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ISSUE
MARCH 2024

CDA CONNECT

*Kia ngangahau, kia whakāwhānuitia te Rongopai a te Karaiti
To live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ*



THE PILGRIMAGE OF LENT
NEWS FROM THE DPC
ENGAGEMENT IN FAITH

For the Lenten Journey

God of the journey,
As I continue my Lenten journey, guide me.
Fill my heart with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace
as I strive to become the me you dream me to be,
honestly admitting when I get it wrong
and fail to love as fully as I could.

As I renew my resolve each day to become a missionary disciple,
let me hear your voice in the deepest reaches of my heart.
Give me rest in you.

Help me to accept others, showing them your great love
instead of casting judgment.

Stay with me through the busy days ahead
and remind me that when I need
comfort, solitude, wisdom, or guidance,
I can always turn to you.

Through this Lenten journey
may I come ever closer to you.

Amen

13 March 2024

Statement from the Catholic Bishops of Aotearoa New Zealand

Caritas Lent Appeal

Each year, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand runs the Bishops' Lent Appeal to support their work to aid and empower the most poor and vulnerable in our society. The Caritas mission, as the Catholic agency for justice, peace, and development, is of vital importance to us all, especially the vulnerable communities they work with across the Pacific and beyond.

The Bishops' Lent Appeal is the most direct way of providing the resources Caritas depends on to continue this vital work.

For our Catholic community, Caritas is the means by which we help our brothers and sisters in need – upholding their human dignity through partnerships grounded in Catholic social teaching.

Over the last couple of years there has been a drop in giving to Caritas, putting pressure on their ability to fund programmes that serve those most in need. We ask that during this time of preparation and almsgiving, you make a special gift to the Bishops' Lent Appeal 2024 online at www.caritas.org.nz using the envelopes provided at Mass. This act represents the giving of alms and will mean so much to those that Caritas helps.

Yours in faith,

- ✠ Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Auckland.
- ✠ Richard Laurenson, Bishop of Hamilton
- ✠ John Adams. Bishop of Palmerston North
- ✠ Paul Martin SM, Archbishop of Wellington
- ✠ Michael Gielen, Bishop of Christchurch
- ✠ Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin



**The 'time is now'
to help vulnerable
families live with
dignity.**

Please give generously this Lent.

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140 | Tel +64 4 496 1747

Update on the **SYNOD** on Synodality

In December 2023 the Ordinary Council of the General Secretariat of the Synod, released a statement regarding the steps to be taken in the months between December and the Second Session of the Synodal Assembly (October 2024) in order that the whole Church continue the journey For a Synodal Church.

Communion, Participation, Mission.

In the document local Churches are invited to contribute by deepening aspects of the Synthesis Report that are fundamental to the Synod's theme. These contributions are guided by the question:

“HOW can we be a synodal Church in mission?”

The diocese is offering sessions across regions to provide an opportunity for the Church of Auckland to participate in this phase of the consultation.

Preparation is preferred. Guidelines for the sessions,, a reflection sheet and reading material can be found on the Towards October 2024 page of the diocesan website linked from a button on the home page



Consultation Sessions

2nd April	Immaculate Conception, Ellerslie	7.00pm
3rd April	St Francis of Assisi, Thames	5.30pm
4th April	St Anne's, Manurewa	7.00pm
6th April	Holy Cross, Henderson CHURCH	2.00pm
8th April	St Joseph's Takapuna MEETING ROOM	7.00pm
9th April	Sacred Heart, Dargaville	7.00pm



Information re this CONSULTATION

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference has set out the method and timeline for this consultation, collating the fruits of the diocesan consultations and writing a summary national document (maximum eight pages) to be sent to Rome by 15 May. This material will contribute to the drafting of the *Instrumentum Laboris* for the Second Session.

The consultation is about **actions** to be taken. It is not a critique of the Synthesis Report from the First Session. That report serves as a reference point for this process.

This consultation is to be guided by the question:
“How can we be a synodal Church in mission?”

Local churches are asked to identify **concrete actions** that enable individuals and groups to make their unique contribution to the Church’s mission.
(NZCBC, 30 January 2024)



I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation

Pope Francis 2015

Scan to go directly to the consultation registration page





Rite of Election

The Rite of Election and Call to Ongoing Conversion saw a full Cathedral on 19 February as 255 seekers were acknowledged and welcomed marking the beginning of their final stage of preparation to be baptised (185) or received into full communion (70) at Easter.

The Rite of Election both closes the period of the catechumenate and marks the beginning of the final and more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation celebrated during the Easter Vigil. The call to Continuing Conversion recognises candidates already part of the elect moving into a reflective time of immediate preparation for reception into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

We hold all these seekers in prayer on this significant stage of their journey in faith.



