entitled ‘Observations on the Pell proceedings’.

Pope sends ice-creams to prisoners

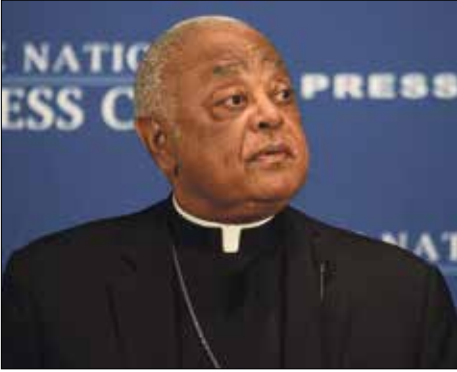
Pope Francis sent 15,000 ice-creams to prisoners to help them cool down during what has been one of the hottest summers on record in Italy. The ice-creams were delivered to Rome’s two prisons. The Vatican said the donation was among one of several ‘small evangelical gestures’ made during the [European] summer ‘to help and give hope to thousands of people in Rome’s prisons’.

Biden ‘not demonstrating Catholic teaching’

The Archbishop of Washington clarified the Church’s teaching on when life begins, after Catholic President Joe Biden had said life does not begin at conception.

‘The Catholic Church teaches, and has taught, that life – human life – begins at conception,’ said Cardinal Wilton Gregory at a luncheon of the National Press Club, in Washington, DC.

‘So, the president is not demonstrating Catholic teaching,’ he added.



Cardinal Wilton Gregory of Washington speaks at the US National Press Club, in September.

President Joe Biden has recently said he did not ‘agree’ that life begins at conception.

‘I have been and continue to be a strong supporter of Roe v. Wade,’ he said at the White House, answering a reporter’s question on abortion. ‘I respect them – those who believe life begins at the moment of conception and all – I respect that. Don’t agree, but I respect that,’ he said.

Biden’s comments were a departure from previous statements of his on when life begins. In a 2008 interview as a vice-presidential candidate, and again at a 2012 vice-presidential debate, Biden said he believed life begins at conception.

Gregory addressed reporters and members of the public at a National Press Club Headliners Luncheon on September 8, 2021. After delivering remarks on journalism, Gregory took questions on various issues including abortion, Covid-19 vaccines, race and the Catholic Church, the clergy sex abuse crisis, the death penalty, and workers’ rights.

When asked if the Church has recently ‘softened’ its teaching on abortion, Cardinal Gregory said the Church’s teaching has not changed.

‘Our Church has not changed its position

on the immorality of abortion, and I don’t see how we could, because we believe that every human life is sacred. Every human life is sacred,’ he said.

Cardinal Gregory went on to refer to the ‘consistent life ethic’ of his mentor, the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago. Gregory served as auxiliary bishop of Chicago from 1983–1994.

‘Life issues are linked,’ he said. ‘They’re not at the same level. There are life issues that are predominant.

The conception of a child is the first life concern,’ he said, adding that ‘those life issues have to extend to all the other moments of human existence as well,’ such as to prisoners, immigrants, the elderly, and people with handicaps.

‘Is he [Bernardin] saying that a prisoner that has been found guilty of multiple criminal behaviour – is he to be equated with an infant in the womb who is just trying to live or to be born, literally? Oh no, he’s not saying that,’ Gregory noted. ‘He’s saying they are linked, not because they are the same, but they are linked because they are all human.’

Sources: Catholic News Agency, NCR Online

Seniors to be valued, not discarded

Older people are not ‘leftovers’ to be discarded, Pope Francis said in the homily he wrote for the Mass marking the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

‘Let us ask ourselves, “Have I visited my grandparents, my elderly relatives, the older people in my neighbourhood? Have I listened to them? Have I spent time with them?”’ the Pope said in his homily, which was read aloud at the Mass by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelisation.

‘Let us protect them, so that nothing of their lives and dreams may be lost. May we never regret that we were insufficiently attentive to those who loved us and gave us life,’ the homily said.

The Mass, 25 July 2021, was celebrated in St Peter’s Basilica with about 2,000 people in attendance, including multi-generational families, older people and their caregivers. Pope Francis, who had colon surgery in early July, did not preside over the Mass as he was still convalescing from his surgery.

‘Grandparents and the elderly are not leftovers from life, scraps to be discarded. They are a precious source of nourishment,’ the Pope wrote in the homily.



Mass in St Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican on July 25, marking the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Photo: CNS/Vatican Media

‘They protected us as we grew, and now it is up to us to protect their lives, to alleviate their difficulties, to attend to their needs and to ensure that they are helped in daily life and not feel alone.’

The Pope asked people to reconnect with older people, to visit or call and ‘listen to them and never discard them. Let us cherish them and spend time with them. We will be

the better for it, young and old alike,’ he wrote.

‘Our grandparents, who nourished our own lives, now hunger for our attention and our love; they long for our closeness. Let us lift up our eyes and see them, even as Jesus sees us,’ the Pope wrote.

Sources: Catholic News, Vatican News

‘Thermals for Children 2021’

**Suzanne Rose and
Lee Pepping**

‘Thermals for Children’ is an annual project run by The Catholic Parish of Hastings’ Environmental, Social Justice committee. Parishioners Mary and Peter Fama initiated the project several years ago to provide sets of thermal clothing through schools in the Hastings area, to help keep children warm during the winter months. The project has been running every year since and this year, we completed distribution of the thermals in June before winter set in.

The sets of thermals consist of track-pants and a merino or a thermal long-sleeved top. Every year the number of sets we distribute increases. This year has been very successful with 28 schools in Flaxmere, Hastings and Havelock North involved.

Most schools received up to 50 sets and two schools received the

thermals for all of their students. We were able to double the orders for tops for some of the lower decile schools. In total, 2,200 tops and 1,160 track-pants were donated to help keep the children warm.

The funding for Thermals for Children is supported by Catholic Charities and several other agencies. And it is greatly boosted by The Catholic Parish of Hastings parishioners’ generosity, who are deeply committed to this project.

When the clothing is delivered, we include a letter and a brief feedback form to help ensure our project stays relevant. Here are some of the we comments received.

– ‘Thanks so much for the thermals, the kids are wearing them and loving them.’

– ‘Our tamariki thought it was Christmas, some have never owned a thermal, let alone a new one.’

– ‘The kid’s faces lit up when we gave them the warm clothes.’

– ‘Cosy, warm, dry kids are ready to learn.’



This year, four Young Vinnies from St Mary’s Catholic School helped organisers to sort and pack the clothing, for delivery to schools.

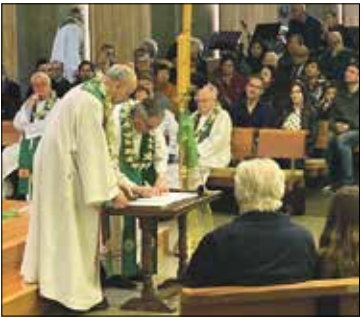
Photo: Supplied

History made for Church in Wellington Central

The Catholic community in the centre of Wellington underwent a significant change on Sunday 1 August 2021. The former parish of St Joseph’s in Mt Victoria officially ceased to be part of the Catholic Parish of Wellington South to become part of the Wellington Central Parish of St Mary of the Angels.

The celebration began at St Joseph’s Church at 9am with Mass led by Cardinal John Dew and concelebrated with priests from both Wellington South, and St Mary of the Angels and the Society of Mary. Cardinal John acknowledged St Joseph’s recent history in the Wellington South Parish and formally enacted the incorporation of St Joseph’s Church into the Parish of St Mary of the Angels.

The liturgy was a beautiful simple celebration of two communities coming together on pilgrimage of hope and promise of new life as one faith community in Wellington Central.



Photos: Supplied


St Francis de Sales, Covid-19 vaccination centre

John Holden

From late August, the Parish of Wellington South was pleased to make available the Hall facilities at St Francis de Sales as a community vaccination centre in Island Bay. Each day, members of the public who had registered for a vaccine appointment, were welcomed into the newly refurbished hall for their inoculation to be administered. The parish was delighted the refurbishment of the St Francis de Sales facilities, completed last summer, meant the church’s ‘beacon of hope’ bell tower could be a focus for the community as part of this contribution to the government’s Covid-19 response.



A health worker from the Island Bay Medical Centre outside St Francis de Sales Hall, which has been used as a community vaccination centre.



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The Church Mission team is responsible for reaching and engaging with communities to disseminate information, to share the stories of our journey, to identify ways that everyone can get involved and to provide formation and learning opportunities. In order to enhance the team’s communication effectiveness, the role of Communications Consultant has recently been established. Reporting to the Director Church Mission, and actively contributing as a key member of the Church Mission team, you will:

- provide creative communications ideas and solutions to support the communications plan;
- coordinate development of content for various Archdiocesan media platforms, implement new communication initiatives and ensure that platforms and messages are maintained to a high level of visibility, response and effectiveness;
- demonstrate communications and design experience, have good writing skills and possess in-depth understanding of tools and systems, especially digital media technologies;
- demonstrate well-developed interpersonal skills, the ability to coach others in developing their communications approaches and cultural sensitivity in regards tikanga Māori, Pasifika communities and other cultural groups;
- have an awareness of, and a commitment to, the principles espoused by the Catholic Church.


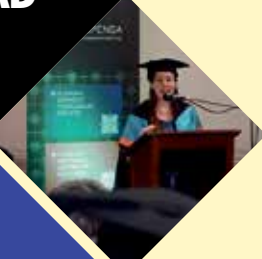
This communications role is both challenging and varied. You will be supported and encouraged to play a key role in ensuring the Archdiocese’s communications profile is both best practice and effective.


Call Chris Duthie-Jung on 021 0230 5149 for more information or email your resume and short cover letter by 29 October 2021 to: c.duthie-jung@wn.catholic.org.nz

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Community initiatives encourage vaccination

Pasifika leaders and health providers have been encouraging members of their communities and specific ethnic groups to get Covid-19 vaccination rates up and help save lives. They have been finding new and innovative ways to try to make a difference through education and campaigns to address some of the misinformation and fears that have potentially harmful outcomes for people.

