



# Inform

A PUBLICATION OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF CHRISTCHURCH

## Bishop-elect John Adams

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Christchurch Pilgrims photo in the chapel of the Basilica of Our Lady of Fourviere



## From Our Bishop

“Rise, and do not be afraid.” (Matthew 17:7)

We heard these words from the readings on the Feast of the Transfiguration (Sunday 6 August). On this day I was concelebrating the Mass with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, at the final World Youth Day Mass in Lisbon, with an estimated 1.5 million people. At this Mass were the 120 pilgrims from New Zealand, including 35 from our Christchurch Diocese.

As Pope Francis addressed the young people in his homily, he shared an encouragement for them to shine, to listen, and to be unafraid as they return home. He said to the young people who want to change the world, “you who are the present and the future - be not afraid. Jesus himself knows each one of you in your joys and sadness.” This message to be fearless, which appears often in the gospels, applies to each of us in our own situations, and encourages us to turn to God in prayer.

It has been a joy to accompany the pilgrims from our diocese and those from across the country. During our travels, we visited a number of important places of pilgrimage through France and Portugal, including Lyon, from where the first missionaries set off on their mission to Oceania. One of the highlights was our pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima, the two Marian sanctuaries, where we joined with many pilgrims from around the world in calling for Our Blessed Mother’s intercession. These visits were particularly apt, given the proximity in time to the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On a more sombre note, the final report from the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care, Maryland’s School Report - a residential school for boys located in Halswell from the 1950s to 1984 - has been made public. The details of these reports have been difficult for us to hear and to digest. I have personally

found this report of these actions abhorrent and feel deep shame that the vulnerable people under our care experienced such despicable treatment.

When the scale of abuse started to become more widely known in the 1990s, the Church established the National Office of Professional Standards (NOPS) to respond to complaints for harm done and oversee the Church’s Safeguarding policies and practices, through processes set out in Te Houhanga Rongo - A Path to Healing. We have put many processes in place to ensure that situations like those reported will not occur again. Safeguarding is promoting an environment within all our faith communities, which respects and acknowledges the dignity of everyone, and where people feel valued and safe. Safeguarding representatives are present in each of our parishes to assist with compliance, to champion safeguarding, and to support the parish in the development of safeguarding best practice.

While we cannot undo the hurt of the past, we are determined to learn from it and be better because of it. We think of those who have been wounded by this abuse. Often their lives are profoundly altered by the effects of this abuse. Please pray for them and pray that they may find some resolution, and that we in the Church could now be, in some way, a source of help and healing.

I am also aware of the deep impact this shameful period is having on the lives of faithful parishioners. The evil actions of a few have tarnished us all. I ask you to look to Jesus, continue to place your hope in him, and walk with him through this difficult time. As your bishop, it is my work to seek healing and bring comfort for those damaged. It is also my calling as your shepherd



to keep Christ's flock in this diocese together and care for your pastoral needs. I pray that, while your faith is tested, you are able to remain faithful to Christ and His Church. Please be assured of my commitment to creating a safe and fulfilling faith community within the Diocese of Christchurch. I thank you for all you do to achieve this, and to ensure we have vibrant and welcoming communities.

In light of recent media attention around exorcisms and other allegations aired on TV3's 'Paddy Gower Has Issues', I would like to reassure you that when a complaint or concern of any nature is received by the diocese, it is always followed up and, if necessary, referred on to the most appropriate agency to deal with. This process may take longer than expected and, at times, it may appear that little or nothing is happening. Please bear in mind that many of these cases are complex in nature, and the privacy and rights of all must be respected and upheld.

In happier news, I join with so many of you in gratitude for Bishop-elect John Adams' call to serve Christ's Church as Bishop of Palmerston North. It is a wonderful sign of the fruit of a diocese, when one of their sons is chosen as a successor of the apostles. Let us keep Bishop-elect Adams in prayer, as he responds to Christ's new call in his life.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Ken Joblin who, with this edition, marks ten years as our Inform editor. We all benefit from Ken's steadfast faith which underpins his work. He certainly uses the gifts God has given him, to make Inform a diocesan magazine of which we are humbly proud. We also thank the Inform team who assists Ken in the editing, proofing, lay-out, design, and production of Inform. Do not be afraid to share Inform with your family and friends, as a way of including them in the life of the Christchurch Diocese.