PENTECOST SUNDAY

MASS OF THE NEOPHYTES

19 MAY 4.30PM

CATHEDRAL OF ST PATRICK AND ST JOSEPH



Come and celebrate the gift of faith and acknowledge the newly welcomed members of our community.

The Mass of the Neophytes

On **Sunday 19 May** the Feast of Pentecost, all those newly baptised and those received into the Catholic Church from across the Diocese are invited by Bishop Steve to gather as the newest members of the Diocese to give thanks and praise to God for the wonderful gift received at Easter. Friends, family and fellow parishioners are all included in the invitation to this

Mass of Welcome.



Masterclass & Commissioning Mass

25 FEBRUARY

Youth & Young Adult Leaders gathered for the first Masterclass of 2024 - this is a quarterly event dedicated to equipping, empowering and energising leaders for ministry.

**We had 2 awesome workshops on the topics:
Stepping out of our Catholic Comfort Zones:
Effective Youth Ministry Across Different Catholic Spiritualities, and Set for Success:
Creating an Annual Plan for your Youth Ministry.**

After Masterclass concluded, we joined for a Young Leaders' Commissioning Mass celebrated by Monsignor Bernard Kiely. Leaders were blessed, commissioned, and sent out for a new year of ministry.

**PHOTOS
HERE**





The Upper Room

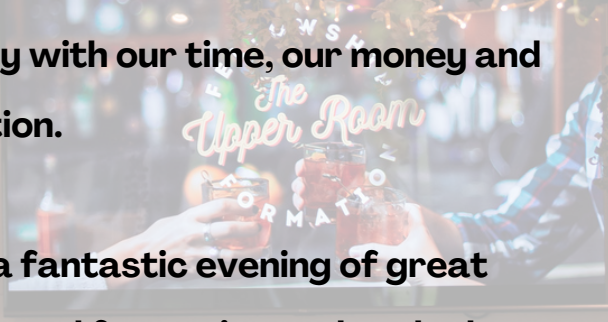
07 MARCH

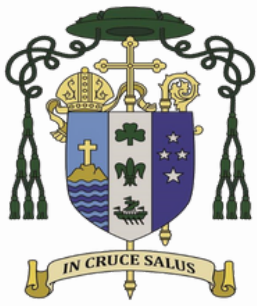
It was awesome to gather at Good George in Mission Bay for the first Upper Room of 2024!

Our guest speaker Danielle Mourits spoke about what it means to live out radical generosity with our time, our money and our vocation.

This was a fantastic evening of great fellowship and formation and we look forward to the next Upper Room on the 18th July!

**PHOTOS
HERE**





Auckland Diocesan Pastoral Council Newsletter

On 9 March the Diocesan Pastoral Council met for the first time this year. The meeting began with a formal welcome to Tiraroa Bucknell-Webb the new urban Māori delegate.

The Council then heard from two diocesan leaders. Alison Munro is the Chancellor of the diocese working in the Bishop's Office. This is a new position for Auckland. Alison introduced herself and explained a little of her role and responsibilities.

James van Schie is the General Manager of the diocese. He presented information about the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care. James talked about the expectations of when the final report will be published and its implications for the Catholic Church. He gave some guidance on responding to matters that are raised regarding these issues and answered questions that arose.

How are we a Synodal Church in Mission?

The Council spent time reflecting on the Synthesis document **How are we a synodal Church in Mission?** Concrete actions using the lens of Chapter 5 "out of every tribe, tongue, people and nation" resulted. Many of the actions from the discernment are 'cultural centred' but also serve to give a framework to welcome others who are on-the edge and feel unwelcome. Some are already in place others are suggestions ,

- Be welcoming through smiling, greeting, taking an interest. Be able to do this before and after Mass and not asked to be quiet.
- Name Tag Sunday so that all feel they are named and important.
 - Visitors, those new to the parish to stand and be welcomed. People to follow up after Mass.
 - Look at the language we are using and that it is accessible in our messages and liturgy.
- Incorporation of cultural aspects within the Eucharist.
 - Different communities 'host mass' and do morning tea afterwards.
- Invite and celebrate the ethnic community choirs.
- Welcome before Mass happens in more than one language or other dominant culture.
- Parish new migrant ministries team
 - Invite new migrants for a fun and information night.
 - Celebrate cultural diversity through cultural evenings.
 - Invite mix of people to ministries or to do something practical.
 - Ensure parish pastoral council/finance council representatives reflect the diversity of the parish.
 - Engage the ethnic youth groups together in particular activities.
- Inter-parish, inter-denomination, inter-faith activities of service, meeting the needs of others under common purpose. Let's people learn about each other.
- Support and enhance the diocesan ethnic festival.
 - Do simple accessible (especially financially so) that welcome all.
 - Potluck meals - people share from their culture
- Parish family gatherings such as picnics.

