



# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Bishop's Office – Te Taumata o te Pihopa Katorika

Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, Saint Marys Bay, Auckland 1011  
Private Bag 47904, Ponsonby, Auckland 1144  
Telephone +64-9-360 3002

Email: [bishop@cda.org.nz](mailto:bishop@cda.org.nz) Website: [www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz](http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz)

22 May 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

**Re: Bishop Michael Gielen**

Overnight the Holy Father, Pope Francis, announced that he had appointed Bishop Michael Gielen as the new Bishop of Christchurch.

Bishop Michael came to us from the Diocese of Hamilton, who had shaped and nurtured him as a priest. He was ordained Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Auckland on 7 March 2020. In his brief two years in our Diocese, Bishop Michael was a great support for Bishop Pat. He has been generous and enthusiastic in his living out Christ's mission, and has come to know and love so many of the people of our Diocese.

Just over two years ago, I had to write a similar letter as we prepared to farewell Fr Michael Gielen from the Diocese of Hamilton. He was Hamilton's taonga - Hamilton's gift to Auckland. Now, after two years of shaping and nurturing him as a bishop, it is our turn to pass Bishop Michael onto the Diocese of Christchurch. Let us pray that as he was a taonga - a gift - for us, so too he may also be to the Diocese of Christchurch.

Please join me in praying for Bishop Michael as he prepares for his move to Christchurch and his installation as Bishop of Christchurch in July. May the Lord he has faithfully followed continue to guide and grace him for his new ministry and mission in the Church.

Yours sincerely in Christ the Good Shepherd

✠ **Steve Lowe**  
**Bishop of Auckland**