The scripture Pope Francis chose as the theme for World Youth Day was "Mary arose and went with haste" (Luke 1:39), which is the beginning of the visitation of Mary to her cousin, Elizabeth. Pope Francis offers Mary as the one who accompanies each of us on our Christian journey. May her intercession lead us into an ever-deepening encounter with Christ.

Yours in Christ

+ Michael Gielen  
Bishop of Christchurch

*"Go forth then, bringing God's radiant smile to everyone! Go and bear witness to the joy of faith, to the hope that warms your hearts, and to the love that you bring to everything you do. Shine with the light of Christ. Listen to him so that you, too, may become the light of the world. And do not be afraid, for the Lord loves you and walks at your side. With Jesus, life is born anew, always."*

- Pope Francis' final words in his World Youth Day homily



## Nga mihi nui from the editorial desk

Welcome to Inform Issue 138, our Spring edition and my tenth anniversary as Inform Editor. Inform Issue 94, my first edition, was prepared in the months before FaithFest, when 80,000 Catholics joined Bishop Barry Jones for Sunday Mass and a day of Catholic celebration. I have had the privilege of ensuring that many great events and stories have featured in the pages of Inform since then. This issue covers Catholic life here from June through to mid August.

Along with our regular pages, we celebrate the appointment of Bishop-elect John Adams to the Palmerston North Diocese. We profile the first three concerts in this year's Jubilate series. We capture the excitement of Marian College as the opening of its new campus draws nearer. Grace Challies gives us a taste of her pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2023 in Portugal.

After you have read this edition of Inform, please pass it on to others who may connect with a word or story from within its covers. Share the link to the latest Inform [cdoc.nz/inform](http://cdoc.nz/inform). My spirit is always lifted by reading of the good things, so many Catholics are doing for others in the Christchurch Diocese.

In Christ

Ken Joblin, Editor &  
Caitlin Godfrey, Assistant Editor



# St Joseph and Perpetual Adoration

by Matt O'Connell - Coordinator of the Diocesan Perpetual Adoration Chapel

The last issue of Inform featured an article about the 200 men who gathered with our Bishop for breakfast in mid May. During the breakfast we heard the story of the Christchurch South Parish Men's group, which grew from five members to nearly 30. They told us about a book called "Consecration to St Joseph" by Fr Donald Calloway MIC and how, as a group, they had twice completed this 33-day consecration. At the end of the breakfast, Bishop Gielen challenged all those men present to form small groups and make the consecration. A friend suggested that a small group of us make the consecration together. We began on 20 July and will finish on 21 August - the feast of Our Lady of Knock.

I must say that this consecration has been transformative. The book contains some of the most profound writings about St Joseph I have ever read. I would urge every man in the Diocese to obtain a copy, form a small group, and begin.

You might wonder what St Joseph has to do with Perpetual Adoration. One of the readings prescribed during the consecration is entitled "Perpetual Adoration." The writer talks about the family home in Nazareth as being the "first Christian Monastery," and that the vocation of St Joseph was one of Perpetual Adoration - being with Jesus for all those hidden years. In the reading, the writer talks about St Peter Julian Eymard.

This saint is known as the Apostle of the Eucharist, having promoted Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and founding two Religious Congregations to promote Adoration. He wrote a book called 'The Month of St Joseph' which talked about St Joseph's life of prayer and adoration.

*"When we see how close Joseph came to Jesus, how thoroughly he was transformed into him, we grasp his true greatness, his real sanctity. We find in him (St Joseph), the perfect adorer, entirely consecrated to Jesus, working always near Jesus, giving Jesus his virtues, his time, his very life; it is thus that he is our model and inspiration."*

We have been blessed to have a Perpetual Adoration Chapel in Christchurch for ten years. In the chapel, following in the footsteps of St Joseph, you too can come closer to Jesus and be transformed into him. In the chapel we also have a relic of St Peter Julian Eymard.

If you would like more information about the Perpetual Adoration Chapel, please contact me on [chchadoration@gmail.com](mailto:chchadoration@gmail.com) or (03) 366 9869.