A Warm Welcome

Members of Te Whanau Tapu parish accompanied Tiraroa Bucknell-Webb to her first meeting of the Council as the urban Māori delegate. The Council led by Vicar for Māori Manuel Beazley officially welcomed Tiraroa. During evening Mass Bishop Steve commissioned Tiraroa as a Councillor. Welcome Tiraroa.



Bishop Steve and other members of the DPC bless Tiraroa as she is commissioned as a delegate to the Council.

The Importance of Communication



One of the recurring themes of the meeting was the importance of communication. It was felt that the National Catholic Church's voice was mute and that it was important as the report of the Royal Commission that this be resolved.

One suggestion was made about using technology such as zoom to communicate with the wider diocese through hui where significant information was shared by Bishop Steve, James van Schie,...



Highlights from Reports

Life Teen Camp drew out the spirit and confidence in our kids as new friendships started to form and soon enough, we felt like one big family. The kids being so happy to reunite at the first social night of the year is indicative of this special bond they built on camp

Youth delegate report

Once a month we invite a guest speaker to come and share their life of faith experience with the community. We started this last year. There is shared lunch afterwards, and people can continue their conversations with one another. This helps build up a sense of belonging to the Parish family.

Parish report

A weekly note of school activities in the Parish Bulletin provides a welcome link for parishioners.

Parish report

The Parish Council is offering 4 "Opportunities for Synodal Conversation" during the Sundays of Lent. 18 people attended the first one, which focused on prayerful listening and discernment around communion and mission

Parish report

A Children's Lenten Retreat is being offered. Parish report on Lenten initiatives.

Pyjama Drive, where parishioners donate new pjs/nightwear/slippers which are then distributed by Catholic Social Services
Parish report on Lenten initiatives.

Listening to the Diocese

Having spent time praying with and considering reports submitted from faith communities, members broke into spiritual conversation groups. Following the process of 'what I heard', 'what you heard' 'what are we hearing?' each group prepared a short oral report to present to Bishop Steve. Bishop Steve then facilitated a dialogue around matters arising.

initiatives being offered to the faith community over Lent to build their faith

Most parishes are doing some form of additional Lenten activities - variety varies, most offering at least the Stations of the Cross. Good to see that additional activities are being offered and that people are attending.

How do we know these are successful?

Growth in numbers attending including new people.

- People are participating more - e.g. offering to lead Stations of the Cross
- parishioners express that the activities have enriched their experience of faith.

Bishop Steve asked the council *What should Lent do for us?*

Renew faith.

Make us more compassionate and aware God is calling us to as disciples of Jesus.

Reflect on our relationship with God, pause, reflect, renew.

Grow and deepen what faith we have.

Strengthens us for mission.

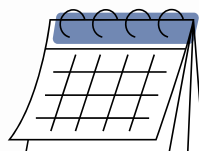
A further question was asked| Are devotions something we do to make ourselves feel better or actions to deepen? We continually need to ask ourselves what our motivation is, are we just ticking boxes?

Numbers of catechumens and candidates:

Some parishes have large numbers of catechumens and candidates and other parishes (even adjoining parishes) have none. A general question was asked why is that? We are a missionary church, and some parishes seem to be doing it really well and others not so well. If a school is attached to a Church then numbers of candidates and catechumens seems to be higher.

DPC Meetings 2024

Date reports due to delegate



22 June | Reports due 14 June.

17 August | Reports due 9 August.

2 November | Reports due 25 October.

Charity in Action.

The weekend of 16/17 March a group of 'angels in human disguise' had flown from Tāmaki Makaurau and silently, without fuss had performed a great mahi in the Far North. Following on their previous experience a couple of years ago in Ahipara – they took their brushes, paints, and super enthusiasm – and arrived at Waitaruke on Friday afternoon, 15th of March. After having been welcomed with a custom Pōwhiri by the local whānau – they had set to work immediately. Two days later – after many hours of labour, lots of litres of paint, used rollers and brushes – the mahi had been completed. The outside walls and the roof of Te Whare Karakia Te Ngākau Tapu – the Church of the Sacred Heart – have been fully repainted and now look magnificent. Praise the Lord and heartfelt thanks to the 'dream team'.

