

NZ Catholic

The newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland

ISSUE 2 - MAY 2025

That All May Be Welcome

Having blessed the city of Rome and the world in the traditional Urbi et Orbi on Easter Sunday, Pope Francis went home to God early the next morning. One of his key legacies will be his promotion of synodality and inclusivity.

Francis is credited with significantly advancing the concept of synodality within the Church, emphasising collective discernment, listening and participation among all members of the Church, not just the hierarchy. His efforts culminated in the multi-year Synod on Synodality, which included extensive consultations with Catholics worldwide and aimed to foster a more inclusive and participatory Church. Our task as a local Church is to put the results of the Synod into practice.

One of the practical ways this is being implemented is through the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Rather than just reading reports from communities and commenting, they pray with all that is sent in and then discern using spiritual conversations what the issues, concerns and celebrations of the diocese are. Three members are also undergoing training in leading synodal conversations facilitated through the Bishops Conference, so



Despite the threat of a continuation of stormy weather, more than 700 pilgrims of hope walked and prayed the Stations of the Cross through Auckland's central city on Good Friday.

that they might support communities throughout the diocese to use this process.

To ensure that all members of the Church, regardless of their abilities, can fully participate in the life of the

Church, the diocese has various dedicated ministries. GIFT, which stands for Growing in Faith Together, is an initiative with people with an intellectual disability, fostering a sense of belonging and community. It helps individuals feel valued and included, which is essential for their emotional and spiritual well-being. Twice a month, a group gather at the diocesan centre to share life and faith, as well as other social and special occasion gatherings.

For the deaf and hard of hearing, pastoral workers not only do pastoral visitation but also organise a monthly NZSL Mass at the Pompallier Centre and arrange interpreters once a month at Good Shepherd Parish Balmoral. Bible study and prayer opportunities are also regularly offered.

These small steps are the diocese working towards helping to realise the Church Pope Francis envisioned when he said in December 2021: "The Church is truly your home! We, all of us together, are Church, because Jesus chose to be our friend... Everyone has a part to play; no one is a mere extra".

As we mourn this humble, good and faithful servant of God, may we continue to open our eyes to how we create a Church that is truly everyone's home.



UPCOMING Events

7 MAY

Upper Room Fellowship and Formation
6.30-9.00pm, Good George Mission Bay

7 MAY / 5 JUNE

Online Safeguarding Workshop
7-8.30pm

10 MAY

Migrant Chaplaincy Leaders Formation
9.30am-12.30pm, Pompallier Catholic Centre

17 MAY

The Role and Function of the Pastoral Council
10am-12.30pm, Pompallier Catholic Centre

18 MAY

Safeguarding Workshop
11am-12.30pm, St Peter Chanel Parish, Clover Park

20 MAY

Ecumenism – Its History and Relevance Now Webinar
7pm, email louisar@cda.org.nz to register

29-31 MAY

Jubilee of Song with Tony Alonso
[see advert for details]

1 JUNE

Ecumenical Prayer Service for Week of Christian Unity
5pm, St Luke's Anglican Church, Mt Albert

7 JUNE

Be Refreshed Day Retreat
10am-3.30pm, Holy Name Parish, Matakana

Latest edition of Catholic Directory published

The 2025 New Zealand Catholic Directory, the comprehensive record of the people and organisations of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand, has been published.

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference has published the Directory for decades, seeking to capture all official Church ministries and groups.

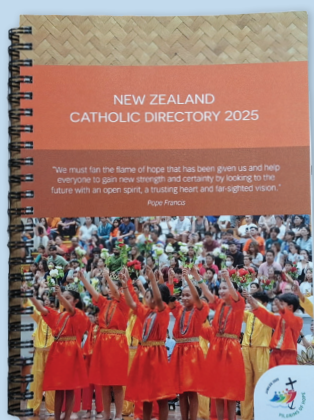
NZCBC executive director Damian Dempsey said one of the key functions of the Catholic Directory is to encourage and enable collaboration between people working or in ministry within the Church.

“The Directory helps connect those working across the six dioceses, in dozens of religious orders and in many other Catholic organisations that are carrying out God’s mission across the country,” he said.

“While each ministry has its unique features, we also understand the benefit of working with like-minded people and groups to serve the Church.”

Hard copies of the Catholic Directory can be purchased for \$40, including GST and postage. They can be ordered by emailing accounts@nzcbc.org.nz

There is also an online version of the Catholic Directory. The annual online subscription costs \$22 plus GST and can be activated at directory.catholic.org.nz



Decades of ministry to young Catholics recognised with award

Chris Duthie-Jung’s leadership in ministry to youth and young adults for many years has been recognised with a Delargey Award.

The Delargey Awards acknowledge significant and outstanding contributions made in the field of Catholic ministry with young people in Aotearoa New Zealand. They are named in honour of Cardinal Reginald Delargey.

Dr Duthie-Jung has been involved in youth and young adult ministry leadership since the 1990s. He has worked on a range of projects at the local, parish, archdiocesan and national level.

He has supported, mentored and walked alongside many young adults, encouraging them to make informed decisions in order to be the best version of themselves that God created them to be.

From one-on-one pastoral care and leadership development with young people themselves, through to strong advocacy for young people, Dr Duthie-Jung has shown true dedication to this ministry for decades.

Currently the director of Church Mission at Wellington Archdiocese, Dr Duthie-Jung said receiving the award was “a complete surprise” and “very humbling”.

“Over the years, I have had a behind-the-scenes hand in many Delargey



nominations, but not for a number of years now.”

Now, it is “very humbling to find myself unexpectedly on the receiving end.”

Looking back on his service in this ministry, Dr Duthie-Jung said that “the youth and young adult formation work has been extremely rewarding over the years”.

“Putting so many young people through various long-running programmes (Leadership Formation Programme, Young Catholic Leader..) and watching them thrive and move on into leadership with a new understanding of discipleship has been its own reward,” he said.

The Delargey Awards provide recognition for ministry workers and supporters of ministry with young people in New Zealand. They also help to educate the community about ministry with young people and to recognise the place of long-term involvement in Catholic ministry with young people.


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Archbishop sees new Synod pathway for local churches

Wellington Archbishop Paul Martin SM says a new Vatican document will help ensure the outcomes of the Synod on Synodality can be embedded in the local churches.

Archbishop Martin was one of three New Zealand representatives to participate in the two sessions of the Synod on Synodality, held in October 2023 and October 2024. They were key moments during a years-long process that included Catholics around the world.

The new process announced in March is “a process of accompaniment and evaluation of the implementation phase by the General Secretariat of the Synod”, said Cardinal Mario Grech, the Synod’s general secretary.

Cardinal Grech, who detailed the plans in a letter to the world’s bishops and through them to the People of God, said although this new period of accompaniment will culminate in an ecclesial assembly in Rome in 2028, that will not be a new Synod.



“Instead, the focus will be on consolidating the path taken so far,” he said.

Archbishop Martin said this allows the Synod’s implementation phase to take on a new energy.

“The work of carrying forward the Synod’s outcomes was always seen as the work of the local churches, and we are considering how that can be done in Aotearoa New Zealand,” he said.

“We are called to ensure that the large numbers of people who felt called to participate in the various

stages of listening and dialogue are invited to remain connected to this journey.”

Cardinal Grech said that local churches would receive and apply the Synod’s final document, which was directly approved by Pope Francis.

“And in early 2028, we will host continental assemblies, allowing us to replicate the same local-national-continental rhythm from the Synod preparations, supporting the Church’s global process,” Archbishop Martin said.

“Cardinal Grech described this is a ‘process aimed at fostering dialogue among Churches about the insights developed in the implementation phase’.

“Just as the Church in New Zealand wished to be heavily involved in the work of preparing for the Synod on Synodality, I trust the People of God will be equally engaged in its implementation.”

Digital technologies among focus areas for Church privacy officers

Privacy officers from across New Zealand Catholic organisations gathered in Wellington recently for a day of discussion and professional development around privacy law.

The National Privacy Officers Team is comprised of representatives from the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, the six dioceses and NZCBC agencies, including Caritas, Te Kupenga and the Catholic Enquiry Centre.

This year’s discussions addressed issues which are relevant to Church life today, such as privacy considerations as they relate to cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, social media, Church governance and uniformity of practice and procedures.

