



## From +John...

Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou,

**“Haere tukuna,”** (“Go you are sent!”) These words were very familiar to us this time last year, my hope is that they are still ringing in the ears of everyone in the diocese. This year marks one year since the 2017 Synod. In the year since I promulgated the directions and priorities of the 2017 Archdiocesan Synod there has been great progress in implementing its outcomes, both by the Archdiocese and by parishes.

I welcome messages from parishes about what they are doing and their plans. It would be great to be able to share these stories with one another, and I will find ways to do this.

The various Archdiocesan services which provide support for parishes have each agreed to take on certain Synod outcomes which are relevant to their work. The Council of Priests has also been overseeing various Synod-related projects, and the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council has been providing advice on specific Synod outcomes at each of its meetings. These are some of the things have happened or are in progress:

- A formation programme for a Spirituality of Service has been developed and sent to parishes and other interested groups;
- The priests of the Archdiocese have had a Mini Clergy Assembly to look at how to improve homilies and deepen their ministry in the Sacrament of Reconciliation;
- Gift discernment sessions have been provided for several parishes who felt they were ready for this opportunity;
- The Launch Out Programme has been reviewed to determine if it is achieving what it was set up to do, and whether it has a wider formation role, and I am about to begin considering its outcomes;
- A policy to ensure continuity in practice and lay leadership when there is a change in the parish priest has been sent to parishes to use as a trial when there is a change not just in parish priest but in any member of the Pastoral Team;
- A social media strategy for encouraging vocations to the diocesan priesthood is being worked on;
- Terms of Reference have been written for reviewing the Landing the Waka programme (the induction programme for international priests and for the review the place and scope of ethnic chaplaincies in the Archdiocese);
- The first Mass for the separated and divorced was held recently, and a new programme to address their needs is being developed;
- Work has just begun on developing a new Archdiocesan website and social media which will fill the role of a “hub of connectedness” for the purposes of building community through telling stories (personal and collective), sharing resources, linking to apps, disseminating information, sharing best practice and ways of getting involved.

I am aware that some people think that not much has changed. However, I believe we have much to be grateful for. There is, of course still a long way to go, but all growth and progress takes time and as always we rely on and trust in the grace of God and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. One year on from the Synod I wish to thank everyone for the great participation in the Mission of the Church, and the willingness to be involved and give generously of your time, talents and treasures.

Thank you very much for all that you do.

Nāku noa, nā + Hoane

- **Fr Tom O’Brien** I had the opportunity while I was in Ireland recently to visit Fr Tom O’Brien and have lunch with him. Tom is well and sends his greetings to clergy and people he knew during his long years of service in the Archdiocese.
- **Letter of support for Pope Francis** During the days of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of September the New Zealand Bishops met from two days of meetings. One of the things we did was to send a letter of support to Pope Francis. The letter is attached to this newsletter. When I met Pope Francis after the Mass at Phoenix Park his first words were “Pray for me.” I assured him that the people of New Zealand do pray for him. Please continue to do so at this time.
- **Rosary Aotearoa** Early in August I sent out a notice to all the parishes about **Rosary Aotearoa**. This is a call for people to come together to pray the Rosary in our Churches at 3pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October to ask for a blessing on our land and our people. Please make sure that people know about this initiative which will take place all around the country.
- **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross** Tomorrow we celebrate this Feast when we recall the story of St Helena (Emperor Constantine’s mother) going to Jerusalem to find the cross Jesus was put to death on. The Feast is much more than that, it reminds us that while there are crosses, sadnesses, disappointments and struggles – while there are crosses in our lives – through Jesus we will overcome them and rise to new life. Please pray for the Church throughout the world in this season of shame and sadness
- Please remember in prayer **Msgr Pat Ward** of Auckland who died yesterday 12 September in Christchurch. May he rest in peace.
- **2019 Aotearoa New Zealand Ordo.** The email address provided in the last newsletter was incorrect. Please contact Cathie Nicol, [cnicol@nzcbc.org.nz](mailto:cnicol@nzcbc.org.nz) stating your name, email address, postal address, phone number and the number of Ordos required.

*“We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, In whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, Through whom we are saved and delivered”*





**Te Huinga o ngā Pihopa  
Katorika o Aotearoa**

*New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference*

6 September 2018

His Holiness Pope Francis,  
00120 Vatican City

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Your Holiness

This week, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference gather here in Wellington.

Our priests and our people, and we ourselves, appreciate greatly all that you are doing to highlight the Joy of the Gospel. We are grateful for your call to us to live holy lives and to follow the example of "the saints next door".

We have absolute confidence that you are the one the Holy Spirit has selected to serve as the Successor of St Peter at this moment in history. Your ministry is very much appreciated by the Church in New Zealand. We assure you of our admiration and our affection.

You are foremost in our daily prayers as we strive to be more open and committed in our journey of renewed conversion.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Patrick J. Dunn

**Bishop of Auckland**

**President – New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference**