

# Whāia te Tika

## *Seek Justice*

Justice & Peace Commission Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Summer 2022/23



## **A Merry Christmas to all our readers!**

Sandro Botticelli. *Virgin and Child*, 1490.



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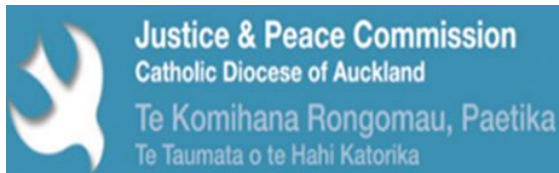
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## The synodal path: What's it all about?

When Pope Francis called for a synod on synodality in September 2021 he asked the whole church to reflect on this theme, which is decisive for the life and mission of the church. He invited us all to Journey together to consider how the Holy Spirit could inspire us to grow as a synodal church. He asked local churches to initiate processes of listening, dialogue and community discernment, in which each and every person could participate and contribute.

The cynics among us thought: Really? Synods in the Catholic Church have been Bishops gathering together to reflect on a theme chosen by the Pope, and given an introductory document written by Vatican officials. They were asked to consult (some did, some didn't) then to reconvene to look at another document produced by Vatican officials from the consultation and make some recommendations. The Pope usually produced an encyclical based on that.

So how was this going to be any different? For a start, Pope Francis invited us all to get together and gave us a question to reflect on.

**What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our journeying together?**

He also wanted **all people** to take part, not just church going Catholics, but the poor, the disadvantaged, the young, those the church judged to be "unworthy" or different.

Despite covid restrictions and short time frames, that consultation happened. And it happened using deep listening and spiritual discernment. Not our usual decision making process, which is based on debate, taking a stance and defending it strongly. That is how our Parliament and our judicial system works.

No, we were asked to put forward our opinion, to listen to other opinions, then to ask the Holy Spirit to help us reflect on what we had heard and what had affected us. And surprise, surprise; the results were amazing. **"Enlarge the Space of our Tent"** was the document we were again asked to consider; a true summation of the first round of consultations. The Process of Synodality was working! Let us look with hope for the results of the Continental Phase.

**Our response to the process is on pages 3 and 5.**



Pat Lythe  
Chair, Justice & Peace Commission  
Editor, *Whaia te Tika*

## Social Justice Retreat

The next Social Justice Retreat will be held on June 10 at the St Francis Retreat Centre in Hillsborough.

It will be led by Br Kieran Fenn, FMS. The retreat is free for Commission members and \$30 for non-members.

This year's retreat was held on June 18 and drew 24 participants at the Franciscan Friary.

Fr Merv Duffy provided a masterly guide through St Luke's Gospel.

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### For this edition

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Justice & Peace Commission  
Catholic Diocese of Auckland

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**C**ollaboration, sharing and radical inclusion are key to the future of the Church.

That was the clear message from a recent meeting of the Justice & Peace Commission of the Auckland Diocese, which met to formulate its contribution to the world-wide synodal process initiated by Pope Francis.

A total of 11 members, many of whom had consulted with their sub-committees, parishes and families on the issues facing the Church in the second decade of the 21st century.

The commission's response, and others like it, will be synthesised into one document from each of the four Bishops' Conferences in Oceania. A Discernment and Writing Group will meet for a week in January to create a draft which will be considered by the Federation of Bishops Conferences of Oceania at its Assembly in February. The final version approved by the Assembly will be submitted to the Synod Office in Rome by the end of March next year.

### Equality for Women

Almost all the respondents emphasised the issue of full and equal participation of women in the church.

"We ask that Catholic women are valued first and foremost as baptised and equal members of the People of God," the Commission said.

## Shared leadership and equality of women are critical if the Catholic Church is to thrive



### The Synodal Pathway

"Women remain the majority of those who attend liturgy and participate in activities, men a minority.

"Yet most decision-making and governance roles are held by men.

"The Church must find ways to enable women to participate more fully at all levels of Church life."

The Commission did not go into specifics regarding what roles would be involved, but said they must involve decision making.

### Radical inclusion

The Commission's report said it wanted a Church capable of radical inclusion, shared belonging and deep hospitality according to the teachings of Jesus.