“As the area of privacy and technology advances with rapidity, it is important for the team to keep updated with current issues and best practices in the field,” said national privacy officer Elizabeth Ong.

“The right to privacy in Church and civil law is entwined through the idea



that privacy is connected to our human dignity and deserves due respect.

“The Church takes seriously its obligations in this area in both realms of law and seeks to do its best to protect this important human right.”

Among those to provide insights and guidance on privacy principles and strategies were guest speakers from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner. Ms Ong said network

members were grateful to those experts for sharing their time, wisdom and insights.

This was the privacy officers’ fifth annual meeting since the Privacy Act 2020 came into force. The gatherings support the development of collegial relationships and unity between all privacy officers in service of their community and particular areas of the Church.

Growing missionary disciples

CSYMI Junior is a programme designed for upper primary school students that aims to deepen their faith, fostering a strong Catholic identity and personal relationship with Jesus. Further CSYMI, which stands for Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International, has arrived in the Auckland Diocese, injecting a wave of energy and enthusiasm into Auckland's primary school scene.

While Auckland Catholic secondary school students have enjoyed retreat experiences with groups like the NET team, primary schools have been waiting for their turn – until now. After attending the transformative Currents of Grace conference in May 2024, several visionary primary principals returned with a burning question:

Can our schools implement CSYMI Junior? And guess what? They made it happen!

Last December, 160 senior students across three primary schools embarked on an unforgettable journey with Jesus, led by the dynamic Luke Maher from the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese. These retreats provided a unique platform for CSYMI secondary students from Sancta Maria College to shine as they facilitated small group discussions and activities, sharing about their personal journeys with Jesus.

Catholic Schools Office manager Philip Mahoney envisions a future where more of the 42 Catholic primary schools in the diocese



High School Students ministering to those in primary school

embrace CSYMI Junior, spreading its transformative impact.

But that's not all! The diocese is gearing up to offer school leaders an invigorating Spiritus Refresh course in November 2025, after the pandemic forced it online in 2022. This time, participants will experience the much-anticipated Porta Fidei retreat in person, reigniting their spirits and fostering deeper connections.

Exciting times ahead, Auckland! Let's keep the momentum going!

New youth minister initiative builds school-parish connections

The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is expanding its youth ministry with a new initiative designed to deepen discipleship for secondary school students and build stronger connections between schools and parish.

In 2025, the diocese is piloting a Local Youth Minister project, placing full-time youth ministers across a parish and Catholic secondary school. The first Local Youth Minister, Bridgette Carne, is serving at St Patrick's Parish in Pukekohe and the newly opened St Ignatius College in Drury. Bridgette's ministry has already seen initial success, with weekly small group discipleship sessions and growing connections between the school and parish.

The initiative builds on the ministry of the Auckland NET team – a group of six Catholic young adults who volunteer a year of their lives to do youth ministry in the diocese. The team's primary focus is delivering high-quality retreats that offer secondary school students a new encounter with Christ.

Now in its third year, the NET team continues to make a strong impact.



Bridgette Carne leads a session at SUMMIT Young Leaders Retreat

"These were the best retreats we've had in a long while," said Verna-Lee Oliver, a teacher at Sancta Maria College. A year 11 student shared: "It made me feel more connected to God."

In 2024, the team delivered 55 retreat days, positively impacting over 3,500 students.

The diocese hopes the Local Youth Minister project will build on this foundation, offering an ongoing journey of discipleship for young people.

Tony Alonso

Join Tony Alonso, a Grammy nominated composer of sacred music and a scholar whose work responds to the diverse realities of contemporary culture.

An Evening with Tony Alonso
Thursday 29 May 6.30pm, Koha \$10.00
St Francis Xavier Church, Park Ave, Whangarei

A Conversation with Tony Alonso
Friday 30 May 6.00pm, \$20.00
Pompallier Diocesan Centre with drinks & nibbles

Workshop with Tony Alonso
Saturday 31 May 1.30pm-4.00pm, Koha \$10.00
Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St

A Concert with Tony Alonso
Saturday 31 May 6.30pm, \$10.00
Baradene College Auditorium, Victoria St

Book Now @ www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz

