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Love not in word
but in deed

2017

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From +John...

Dear Friends,

It is almost a year ago since the Year of Mercy ended. I was privileged to be at the Final Mass for the Year of Mercy celebrated in St Peter's Square by Pope Francis. At the end of the Mass he officially released a document called *Misericordia et Misera*. In that document, he implored us to continue being merciful and wrote: "*Mercy cannot become a mere parenthesis in the life of the Church; it constitutes her very existence, through which the profound truths of the Gospel are made manifest and tangible. Everything is revealed in mercy; everything is resolved in the merciful love of the Father.*"

He asked us to do something special at some time throughout the year and to be creative with Scripture so that it could engage us in a different and vibrant way. On Sunday 29th October, all our parishes were invited to use *Lectio Divina* to help people to engage with the Gospel in a different way. I have received many emails and heard many comments from people who very much appreciated this opportunity. They loved and appreciated the silence, the chance to focus more deeply on the Gospel, and the fact that there was time to pay closer attention to the Word of God. Thank you for doing that, it has helped so many people to reflect more deeply on the Gospel.

Pope Francis also asked the world to observe the 33rd Sunday of the Year as the *World Day of the Poor*, which this year is. 19th November. I am sure that parishes, schools, colleges and families will think of many initiatives that can be taken to help one another become aware of the situations of poverty in our own towns and cities. I am sure that will also flow over into practical actions to assist those find it a struggle on a daily basis to make ends meet. For the *World Day of the Poor* we have provided a short video with some of the messages of the Holy Father about poverty throughout the world. This short video has been created with the help of Caritas, the St Vincent de Paul Society and Fr James Lyons. I am most grateful to them. Parishes are invited to show this video at Masses on the *World Day of the Poor* (19th November) and all are asked to reflect on how we might do something to help those people who do struggle.

Please remember that *Mercy cannot become a parenthesis in the life of the Church*. We are called to respond in mercy every day.

What special effort will you make for the first World Day of the Poor?

With every blessing
John

NEWS...

- Please remember in your prayers recently deceased clergy of the Archdiocese. **Fr John Berry** 26 October and **Fr John Heijnen** AA 31 October 2017. May they rest in peace.
- This weekend is the final **Confirmation Mass** for 2017 at the Parish of Te Awakairangi. Please remember all those who have been Confirmed this year as they continue their faith journey.
- We wish all senior **College students** good luck in their external exams. We thank the teachers and support staff for their care and teaching of these young people. We also wish all school-leavers Gods blessing as they embark on the next stage of their life's journey.
- The text of the *Message* of the Holy Father for the **World Day of the Poor**, the logo and its user guide, as well as a Pastoral Resource and other useful information can be found on the following website www.pcpne.va. You are welcome to use and distribute the information
- As the **busyness of year** end gets closer remember to stop and be thankful for all you have achieved this last year. Remember to stop and appreciate the positive little things we all have in our daily lives.

"I am warning you; exterior signs are worth nothing. Only one thing really counts; Offering the Gospel. And that is big. Offering it gently. Offering it affectionately. In all that you are."

Gabriel Ringlet

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