4 HOW CAN PARISHES PROMOTE ECUMENISM?

Every baptised, priest and parishioners can help promote, live out the call for Christian unity.

Suggestions below | Be Creative!

New to Ecumenism:

- Attend the Day of Prayer for Christian Unity around Pentecost held annually.
- Visit other Christian Church services to grasp understanding.

- Welcome Christians from other traditions with warmth. Provide simple Mass guides to help them participate and appreciate the Liturgy.
- Prepare ecumenical service pamphlets to use for weddings, baptisms, funerals.
- Use inclusive language in Prayers of the faithful.
- Remember: show kindness, respect and humility. Avoid negative stereotypes.

For ecumenical parishes

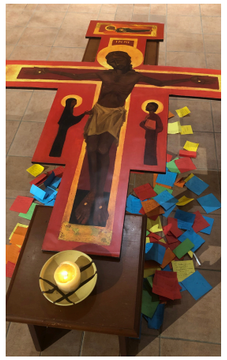
- Setup a parish ecumenical team to organise local ecumenical relations.
- Support, serve alongside other Christian function events in your area.
- Hold joint prayer services with nearby Churches during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Organise ecumenical services during Holy Week - Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, and Advent.
- Organise activities working together - clean bridges/rivers & drainages, host meals to serve the poor, elderlies, schools.

Visit our website for more resources
https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/ecumenism

5 OUR MISSION

Together we seek the unity that Christ desires.

As Catholics we are called to:



PRAY for unity

LOVE our Christian brothers and sisters

WITNESS to Christ through charity

HOPE that one day all Christians may gather around one Eucharistic table

6 PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Lord Jesus Christ,
You prayed that all your followers may be one.
Help us to love one another with humility,
patience and truth.
Heal our broken wounds.
Guide all Christians towards
the unity You desire,
so that together we may proclaim
Your Gospel to the world.
May Your Holy spirit strengthen us to become
instruments of Peace and Reconciliation.
AMEN.

KEEN TO LEARN MORE

The Catholic Church's teaching on ecumenism can be found in:

- Catechism of the Catholic Church nos. 813- 822
- *Unitatis Redintegratio*, Second Vatican Council Decree on Ecumenism, 1964
- Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, 1993
- *Ut Unum Sint* (That They May All Be One), Encyclical of Pope John Paul II, 1995
- Or visit our website or email us pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND PROMOTES CHRISTIAN UNITY

THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE

The Catholic Church's
Call to Christian Unity

"May they all be one,
so that the world may believe."
— John 17:21

Faith communities at the Ecumenical Day of Prayer for Christian Unity, St Elias Melkites Catholic Church Manurewa, 2024

A PARISH GUIDE TO

ECUMENISM

Walking together in faith, hope and love.

1 WHAT IS ECUMENISM?

Ecumenism is about building unity among all Christians. Through Baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, all Christians share a common bond in Christ.

God desires all Christians to be united. Together, we give a stronger witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ecumenism is not about giving up our Catholic faith. Rather, it is about:

- **growing in mutual understanding**
- **healing divisions**
- **praying together**
- **working together in service**
- **witnessing to Christ with one heart.**

> *The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal goals of the Second Vatican Council.*

- *Decree for Ecumenism, Unitatis Redintegratio, #1*

2 WHY DOES UNITY MATTER?

Jesus Prayed for Our Unity

Before His Passion, Jesus prayed with these words:

"Father, may they all be one... that they may be brought to perfection in You...as We are One."

- John 17:21 - 23

Christian unity matters because:

- We all belong to Christ through baptism
- Division weakens our Christian witness of Christ
- Unity reflects God's love.
- Working together allows Christians to better serve those in need

1 Sept - 4 Oct
Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

The Season of Creation is an ecumenical initiative celebrated annually in September,
Join us at the University of Auckland Maclaurin Chapel, 18 Princes St, Auckland for the **Season for Creation** Karakia ecumenical service. Follow us for the dates.
Bring families and friends along.
This year | Wed 23 Sept 2026 | 7:00 PM

3 WHAT DOES THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACH?

The Catholic Church encourages every Catholic to promote Christian unity. This can be done by/through:

PRAYER
Join in prayer for unity, mission and the needs of our communities.

LEARNING
Listen, understand and grow in knowledge of each others beliefs, traditions and experiences with respect.

OPEN DIALOGUE
Meet and speak with Christians from other Churches in charity and truth.

WORK, SERVE TOGETHER
Work side-by-side serving the poor, promoting justice and caring for those in need.

REMAINING FAITHFUL
Ecumenism never asks Catholics to abandon Catholic teaching. Witness for genuine dialogue together in truth, love.

> *Unity comes from the holiness of all. It urges all to persevere, to remain in dialogue, to build communties, and to strengthen communion through healing.*

- *Pope Leo XIV, address to the Church in Spain, June 2026.*

Have a question?
Email us at pastoraloffice@cda.org.nz