This meant putting aside the regulations and processes that made it hard for people from all parts of society to feel welcomed and listened to in the church.

These included the young, women, the lonely, the alienated, people from different cultures, the disabled, the poorest, abuse victims and those groups who suffer discrimination and violence because of race, ethnicity, gender, culture and sexuality.

The Church needed to listen deeply to these groups and involve them. Maori and Pacifica ways of dialogue would be helpful in the synodal process. The Commission was reminded that the Church should be a refuge for the

**To P5**



# All together! Working together to solve Earth's common problems is vital, says documentary film



**ABOVE:** *The Letter's* protagonists, from left: Dr Robin Martin, Dr Greg Asner, Rhidima Pandey, Arouna Kande, Dr Lorna Gold, Chief Cacique Dada.

*The Letter* is a new documentary in which Pope Francis talks with representatives of the poor, young people, Indigenous Peoples and nature and wildlife through two scientists.

Pope Francis talks from his heart with the five representatives. Speaking for the poor is Arouna Kande, a student from Senegal in West Africa; for Indigenous Peoples Chief Cacique Dada from Amazonia; for young people Rhidima Pandey from India and for nature and wildlife Robin Martin and Greg Asner from Hawai'i. Each is deeply concerned making things better for their people, the environment and the whole Earth.

A strong bond was created between the different representatives during their visit to Pope Francis in the Vatican and during their visit to Assisi.

We encourage you to watch the film and be moved by the stories each representative tells. You can

find the film for free on YouTube. The film brings to life in a very personal way the big problems of climate change and biodiversity loss. It also gives us hope through forming connections and co-operation.



You can find *The Letter* on YouTube here:

<https://theletterfilm.org/watch/>

*The Letter* builds on the Pope's encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, a letter addressed to every living person on the earth, which he wrote in 2015. The Pope's concern for everybody is reflected in the film when he says: "All together, all together!" This tells us that the dramatic problems facing the Earth affect us all and can only be

Review by Susanne Rehder  
Montgomerie, Convenor  
Environment & Sustainability  
Committee.

combated if we work together to overcome them.

Pope Francis wrote *Laudato Si'* because of his great concern for the state our world. He consulted scientists to help put forward a clear picture and theologians to help him understand what the Catholic faith has to offer.

Did you read his letter yet? It is called *Laudato Si' – On Care for our Common Home*. You can find it online for free here:

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

*Laudato Si'* means "Praise be to you" and is inspired by St Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Sun*. After the encyclical was released, a whole movement was created

## Christmas giving

This Christmas, why not give a gift that gives twice – a card containing a receipt for a donation to a charity made on behalf of family or friends?

Here are links to some of our favourite charities: Caritas <https://www.caritas.org.nz>

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is the NZ Catholic Bishops' agency for justice, peace and development.

Bishop Steve Lowe is patron of the Catholic Caring Foundation <https://caringfoundation.org.nz/>

Society of St Vincent de Paul Auckland: <https://svdpak.org.nz>

## Sense of family emerges in crisis



### From P4

to implement the vision of the Pope's encyclical. The Laudato Si' Movement (LSM) is headed by Dr Lorna Gold, who narrates the film. The LSM worked with the Pope to produce the film, which puts a human face on the climate crisis. "A sense of family emerged at the end of this project," Dr Gold said. This same feeling manages to cross the screen. We end up knowing we are part of a larger family. This gives us the strength to go through the crisis together.



## Openness, transparency and accountability are vital issues for Church says synodal meeting

### From P3

wounded and broken, not an institution for the perfect. We need to enlarge our tent.

### Option for the poor

The Commission believes the Eucharist is not an end in itself, but a launching pad for mission.

"The call is for all of us to be on mission, to have a heart for the poor, to be there for the suffering and marginalised.

"We ask for more formation for clergy and laity in this area, and more homilies to be on this subject, for more emphasis on social justice teachings of the church."

The Commission said the Church needed to hear the cry of the poor and the earth and to work with other churches work to fight poverty, violence and discrimination.

"Love and forgiveness should be our guiding principles," it said.



ABOVE: Pope Francis

### How the Church is run

The Commission said it wanted an emphasis on co-responsibility, collaborative ministry and transparency.

The Church needed to address the lack of transparency and accountability in governance. This required using genuine collaborative synodal processes in reviewing Canon Law.

