



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Diocese of Auckland is extremely grateful for all those compassionate donors who supported my Bishops' Flood Relief Appeal.

The caring support of so many raised over **\$140,000** with more pledges still to come. Some of the funds from this appeal have already gone to our partner agencies including St Vincent de Paul Society, Food Hub operations in Onehunga, and through our schools and parishes connecting to communities throughout Auckland and in Northland. The wonderful team have worked around the clock to ensure that food, hot meals, and essential household items have been able to get to our most impacted.

Funds have already gone to Kaitaia, North Panguru, and Dargaville to help families in desperate need of food, who are trying to recover from when the cyclone first hit. More funds will be dispersed throughout the Far-North and other areas in the coming week as our partner agencies and parish communities see where help is needed.

Primary and secondary schools, who had families who had lost everything, have had funding for stationery and uniforms to help get students back to school after the floods. The schools have been so grateful to have this support so quickly to help ease their students back to school in such difficult times.

More funds are awaiting to be disbursed as the needs become clearer. I particularly thank the St Vincent de Paul Society who went door to door checking on people and assessing the needs. Often people are too proud to ask. I am so proud of our people who went out to seek out those in need.

The impacts of the floods are going to be felt for a long time. Cyclone Gabrielle has only accentuated this. Can I assure you that your donations already made will reach the most needy in the journey ahead.

Cyclone Gabrielle

While our Auckland weather events were bad enough nothing could have prepared us for Cyclone Gabrielle. With you, I have watched the news with sheer disbelief as I see how our brothers and sisters' lives have been turned into turmoil after the catastrophic cyclone Gabrielle has decimated Northland, Hawkes Bay and Tairāwhiti/East Coast.

The stories of anguish and despair that we are hearing every day from those who have escaped, has been harrowing. Our hearts go out to the families who have lost their loved ones, especially the young children swept away in the rising flood waters.

They need our help not only immediately but also in the months ahead.

You have been so generous in supporting the Auckland diocese when it is was ravaged by floods and the first impact of the cyclone in the Far-North.

Now, on behalf of the Dioceses of Hamilton and Palmerston North I am asking for your help again.

Neither of these two Dioceses, which have no bishop at present, have the infrastructure to host a national appeal and we have reached out to them to offer our support. After receiving their approval, I have asked my Caring Foundation to accept donations for families and individuals who have suffered unimaginable damage in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle.

So many families have loved ones who are unaccounted for, remote communities still do not have communication, and thousands of people have been severely impacted.

The recovery will be long and painful. In the face of what we see in the news we can feel overwhelmed. But in the midst of disaster, like New Zealand did for Christchurch in the aftermath of the earthquakes, we now can come together and make a difference. You can make an **online donation** to the Caring Foundation today so that assistance can get to families quickly. With the threat of disease and sickness, your help is needed more than ever. Your donation will be used by the various agencies of the Dioceses of Palmerston North and Hamilton to be used in the recovery relief. Using their networks, they will channel what you give to those in need.

Can I also ask you to pray for those in their time of extreme need, and those who are helping them. Even if you are not a believer, we join our hearts with theirs in solidarity in this time of grave need.

If you are able to make a donation, you can do this through the Caring Foundation's donation page <https://caringfoundation.org.nz/donate-3/> or online to the Foundation's bank account:

BNZ 02-0100-0242648-00 (Please use your surname and initials as reference, and Cyclone as a particular.)

To receive an emailed receipt please email info@caringfoundation.org.nz to let us know you have made your donation.

Yours sincerely in Christ the Good Shepherd

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Steve Lowe". The signature is written in a cursive style.

✘ **Steve Lowe**
Bishop of Auckland