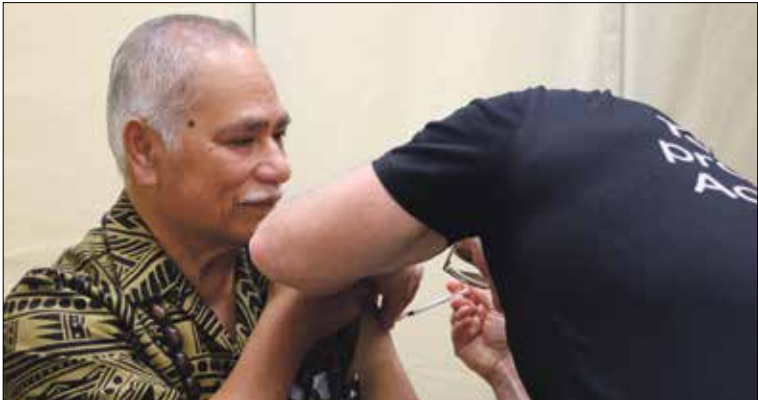
In Auckland, door-to-door testing teams have been talking to people at homes and at church sites about the situation and drive-through testing and vaccination centres have been set up in many areas around the country to reach out to as many people as possible.

Melania Luka-Lui, Pasifika community liaison officer with Te Kupenga – The Catholic Leadership Institute, has been at the centre of the initiatives in Wellington, working with the Pacific Health Directorate and the Capital and Coast District Health Board. Building on her involvement with the Catholic Parish of Wellington South's St Anne's community church vaccination events, Melania was heavily involved in the Pasifika vaccination event at the ASB Stadium on 1 September.

'Over 550 people were vaccinated on the day, and the majority were Pasifika,' said Melania. 'Most were family bubbles of four to eight people. Distancing was exercised and taped out and the set up was very good with the idea of minimal-to-no cross contamination of those vaccinated with those waiting. Support providers were there to help families and church and



Mrs Sulita Mareko-Tuliloa is supported by her daughter Rosa Malae at the vaccination centre, St Anne's, Newtown. Photos: Supplied



Seumanu Va'a Robertson receives the Covid-19 vaccination.

community leaders were also present,' she said.

'TV and radio news coverage of the event further helped to encourage Pasifika to get vaccinated. And the support from the Church for our Catholic communities and other various groups involved, helped to give assurance to the community.

'The highlight was the amount of large, family-cluster bubbles with their young ones leading in with

their parents and grandparents, as well as the Pasifika health providers and community leaders who participated. The day was a fun and supportive atmosphere for all who visited.

'I was there from 8am until 5.30pm and although we didn't meet the 1000 mark, we were over halfway,' said Melania.

Everyone in Aotearoa-New Zealand aged 12 and over is eligible for the free Covid-19 vaccination.

Overwhelming response to Afghan appeal

When Wellington Catholic Social Services (CSS) appealed in early September for help with housing, furniture and household items to support Afghan evacuees coming to Wellington, they had little idea of how the community would respond. But the overwhelming volume of donations of clothing and furniture has meant CSS has had to close its appeal for furniture and goods.

Thanking people for their contributions, CSS said they didn't have the capacity to manage and store any additional items. 'We are moved and humbled by the outpouring of support and generosity from so many people. We should have known!'

As soon as Wellington moved to level two, CSS arranged for pickup of the donated items by two teams of young people from Arise Church in the Hutt Valley and St Vincent de Paul. Then teams of volunteers based at the former St Bernard's Church in Brooklyn unpacked, sorted, folded and prepared household packs.

CSS is also working closely with Red Cross and Changemakers Refugee Forum, an organisation that works with New Zealanders from refugee backgrounds, through advocacy, research and

community-development activities. Changemakers' general manager, Jacqs Wilton, said the families here in New Zealand have been overwhelmed with worry, initially about getting their loved ones safely here, then how they will manage once they arrive.

Batool Arif, who works at Changemakers as a community advocate, said, 'We are so grateful for the aroha and donations. They will make a big difference to the settlement of our new Afghan families who have left everything behind to find a safe place in Aotearoa. Having this support helps the Afghan Kiwis to know they are not alone in this challenging time. Thank you!'

CSS will ensure the donated goods will be distributed to the refugees on their arrival in Wellington. CSS is still looking for support to find suitable housing for the Afghan families. If you can help, please contact CSS community facilitator Paul Alsford at: refugees@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz

CSS also welcomes any financial donations, which can be made by going to their website: <https://wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz/>

>> Wellington Catholic Social Services profiled, p 14.



Hutt Valley Arise Church youth volunteers. Photo: Supplied

New safeguarding adviser for Archdiocese

Sr Catherine Jones smsm, has been appointed the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Adviser, effective from 1 September 2021, Cardinal John Dew recently announced. Sr Catherine was Cardinal John's projects assistant for many years

and Chair of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Committee for Interfaith Relations before she left in 2016, to take a up a position with the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary in London and more recently in Lyon, France.

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State of the Environment

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand released, on 4 October, its annual environmental Indicators on environmental change and concern across the Pacific, and its Statement on the Environment for Oceania (SEFO) with its Indicators on extreme weather, rising seas and coastal erosion, food and water, offshore mining and drilling, and climate finance. The SEFO Indicators have formed a key part of the series of Caritas' environmental reports over the last seven years and they provide a further snapshot of impacts across the Oceania region. caritas.org.nz

"I see the Church as a field hospital after battle."

POPE FRANCIS

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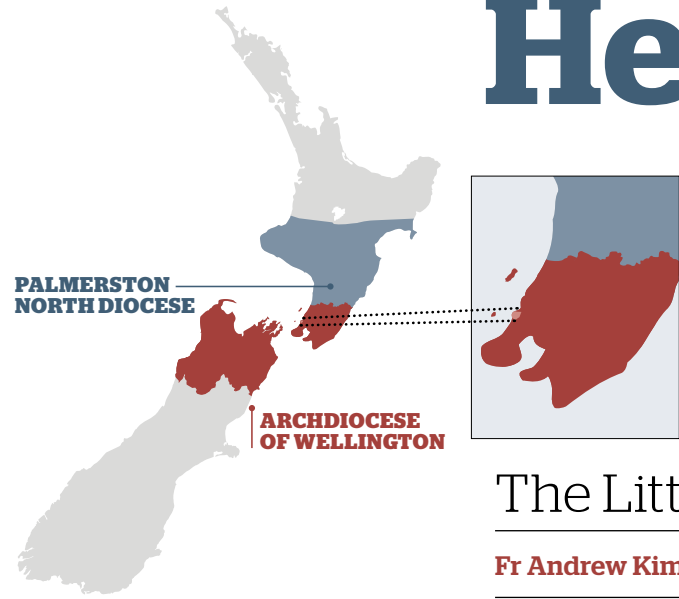
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BRIEF PARISH HISTORY

1844: Ōtaki Mission established.
1850: Catholic families settled in Pāuatahanui area for farming, logging, boat building.
1850: Fr Jean Baptist Comte sm from Ōtaki Mission, performed two baptisms at Pāuatahanui. Small community tended by Marist priests from Ōtaki until 1854.
1854–74: Catholic community under care of priests based in Thorndon, Frs Seon and John Baptist Petitjean sm.
1874–90s: Priests from Lower Hutt and Petone, came on horseback over Haywards Hill bridle track. Mass and Catechism in homes.
1876: Land purchased for church by four local farmers at £5 each.
1878: Small wooden church built in Pāuatahanui, consecrated by Bishop Redwood as Church of The Sacred Heart of Jesus. Accommodated up to 70 people.
1885: Main trunk rail north laid connecting area to Wellington and Foxton opening up area to growth.
1890: First wedding at church, David Bourke and Alice Abbott. Suzanne Aubert stayed at Abbott family homestead ‘The Grange’, during her travels.
1894: Church re-opened by Archbishop Redwood after upgrade and extensions, renamed St Joseph’s.
1920: Fr O’Donnell of Lower Hutt parish, said first Mass at Plimmerton, at State school. Travelled by motorbike, for many years he and Fr Land had driven out by horse and gig.
1922: Catholic community under care of Fr Michael Griffin, Johnsonville’s first parish priest. Plimmerton-Pāuatahanui association formed, until 1936.
1931: St Theresa’s Church Plimmerton built, within Johnsonville parish. Cost £1700. Plimmerton State school previously used as Mass centre.
1932: First Catholic ball in district held at Pāuatahanui Assembly Hall.
1940: St Theresa’s Parish established. Boundaries included Pāuatahanui, Pukerua Bay, Porirua and Titahi Bay – eventually became three new parishes.
1940: Fr Jeremiah McGrath of Ireland, first parish priest, until 1952. No presbytery, slept in vestry.
1941: Presbytery built, cost £1500, helped by Oswald Murphy estate.
1942: Arrival of US Marines during WW2, stationed at Judgeford and Pāuatahanui, swelled congregation at St Joseph’s.
1945+: Post-war prosperity resulted in new subdivisions and settlements, growth in parishioner numbers. Fr McGrath ambitions for parish school.
1949: Parish school built, opened by Archbishop O’Shea. Cost £8000. Fr McGrath welcomed Sr Rose (superioress) and Srs Vianney and Fabian, of Congregation of Congregation of Joseph of Nazareth. Opening roll 51 pupils, quickly increased.
1951: House opposite school purchased for convent.
1963: Planned-giving introduced. Parish built school swimming pool, church hall, connecting foyer, side chapel and new presbytery.
1968: St Vincent de Paul Society established Plimmerton branch.
1975: Schools Integration law passed.
1977: Sisters of St Joseph of Nazareth ended role at St Theresa’s School.
1978: St Joseph’s Church, Pāuatahanui, centenary.
1980s–90s: Pacific Island communities, new ethnic groups and refugee settlers grow multi-cultural parish.
1988–89; 1998–99: Archdiocese Synods, ‘maintenance oriented’; and ‘directed to mission’. Involved and transformed parish.
1999: St Theresa’s School 50th jubilee.
2000: St Theresa’s Parish 60th jubilee.



This month we visit St Theresa’s Catholic Parish Plimmerton, situated in the northwest part of Porirua City, on SH1 about 20 minutes’ drive from Wellington, and adjacent to the main trunk railway line. Steeped in Māori history and settlement, and surrounded by farmlands, seaside villages and hilltop communities, the parish is always conscious of the sea and the weather. The area extends around Pāuatahanui Inlet and Porirua Harbour, bush-clad hills, and overlooking the rugged coastline south-west towards Mana Island and the South Island, and north to Kāpiti Island. The beautiful bush and beach surrounds and magnificent sunsets over Cook Strait inspire parishioners to actively care for creation, as encouraged by Pope Francis in *Laudato si’* – and always mindful of the earth, sea and sky.

The Little Ways

Fr Andrew Kim, parish priest

When I was appointed as a parish priest of this community early this year, many people asked me where in Plimmerton St Theresa’s Church is. I am sure you have passed by this church many times when you travel through State Highway 1. Have you ever noticed a white and well-maintained mid-size Catholic church next to the road when you pass by Plimmerton? A lot of people pass by without noticing it because of other things that might catch their attention – like the junction to Hutt Valley, pedestrian flyover, huge roundabout, and the beautiful Plimmerton beach. St Theresa’s Church has been in this place since 1940. For the last over 80 years, this faithful community has served the local people from Aotea, Papakōwhai, Paremata, Mana, Whitby, Pāuatahanui, Judgeford, Camborne,

Plimmerton, Hongoeka Bay, Whenua Tapu to Pukerua Bay. And now, as these suburbs are still growing, our community is preparing to readily serve the future generation, young families, and new arrivals. Under the name of our patron, St Therese of Lisieux – the ‘Little Flower’ – this community has the zeal to inherit St Therese’s spiritual treasures, especially her humble missionary spirit. St Therese was born in 1873 in Lisieux, France and died in 1897, aged just 24, after having lived as cloistered Carmelite for less than ten years. She never went on missions, or founded a religious order, or performed great works. However, she is one of the patron saints of the missions, because of her special love of the missions, and prayers and letters she gave in support of missionaries. Our parish community is very much like our patron. In the middle of noise with the hustle and bustle of a highway road, this community is quietly serving the needs of our

neighbours; keeping the missionary work in the local area as initiated by our impressive Passionist family group movement and the St Vincent de Paul Society, the wonderful St Theresa’s school community and other parish groups who are, in their little ways, working on the missionary zeal inspired by St Therese. Over the next 10 years, this beautiful area will expectedly accommodate more people as the government is planning to develop the Plimmerton farms for housing. Our community is excited to have new neighbours and people among us. We believe our little ways to help others by following the footsteps of St Therese, is a work for the Lord that will make God’s kingdom grow and develop in our local area. ‘Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, thereby a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.’ – St Therese of Lisieux

A parish that welcomes all

Jocelyn Bryant, parish secretary

In 2020 we said goodbye to Fr Maurice Carmody who had been our parish priest for five years and in 2021 we welcomed with open arms Fr Andrew Kim. This is Fr Andrew’s first time as a parish priest and he has discovered the gem that is St Theresa’s – an extraordinary parish that welcomes and cares for each other and those around them.



Go, you are sent...to build community

Since the Archdiocese Synod ‘17, we have worked hard at developing a deeper bond with our parish school. Each term at a Pōwhiri Mass, which welcomes new students to the school, the parish also welcomes the children and families and presents each child with kete bag, which has newsletter telling them about parish life, a family prayer book, and a fun Bible game. Each week a classroom attends Mass with Fr Andrew and each week during the school term, there is a parish run Liturgy of the Word for the children. Twice a year we have a combined parish and school



Mass, which ends with a shared morning tea and sausage sizzle. We want to give our elderly a chance to gather to build community, so four times a year, after an Anointing Mass, we put on a parish luncheon. We now average about 80 people at each lunch.



Passionist family groups play a big part in our parish and have been the link for so many people knowing each other, supporting each other and building community. Gatherings based around food and fun have built friendships and given people the chance to be part of a family – even if they are locked out from or away from their own.



Over the recent lockdown our St Vincent de Paul group have met the demand of those on our peripheries with the supply of food parcels and their care of families in need. Young Vinnies from the parish school help in the foodbank and every couple of weeks

a class makes food for the foodbank and delivers it to the office.



Go, you are sent...to find leaders

We have successfully found new leaders to run our Sacramental programmes and our Baptismal team. Some of these have come from the ‘Under 55’ dinners held in the hall to encourage younger adults to feel part of the community and see we need their talents. Our community continues to show its caring spirit especially in times like local floods, caring for Toa the stranded whale recently as well as embracing other faith communities in our area with our shared Ecumenical services. Our community is changing, we will continue to embrace change as we want to know people’s stories and include them in our parish story. We welcome you to join us anytime you are passing by.



o: A Journey of Faith



Historic St Joseph's Catholic Church

Catherine Gibbs

Near Pāuatahanui on SH58, you'll see a small country church on the hillside opposite the new Transmission Gully interchange. St Joseph's Catholic Church was consecrated on 28 April 1878 by Archbishop Redwood, placing it into the Hutt parish along with Porirua and Makara. Built with local materials by farming families seeking a way to celebrate their faith in challenging conditions, this sacred place has an interesting history.

Located north of Paremata Inlet in Plimmerton, parishioners of St Theresa's have connections with this historic church since 1940 – including baptisms, weddings, funerals and burials. Today the 'Friends of St Joseph's' continue to protect and care for this sacred space with regular working bees. Recently they celebrated the Season of Creation with a *Reuse, Recycle, Renew* day.

Mass is no longer celebrated there as St Theresa's has been the parish church since 1940 but people enjoy regular liturgies and events such as the annual Christmas carols afternoon. In the last two years St Joseph's has been opened for interested groups including pilgrims from Wellington honouring the year of St Joseph, and members of the Lower Hutt Probus group interested in the history of the area. With polished native timber walls and renovated attractive glass windows illustrating important figures from scripture, the church is popular as a wedding venue.

St Joseph's Catholic Church is available for bookings through the Plimmerton parish office and any groups interested are welcome to make an appointment for a look around.

» Tributes from Friends, p 20.

St Joseph's Church on the hill, Pāuatahanui.



Photos: Brian Harmer

A reflection on St Theresa's Parish

Fr Maurice Carmody

A lengthy period of illness and unexpected retirement from ministry as parish priest of St Theresa's Parish, Plimmerton, has given me time to reflect with gratitude on my years as pastor of a warm and dedicated community. The welcome I received from parishioners and my life as parish priest in the years that followed are a source of many pleasant memories and thanksgiving for God's goodness.

Celebrating the Eucharist, the sacraments and liturgical occasions was always a joy, due to the support and encouragement of so many people involved in preparation, celebration and hospitality. I was inspired by those who cared for the children leading a liturgy of the Word on Sundays, the Sacramental programme and a special weekly liturgy for classes from our school. Through the dedication of all and the participation of the congregation, each liturgical season, daily and special occasions, nourished my own and parish spirituality.

Inspiration and challenge came, too, from Prayer groups and the Retreats in Daily Life offered by the Cenacle Sisters' Team. I felt uplifted by the Passionist Family groups and the opportunities to share ministry with the teachers and pupils at the school; the St Vincent de Paul Society reaching out beyond parish borders to care for those in need without judgement; parishioners, who called the community to respond on issues of social justice, climate change and ecumenical



Fr Maurice Carmody celebrates at St Joseph's Church 140th anniversary, 2018.

Photo: Margaret Jorgenson

involvement; those who take care of St Joseph's Church.

Lay leadership, in other vital areas also provided welcome support. The parish office, thanks to a most efficient and dedicated parish assistant, was a hub of organisation, practical and pastoral care. Members of the finance committee were there in good times and bad (remember the floods) to make sure matters practical were never neglected.

In a speech delivered to catechists, religious and priests during his visit to Slovakia in mid-September this year, Pope Francis concluded: 'I encourage you to persevere in your journey in the freedom of the Gospel, in the creativity of faith and in the dialogue that has its source in the mercy of God, who has made us brothers and sisters and calls us to be builders of harmony and peace.' That is my prayer for the parish of St Theresa in Plimmerton.

St Theresa's Catholic School



St Theresa's students at the local Plimmerton Beach experience life-long learning.

Donna McDonald, Principal

St Theresa's Catholic School provides a warm, caring, family environment in a semi-rural setting. The Year 1–6 school, situated in James St, Plimmerton, a seaside village 20 minutes north of Wellington, was founded in 1949 by the Sisters of St Joseph of Nazareth. We are fortunate to have the church right next to our school and this, along with the links with our parish, supports a strong Faith community.

Our school and our parish are named after St Therese of Lisieux, and she is our patron saint. St Therese helps us to follow Jesus as she did – by doing the little things well. We too are flowers in God's garden, and at St Theresa's School we are growing and blossoming into the people God created us to be.

One of the key ways we promote excellence in life-long learning is our focus on Creativity. Children are taught the skills they need to become life-long learners and take ownership of their learning. This empowers them to take risks, be creative, collaborate and have fun with their learning.

We provide rewarding and successful sporting and physical education opportunities for all our students with a large playing field, a netball court, adventure playgrounds and our own swimming pool.

St Theresa's School has gained national recognition for its integrated New Zealand Sign Language programme. In 2016 we had a new entrant student start who was profoundly deaf and had limited ability to communicate.

We adopted a whole-school approach to learning NZSL and while the major focus was on the new entrant and junior school, where the most support was then needed, we also knew it was important to get everyone involved. All students learn some sign at school; we have a sign language club students can attend.

Our school vision calls us to: 'Live, learn and love with Jesus, being the best we can be.'

We believe to achieve our vision we need to teach, foster and daily live out our SPARK values at St Theresa's School: Self control; Positivity; Aroha; Respect; Kindness.

We are a Christ-centred, Catholic school that teaches restorative practice through PB4L, KiVa and our Gospel values.

St Theresa's is our tuurangawaewae – our place to stand and be proud. We honour our ancestors upon whose shoulders we stand and we look to the future with a bright and positive outlook.



Young Vinnies prepare food for the foodbank. Photos: Supplied



To celebrate the Season of Creation in 2020, an ecumenical walk gave Plimmerton locals a collective chance to appreciate the gifts of earth, sea, sky and creatures. Photo: Catherine Gibbs

Young Catholics

Shared values support mental health and wellbeing

Conversations about attentiveness to understanding and managing mental health and wellbeing for better outcomes are increasing in our communities and workplaces. Last month, the government announced a 10-year plan, called *Kia Manawanui*, for guiding and improving decisions for better mental health outcomes. This year's Mental Health Awareness Week, 27 September–3 October, had the theme 'take time to kōrero/ mā te kōrero, ka ora – a little chat can go a long way. And this month's annual UN World Mental Health Day, 10 October, continues to raise awareness of mental health issues and support around the world.