The 'angels' are Rod, Dale, Sam, Iain, Grant, Carl, Cedric, Michael, Warren & Quintin from St Mary's Parish in Northcote and St Luke's parish in Flatbush.

Ngā mihi aroha e hoa.



After the Pōwhiri in front of the whāre karakia.



The 'dream team' with Annie Rakena.



Te Whare Karakia Te Ngākau Tapu – the Church of the Sacred Heart in Waitaruke:
Before and after the visit of the 'angels'.



Acolyte Commissioning

On Saturday 16 March, eight men were commissioned to the order of Acolyte. This is a ritual step in the journey of ordination to the Permanent Diaconate some time next year.

Permanent Deacons are men over 35 usually married who remain deacons for life, unlike Transitional Deacons who are studying for the priesthood and the diaconate is a step on the way towards ordination to priesthood.

The ministry of the Deacon is one of **service and charity**, of **witness and proclaiming the Good News**, and of **leadership in prayer and liturgy**. The Deacon is committed to the Bishop and the local Church through ordination. His ministry is such that strengthened and enlightened by the Holy Spirit, he serves and enables others to serve and thus become actively involved in the faith community.

We continue to pray for these men while on this journey.



The feast of Hato Hōhepa celebrated 'big time'!

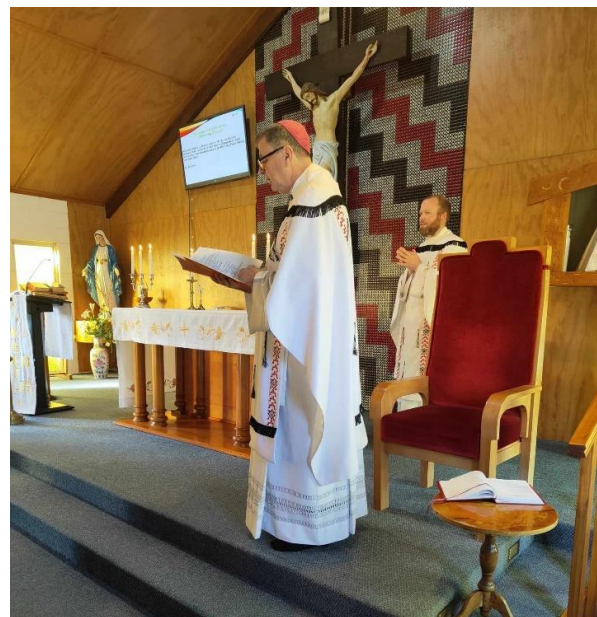
The catholic school in Waitaruke may be tiny in size but has a big heart, brilliant singing voices of its Tamariki, very dedicated staff and supportive whānau.

Hato Hōhepa Te Kamura celebrated their patronal feast of St Joseph on the 19th March, with miha with Bishop Steve and many waiata!



A pōwhiri for the manuhiri from Diocesan Offices: James [General Manager], Manuel [Vicar for Māori] and Catherine [Vicar for Education] was followed by a 'big dreams' meeting with the school's principal Mereana, members of the school board and local whānau.

Where there is a will, there will be a mahi.



16TH ANNUAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS

29
MAR
2024

9AM
to
11AM

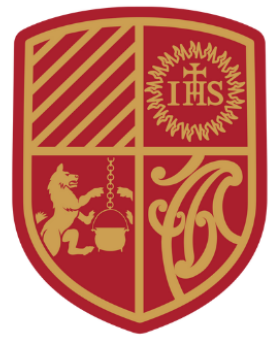
GATHERING AT ALBERT PARK ROTUNDA &
CONCLUDING AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

This year, we look forward to continuing our tradition of a Stations of the Cross procession through the Auckland CBD on Good Friday. We will begin by gathering at Albert Park Rotunda at 9am. The procession will conclude at St Patrick's Cathedral at 11am. Each year, hundreds of people from across the Diocese come together for this commemoration of our Lord's passion. We would love you, your family, and your faith community to join us in this powerful public witness through the streets of Auckland. All are welcome to attend!

Please bring comfortable walking shoes, bottled water, and a hat.

Community Open Day

St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College, Burt Rd, Drury



**ST IGNATIUS
OF LOYOLA**
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

INVENIENS DEUM IN OMNIBUS



An invitation to all in the community to join a guided tour of our new college. All are welcome.

Saturday, 6 April 2024

9.30am-12.30pm



The Relics of Saints

From 26 April to 5 May 2024, the Catholic community in Auckland, New Zealand, will have a unique and historic opportunity to welcome the relics of saints from both the Eastern and Western Catholic Churches.

The tour will bring together relics of:

- St Maroun, the spiritual father of the Maronite Catholic Church
- St Peter Chanel, Patron Saint of New Zealand, Roman Catholic Church
- St Charbel, Maronite Catholic Church
- St Rafqa, Maronite Catholic Church
- St Volodymyr Pryima, Ukrainian Catholic Church
- St Nehmetallah, Maronite Catholic Church
- St Alphonsa, India's first Female Saint, Syro-Malabar Catholic Church
- St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia's first Saint, Roman Catholic Church
- St Mariam Baouardy, Melkite Catholic Church
- Blessed Martyrs of Patulin, Ukrainian Catholic Church
- Servant of God Fr Ragheed Aziz Ganni, Chaldean Catholic Church



This tour marks a significant moment in our spiritual journey, symbolising unity within our Church and enriching our faith.

The relics of the Saints will be welcomed at the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph on Saturday 27 April at 3pm in the presence of visiting Bishops of the Eastern Catholic Church of New Zealand. The special welcome will be followed by mass at 4pm.

The relics represent a tangible connection to the spiritual heritage of both Eastern and Western Catholics, serving as beacons of holiness in our contemporary world. Despite the challenges we face, these saints inspire us to persevere in our faith and strive for greater holiness. The tour in Auckland extends a rich tradition of spiritual reverence and unity within the Church. However, connecting Eastern Catholics with their spiritual heritage will also provide a unique opportunity to deepen faith and strengthen spiritual bonds.

Last year, the Maronite Eparchy of Australia celebrated the Golden Jubilee of its official establishment. During the year, a tour of the relics of all Maronite Saints - St Maroun, St Charbel, St Rafqa and St Nehmetallah - with the relics of Australia's St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, brought communities together in prayer asking for the blessings of the Lord through the intercession of our Saints.

The historic relics tour in Auckland - which will see relics of Saints from the Roman, Maronite, Melkite, Ukrainian, Chaldean and Syro-Malabar Catholic rites come together - is promised to be a spiritually enriching experience for the faithful and a positive opportunity for the Church in Auckland to engage with the Eastern communities in the region and experience their rich faith traditions.





CATHEDRAL OF
ST PATRICK & ST JOSEPH
To Whare Karakia o Hato Pateriki raua ko Hato Hohepa
Catholic Diocese of Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND,
ALONG WITH THE EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF NEW ZEALAND,
PRESENTS

THE RELICS OF SAINTS NEW ZEALAND TOUR 2024 26 APRIL - 5 MAY



ST MAROUN



ST PETER CHANEL



ST CHARBEL



ST RAFOA



ST VOLODYMYR PRYIMA



ST NEHMETALLAH



ST ALPHONSA



ST MARY MACKILLOP



ST MARIAM BAOUARDY



BLESSED MARTYRS OF PATULIN



SERVANT OF GOD
FR RAGHEED GANNI

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST PATRICK & ST JOSEPH WILL WELCOME THE RELICS ON SATURDAY 27 APRIL AT 3PM. THE WELCOME WILL BE FOLLOWED BY MASS.

OTHER DATES AND VENUES

Friday 26 April – 6pm relics welcome and prayers

- 7pm Maronite Divine Liturgy;

St Anne's Catholic Church Manurewa

Sunday 28 April - 10am relics arrival + 11am mass;

Saint Elias Melkite Catholic Church Auckland

Sunday 28 April - 2.30pm relics arrival + mass;

Mother of Perpetual Help, Church of Ukraine Glendowie

Sunday 28 April - 6pm relics arrival + 7pm mass;

St Addai Chaldean Catholic Church Papatoetoe

Friday 3 May - 6pm relics arrival + 7pm mass

Mother of Perpetual Help Syro-Malabar Mission Ellerslie



Liturgy Centre
Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Formation • Training • Refresher

MINISTERS OF THE WORD | EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION



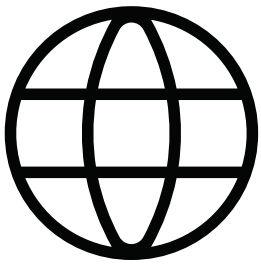
Register here:

aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy-prayer/formation

or contact your parish
office/priest for group
registrations.



Catholic Diocese of Auckland
Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika



Dipping into the CDA website

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/year-of-prayer/>



Unsure where to head for Holy Week Liturgies? The diocese has prepared an overview of parish timetables available from the website homepage. This includes information about neighbouring churches.

There are a lot of other useful resources for parishes and individuals on our website.

Explore!



We would like to share our news widely so please invite others to sign up.



MISSION MAP
Mata kaupapa Mhāna