

NZCatholic

The newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland

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Parish Vibrancy – A Measure of the Heart

by Deacon Stephen Fraser, Faith Formation Team Leader

"Mum, I don't want to go to Mass today. It's so boring!!"

Those of us with children have all been here – trying our best to remain faithful as Catholics, passing on that heritage of our Baptism we are tasked with as parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. In today's busy world, finding time and energy to prioritise things of Church and family is difficult. And often it is difficult to see any vibrancy.

Three points can be considered in parish life that returns the blessing of vibrancy.

- First, our relationship with Jesus. Living life in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit must be intentionally pre-eminent, and an active part of our family and personal life. Is there prayer and fun at home? This alone accounts most significantly in the Christian development of our kids.
- Second, are we active in our parish? Are we in any of the parish ministries or groups? If we can sing, do we sing? If we can read, do we read? If our young people see this, they will engage. This brings vibrancy in parish life with it.
- Last, we are personally accountable for our faith. Do we participate in any learning, Scripture study or group prayer in our parish? Do we bring this into our own development as missionary disciples?

This is where the Holy Spirit is active in our lives and our parishes, and we are strengthened from these. The Church needs all of us to be consistent in these areas, engaging together to help bring excitement and vibrancy to the parish community. When this happens, the parish spirit and the culture bless us through the Holy Spirit, fulfilling life and increasing faith.



A "Be Refreshed" day retreat for the northern part of the diocese was recently held. Another retreat was scheduled for 5 July in Auckland.

The diocese continually looks to offer ways to build capacity in these areas. Upcoming events include:

Word & Eucharist – Liturgical Training Workshops

The Liturgy Centre is presenting a combined lecture for Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, focusing on the theology of these liturgical ministries and an emphasis on the practicalities. 19 July, Papatoetoe; 20 July, Mairangi Bay.

"Pilgrims of Hope in a Synodal Church" with David Wells

Saturday 6 September, Sancta Maria College. 10am-3pm. Lunch provided. Free.

Find out more at:

<https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/calendar/>



WORD & EUCHARIST

LITURGICAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

19 July (Papatoetoe) **20 July** (Mairangi Bay)

Details & Registrations:

aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy-prayer/formation



Pilgrims of Hope in a Synodal Church



Sancta Maria College Auditorium
Saturday 6th of September 2025

Hosted by international speaker
David Wells and the Catholic
Diocese of Auckland



Please contact Dcn Steve Fraser for details:

📞 021439407 or ✉ stephenf@cda.org.nz

New director appointed to lead Catholic Enquiry Centre

Twelve years after approaching the Catholic Enquiry Centre to support her in a journey towards the Catholic Church, Carly Mulqueen will take up the role as the Centre's director.

The New Zealand bishops last month confirmed Mrs Mulqueen's appointment after a national search. New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference president Bishop Steve Lowe said she emerged from the field of applicants as the choice to carry forward decades of history.

"For more than 60 years, the Catholic Enquiry Centre has been a first stop for countless people on their way to finding a spiritual home in the Catholic Church," he said.

"While some of the strategies and techniques have changed over those years, the Centre's goal remains the same – help people to know and love Jesus and His Church.

"As someone who has experienced and benefited from the Centre's

work, Carly brings a wonderful perspective and broad experience to this director's role."

Mrs Mulqueen has worked in parish and diocesan settings within the Catholic Church, as well as in roles within national faith-based organisations.

She said it is a privilege to be invited to continue the Catholic Enquiry Centre's legacy.

"I am truly grateful to God for revealing His love to me and for drawing me into His one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. In all I do, I seek to make Christ known and to help others follow Him as a disciple," Mrs Mulqueen said.

"When this role became vacant, I felt a very strong calling to offer myself in the service of the Church in this particular way. I've experienced first-hand how powerful this ministry can be, and feel privileged to now be able to accompany those enquiring

as they take the next steps in their faith journey."

Mrs Mulqueen will start in the new role on July 7, leading a team of three and collaborating with other NZCBC staff and with diocesan leaders to carry out the Centre's mission.

"There are many wonderful things happening within the Church in New Zealand. Responding to and reaching out to those who are curious and open to the Catholic faith will be a great joy," she said.

"We find ourselves in a moment when Pope Francis' passing and Pope Leo's election have heightened interest in the Church. What an opportunity we have to respond to that interest."



"In all I do, I seek to make Christ known"

NZ bishops making joint pilgrimage for Assumption feast

New Zealand's bishops will gather at the national Marian shrine in August to mark the country's patronal feast day – the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

St Mary of the Angels in central Wellington was dedicated as the Shrine to Mary, Assumed into Heaven on August 14, 2022. It followed the renewal of New Zealand's dedication to Mary, using that title, in 2021 – 183 years after the country's first bishop, Jean-Baptiste Pompallier, had done so.

The August 15 Mass this year marks the second of two shared pilgrimages the six active New Zealand bishops are making during the Jubilee Year. In January, they all made a pilgrimage to Northland, culminating in the anniversary of the first Mass on New Zealand soil at Totara Point.

Wellington Archbishop Paul Martin SM said he looks forward to welcoming his brother bishops to

the archdiocese, along with other pilgrims from near and far.

"We are celebrating this year of jubilee, with the theme Pilgrims of Hope," he explained. "This pilgrimage is one we are all making – young and old, women and men, bishops, laity, priests, religious, from our various cultural and ethnic traditions.

"May the Feast of the Assumption be an opportunity for we pilgrims to share in the hope of the Lord and in the understanding of the importance of His Blessed Mother, whom we honour and celebrate in a special way on that day."

The Mass will be celebrated at 6pm on Friday, August 15. All are welcome.



Cardinal Dew on the word that changed one cardinal's life forever.

One word. One word, which changed the life of one cardinal.

I knew I was going to hear a word – one word only – but I still waited with bated breath to hear it.

There had already been immediate applause as we cardinals counted the votes in the ballot on the afternoon of May 8. The counting had not been completed, but as it became clear that Cardinal Robert Prevost had enough votes to become the new Bishop of Rome, the applause that filled the Sistine Chapel was as deafening as it was enthusiastic.

We all knew that we had a new Pope, but protocol called for the voting process had to be completed.

Cardinal Prevost was then formally told that he had been elected and asked if he accepted the will of the gathered Cardinals.

Then came the one word: “Accepto.”

I found it a very powerful moment. This man was one of us; yet, to me, it was very clear that this was the work of the Holy Spirit. With that one word, he was prepared for his life to be dramatically changed. He knew that this was to be his way from then on – to give his life in love and in service, both to the Church and the wider world.

With humility and gratitude, he accepted a calling which meant that



his whole life would be public and would never be the same again.

Pope Leo's “accepto” calls us to pray for him and support him daily with our prayers. He is a man of deep holiness. Indeed, his knowledge of who he is in God's eyes enabled him to make his acceptance response.

This was now a renewed response to the original invitation he heard from Jesus many years ago when he heard the call of Jesus: “Follow me.” [...]

While we were singing the Litany of the Saints, I was very aware that we were being accompanied in prayer by many people in New Zealand whom I had invited to pray the Litany of the Saints as we prepared to elect a new Bishop of Rome. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of people who responded to that invitation to pray to all the Saints, imploring their prayerful intercession. I knew that there were individuals, families, diocesan staffs, parish groups and many people who accompanied us with that powerful prayer. I take this opportunity to say, “Thank You”.

As 133 of us processed into the Sistine Chapel, accompanied at that stage by the Sistine Chapel Choir, I was filled with gratitude and with the awareness that we were not on our own. The Spirit of God was guiding us, and many millions of people around the world were supporting us.

This is an abridged version of Cardinal John Dew's reflection on participating in the recent conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV.

Read the full reflection at catholic.org.nz/news



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DIVINE RENOVATION

Record numbers seek funding from Catholic Caring Foundation

Bishop Steve Lowe's Catholic Caring Foundation has received the largest number of grant applications in its 37-year history.

Families and communities hit the hardest from the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a cost-of-living crisis and increased job losses have never fully financially recovered. The Foundation has seen this reflected in the number of social service agencies and communities seeking funding from this year's grants round.

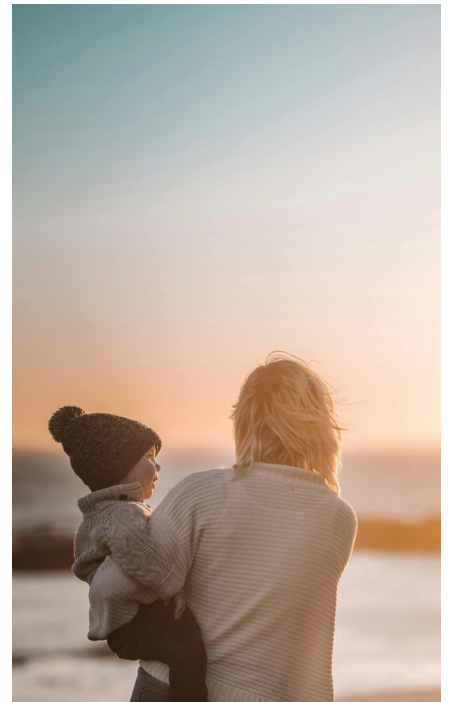
Homelessness is on the rise, foodbanks are under extreme pressure and social service agencies that provide wrap-around care are stretched to capacity.

During winter, this need intensifies as people have to make tough choices on what to go without. For many families and people in the greater Auckland area and Te Tai Tokerau, the cuts are typically around heating and food. Meeting the cost of rent leaves many with unsustainable

funds for food and heating, as well as any other household bills. For families under extreme financial pressure, doctor visits are missed and health for the family suffers.

This has an enduring and devastating effect on our children.

The Foundation is humbled and privileged to work with many agencies through the diocese who are working with extreme workloads to provide the right care and support at the right time for families and people in need. But the need is growing and, for too many families, financial crisis is only one pay day away.



A donation this winter to the Caring Foundation's annual appeal is needed more than ever.

To donate, please visit our website, call our team or scan the QR code.

www.caringfoundation.org.nz or call (09) 360 3045.

The Vital Role of Volunteer Hospital Chaplains

Catholic Diocese of Auckland
Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINCY ASSISTANT (VCA)

Do You Have a Calling To Be a Volunteer Chaplain Assistant?

If YES...

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION WHERE YOU CAN HEAR AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS FULFILLING AND NEEDED MINISTRY

WHERE

Saturday August 16th 2025
At Pompallier Diocesan Centre
30 New Street Ponsonby AKL.
10:00am to 12:30pm
Light Refreshments provided

INFO

REGISTER AT
Further information please contact
Dcn Steve - stephenf@cda.org.nz or
john.metherell@cda.org.nz

Volunteer hospital chaplains offer compassionate spiritual care and emotional support to patients and families, often during some of life's most challenging moments. Their presence brings comfort, hope and a listening, non-judgmental ear. By giving of their time and empathy, chaplains help foster healing and resilience in the hospital community. Their service is a quiet yet powerful reminder that no one faces illness or loss alone.

Middlemore Hospital Chaplaincy Volunteering – Are you a person who loves to visit people and is energised by helping those in need through volunteer hospital chaplaincy? We would love you to be involved. We are seeking volunteer chaplains for Middlemore Hospital.

Those interested are warmly invited to an information seminar, 10am to 12.30pm, Saturday, 16 August, at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre. For more information and to register, contact Deacon Stephen Fraser (021 439 407) or John Metherell (021 086 52 181).



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Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika

aucklandcatholic.org.nz

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