Sir Br Patrick Lynch, leading educationalist and a former CEO of the New Zealand Catholic Education Office, has joined forces with prominent mental-health advocate Sir John Kirwan, as a member of the JK Foundation. Among its work, by bringing mental-health awareness and self-management tools to schools, the JK Foundation aims to provide young people with the skills and knowledge to recognise and respond to mental-health issues, both in themselves and others.

Sir Br Patrick Lynch grew up in Auckland in the suburb of Papatoetoe and attended De La Salle College, Mangere East where he became a religious brother of the De La Salle Order. Br Pat has known Sir John since he was a student at De La Salle College, Auckland, when the Br Pat was the principal of the College, and shares his vision to support and help teachers and students as they struggle to cope with the many pressures of the modern world.

The JK Foundation's Mental and Emotional Health Initiative



Sir Br Patrick Lynch
KNZM, QSO.

Sir John Kirwan, MBE, OBE, KNZM, is often best known in rugby as one of the highest try scores in rugby union history. What is less known is that during his remarkable rugby career, he was silently battling depression.

On stepping down from the international rugby spotlight, JK began openly talking about his battles with depression, bringing the-then stigma of mental health into the public arena. He effectively became the spokesperson for the New Zealand Government's mental health awareness campaign.

It was for this work, as well as his rugby career, that he was honoured with a knighthood. Over the years JK has continued to lead public awareness into mental health and wellbeing, and has written about his depression in the books *All Black's Don't Cry*, and *Stand By Me*.

He recently launched a free app called *Mentemia*, a programme that focusses on assisting people with tools and tips to enable them to deal with life's inevitable ups and downs, including Covid-19.

A large part of John's current focus is now on developing an approach to mental-health

education for children and young people, which is called 'Mitey'.

Mitey is a New Zealand-specific, Years 1–8 approach to embedding mental-health education in both teaching and learning. It helps children to build the necessary age-appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding they need to mature their own emotional wellbeing and those of others. Teachers, parents and experts all agree.

It is evidence based, aligning to a particular school's culture and special character. Additionally, it is supported by a wide range of curriculum-based resources. Teachers have ongoing support from a dedicated, free Mitey coach.

The last few years have brought increased awareness of the alarming number of children experiencing mental-health issues in New Zealand. Teachers know that anxious and unhappy children find it difficult to learn. If children are mentally and emotionally healthy, they are better equipped to face the challenges life brings.

Mitey aligns to the New Zealand Curriculum and is woven into everyday teaching to spark and stimulate new learning. This integration of Mitey extends school-wide to tailored strategies that staff, family and the community can use to extend and promote overall wellbeing in the school setting.

Schools and teachers are not alone when they work with Mitey.



John Kirwan's JK Foundation enables people to build their wellbeing and resilience.
mentemia.com

A dedicated, free coach is there with staff, every step of the way, offering guidance and ongoing professional development. Currently, four primary schools are piloting the initiative, including one Catholic school, with more lined up for 2022. Ultimately secondary schools will be involved.

As children work through the different levels of Mitey, the learning builds. Mitey aims to increase knowledge and understanding of those experiencing difficulties, remove any misconceptions and replace them with an atmosphere of positivity and acceptance. At the same time, they are introduced to various behaviour 'tools', that will enable them to manage themselves better.

The aim of the JK Foundation, that oversees this initiative, is to roll it out over time to every school in New Zealand that desires to take part. Auckland University is closely involved in developing, working with and guiding the initiative.

This is unique creation and an exciting development in Aotearoa New Zealand, which aims to enable all citizens to build their wellbeing and resilience.

More information about this developing approach to enhancing an individual's personal well-being can be found on the JK Foundation website: jkfoundation.org.nz and mitey.org.nz



Mitey – 'Building the mightiest kids in the world'. mitey.org.nz

Music for the community

Clarence Chan

We, the Billy Joel Boys, are a Francis Douglas Memorial College 'Future Problem Solving' group. We are implementing public pianos into New Plymouth city, to enhance positivity in our community in the aftermath of level 4 lockdowns.

Community pianos are a worldwide trend whereby donated pianos are placed in public spaces for anyone to jump on and play and for others to listen to and enjoy spontaneous performances.

Our group of six Year-10 students wouldn't have gotten to where we are without the help of our wonderful community and our Future Problem Solving teacher Robyn Wackrow, who has guided us.

Future Problem Solving is a worldwide education system and an international competition. It uses a six-step process to identify a

problem in the community and then try to solve. FDMC has competed over the last eight years. It has become an important part of our Gifted and Talented programme and is integrated at Year 11 with Level 2 NCEA Education for Sustainability Achievement Standards.

Our group identified an increase in mental-health issues due to the lockdown. We thought what better than having some public pianos and free music around the community. The project reflects our school values as a Lasallian college, as it creates an inclusive community where all are welcome to play, it encourages quality music education, and it's a cultural service to the community.

Public response has been incredibly positive with many comments about the difference it is making to all who encounter it and there's lots of interaction with our instagram page: [@fps_billyjoelboys](https://www.instagram.com/fps_billyjoelboys)



'Billy Joel Boys' (l-r): Owain Bridge, Jamie Boyd, Zach Bernardo, Clarence Chan, Daniel Lewis. Absent, Te Koha Domb. Photo: Supplied

Game On!

A parenting course just for Dads

Starts: Thursday 4th November 2021 • Time: 6pm–8pm
Duration: 6 weeks • Facilitated by Eru and Duncan • Cost: \$75
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More information about the course.

It's about looking at ways that we as Dads can be the best we can be for our kids. Kids don't come with instruction manuals so it's good to learn stuff that might help us, help them.

Week one – we look at what our kids need.

Week two is about what is our role as Dads.

Week three is about communication, which we follow up in week four with discipline and boundary setting.

Week five is about what makes a great family and in week six, we wrap it all up talking about conflict.

Other guys have said:

"It's a good place where Dads can talk, not being judged and helping others."

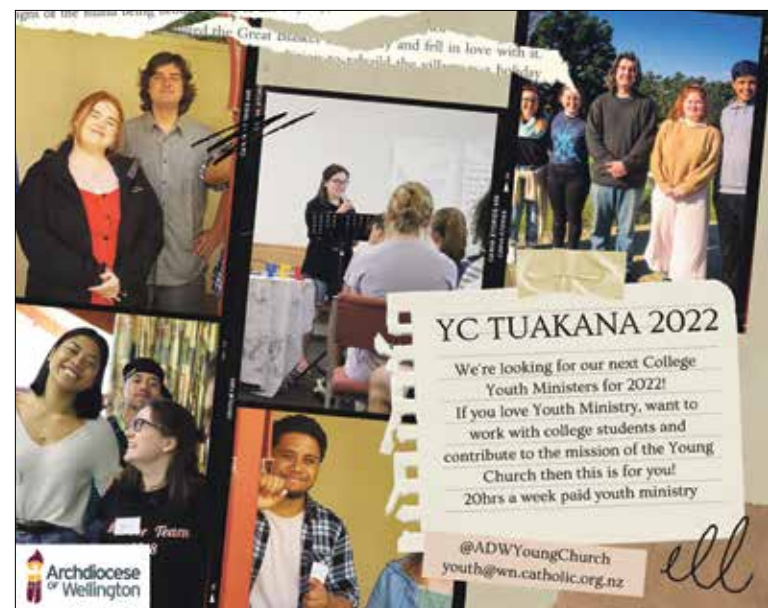
"It's been great to have more tools in the toolkit. So instead of losing it I am trying to work things out. I am feeling better about myself."

Contact our Administrator to register
Reception@wn-catholic-socialservices.org.nz
or if you have any questions or concerns, text Eru on 021 374 593 or email ew.fox@wn-catholic-socialservices.org.nz
www.gameonline.org.nz

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Rangatahi Katorika

Exciting opportunity for 2022!



Be a Tuākana!

Walk alongside and empower our young students as they figure out their place in the world and where faith fits in as a Young Church Tuākana (older sibling). YC Tuākana work as part-time youth ministers who accompany students in Catholic colleges in the Archdiocese of Wellington, acting as witnesses to the relevance and value of the Catholic Christian faith today.

If this sounds like something you would like to do, please contact us at: @ADWYoungChurch or youth@wn.catholic.org.nz

Tuākana at St Catherine's College

Teresa Rayner

Our time at high school can be one of the most enjoyable, formative, or sometimes difficult periods of our lives. It isn't always easy as young people begin to figure out who they are and how they want to make a mark on this world, especially with all the expectations society and social media place on us nowadays.

This year, I am a Young Church Tuākana – older sibling/Youth Minister – at St Catherine's College Kilbirnie. I'm privileged to be able to help make faith an even bigger part of students' journeys. Through things like helping with Special Character events, running lunchtime activities, popping into classes, and simply being as the 'older sister' students can chat to, I hope to help make faith even more relatable for our young people.



Teresa Rayner, standing right, sharing ministry with St Catherine's College students as a Young Church Tuākana.

Photo: Supplied

I see a big part of my role as helping students realise God isn't just a study subject, but rather as God who longs to be friends with them and loves them just as they are – no filter needed!

If you would like to 'Join the Journey' and be someone who

walks alongside our young people at such a vital time in their lives, don't hesitate to contact: youth@wn.catholic.org.nz for more information or to apply as a Young Church Tuākana for 2022!

St Peter's national robots champs

Students from St Peter's College, Palmerston North, have again proved they are robotic champions. The school's Evaristus team won the 2021 high school excellence award and the tournament championship at the national VEX Robotics championships in Christchurch in June, earning the team an invitation to the VEX world championships. Team Apollo was a national finalist and won the Innovate Award. Team Callixtus won the VEX IQ Nationals Think Award.

VEX Robotics is a robotics program for primary through university students. The VEX Robotics Competition and the VEX IQ Challenge, where students can compete with and against each other, is the largest robotics competition in the world.

St Peter's students have been competing with robots since 2009, winning national and international awards. Stephan van Haren, teacher in charge of digital technology, physics and robotics, says the foundations for these successes are based upon Catholic values that the students live out in these competitions. 'There is a great emphasis on service, respect, community, stewardship, integrity and curiosity, wonder and awe,' he says.

'The students learn to design,

build and program their robots in teams in the months leading up to the competitions. Robots are built with metal or plastic beams, powered by smart motors connected to the robot brain, programmed by the students to respond to the remote controller in the hands of the team driver.