If you would like to make the Consecration to St Joseph, there are several books available at the Diocesan Office. Please contact me to obtain one.

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# Installation of Most Rev Paul Martin SM

## as Archbishop of Wellington

by the Editorial Team

Archbishop Paul Martin SM was installed as Archbishop of Wellington in a Mass on Saturday 17 June at St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral in Karori.

In his homily, Archbishop Martin said "I do feel blessed to be taking up this calling as Archbishop of Wellington on this day, under the mantle of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as I begin this vocation of service to the Church of the Archdiocese of Wellington. My hope is that through this, I will grow in my own holiness and closeness to God, along with all the people who I have the privilege of serving. May we together bask in the love of God, and the prayers and support of his mother, for us all, so that we will indeed have the fullness of God living in each one of us."

Archbishop Martin was ordained as tenth Bishop of Christchurch, having been appointed here in December 2017 and ordained in the auditorium of Christchurch Boys High School in March 2018.

In some words of gratitude after Communion in St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral, he offered the following words: "To the people of the Diocese of Christchurch, I wish to give thanks to you and to



God for the opportunity of being the bishop there. I have said before that I never imagined that I would be a bishop, and that is absolutely true. However, given that God had other plans, I was extremely fortunate to lead and learn what it meant to be a bishop in the Diocese of Christchurch. To the friends I made while in Christchurch and who are here today, thank you. People ask me do I miss being in Christchurch, and what I do miss is really the people I became good friends with."

We wish Archbishop Martin and his new diocese every blessing during his episcopate.

## Br Peter Bray receives Papal honour for his work as Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University

New Zealander Br Peter Bray FSC has been Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University in the Holy Land since 2009. He has been awarded the Papal Cross of Honour (officially the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*) ("For the Church and the Pope"), one of the highest honours that the Pope can bestow upon the laity and religious.

Br Peter, from Waitara in Taranaki, is a Brother of the Catholic De La Salle teaching congregation. He will leave Bethlehem University at the end of this year after 15 years, which he describes as an amazing blessing and by far the most difficult job of his career.



Bethlehem University was established under Israeli occupation in 1973. It was the first registered university in the Occupied West Bank territory of Palestine, and is the only Catholic university in the Holy Land. It is a Catholic co-educational institution in the De La Salle tradition, its mission being to provide quality higher education to the people of Palestine.

Br Peter undertook a speaking tour of Aotearoa New Zealand in January and February this year, invited by the New Zealand Catholic bishops to talk about the lives and conditions of his students and ordinary Palestinians. Inform readers will remember that we featured Br Peter and his presentation at Villa Maria College during his speaking tour.

On behalf of His Holiness Pope Francis, the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, Msgr Claudio Gugerotti, presented the Papal "Cross of Honour" to Br Peter Bray FSC, for his service to the Church and education. The award was conferred on 22 June during the Papal Audience.

*Br Peter receiving the Papal Cross of Honour from Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti, prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, at the Vatican*

*“Ehara tāku toa i te toa  
takitahi engari he toa takitini.*

*My valour is not that of the individual,  
but that of the multitude. No one can survive alone.”*

# Human Dignity & the Consequences of Child Sexual Abuse

by Barbara Te Miha - for the Christchurch Catholic Commission for Justice & Peace

The dignity of the human person is the foundation of all Catholic Social Teaching. It teaches us that a just society can become a reality only when it is based on the respect of the transcendent dignity of the human being. The social order and its development must invariably work to the benefit of the human person.<sup>1</sup>

Catholic Social Teaching requires us, then, to take responsibility for our lives, for the well being of our neighbours, and for the common good.

Pope John XXIII spelt this out clearly to us when he wrote, *“Those therefore, who claim their own rights, yet altogether*

*forget or neglect to carry out their respective duties, are people who build with one hand and destroy with the other. Since human beings are social by nature, they are meant to live with others and work for one another’s welfare.”*<sup>2</sup>

When we look at the rights of children, the Church’s social doctrine constantly points out the need to respect the dignity of children, more, that the rights of children must be legally protected within juridical systems. We are further admonished that it is essential to engage in battle, at national and international levels, against the violations of the dignity of boys and girls caused by sexual exploitation, by those

caught up in paedophilia, and by every kind of violence directed against these most defenceless of human creatures.<sup>3</sup>

Here in Aotearoa, New Zealand, Catholics continue to despair over the never ending revelations of abuse emanating from within their institutions. It seems implausible that these institutions, supported and revered by Catholics, were capable of the callous disregard shown to the most vulnerable of children.

