

NZCatholic

The newsletter of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland

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Culture and community celebrated at St Mary's Papakura

St Mary's Catholic Church in Papakura was buzzing with excitement recently, as parishioners and the wider community gathered to celebrate a successful *Whanau Hauora Day*.

After months of planning and collaboration with different committees, volunteers and sponsors, the community participated in a range of free activities. The children enjoyed the bouncy castle, face painting, colouring-in competition and a free sausage sizzle.

Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School's Pasifika cultural group as well as St Mary's Catholic



Primary School's kapa haka group beautifully displayed their culture and talents. Guest speakers enlightened the crowd about nurturing holistic wellbeing through faith, and the youth shared how they



walk with Christ in these challenging times.

Support services offered information about assistance that is available. Lots of entertainment by talented parishioners also brightened the day.

A Night at the Conclave comes to Auckland

On Friday, November 21, Cardinal John Dew will share a rare glimpse into one of the most secretive and fascinating moments in the life of the Church – a Conclave. It's a gathering few ever witness, where prayer and

discernment guide the Cardinals in choosing a new Pope under the quiet movement of the Holy Spirit.

Earlier this year, on May 8, 2025, that process led to the election of Pope Leo XIV – the first Pope from

the United States and the first from the Augustinian Order. His election marked a new chapter for the global Church after days of deep reflection within the Sistine Chapel.

At A Night at the Conclave, Cardinal John will reflect on what it's like to experience that moment of faith and history – the emotion, the reverence and the profound sense of unity that surrounds the choosing of a new Pope.

In conversation with Tim Wilson, the evening will offer insight, inspiration and a renewed appreciation for the mystery of the Church.

The event will be held at St Mary's College, Ponsonby, beginning at 7.30pm with all proceeds supporting the Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph, the Mother Church of our Diocese. Whether Catholic, curious or simply interested in history, all are welcome.



Catholic Diocese of Auckland
Te Taumata o te Hāhi Katorika

A Night at the Conclave WITH CARDINAL JOHN DEW

Friday, 21 November 2025 | 7.30pm
St Mary's College, St Mary's Bay



TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE: <https://events.humanitix.com/conclave>
Tickets \$35 | Students \$19 | \$150 for a group of 10
All proceeds go towards supporting The Cathedral of St Patrick & St Joseph



Catholic-Anglican dialogue reflects on new global leaders

Catholic and Anglican representatives gathered in Christchurch last month to discuss their shared mission, joint areas of focus and the recent changes of leadership in each tradition.

Bishop Michael Gielen, co-chair of the Anglican Roman Catholic Commission of Aotearoa New Zealand, celebrated Mass for the Commission and staff of the Christchurch Diocese on October 22.

He noted it was coincidentally the feast day of St John Paul II, who in 1986 had led an ecumenical service at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, which stood on the same land as the diocesan offices.

Bishop Gielen quoted from the saint's comments during his homily, including Pope John Paul II's call to work for unity "by the process of honest dialogue sustained by prayer, without compromising the truth".

Bishop Gielen said one of the topics of discussion during the two days of meetings was the selection of Pope Leo XIV and Archbishop Sarah Mullaly as the leaders of the Catholic and Anglican communities.

"What we have been reflecting on is the transition of leadership from Francis to Leo and from Justin Welby to Sarah Mullaly, and what that has meant, what that process has been like for us – what has unified us, what different challenges we've experienced," he said.

Cardinal John Dew, who participated in the conclave that elected Pope Leo, joined the meeting to share his personal insights into the experience of taking part in the ancient ritual of choosing a new pope.

Auckland Bishop Ross Bay, the Anglican co-chair of ARCCANZ, said he is seeing a shift in the way Anglicans and Catholics collaborate.



"I think one of the ways in which the work of dialogue has progressed has been that it started really about talking a lot together, about the things that divide us, the things that we've been working on to find common ground, but we've been finding ourselves drawn more towards how we walk together," Bishop Bay said.

"What are the things we can do together and walk together towards that, through a common purpose and mission, draw us closer together in our common call to live out a baptismal life?"

One area in which that common call was explored was in practical efforts to combat modern slavery and human trafficking.

"That is one of the things we've gathered a lot of our korero around – what can we do together in that space, both to achieve something that makes a difference in our society, but also expresses that sense of a call to have common mission together?"

ARCCANZ is comprised of four Catholic and four Anglican members, along with the bishop co-chairs.

Network promotes warm welcome for seekers

The Catholic Enquiry Centre has launched a national network to support people who are interested in becoming Catholic to find a place of encouragement and welcome in local parishes.

The new network, called Catholic Enquiry Connect, will look for people to fill two distinct roles in each parish – "Connectors" and "Champions".

Connectors will be trusted parishioners that the Enquiry Centre can introduce seekers to, ensuring that there is a real sense of hospitality. They may be pastoral workers, people on an RCIA team, an Alpha team or other "everyday evangelists" who have a heart to accompany others in faith.

"We are receiving enquiries most days at the Enquiry Centre," shares Carly Mulqueen, the Centre's director.

"Our role in almost every case is to connect that enquirer with a local parish, guiding them to a place to explore their questions of faith beyond what the Centre provides, including the daily life of a Catholic community."