'Students experience success at every level of the process, from constructing a robot, to scoring their first points, first win of match or competition and helping others improve their robots. Industry specialists and parents alike are blown away by what these students have accomplished.'

The beauty of these competitions is that students are fully engaged in their STEM-related learning [science, technology, engineering, mathematics] while developing their communication and collaboration skills, in an encouraging atmosphere, says Stephan.


'They are just as keen to help other teams and loan robot kits to help other schools. And our girls in the robotics team have organised GirlPowered STEM workshops to encourage girls to explore STEM careers.'

'St Peter's students who have finished high school and university are still involved as volunteers who run the events, living out their service and community values.'



St Peter's College bots teams Evaristus and Apollo at the 2021 New Zealand Championships in Canterbury.

Photo: Supplied



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Broad mission for Catholic Social Services

The Vicariate for Catholic Social Services (CSS) is the Archdiocese of Wellington's social-outreach agency. We work with many people and communities across the archdiocese to help encourage, inspire and transform their lives. We are guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

CSS was established as an agency of the Archdiocese in 1955 with its main focus being working with unmarried

mothers and adoption. In 1975, CSS established a therapeutic practice involving counsellors and social workers.

In the early 2000s Cardinal John Dew developed a new vision for CSS, to begin its direction of 'reaching out' into the wider community with those 'on the margins and peripheries' at the centre.

Our mission now includes working with people and advocating for change, working collaboratively with other

organisations and networks, and developing relationships and connectedness in communities. The recent establishment of the Community Facilitator role has been important for this work.

Our support operations and outreach services include: social work; short-term therapeutic interventions; prison and hospital chaplaincy; refugee resettlement; community facilitation and advocacy; clergy health; and help with grief, loss and change through our Seasons for Growth programme.

Meet the team

Our small team at CSS is big in heart and is responsible for a diverse range of activities.



Social Work

Jess Harward senior social worker and Eru Fox social worker oversee our:

- lead agency for Strengthening Families in Wellington and the Hutt Valley
- payment policy for interpreting for clients with refugee backgrounds
- Game On, parenting workshop for men
- Befrienders programme – trained volunteers who provide long-term support for people needing extra help, supported by our social workers.

Community Facilitation

Paul Alsford facilitates our:

- Refugee Resettlement programme
- Benefit Impact
- Volunteer training to support our mission in parishes and other communities
- Community 'resilience and vulnerability mapping'.

Chaplaincy

Prison chaplaincy: Falefou Sio
Hospital chaplaincy: Lizzie Wootton and Kate Sanders O'Connor, Wellington Hospital; Marie Paurin, Kenepuru; Kathryn Van Woerkom, Hutt Hospital.

Clergy Healthcare Support

Linda MacGregor

Season for Growth Co-ordination

Katrin Eickhorst:

This educational programme supports people of all ages suffering from trauma, loss and grief, such as family break up, bereavement and loss of income. Seasons for Growth works with 37 agencies including schools, social-work agencies including Barnardo's and Raukawa Whānau Ora, Public Health Boards, residential homes and parishes.

Administration – Vivien Chiu

Kaiarahi | Director – Karen Holland

Professional expertise, networking and community engagement

As well as working with parishes, CSS works closely with the other sector organisations – NZ Red Cross, Changemakers, Refugee Family Reunification Trust, Greenstone Doors, Upper Hutt Housing Trust, Hutt Valley BEST, Strengthening Families network, Te Tai o Morakura Health and Social Service in Kaikōura. We are also a member of New Zealand Council for Christian Social Services and other professional bodies.



CSS staff support Compassion Soup Kitchen during Covid-Delta lockdown.

Community volunteers

The social services sector relies on volunteers to bridge the gap to help our social workers address communities' needs. CSS volunteers work in refugee resettlement and our Seasons for Growth and Befrienders programmes. We also need volunteers to help with our communications and social media.

Volunteers often work with isolated and vulnerable people and we have developed a new initiative to ensure everyone's safety. The programme includes: volunteering basics; personal boundaries; self-awareness, 'safe friendships' and building cultural competencies; conflict recognition and management.

Befriender volunteers

Shaymar a former refugee, and Christine from one of our parishes, are our first two Befriender volunteers. They began working with CSS this year as an 'intentional encounter' team. CSS has started another team and will be rolling out this programme of 'transformative encounter' across the archdiocese.

Projects

Some of our recent projects include: Benefit Impacts Ōtaki and Levin; Benefit impact for Deaf Community; phone top ups; PPE provisions; supermarket vouchers and financial help to small community

organisations during lockdown 1; financial and household donations for Kahungunu Whānau Services; Kaupapa Māori Housing First provider to set up nine homes; funding for Game On for Dads' programme; grant for Community Facilitator role; grants for Seasons for Growth resources for prisons, low-decile schools and communities; Afghan Evacuees Appeal for housing and donations.

Ōtaki Benefit Advocacy

Following the successful Benefit Impact Clinic in Ōtaki in May this year, the local community has mobilised and has now established the 'Ōtaki Benefit Advocacy Group'. The group now provides a monthly Benefit Impact Clinic for the local community. The Advocacy Group is a collective of church groups, local networks and individuals who recognise the need for this service on an ongoing basis.

Their work exemplifies Pope Francis' call to go to work in the margins. The swift response by the Ōtaki Benefit Advocacy Group to pick up the need locally illustrates how the new model that CSS is implementing, can in turn empower local communities to identify and meet the needs of their own communities.



Rua Eagle from Kahungunu Whānau Services picks up Easter eggs from CSS, to support clients-whānau, during Covid-19 lockdown 1.

Deaf Community

This year CSS worked with the Deaf Community to run a pilot Benefit Impact for the Deaf Community in Levin. Lack of understanding of unique socio-linguistic cultural group means many in the Deaf Community struggle to successfully navigate and thrive. Communication, especially the use of only the written word, can further marginalise some. CSS is assessing the need

to employ a Community Support Worker-Advocate for the Deaf Community to lead, promote and coordinate Benefit Impacts in 2022, and together, with the Archdiocesan Chaplain for the Deaf Community, whether to create a permanent role to work with the Deaf Community.

Crisis response plan

Following the 2020 Covid-19 lockdown, CSS looked at how we responded to emergency responses like Covid and the Kaikōura Earthquake 2016; and how to improve leading future responses within the archdiocese.

Chris Cattaway, a consultant with 25 years experience in the international humanitarian sector, having led and evaluated large-scale disaster responses for major humanitarian NGOs, has analysed the archdiocese's responses after the Kaikōura Earthquake and during the 2020 Covid-19 lockdown.

Chris is producing a simple plan that the archdiocese can use to meet future emergency responses to psychosocial and pastoral needs of its affected communities.

Funding

CSS is primarily funded by the archdiocese, our Kotahitanga and 1000 regular 'club donors'. Other funders include: The Catholic Foundation; David Daily Charitable Trust; Gaynor Charitable Nominees; Donovan Family Charitable Trust; Hutt Mana Charitable Trust; NZ Lottery Grants Board; Knights of the Southern Cross; Wellington Community Trust; Oranga Tamariki Ministry for Children; JK Baxter Trust; Ministry for Social Development; Tindall Foundation; Estate of Kathleen Alice Boyd; Winton and Margaret Bear Charitable Trust; Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand; The Tindall Foundation.

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Catholic Social Services' annual appeal takes place in November to help raise funds for our pastoral and support work.

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How 9/11 led first responder to the priesthood

On a September morning, 20 years ago, Tom Colucci was in his car driving home, weary after working the overnight shift at a firehouse in Lower Manhattan, USA.

Then, at 8.46am, he got a call. The city was recalling all police officers and firefighters to the World Trade Centre. A plane had crashed into the North Tower.

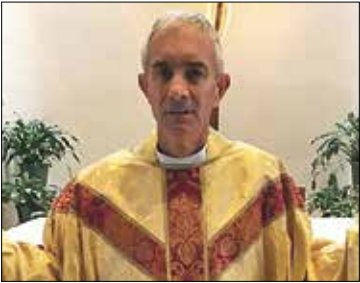
Colucci, a lieutenant with the New York City Fire Department, rushed to the scene – the South Tower was on the verge of collapse, and came tumbling down just as Colucci arrived.

The area surrounding the World Trade Centre was total chaos, and he wasn't entirely sure what to do first. He had heard 40,000 people were missing. So, Colucci and the other first responders began digging through rubble on the streets. Less than an hour later, the North Tower fell. More than 340 firefighters died that day, including five from Tom's firehouse.

'So it was all very devastating. A lot of these guys were young guys, married, with families...But we just pulled each other through. And also that our faith came through. Most of these guys were Catholic, and so it was the faith that pulled us through,' Colucci said.

The victims included the chaplain of the New York City Fire Department, Fr Mychal Judge. Judge was reportedly praying the rosary and offering Last Rites in the lobby of the North Tower, and had run outside the North Tower to minister to a fallen firefighter when the South Tower collapsed.

'Everybody asks, "where was Christ that day? Couldn't he stop



Fr Tom Colucci. Photo: CBCP News

the planes?" But you saw the body of Christ. Everybody that came in to help that day...You saw the country pulled together. That was the body of Christ,' Colucci commented.

A few years after he retired from the fire service in 2005, Colucci began revisiting his long-time interest in becoming a Catholic priest. A devout Catholic since his youth, Colucci said the priesthood

had always been at the back of his mind. He said his experience on September 11, and the witness of the heroic priests he saw that day, made him even more interested in pursuing the priesthood.

'I just saw the best that day. You know, Fr Mike died the way he died, and there were other priests that came down and they were, you know, counselling the guys and a few of them were on the rubble helping us cheering us on,' he said.

When he retired, Colucci didn't enter the seminary right away. He had sustained a head injury while on the job a few months earlier and needed two brain surgeries. He retreated to a Benedictine monastery in western New York to recover and to discern his call to the priesthood.

Ordained in 2016, Fr Colucci

has been a priest for a little over five years now. He's pastor of a parish with a school in Walden, New York, north of New York City. He says he actually sees a lot of similarities between the priesthood and the fire service.

'You serve other people. That's what a firefighter does, unselfishly he runs into burning buildings and emergency calls to help people out. And that's what a priest does. He's always available to help people out. I get calls day and night to help people in different areas, spiritually. To help them doing the sacraments, Mass and confessions...And so it's a life of service, both professions,' he said.

Source: Catholic News Agency

Caritas visit to Cook Islands gains insights on environmental initiatives and impacts

Martin de Jong, Advocacy Adviser, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

Representatives from Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand visited the Cook Islands in July to ensure that effective health and safety processes were in place for Catholic Volunteers Overseas (CVOs) and to review areas of environmental and social interest.

The visit allowed Caritas Director Julianne Hickey and Executive Assistant Kate Go to support a new Caritas volunteer, Andy Doherty of Christchurch, settle into his assignment with the Rarotonga Diocese. Andy is the first Caritas volunteer under the Catholic Volunteers Overseas (CVO) to be placed since the outbreak of Covid-19. He is there at the request of local Bishop Paul Donoghue sm.

The week-long visit was also an opportunity to gain insight firsthand on climate-change initiatives and the impact of the global pandemic on the Cook Islands, which to date has had no Covid-19 cases.

The visit included meetings with local Catholic parishes and schools, and appointments with the New Zealand High Commissioner and members of Te Ipukarea Society, a local environmental group.

Te Ipukarea facilitated connections with Caritas' environmental advocacy work and monitoring issues in Oceania. The Caritas visitors shared copies of the *Caritas State of the Environment for Oceania Reports* with the groups they met with.

Te Ipukarea

Te Ipukarea Society focuses on five main areas in the Cook Islands – waste management, biodiversity, youth, ecosystem development including sustainable tourism and climate change.

Te Ipukarea and Caritas share a common concern around the potential impact of deep-sea mining on ecosystems, food sources and local livelihoods – a topic that is widely debated in a number of Pacific Islands, including the Cook Islands, where the government is considering four licences for seabed mineral exploration.

The visit was an opportunity to see firsthand how some of the funds provided to mitigate climate change have been used in the Cook Islands. The Cook Islands had set a goal of achieving 100 per cent renewable energy by 2020. A large solar power farm, Te Mana o Te Ra, has been established near the airport in Rarotonga, as a joint project of Vector (NZ energy company), the Asian Development

Bank, the Cook Islands government, and the Green Climate Fund of the United Nations.

Arorangi Jetty and the use of climate finance

Caritas noted its concern about New Zealand government climate finance being invested in a jetty at Arorangi on the western side of Rarotonga. It was built in 2012 as a 'rough water' alternative for cruise ships to the main Avarua Jetty. After the grounding in 2016 of a cruise ship's support tender – ferrying passengers from the ship to the jetty – the local port authority wanted to improve the access channel. But the project has been delayed after an environmental impact assessment on the proposal in May 2019.

The future viability of the jetty remains uncertain. In its 2015 environment report, Caritas asked whether providing for commercial cruise-ship tourism was a valid allocation of climate finance.

Labour shortages and Covid-19 impacts

Although the Cook Islands have had no Covid-19 cases, the pandemic has heightened several challenges. Migration to New Zealand deprives the Cooks of many young and skilled workers. There are now approximately



In Rarotonga (l-r): Te Ipukarea Society's Senior Projects Officer Kate McKessar and Projects Officer Terena Koteka-Wiki, with Caritas Director Julianne Hickey.

Photo: Caritas

90,000 Cook Islanders living in New Zealand and 30,000 in Australia but just 12,000 in the Cook Islands. When Covid-19 global impacts first hit [the tourist industry], the many hundreds of hospitality workers went home to the Philippines, Fiji and Indonesia, leaving resorts with insufficient staff when the bubble with New Zealand re-opened.

Other challenges discussed during the Caritas visit included domestic violence, rehabilitation of prisoners, and disadvantages suffered by people with disabilities.





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Catholics Thinking

The dangers of being ‘unmoored’

An image has been occurring to me of boats that have become unmoored. They end up on the rocks, or colliding with one another. There are features of our Western world’s culture that seem to fit the image. Important aspects of our lives seem to have become disconnected from what gives them meaning. If this is true, it is hardly healthy. In my article **‘Unmoored’**, published in WelCom in two parts, I offer six examples.

Part Two



Bishop Peter Cullinane.

4. Sexual activity unmoored from sexuality’s meaning.

I recently heard some young people say they felt it was wrong to send sexual imagery online, but they didn’t know why. They will not come any closer to knowing through ‘consent education’. ‘Consent education’ is right to teach the need to avoid activities that are not legal or consensual or safe. But that is as far as it can go because it is unconcerned with sexuality’s meaning – other than it being a source of pleasure. That kind of ‘education’ allows, if it doesn’t promote, the idea that anything goes provided it is legal, consensual and safe. But is it?

A more holistic education would allow young people to learn about virtue. Modesty is the virtue that protects chastity. Of course, if society has given away the virtue of chastity, then it won’t feel any need for modesty. Chastity is the virtue that applies self-respect, restraint and respect for others, to sexuality. Unchastity involves a lack of self-respect, restraint and respect for others. The Department of Internal Affairs’ statistics regarding the extent of attempts in New Zealand to access child sex sites, and the increasing demand for younger children, and more violent forms of abuse, show where we can go when the meaning of sexuality is ignored, or reduced to pleasure.

There have been strong, organised and determined cultural movements whose agenda has been to ‘liberate’ sexuality from all previous restraints. We look back incredulously to the 1960s through the 1990s when some activists described themselves as ‘victims’ of harsh laws aimed at

preventing ‘man-boy love’; and children as ‘victims’ because harsh parents didn’t want them to have that kind of loving care! ‘Inter-generational sex’ and ‘man-boy love’ were euphemisms intended to promote the acceptability of what society calls pederasty. For some, the aim was to shed categories such as ‘heterosexual’ and ‘homosexual’ in favour of more fluid and non-binary language. Even though by the 1990s those movements had mostly lost their credibility, the underlying ideologies have a way of re-surfacing.

So sooner or later, we do need to come to the question: ‘what is sexuality’s meaning?’. What is its purpose? Yes, it is for pleasure. But so is unchastity. So, there must be some meaning beyond that. Honest reflection recognises two purposes that are entwined and come together uniquely in marriage: they are sexuality’s potential for deeply nurturing the love of two people, and in a way that is also designed to generate new life as the fruit of their love. And because new life needs to be protected and nurtured, the child’s parents need to be in a relationship that is stable, committed and faithful.

Whatever allowances we rightly make for people of various orientations or preferences (see below), ultimately it is marriage that can fulfil sexuality’s deepest meanings. Detached from marriage, sexual activities are detached from sexuality’s meaning.

5. Gender identity unmoored from sexual identity.

Gender identity is not a label that is put on us, by ourselves or by others. It is given by nature long before we start making our own decisions. But what about the tensions between biological reality and psychological/emotional reality that some people experience? We move closer to an answer when we allow both faith and the sciences to be part of our thinking: the world

is a work in progress, and we are part of this evolving world. This means that none of us is a finished product. We are all at one stage or another of being unfinished.

We can be born with deficiencies, or incur disabilities, some of which last through life. In fact, we are never finished while death is still in front of us. When there is something that cannot be resolved or fulfilled within our present span of life, it helps to remember that our life was not something we had a right to in the first place; it is simply gift. And our present life is not the whole of it.



In that kind of world, personal development does not always take place at the same pace, or even follow the usual pattern. Those who are caught in any of the dilemmas resulting from different stages of, or lines of, development have a right to the same respect and unconditional love as everyone else. Still, as Professor Kathleen Stock, herself a lesbian, writing about ‘Why Reality Matters for Feminism’, reminds us, there are only two biological sexes and no amount of hormonal or surgical treatment can change that. She is aware that by seeking surgical or hormonal treatment to support gender change, people are implicitly acknowledging the link between gender identity and sexual identity.

But she is also aware, and critical of, the more recent claim that they

should not need to; it should be enough simply to declare that you are male or female, regardless of biological reality. Is that where the separation of gender identity and sexual identity could take us?

If reality matters, then it matters to acknowledge that, both socially and biologically, male and female find a certain completion in each other, precisely by being each other’s ‘opposite’ – which is what the ancient Genesis story has been saying all along – through unmooring rights from responsibilities, ‘facts’ from truth, and politics from pursuit of the common good.

6. ‘Religion’ unmoored from ordinary life

Early in the Christian tradition, St Irenaeus said the glory of God is human beings coming alive through seeing God in all that God has made and all that God is doing in human lives. We are being drawn to God through the experience of created beauty, goodness and truth. Popes St John Paul II and Benedict XVI have picked up Irenaeus’ theme, emphasising that since human beings becoming fully alive is God’s agenda in creating and redeeming us, it is also ‘the route the Church must take’.

So, religion is not somehow running alongside our ordinary lives; it IS our ordinary lives being made extraordinary, being sanctified, graced – family life, civic life, industrial and commercial

life, political life... Of course, this is unfinished work, and so it will be until God is ‘all in all’ (1 Cor. 15:28). In the meantime, people for whom life’s shortfalls create a sense of insecurity are the ones more likely to seek escape into ‘religion’ perceived as some kind of separate sphere, or construct built on to life, or, worse, a kind of bubble – even having its own separate language.

This perception of ‘religion’ being alongside ordinary life is the assumption of some bloggers, and it seems, even some bishops – in Britain, Ireland, France and USA – who resent government restrictions affecting church gatherings even during a pandemic. It is as if the sciences and good government don’t apply to ‘religion’s’ separate sphere. A concept of religion unmoored from the needs of the common good is unmoored from the ordinary processes of becoming more truly human and fully alive, which is what gives glory to God.

Conclusion

A culture in which so many aspects of life have become unmoored from what gives them meaning is a culture that is reductionist, superficial, utilitarian... The question is: within in that kind of culture, how well equipped can we be to deal with the epic issues of our time – those that degrade human life, human dignity, human rights and the planet itself?

Bishop Emeritus Peter Cullinane CNZM was the first Catholic bishop of the Diocese of Palmerston North. He was appointed as Bishop on 23 April 1980 and retired on 22 February 2012. Bishop Peter did theological studies in Rome and a Master of Theology at Otago University.

Part 1 of this article was published in WelCom | NauMai September 2021 and can be read online at: https://www.wn.catholic.org.nz/adw_welcom/the-dangers-of-being-unmoored/

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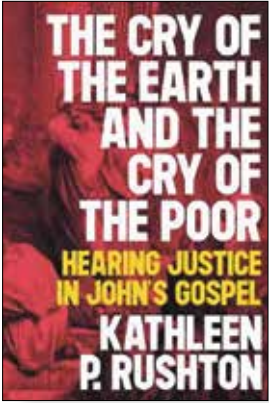
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The Cry of the Earth And The Cry of the Poor: Hearing Justice In John’s Gospel

Author: Kathleen P Rushton
Publisher: SCM Press
London, 2020
Paperback: 256 pages
Reviewed by: James B Lyons



The Gospel of John has never been my go-to book regarding social justice. But it takes on new meaning as Kathleen Rushton exposes it in the light of present-day degradation of the earth and human poverty.