*“The measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of every person within that institution. Each and every one of us has the power and means to defend the dignity of other people. It does not and should not rest solely on the government or on leaders of the community.”*<sup>4</sup>

A child sexually assaulted by a member of the clergy or religious, a person the child accepts as a representative of God, will consequently feel violated by God. God, the recipient of the child’s prayers, the source of our greatest comfort and peace, then becomes the stuff of nightmares. There is a complete loss of faith.<sup>5</sup>

Traumatic experiences during childhood often explain the overall risk for suicidal ideation and actions later in life. Evidence exists that suggests that child sexual abuse increases precocious adolescent sexual activity, drug abuse, depression, and personality problems. Victims may suffer flashbacks, nightmares, may self harm, and become adults suffering from



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PTSD - post-traumatic stress disorder. Indeed, adult survivors may still be dealing with the impact of the abuse, affecting their psychological and physical well-being, and impacting on relationships causing difficulties in forming intimate relationships. They may find difficulty in talking to partners or whānau about the abuse, therefore preventing others being able to help or offer support.

The words of Jesus have been with us for over two millennia, *"If anyone causes one of these little ones - those who believe in me - to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea."*<sup>6</sup> But even these sacred words were not enough to rein in 'the feral men of Sodom' from cruelly abusing the children in their care.<sup>7</sup> The physical, mental, and spiritual harm done to children in the past continues to haunt their adult lives today.

We have a duty of care to ensure the safety and dignity of our tamariki, in our homes, our schools, our churches, and in our institutions. We can start by coming together in solidarity at Safeguarding Workshops within our diocese, working towards making safe and peaceful communities.\*

We are all accountable.

Ehara tāku toa i te toa takitahi  
engari he toa takitini.

*My valour is not that of the individual,  
but that of the multitude.*

*No one can survive alone.*

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1. Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church. Chap 3: 132.
2. Pope John XXIII, Pacem et Terris, 30-31.
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4. Bernard Evans, Lazarus at the Table, Chap 2, Pg 24.
5. Bishop Robert Barron, Letter to a Suffering Church, Chap 1, Pg 7.
6. Gospel of St Matthew Chap 18:6.
7. Bishop Robert Barron, Letter to a Suffering Church Chap 2, Pg 22.

\* Safeguarding WORKSHOPS ([cdocsafeguarding.nz](http://cdocsafeguarding.nz))



## A new look and website for our Diocese

by Conor Leahy - Communications Manager

As we enter an exciting new chapter under the leadership of Bishop Michael Gielen, we have designed a new visual identity for the Diocese.

As we strive to fulfil our mission to grow God's church, it's more important than ever to look, and sound, like one welcoming, cohesive Catholic organisation as we support our Bishop, and our priests, parishes, and schools, in the pastoral mission of the Diocese.

Our new visual identity is inspired by the rich traditions of the church, but with a fresh and modern look that will reflect the vibrant and united community that we strive to create. You'll see our new look roll out over our new website, social media, publications, and this issue of Inform!

A unified identity will allow us to create a single, consistent presence across our Diocese and within the agencies that work together to form the Catholic community and undertake the good works of the Church.

Our new website has plenty of new features, while incorporating old favourites such as Daily Readings. While it will take a while to get used to, the new website is designed to be easier to navigate and provide information on who we are and what we do in an engaging manner. We hope it will help provide an informative and welcoming platform that encourages new people to join our Catholic community and rejoice in the mission of Jesus.

Parishes, schools and church groups are welcome to advertise events. Please email [mstopforth@cdorc.nz](mailto:mstopforth@cdorc.nz).

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# A Call to Arms

by Luis Arevalo - Manager, Catholic Social Services

Speaking at the Catholic Business Network (CBN) event on 27 June, Sir Brian Roche and Dame Therese Walsh were precise in their analysis when they mentioned increasing inequality in Aotearoa New Zealand was having a negative impact on our society, and that it would continue to do so if left unarrested. Their musing on this topic challenged me to ask what could be done to reverse some of the trends.

Statistics do not lie. Food poverty, inequality, homelessness, and all facets of mental health stress are increasing. We have a cost-of-living crisis in this country which is, in my view, unprecedented in its depth and breadth, its pace of application, and its longevity. Along with the housing crisis, both these processes are reflected in statistics which are both frightening and heartbreaking.

In Ōtautahi Christchurch, there are, on any given day, 700 tamariki (children) who are homeless (The Christchurch Press, 25 May 2023). They are without a permanent abode, which by anyone's definition, is homelessness. What this one statistic reflects, is a tsunami of grief, pain, anxiety, and depression in these tamariki, which will stay with them for their entire lives. Society will have no ability to withstand this tsunami. Any social service professional will tell you that we cannot keep up with what is coming through our doors today, let alone in the future - unless we dramatically change our approach and urgently arrest the causes of these serious issues, reflected in such statistics.

I was given the opportunity to speak at the same CBN event about what we offer at Catholic Social Services (CSS). While I spoke, I looked out on a sea of leadership. This leadership is across sports, education, and business. However, what I saw the most was Hope. Hope that this collective, this whanau, also wanted a world where 700 tamariki had a permanent place to call home.

This is where I come to the title of this article. I lay down a wero (challenge) to us all today. If we are serious about arresting these



figures, then let us hui (call a meeting) of leaders, organisations, and educators, where we can collectively start looking at creating and implementing programmes of work which are sustainable and from the bottom up. Programmes which are no longer point solutions to generational problems, but programmes where the outcomes are those of the community we profess to love.

Through the process of Participatory Social Services, we at CSS understand that it takes an entire village to create the society we all want; a society where all, not just a select few, prosper; a society different to the one Sir Brian Roche and Dame Therese Walsh quite rightly illuminated us on, that day back in June.

I look forward to hearing from you, so we can start the work.

God bless.

Catholic Social Services - Matthew Brodie House

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☎ 03 379 0012 🌐 [catholicsocialservices.nz](http://catholicsocialservices.nz)

## Diocesan Archives Assist Kura Establish Whakapapa

The Diocesan Archives is working on providing resources that our kura (schools) can use in support of the New Zealand Bishop's Religious Education curriculum Tō Tātou Whakapono. Many of the online exhibition stories relate to orders who ran schools in the diocese, so that our schools can understand their whakapapa.

The next project will be brief parish histories for the 18 parishes across the diocese to help feed into the parish schools' wider understanding of community and belonging.



From left to right:  
Huong Dinh Van  
(Seminarist on Placement),  
Fr Monty Bamford, Fr Tang Phan,  
Fr Huynh Tran, Fr Alister Castillo

# Recently Ordained Priests Continue Their Formation

by Fr Monty Bamford

In recent years, the Dicastery for Clergy (a department of the Vatican) has sought to ensure that all recently ordained priests are receiving continuing formation after ordination to the priesthood. Earlier in May, four of the most recently ordained priests from the Christchurch Diocese, and one seminarist on pastoral placement, gathered in Timaru for a time of formation. Our gathering included some input from our Bishop around his vision for the Christchurch Diocese, and sessions on parish renewal and on establishing and maintaining pastoral relationships with parish schools. We also benefited from opportunities for personal sharing and recreation.

At the end of August, all of the diocesan priests ordained in the last five years from around New Zealand gathered in Auckland for similar formation. In October, all of the clergy from around New Zealand will gather in Rotorua for the five-yearly National Assembly of Diocesan Priests. The theme of this assembly is "Journeying together as priests in these changing times."

"St John Vianney, pray for us!"



## Pā Waewae

Inform welcomes emails from our contributors, and is grateful to Barbara Te Miha for pointing out an inconsistency in our last edition.

Fr Kevin Foote (pp 6-7, Inform Issue 137) was given the name 'Waewae' because of his surname - Waewae translates as Foot - it was thus that he became Pā Waewae.

May he rest in peace.

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# Deceased Sisters of Mercy

Three Sisters of Mercy have died in the first half of this year. Inform is marking their lives by printing excerpts taken from tributes given at funeral Masses. May these religious women rest in peace.



## Sr Marie Fitzgerald RSM RIP 13 January 2023

from a tribute by her sister Sr Bernadette Fitzgerald RSM

“Marie was born in Timaru in 1929. We were brought up in a strongly Catholic family. At the age of 23 she entered our Mercy Congregation on 2 February 1952 and was professed on 5 September 1954. She took as her motto “To live is Christ”.

After teaching at Catholic primary schools throughout the diocese, she then spent 25 years as Principal of Villa Maria College Primary, Our Lady of the Snows in Methven, and St Joseph’s Primary School in Papanui. Upon her retirement from school

she was appointed as Pastoral Assistant at Our Lady of Victories Parish, Sockburn. Before her retirement from ministry, Marie was in an administration role at Rosary House Spiritual Life Centre.

She always loved reading, and encouraged us to do the same. Her reading included the writings of Thomas Merton, with whom she corresponded. She was a woman of prayer and was always happy when others promised to pray for her, especially more recently as her body became more frail.”

## Sr Helen Barry LCM, RIP

by Sr Helena Kearns LCM



Sr Helen Barry of the Little Company of Mary (LCM) died peacefully at Nazareth House on 25 July, in the 61st year of her Religious Profession.

Sr Helen was born in Christchurch and was one of seven children. Upon leaving school, Helen worked as a personal secretary. In her early twenties, she had a happy social life but began to think ‘there must be more to life than this.’ As she had always wanted to be a nurse, and after seeking advice, she connected with the Little Company of Mary Sisters at Calvary here in Christchurch, and eventually entered the LCM.

Helen travelled to Australia and entered the LCM Novitiate at Lewisham in Sydney. She wrote: “From the beginning we were steeped in the spirit and charism of the LCM, interspersed with Hospital work. The life and mission of Mary Potter and the LCM became very much part of my life.”

When Sr Helen received the habit, she was given the name Sr Joseph; she later changed to Helen, her baptismal name. She was finally professed in Christchurch in 1967 and chose as her motto “Your grace is sufficient for me.”

Sr Helen was very industrious and methodical, working tirelessly while battling a prolonged illness. She was well qualified as a Registered

Nurse, Midwife, and Registered Psychiatric Nurse; she also completed a Human Relations Course at the Richmond Fellowship College in London. Helen worked at Calvary Hospitals in Wellington and Christchurch, where she was in charge of Calvary Psychiatric Clinic and held many responsible positions in the LCM as Provincial, Regional Councillor, and local Superior. She also nursed at Nurse Maude Hospital prior to becoming General Manager at the Mary Potter office, a position she held until her retirement from active ministry.

Throughout her Religious life, Sr Helen advocated tirelessly for the less fortunate, the elderly, and those with mental health problems. Her great joy and relaxation was tending her garden. While still living independently and with reduced mobility, she spent many hours in quiet prayer, continuing our LCM ministry of prayer for the suffering and dying of the world.

Sr Helen was grateful for the continued love and support of her family and loved their visits. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Shona Lowson for her care of Helen over recent years, and to the Nazareth Sisters and staff for their daily devoted care this past year. We pray in thanksgiving for Sr Helen’s life of love and service in the Little Company of Mary. May she rest in peace.



## Sr Audrey Wafer RSM RIP 26 February 2023

from a tribute by Sr Mary Wood RSM

"Audrey was a proud West Coaster hailing from Barrytown, north of Greymouth. Audrey was the first tertiary student at Rosary House in Christchurch, which had been established by the Sisters of Mercy for students attending Teachers Training College and University.

Audrey joined the Sisters of Mercy novitiate in Timaru, becoming a professed Sister of Mercy in 1955, and completed her teacher training. She taught for over 40 years in Catholic schools in the Christchurch Diocese. In 1965 she was proud to return to Greymouth to teach in her former school, St Mary's High School. Audrey was a classroom teacher for three years and then became the Principal of the school for eight years. It was here that she worked closely with the Marist Brothers to begin the first movement towards the Marist and Mercy Schools "becoming one" - later called John Paul II High School.