Equality for women in the Church was critical for the Church to thrive. This meant access to many roles, including decision-making roles currently taken by men.

"Let us not be afraid of change," the Commission said.

# Waiting list for state housing grows as citizens' groups call for industrial scale building programme

**The Commission's Housing Committee has joined a call for the government to invest in an industrial scale state house building programme.**

The call, by the State House Building Coalition, says this would be a massive investment in the future and would save huge amounts of money being spent on housing support and emergency accommodation.

Speaking on behalf of the Housing Committee, Garth Clarke said the responsible minister, Megan Woods, had replied by saying the government was building a significant amount of public housing.

"An obvious question is why does the waiting list for such housing continue to grow?" Clarke asked. The Committee has also pushed for the Government to make Crown land available for private housing on a leasehold basis. The government has responded by saying that there was not much Crown land in urban areas not required for other purposes.



Committee members met with Diocesan Manager James van Schie to discuss what action the Diocese was currently taking with regard to housing on under-utilised Church land.

The Committee was told about the Akoranga Drive development which is going to be used initially for transitional housing.

Schie also talked about a proposed development of land adjacent to the church in Kaikohe, Northland, for public housing.

## New media bill threatens to weaken the independence of public broadcaster

The Justice & Peace Commission has told the enquiry into the proposed media bill governing the merger of RNZ and TVNZ that it could potentially weaken the independence of New Zealand's public broadcasters.

In its submission, the Commission said that under the proposed law the new entity would be responsible to the Minister,

rather than being independent, as RNZ and TVNZ were now. This could leave them open to political interference.

The Commission said the new service must improve its service to Pasifika peoples.

There was also concern that there was no guarantee that all of Radio New Zealand's services would continue.

### Where to get help

**Depression Helpline:**

**0800 543 354**

**Kidline: 0800 942 8787**

**Lifeline: 0800 543 354; Free text 4357**

**Need to Talk? Call/text 1737**

**Victim Support: 0800 842 846**

**Rainbow Youth: 09 376 4155**

**Samaritans: 0800 726 666**

**What's Up: 0800 942 8787**

**Youth line: 0800 376 633; or text 2342**

**Shine (get-help):**

**0508 744 633**

**Safe to talk: 0800 044 334;**

**Free text 4334**

**Better Blokes: 09 378 6812**

**Rape Crisis Centre:**

**0800 88 33 00**

**Sexual Abuse Help**

**Foundation:**

**09 623 1700**

**Youthline: 0800 376 635; Free text 234**

**Women's Refuge:**

**0800 733 843**

**Suicide Crisis Helpline:**

**0800 543354**



## Commission applauds developments in Worker Protection Bill

The Justice & Peace Commission has applauded the introduction of infringement offences in the proposed Worker Protection (Migrant and Other employees) Bill.

This will ensure that employers who refuse to provide employment documentation are dealt with immediately rather than authorities having to take them to court.

It also supported the recent introduction of the Migrant Exploitation Protection Visa and liaison support services for victims of migrant exploitation. Justice & Peace Commission Executive Secretary Peter Garrick said workers needed to know their rights.

"We support the recommendations that information be provided in multiple languages," Garrick said.

"It is encouraging that sick leave provisions are to be introduced to our Recognised Seasonal Employees."

In its earlier oral submission in March this year, the Commission noted research that showed that action was needed to make migrant workers aware of their rights and employers of their responsibilities to avoid migrant worker exploitation.

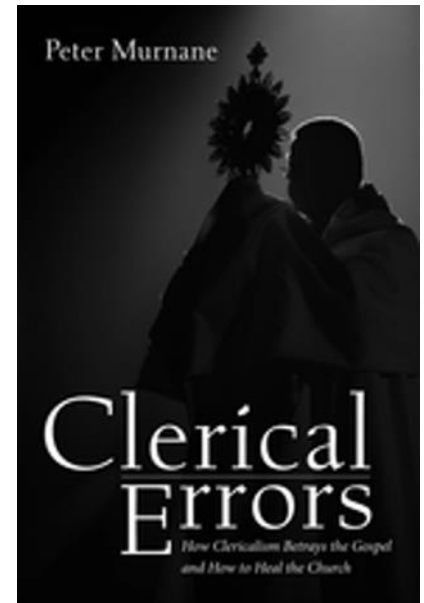
## Book review

Fr Peter Murnane. *Clerical Errors: How clericalism betrays the Gospel and how to heal the Church*. Resource Publications, Eugene, Oregon. 2022.

Opposition to clericalism has been one of the key planks in Pope Francis' campaign to reform the Church through synodal discussion.

In his new book Fr Peter Murnane, well known in New Zealand for his justice and peace-driven activism, argues that clericalism is at the root of all that is wrong with the Church. Beginning with the abomination of child abuse that has destroyed the Church's authority and reputation in the eyes of so many people, Murnane argues that the creation of a separate priesthood led to them being seen as an exclusive caste superior to lay people.

Murnane sees the shortage of priests as one of the manifestations of the systemic failure of the Church as an



institution. He warns that the solutions that have been tried have their own dangers, including that of importing clergy from countries where the vision of Vatican II has never been implemented and where clericalism is rampant.

Instead, he says that the solution is for the Church to radically change the way it does things and to abandon many of its current structures. This would be achieved by creating Basic Eucharistic Communities which would elect their own leaders.

- Philip Cass

## Commission calls for grocery regulator with wide powers to stop exploitation

The Justice & Peace Commission has urged the government to establish a regulator to oversee the grocery sector.

In its submission on the Commerce (Grocery Sector Covenants) Amendment Bill the Commission said the regulator should have the power to ensure access to wholesale grocery items for new grocery chains trying to compete.

The regulator should also set up an enforceable code of conduct between major retailers and suppliers.

The Commission supported the intention of this Bill to prevent supermarkets putting covenants on land to block would-be competitors from setting up shop in opposition.

This would provide competitive choice for customers.

# Her words and actions showed her commitment to the justice and peace to which Jesus called us

## Obituary

### Judith Williams 1946 - 2022.



**Long serving member of the Justice & Peace Commission, Judith Williams, QSM, died in Auckland's North Shore Hospital on November 28.**

She was buried on December 2 after a funeral service at Sts Peter and Paul Catholic church in Puhoi. The funeral service was presided over by Fr Brian Lange. Justice & Peace Commission Chair Pat Lythe, Vicar for Social Impact and Communications Lorraine Elliot and Justice & Peace Commission Deputy Chair Susanne Montgomerie, attended.

A recipient of the Queen's Service Medal, Judith Williams was a long-term Caritas contact person for the Puhoi parish, embracing the Social Justice Week topics each year, explaining justice issues with announcements and bulletin notices and inviting parishioners to gather for discussion or hear a speaker.

As a long-standing parish Social Justice Animator for the Justice &

Peace Commission, she kept parishioners informed about social justice issues and tried to involve them in action or advocacy in areas most important to the Puhoi community.

She travelled to the twice-yearly Commission meetings when possible and represented the state of social justice practice in her parish to the Commission.

Because she got so little response, she sometimes felt that she was a 'voice crying out in the wilderness.' She nonetheless continued, demonstrating by her words and actions her commitment to the justice and peace to which Jesus called us.

#### Not afraid

She was not afraid to challenge those in authority. She was always at the annual Bishops' Forums representing the parish and asking difficult justice-oriented questions.

A journalist by profession, she worked for the *Rodney Times* and published a number of books. She covered some of the Commission's events for the *New Zealand Catholic*.

She created a weekly newsletter for the Warkworth-Puhoi parish, which was well received.

It was a demanding job, but the feedback made it a rewarding experience.

In her later years she made her personal contribution to peace and justice by working in her local food bank with members of other churches.



**ABOVE:** Judith Williams in Bohemian costume.

Judith Williams was born in 1946, a descendant of the Bohemian settlers who made their new home in Puhoi in 1863.

She was always proud of her heritage and embraced and promoted Bohemian culture.

A trained teacher, she held a Master's degree from Auckland University.

She was widely travelled in Europe and the Pacific. She was also a regular visitor to Africa and Asia, where she visited the children she sponsored through World Vision.

She was interested in refugee and migrant families in the parish and was always ready help.

**Our thanks to the members of Judith's family and past and present members of the Justice & Peace Commission who contributed to this obituary.**