



From +John...



Dear Friends,

Greetings and all good wishes from Spain. I am on the last day of walking and will reach Santiago de Compostella sometime today.

A few days ago I was reminded that “*Pilgrimage is feet-on-the-ground spirituality.*” These days have certainly been that for me, and I am full of gratitude for this opportunity. It has been a time of blessing for me, hard at times, but also full of lessons about life. This has been a great reminder for me, as it was in 2010, that when the road ahead seems long, when it is hot and I am tired of walking that all I have to do is keep going at a steady pace and I will get there. It has taught me that when there seems to be too many tasks to do, when there are challenges and difficulties all I have to do is keep going, stay focussed and go at a steady and even pace and the particular task or challenge will soon be completed.

When I walked the French Camino eight years ago someone sent me this blessing written by Macrina Wiederkehr (A Benedictine sister from the United States). I have used this prayer every day of this pilgrimage as I did in 2010.

May flowers spring up where your feet touch the earth.

May the feet that walked before you bless your every step.

May the weather that’s important be the weather of your heart.

May all your intentions find their way onto the heart of God.

May your prayers be like flowers strewn for other pilgrims.

May your heart find meaning in unexpected events.

May friends who are praying for you carry you along the way.

May friends who are praying for you be carried in your heart.

May the circle of life encircle you along the way.

May the broken world ride on your shoulders.

May you carry your joy and your grief in the backpack of your soul.

May you remember all the circles of prayer throughout the world.

This pilgrimage has certainly been a blessing for me. Today I will pray at the tomb of St James.

With every blessing

+John

Facebook entries—Cardinal John Dew



May 18 Today, the hottest day of the journey so far at about 34 degrees I stopped and sheltered in the shade of this tree outside this little chapel, which is right in the middle of the village square. Within minutes a man came out and gave me to magnificent oranges and wished me “Buen Camino.” About two hours later I saw a van stop and someone speak to the pilgrim a couple of hundred meters in front of me, then he stopped beside me and asked if I was on my way to Santiago, when I said I was he handed me a bag with apples, oranges and a bottle of water. I mentioned this in the next village and was told that he does that every day during his own lunch hour. The kindness, the hospitality and the good will and helpfulness of the

Portuguese people is wonderful. Pope Francis would say “This is holiness.”

PTO



May 20 When I walked the French Camino eight years ago I remember thinking that a Camino journey on any one day is like life. There are ups and downs, hopes and disappointments. Nothing has changed, I walked around the corner on a dusty track today and came across these beautiful flowers at the side of the road; I came around the next corner and found an old fridge dumped at the side of the track. We still have a long way to go to learn to take care of the gift of our earth, our Common Home.

May 23 The yellow arrow markers of the Camino have become very familiar to me in the last 16 Days. It is clearly essential to keep looking all the time in order to follow the right path and not get lost. I have been reflecting that this is very much what Pope Francis is telling us all the time about discernment and making the right choices in life. Look for the right signs in Scripture, prayer and reflection and we will find the right path. Thank you everyone for your prayer.



May 24 “Everything is a gift, and God is the Giver behind the gift.” I chose a theme hymn when I walked the French Camino, it came to me very suddenly as I walked one day. This time I decided to do the same thing and again it was easy, it is “Gentle as Silence”, and especially the line “and his giving is gentle as silence.” There are just so many things that are God’s gifts to us.

May 26 The bridge over the Minho River the border between Portugal and Spain, I crossed that border today and have about



six days walking to go until I reach Santiago. As I walk I pray this prayer:

“Circle me, O God
Keep faith within, keep doubt without.
Circle me, O God
Keep hope within, keep despair without.”

I have prayed this daily for many years as I walk. The wonderful thing is that we can change the words and put into that prayer whatever gift from God we know we need at the present moment.

30 May As I have walked this Camino I have walked over many bridges which were part of original roads built by the Romans. I have also passed, and visited some, beautifully attended cemeteries. I have often thought about the people who have crossed those bridges for centuries, and those buried in those cemeteries. I am grateful for those who have gone before me and who have passed on life, faith, wisdom and love.



News:

- Please remember to keep in your prayers **Pa Yvan Sergy**, who died on Friday 25 May in Hamilton. May he rest in peace.
- **Confirmation ceremonies** for 2018 are about to commence. Please keep in prayer all those who are to be Confirmed this year. May they know the presence of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives.
- **3 events to Register for:**
- There have been 26 registrations so far for the **Mini Clergy Assembly** on Tuesday 26 June. If you are still to register for this, please do so to t.halliday@wn.catholic.org.nz by 11 June, at the latest.
- Everyone is invited to the **Wellington Clergy Jubilee Mass** being held at St Patrick’s Church, Kilbirnie on Wednesday 27 June at 11am followed by lunch at the Pines **for all Clergy**. Please contact Fr Tony Kearns at ackearns.outlook.com with your RSVP for catering purposes.
- Registrations for the **National Assembly of Diocesan Priests** being held in Christchurch from 10-14 September 2018 are due to James van Schie—jvanschie@nzcbc.org.nz by 30 June 2018.