With Connectors sought for each parish throughout the country, a network will develop that will benefit the local community, dioceses and the Church nationally.

"We will know that the Connectors are there for us to introduce seekers to and, at the same time, we'll equip Connectors with tips, tools and encouragement for sharing faith in their own context," Mrs Mulqueen said.

The Catholic Enquiry Centre will also invite people to become Champions in their parish. Champions will help promote the Catholic Enquiry Centre as a valuable resource for parishes, including through local marketing efforts.

"We look forward to working with parish communities to identify and develop Connectors and Champions to join the network," she said, encouraging people to visit the Catholic Enquiry Centre website, www.catholicenquiry.nz, to learn more.



Hope and Renewal Summit Draws Over 500 Catholics to Palmerston North

Palmerston North Bishop John Adams says he is “looking forward to the future with great anticipation” after more than 500 people gathered in his diocese for the Hope and Renewal Summit.

Delegates from each New Zealand diocese, as well as Australia, the Pacific and southeast Asia took part in the Summit from October 2-4, jointly hosted by the Diocese of Palmerston North and international parish renewal ministry Divine Renovation.

Bishop Adams said the Summit had been a “wonderful few days”.

“I’m not sure there’s been an occasion in recent history where the clergy and Catholic people have come together to talk about the future of the Church and what our parishes might look like,” he explained.

“So, I’m thrilled with what’s happening and looking forward to the future with great anticipation.”

Dozens of priests and six bishops attended a clergy day on October 2, with Divine Renovation founder Fr James Mallon and ministry coach Matt Regitz speaking about the important role priests play in the work of parish renewal.

Hundreds of lay people joined the conference the following day, with Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Gabor Pinter celebrating Mass.

“My prayerful wish is that this Summit will be a true moment of grace, a time of unity and courage for the Catholic Church in all your countries,” he said.

“May it help you discover new pathways for evangelisation, strengthen bonds of fraternity and renew the zeal of pastors and faithful alike.

“May your deliberations give rise to concrete initiatives that will make the Gospel present in every corner of your nations.”



In addition to prayer, praise and worship, and keynote addresses, delegates attended workshops across three streams, depending on their own or their parish’s current status: “New to renewal” or, using the nautical theme, either “Casting off” or “Sailing the Waves”.

Fr Mallon, who gave several talks across the three days, invited delegates to return to their communities and be “prophets of hope and renewal”.

Although the conference finished on Saturday evening, about 200 delegates attended a thanksgiving Mass on the Sunday morning.

Palmerston North diocesan mission and evangelisation director Emily Sit said the Summit was “an incredible experience, united in worship and vision”.

“Our prayer is that the seeds of hope and renewal planted at this Summit will continue to stir the Spirit across our land and make our parishes shine as beacons of light, renewing our nation and carrying the Gospel with fresh courage into our communities,” she said.



Bishop John Adams, Fr James Mallon and Divine Renovation lead for New Zealand, Cheryl Surrey
Photo Credit: Taita Burton



Many take up invitation to be Pilgrims of Hope

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, pilgrimages serve as powerful journeys of renewal, reflection and spiritual connection. They invite individuals and communities to walk together in faith, seeking signs of hope in sacred places and rediscovering the presence of God in everyday life.

Many pilgrimages have occurred already throughout the year. Some communities such as the Tongan Catholic



community headed to the Holy Doors of Rome (see below) and were present when Pope Leo was introduced.

Many others have made their pilgrimages locally. The journey to Totara Point to celebrate the first Mass in Aotearoa was undertaken by several car and bus loads. Marist Laity took a group of families on an accessible friendly pilgrimage around Auckland, including to the Pompallier Diocesan Centre. The Chinese Chaplaincy of Auckland and Holy Cross Parish, Papatoetoe journeyed to the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph. Meanwhile, Our Lady of Immaculate Conception Ellerslie made a hikoī to the Panmure Cemetery where many of the early Catholics of Auckland are buried.

It's not too late to organise a pilgrimage for this Jubilee Year. Find out more on the diocesan webpages <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/jubilee2025/> under the tab "Local Hikoī".

A Pilgrim of Hope to Rome by Kuilei Tu'inukuafe Pulotu

I would like to reflect on a journey that touched the hearts of many – a journey not just across oceans, but deep into the soul of our Catholic identity. Following the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday 2025, Tongans from Auckland Diocese, Aotearoa and Tonga made their way to Rome. It was a pilgrimage of hope, remembrance and spiritual unity.

In Rome, our Tongan pilgrims stood shoulder-to-shoulder with thousands of mourners in St Peter's Basilica. They sang hymns in our language, prayed with rosaries passed down through generations and offered their grief with grace. It was a moment of profound connection – between our island home and the heart of the Vatican.

This pilgrimage also unfolded during the Church's Jubilee Year, a time of renewal, mercy and pilgrimage. Our people walked through the Holy Doors, seeking grace and reflecting on their place in the global Church. They did not come as tourists, they came as witnesses to history, as children of faith and as bearers of the Pacific's spiritual light.

Mālō 'aupito. May God bless us, and may He guide the Church in this new chapter with Pope Leo XIV.



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