Using the *Lectio Divina* form of reading/meditation/prayer/action, with a gentle but determined and knowledgeable stance, she invites the reader on a journey of discovery through this unique Gospel.

It works for me.

Throughout the text, the title word ‘poor’ is replaced by ‘marginalised’ which the author sees is a better fit for the story of Jesus as told in John.

We find a very radical Jesus focussed on a ‘barrier-breaking ministry’. He moves through cultural, social and religious barriers to reach marginalised people such as Nathaniel, Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman and the man born blind. The reader is challenged to understand poverty in relation to illness, affliction, loneliness and approaching death.

The opening words of the Prologue to the gospel, *In the*

beginning, link the reader to the creation account in Genesis, to the garden which is the work of God entrusted to our care, to the symbols of darkness and light and to the mystery and intimacy of the mission given to Jesus, the Word made flesh, to do the works of God.

For Rushton, the Prologue is a summary of the gospel, its themes unfolding and deepening across the gospel’s 21 chapters. It is apparent that ‘the world’ is inclusive of all creation and continues to evolve as God keeps working through us. This focus gives the whole Gospel a context in which justice and completing the works of God become paramount.

Creation and re-creation are constants in the mind of Jesus, his teaching drawing greater awareness to the gift of earth. He uses images from agriculture, viticulture and from the gifts of nature, such as water and wind. And gardens feature again in the death-resurrection account.

The linking of death with resurrection is an important factor in understanding the thrust of this book. It puts a clear obligation on the followers of Jesus to continue the works of God empowered by the Spirit which enables the presence of Jesus in his absence.

An over-emphasis on the death of Jesus can lessen the significance of the empty tomb and lead to an incomplete appreciation of what it means to be Christian – to remain (abide) in Jesus to continue the works of God.

Written with attention to the cultural and social environment in which Jesus lived, the situation of slaves, the domination of wealth, the value and necessity of working together become more graphic with implications for 21st century issues. The *Lectio Divina* technique is shown as an excellent way to identify both concerns and practical action.

The place of women in the early Church is questioned – as it is today – by noting the disappearance of women from the final chapter, despite their vital presence elsewhere.

John’s Gospel, likely written at Ephesus, addresses people living near the end of the first century. The injustices of the time echo in our own time, making this re-telling of the story of Jesus ‘in new and often unique ways’ (p.164) very relevant for us. Rushton’s approach is innovative, faithful and practical. She speaks justice with a voice that everyone can hear.

With eight pages of bibliography and 334 footnotes providing evidence of thorough and careful research, Kathleen Rushton’s writing offers a contribution to Catholic social teaching and reflection that will endure.

The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor is not a book to be read at one sitting. It’s a good read but not an easy one. It will get you thinking and it will challenge. But you will also be wonderfully surprised by the insights of the author and how her scripture scholarship has enabled her to interpret the gospel writer, understanding his subtlety in the placement of symbols and his purpose in writing.

It will not be enough to read this book. *The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor* must also be prayed. It holds all that is needed for a wonderful, personal and uplifting retreat.

The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor is priced around \$50 and can be purchased *online at: www.fishpond.co.nz/Books*

Sr Kathleen is a Mercy Sister, resident in Christchurch and, among other commitments, is a scholar and a lecturer, and a member of the New Zealand Catholic/Lutheran Commission.

Gospel Reading for Sunday 10 October 2021

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – MARK 10:17-27

¹⁷ As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’

¹⁸ Jesus answered him, ‘Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.’

¹⁹ You know the commandments: You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not give false witness; you shall not defraud; honour your father and your mother.’

²⁰ He replied and said to him, ‘Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth.’

²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, ‘You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’

²² But at that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’

²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, ‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!’ ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’

²⁶ They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, ‘Then who can be saved?’

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God.’

Real wellbeing lasts forever


Tom Gibson

This Gospel Reading (Mk 10:17-27) is a difficult parable to swallow. Towards the end of our lives, many of us may have accrued material wealth as a result of our hard-earned efforts earlier. But as we age, our physical wellbeing deteriorates, and we may begin to feel down – both physically and emotionally. But Christ says that those of us who are physically needy are more able to enter the Kingdom of God than those who aren’t. In fact, for those who have little or no physical needs, it is nearly impossible.

But as usual God’s love shines through and even those of us who are rich in the physical sense, be it material wealth or physical wellbeing are invited to enter the Kingdom of God as well – even though it may be difficult.

Let’s ask our Lord to lead us through the gates of His Kingdom on a daily basis to enjoy the type of real wellbeing that lasts forever.

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



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Cathedral Corner: House sales latest help for Cathedral



Fr James Lyons.

A generous initiative from a Hutt Valley Real Estate agent is the latest idea for helping the restoration of Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Te Awakairangi parishioner, Anna Geremia-Young, of Tall Poppy Real Estate, Lower Hutt, will donate \$400 for every parishioner who sells through her.

Anna is very active in the community, having led Children's liturgy for ten years and currently as a Eucharistic minister. A Hutt Rotary member, she teaches Italian and brings years of experience in marketing, sales and business development.

In addition, 'Tall Poppy' is becoming a regular advertiser in WelCom, (see advert below).

Since the closure of the Cathedral in 2018, Sacred Heart parishioners and several ethnic groups have put considerable energy into entertainment and culinary projects, including a very successful classical concert at Malvina Major Rest Home.

A restoration dinner and auction planned for 19 August at The Wellington Club was blindsided by Covid-19 lockdowns but has been rescheduled, for 11 October.

A Blenheim parishioner's enthusiasm has brought donations of wine from the Marlborough region for this occasion. Mission Estate (Hawke's Bay) is also a sponsor and people from many parts of the country have donated items for the fund-raising auction.

This widespread generosity highlights the significance of the Cathedral well beyond Sacred Heart parish.

Meanwhile, the work of earthquake-proofing the Cathedral has continued. Though the base-isolation sector of the project will not go ahead, safety standards are not compromised.

While Covid restrictions prevented on-site work, Level 3 enabled contractors to reconnect. The canvas roofing is now being removed, revealing not only the

new roof cladding but also the restored copper crosses.

This month (October) will see scaffold trusses removed from the site and the renovated bell reinstalled.

While no date has been set for the reopening, mid-2022 is looking very likely.

There is urgency now to raise the final \$3 million to complete the project. Of this, \$1 million needs to come before Christmas to ensure the workforce and necessary materials can be confirmed.

Donations, of whatever amount, are needed now to help achieve this goal.



Cathedral restoration underway – 'There is urgency now to raise the final \$3 million to complete the project. Of this, \$1 million needs to come before Christmas to ensure the workforce and necessary materials can be confirmed'.

Photo: WelCom

You can donate to the Cathedral restoration fund by Internet Banking to – Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish A/c: 02 0506 0138488 025. (Reference: your surname and initials, and 'Reopen'.)

Fr James Lyons, on behalf the Cathedral Fundraising Campaign.

A day to celebrate our friendship with God

Mission Sunday, 31 October 2021

Fr Bernard Espiritu svd

Mission Sunday finds its roots in Jesus' Great Missionary Mandate: Go and preach the Good News to all! (Matthew 28:19). All the baptised are commissioned to carry on this sacred mandate. Mission Sunday is the day we celebrate the privilege of participating in the Missio Dei (the Mission of God).

In his 2021 Mission Sunday Message, Pope Francis calls our attention to the reality that we each communicate not what we know intellectually but the experience of God in our lives. Pope Francis guides us with the Scriptures passage: 'For we cannot keep from speaking what we have seen and heard' (Acts 4:29). Just as the disciples' joy became like fire in their bones that inflamed them with enthusiasm, so may we be able to share the sparks of God's presence in our personal life. This joy, when shared, brings about fellowship in families and communities; and then this joy becomes complete (1 Jn1:3-4).

Mission Sunday is a day of celebration, prayer, and reflection when we remember the personal and communal God-experiences we have here and now. It is also the Sunday when believers in God's goodness give financial support to the Catholic works done in more than a thousand young, poor, and growing mission dioceses spread in 157 countries where MISSIO work.

French-Catholic woman Pauline Jaricot started MISSIO in 1819 to promote prayers for the missions and collect a penny from generous people who form part of the Living Rosary groups.

Many individuals and faith communities in Aotearoa-New Zealand pray for vocations to the priesthood. The good news is that this year there are 13 seminarians in Holy Cross Seminary and internationally MISSIO – traditionally called Pontifical Mission Societies – supports 70,320 seminarians. Catholics in Aotearoa, through our Mission Collection, have assisted 454 of them.

For more information and to donate online, go to: <https://mission.nz/mission-sunday-2021/>

Fr Bernard Espiritu svd,
director MISSIO New Zealand.



Our Mission Sunday 2021 poster depicts Pope Francis' meeting with Iraq's most prominent Shia Muslim religious authority, Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani. It was a call for unity and a landmark event in modern religious history.

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Our Catholicism in Wellington and what we have in our Archdiocese today is a tribute to the efforts and generosity of those who have come before us. Please consider leaving a bequest in your Will as a long-lasting gift towards strengthening our mission.

Ensure our tomorrow with a gift today, large or small, in your Will, to the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington.

Please contact:

The Archdiocese of Wellington

Ph: (04) 496-1788

22 Hill St, Thorndon

Email: j.prendergast@wn.catholic.org.nz

Wellington 6011

FitzherbertRowe

LAWYERS



LIAM HEHIR
Partner

for all your legal needs

direct dial 06 351 4730

l.hehir@fitzrowe.co.nz www.fitzrowe.co.nz

65 Rangitikei Street, Palmerston North

ALL EVENTS LISTED SUBJECT TO COVID-19 ALERT LEVELS

DATES AND EVENTS – WHAT'S ON IN THE TWO DIOCESES

To list what's on in your parishes and schools across our two dioceses in November WelCom, please email details to: welcom@wn.catholic.org.nz by **Monday 18 October**.

Monday 4

Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Caritas annual Statement on the Environment for Oceania and Indicators. *See p 9.*

Sunday 10 October

Day of Prayer to Support Life. *See p 5.*

Thursday 14 October

Quiet Day with Suzanne Aubert – 10am–2pm, The Chapel of Our Lady of Compassion, 2 Rhine St, Island Bay. Koha appreciated. Registration: sr.sue@compassion.org.nz or ph (04) 383-7769.

Monday 19 October

One million children praying the rosary – all over the world, children will be praying the Rosary for Peace and Unity in the World, 2021 Year of Saint Joseph. <https://acninternational.org/millionchildrenpraying/>

Friday 22–Sunday 24 October

Seasons for Growth – programme for adults touched by change, loss, separation, divorce, illness, under guidance of trainer-coordinator Katrin Eickhorst. An opportunity to reflect, process and gain skills to respond well. Friday, 6pm–8pm; Saturday 9am–6pm; Sunday 12.30pm–3pm. Venue, Johnsonville. Cost, \$40. For information and registration, contact Katrin: seasons@wn.catholic.org.nz or ph 021 374 405.

Tuesday 26 October and Saturday 30 October

Historical walking tour of Suzanne Aubert Meri Hōhepa's Wellington led by Sr Sue Cosgrove, 10am–3pm. Begin at Education Centre, 18 Buckle St, Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. Register by 23 October: events@compassion.org.nz or ph (04) 383 7769.

Saturday 30 October

Home of Compassion Crèche – stories about crèche founded 1903 by Suzanne Aubert Meri Hōhepa, social conditions of early 1900s and care by sisters, plus tours of premises, 11.30am; 1.30pm, Education Centre, 18 Buckle St, Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. Register by 23 October: events@compassion.org.nz or ph (04) 383-7769.

Sunday 31 October

World Mission Sunday, see p 18.

Friday 5 November

Taizé Prayer – reflective time with songs and scripture to bring stillness and silence, 7pm–8pm, The Chapel of Our Lady of Compassion, 2 Rhine St, Island Bay. Ph. (04) 383-7769.

Saturday 13, Sunday 14 November

World Day of the Poor – Save the Date!

The archdiocese plans two encounter events open to everyone in the archdiocese – from the top of the South Island to across the lower half of the North Island. But – like most things – this depends on the Delta Covid level in November. To take part, keep your eye on Catholic Social Services website for more information nearer the dates: wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz

Saturday 27 November

'Waiting With Love' – afternoon of prayer, reflection, discussion and hospitality hosted by Greenstone Doors, 2pm–4pm, Chanel Family Centre, cnr Fergusson Dr and Bernadette St, Upper Hutt. Share thoughts on to 'wait with love' in times of uncertainty, such as the beginning or end of life. No cost and all welcome. Contact Wendy Hill manager@greenstoneddoors.co.nz or Natalie Murphy nataliem@hotmail.co.nz for more information.

Life Teen Summer Camp Aotearoa 2022

Louise Lloyd



Young people enjoying adventure, mud, fun, Jesus and new friends at a Life Teen Summer Camp. Photo: Supplied

Life Teen Summer Camp Aotearoa is back in 2022! For the last six years Summer Camp has been held in Ōtaki and we have welcomed hundreds of teens and young adults to a home away from home. Now we're moving to the Mighty Waikato. Life Teen Summer Camp Aotearoa 2022 will be five days and four nights of adventure, mud, fun, Jesus and new friends. Come and join us at CYC Ngāruawahia.

Although we're changing venues, our mission remains the same: '...to lead teens closer to Christ'. Through receiving the sacraments such as daily Mass, reconciliation and adoration, dynamic catechesis presented by a special guest speaker, regular prayer times and engaging music ministry, campers will have ample opportunities to grow in their relationship with the Lord in a supportive Catholic environment.

Our 2022 theme, 'New Fire', will encourage campers to take a new fire back to their parishes and communities. Drawing on the Spirit, campers will be inspired to be disciples of Christ who share the Gospel and grow the kingdom of God.

Life Teen Summer Camp Aotearoa is open to young people throughout New Zealand. Campers aged 13 to 18, at 1 January 2022, can register as part of their parish. The roles of Summer Missionaries (awesome summer camp helpers) are open to those 18 or older. Registrations for camp and applications for Summer Missions are now open. Head to www.lifeteen.nz for information, FAQs and to register or apply.

We invite you to pray for the success of Summer Camp. For more details, please contact info@lifeteen.nz

St Patrick's School Kaponga, centennial

Join us to celebrate 100 years of St Patrick's School, Kaponga, Taranaki, **Sunday 6 February, 2022.**

The day will start at 8.45am with Mass at St Patrick's Church, followed by a visit to the school with photos and memorabilia on display and a light luncheon served.

Our celebration dinner will start at 5.30pm with a 'mix and mingle' and the main meal served at 6.30pm.

To register interest to attend our centennial celebration day visit: www.stpatrickskaponga.co.nz or email: centennial@stpatrickskaponga.school.nz

For more information please contact Rose Kelbrick, principal, St Patrick's School, ph (06) 7646-563, and check out website (as above).



St Patrick's School, Kaponga, students with teacher-principal Mrs Rose Kelbrick (l) and teacher Mrs Shannon Gorrie (r), 2019. Photo: WelCom

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Te Tau o Hāto Hōhepa - The Year of St Joseph

On 8 December 2020, Pope Francis published his Apostolic Letter, *‘Patris corde’* - *‘With a Father’s Heart’*. Francis’ letter fittingly commemorated the declaration of the 150th anniversary of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. On 8 December 1870, Blessed Pope Pius IX, a great devotee of St Joseph, made this declaration for St Joseph to become known and loved among the members of Christ’s faithful universally. To mark the anniversary, Pope Francis proclaimed a ‘Year of Saint Joseph’ from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021. Catholics have been honouring the Year of St Joseph in many ways. Those with churches and schools named after St Joseph enjoy special and ongoing affiliations every year. As part of this month’s Hikoi Whakaponono to St Theresa’s Catholic Parish of Plimmerton, pp 10 and 11, ‘Friends of St Joseph’s Church Pāuatahanui’ were invited to write a reflections about their much-loved ‘historic place’ named after St Joseph.

From ‘letters’ by the Friends of St Joseph’s Church, Pāuatahanui

He Kupu Whakamānawa ki a Hāto Hōhepa | Tributes to St Joseph

“Our family have been involved with St Joseph’s for 48 years, attending Mass once a month for several years. Our twin boys Hadyn and Diarmuid were baptised there 41 years ago. Over the years Nualla my late wife organised many working bees and with a barbecue afterwards. It’s Nualla’s love for St Joseph’s that has influenced me and made me want to help in maintaining and promoting our lovely St Joseph’s Church”. – Gary



Gary Calderwood at Nualla’s seat. Photo Catherine Gibbs

“St Joseph’s, Pāuatahanui has been a place of peace to me and our extended family where we can feel God’s presence. Time seems to stand still there. It feels like my ancestors and parents buried there are also able to watch over me and all their descendants, with pride and love. Inside St Joseph’s church it feels like I’m stepping back in time and these words come to me: ‘Tread gently upon this sacred place, you tread where saints have walked before you’ – saints who toiled for the faith of future generations like us.” – Anne



“This sweet little church and cemetery tucked away for so long, out of sight and relatively unknown for much of its 140 plus years has now blossomed into this ‘Jewel on the horizon’ as you approach it from the new Transmission Gully roundabout just after leaving Pāuatahanui village. It’s a place of special interest to us ever since we buried one of our children there 40 plus years ago.” – Laurie



“The faith, determination and hard work of Pāuatahanui early Catholics in building St Joseph’s are inspiring. Over the years, the “little church on the hill” has provided a sacred space for generations, and especially for those whose loved ones lie at rest in its lovely gardens.” – Helen



St Joseph’s Church, had been originally gifted with three statues, but it didn’t have one of its patron saint. After a nationwide search in 2018 – its 140th anniversary year – the sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart Whanganui generously gifted a beautifully-carved wooden statue of St Joseph the Worker for the celebrations. The statue was originally from St Joseph’s Convent, Fielding, which closed in 1991. It then went to the Nazareth Rest Home chapel in Whanganui, also since closed. The wooden statue of St Joseph now looks at home in the rimu and matai-lined St Joseph’s Church.

“My family have lived in the area for well over 50 years. We have found St Joseph’s Church to be a treasure in the history of Pāuatahanui, the Catholic Church, and the pioneers of the Wellington region.” – Barbara

“I love seeing St Joseph’s two or three times a week. It includes driving through the Pāuatahanui roundabout, on SH58, and being bombarded by multiple construction activities as the Transmission Gully Motorway progresses. As you negotiate the final roundabout, there appears St Joseph’s, the historical church, which on the right day and time can sparkle in the sun. In contrast to the noisy happenings on the motorway, it is a place of peace, something heavenly that can touch the soul, not just to those of us who garden there or sing carols there at Christmas, but for all travellers who welcome a picture of tranquility at this stage of their journey.” – Julian

“Since the time our family became involved with St Joseph’s in preparation for the centenary [1978], this special church has become our spiritual home. Our mother Eileen, with Dad in support, poured her heart and soul into caring for St Joseph’s over the decades. Working bees and services created treasured memories for all generations. Every time I’m there I think of all the past and future friends of the church who were touched by this place and in turn became part of it. With family members married, baptised, farewelled and buried on this sacred land, St Joseph’s is like a relative, a loved character, whose comforting arms welcome and wrap around the whole community.” – Susan



Celebrating Christmas carols 2020 (l-r) Susan Bielecki, Claudia Larsen, Catherine Gibbs. Photo: Supplied

“In past years I shared the job of mowing the lawns and around the graves on a regular basis. It was a rewarding experience getting to know the ‘residents’ as I mowed. Also, when my mower stopped to refuel, how peaceful it was to sit there among the graves listening to the wind and birds, and the noise from Transmission Gully was still comfortably at a distance. I felt God knew I was there.” – Dennis



Photo: Catherine Gibbs

The Friends Prayer
“Creator God, we praise You for the gift of this special place and time. We remember with respect and love those buried here. We give thanks for their lives well lived. As Friends of St Joseph’s we honour this space by caring for what it represents. The rolling hills, the flowing streams leading to the beautiful Paremata Inlet, the trees and plants that sustain and shelter wildlife are all precious gifts. We give thanks for your sacred presence here. Amen.” – Catherine