She was the Director of Religious Studies at Villa Maria College from 1977 to 1980. In 1983, after a year as Director of Religious Studies at St Mary's College, Colombo Street, Audrey was appointed to the staff of the new Marian College, a combination of St Mary's and McKillop Colleges. Audrey spoke of being proud to be a "pioneer" in this new venture and was there for 16 years as colleague, Director of Religious Studies, English teacher, and finally Pastoral Chaplain. She guided the Community Service Programme for Year 11 students, a way for their outreach to the community. After 40 amazing years of teaching, Audrey went on to other study and renewal, completed a Clinical Pastoral Education Course, and then worked as the Pastoral Assistant at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Sumner. Audrey worked tirelessly there for nine years. Audrey's kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity are remembered with gratitude."



## Sr Helen Goggin RSM RIP 20 April 2023

from a tribute by Sr Marie McCrea RSM

"It is fitting that Helen has returned to St Mary's Pro-Cathedral for her final farewell. This is the parish of her youth where she would have worshipped often with her family. Born in August 1929, Helen grew up in Berwick Street, St Albans.

Helen entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Mercy in Timaru, and was professed on 4 January, 1951. She took as her motto "Serve the Lord with gladness." After teaching music for a few years, Helen then spent from 1957 to 1972 between Villa Maria in Christchurch and Sacred Heart in Timaru, teaching mainly Latin and English. Helen's students loved her as a teacher. The name they gave her, Elvis, pointed to her good looks, and her beautiful singing voice. I think her religious name,

Alphonsus, had something to do with that too!

In 1973, together with Sisters Pauline O'Regan and Teresa O'Connor, Helen took up the challenge of Vatican II and moved to live in a state house in Aranui. Helen spent the next 44 years ministering to the people of Aranui and the East of Christchurch. She was involved in working mainly with women, breaking down isolation and loneliness, empowering people, assisting new migrants with English, and visiting. Helen was also a key member of the St James Parish in Aranui. She was on the Pastoral Team and a member of the Liturgy group for several years. Helen was blessed with many talents which she used well.

In June 2017, after 44 years and half her life in ministry in the East of Christchurch, Helen moved to live at Essie Summers Retirement Village, where she showed love and concern for Pauline and other residents.

In thinking about what I would say for this eulogy, I pulled out "Community Give It a Go" from the bookcase. It happened to be the book that the authors, Pauline O'Regan and Teresa O'Connor, gave to Helen. The inscription in Pauline's handwriting read: "Helen! Our dearest sister and collaborator, without whom we would not have survived. With our fondest love and gratitude. Signed: Pauline and Teresa 30/07/89."

Even as her health declined, she was able to maintain her sense of inner peace and trust in God, the fruit of her long religious life."



## Honouring Sister Eleanor Capper RSJ

Congratulations to former Marian College Principal and current Inform Magazine proofreader, Sister Eleanor Capper RSJ, who received the Volunteer Recognition Award at a ceremony held at the Christchurch City Council. Sr Eleanor was acknowledged for her outstanding voluntary effort and contribution in teaching English to second language learners.

# “The Lord Gives, and the Lord Takes Away. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.”

by Ken Joblin - Editor, Inform

These words from the Book of Job encapsulated my response upon hearing that Pope Francis had appointed Fr John Adams as Third Bishop of Palmerston North. Our Catholic ecclesiology gives us the insight that we are all members of the Body of Christ, irrespective of diocese or parish. We are not an inward looking club, but part of the Church universal on earth, in purgatory, and in heaven. It is with that understanding that we rejoice in the appointment of Fr John Adams, most recently Parish Priest of St Peter Chanel, Waimakariri, as Third Bishop of Palmerston North.

My next response: “But we have already given two of our priests as bishops to other dioceses.” The words of our own bishop, found in his foreword to this issue of Inform, are helpful here: “It is a wonderful sign of the fruit of a diocese, when one of their sons is chosen as a successor of the apostles.” We can certainly be thankful for the work of our Christchurch bishops, and particularly of Bishop Meeking, who worked tirelessly to

form his clergy in their priestly identity and the spirituality of the diocesan priest.

In the Christchurch Diocese, we understand only too well what it is like to await the appointment of a bishop, an experience we have had twice in the last few years. We therefore empathise with our sister diocese who has been without a shepherd for some years now, and who has patiently awaited the appointment of her third bishop.

In late June, Bishop-elect Adams said “I was initially surprised, but then joyful to hear, just over a week ago, about the invitation to become the next Catholic Bishop of Palmerston North. Whilst I am saddened that my very happy and fulfilled days in the Diocese of Christchurch will soon come to an end, I have experienced God’s providence in my life enough to know that the power of God’s grace is not limited by location. Surely, we now live in a time that urgently needs to hear the “Good News” of the Gospel. To the people of the Palmerston North Diocese, I want to say that my prayers for you have



already begun, and I am looking forward to living and sharing with you that same “Good News.” His zeal for the Gospel must surely energise his new diocese, and its fruit will not just be judged by that produced in its Hawkes Bay orchards.

The list of Fr Adams’ involvement in the life of the Christchurch Diocese and beyond is long and enumerated elsewhere. When Christ calls him to Himself, his achievements will matter as much or as little as anyone else’s, but there is little doubt he has given himself entirely to this diocese and its people, wherever he has been called to minister. Fr Adams was often found leading fruitful initiatives, such as trips of young people to the Philippines and New Caledonia to assist the people there. Fr Adams works as much in support of others, as he is gifted with the ability to see the gifts in others, to mentor and encourage them, and inspire confidence and clarity of purpose. I think of Jubilate in the Town Hall in 2021, where Fr Adams hosted the event and celebrated Mass with singers from all of our schools. Indeed, my own life in this diocese began with an invitation from Fr Adams to join his Tertiary Chaplaincy Team, based at Kolbe House in 2008.



Fr John and members of the Waimakariri Senior Leadership Team



Bishop Michael and Fr John, following the Divine Renovation Conference in Sydney, 2023



Danny Nicholls and Fr John

A mark of the priesthood of Fr Adams is his desire to put Christ first. Wherever he has worked, Eucharistic Adoration became a regular practice, with the parish invited to join him. I saw this in Holy Cross Seminary, where, on a Thursday morning, we were invited to join him in the chapel. He encouraged us to connect with theological students from other colleges, in the spirit of ecumenism. He was at the forefront of sporting endeavours, being a dedicated golfer, tennis player, and table tennis player. We were never in doubt about the rugby prowess of the Crusaders. Fr Adams kept up his interest in choral singing at the seminary, organising international tours for two choirs, and encouraging us to give concerts with Auckland choirs with whom he also sang. All this was achieved while being a very good academic student. His view of the Church is certainly international, and he does not suffer from a localised myopia. While always involved in the busy Easter Triduum in his parish, Fr Adams found time to join with our Cathedral Choir and Orchestra on Good Friday evening for the yearly performance of *Bach's St John Passion*. Our tenor section was always grateful for his help with that work, along with *Handel's Messiah* in December each year. We benefited from his expertise as chair of the CBS Music Trust, and I know Don Whelan is very grateful for his work.

A priest has a unique calling to be part of the lives of his people. Due to Fr Adams' involvement with the annual Hearts Aflame Summer Schools, his connection with New Zealand's younger Catholics is extensive. He has celebrated any number of weddings. Fr Adams takes spiritual direction very seriously, always seeking it out and offering it to others. He has guided many of our younger people as

they discern marriage, priesthood, or religious life. All priests are called upon to walk with people in grief, and Fr Adams is no exception, at times doing so with people who are facing real tragedy.

It is a great gift for anyone to mix comfortably with many people, while remaining authentic and credible. Fr Adams is as comfortable with the Charismatic movement as he is with those dedicated to the Extraordinary Form of the Mass, with people for whom sport is their passion, along with those for whom sacred music is at their heart, for those who have lived faithful lives at the heart of the Church, and for those who have yet to discover the depth of her Goodness, Truth, and Beauty. Fr Adams often notes that we now see more faces in a week than people saw in a century but a short time ago. He has certainly touched the lives of many in this diocese in his twenty years as a priest.

This article is in danger of reading like

a eulogy, and of course, many priests do many good things. We are certainly grateful for what Fr John has done for us and what he means to us. While there is a sense of loss in his leaving, this keen sense of sacrifice makes the gift of Bishop-elect Adams all the greater to the Palmerston North Diocese, with whom we look forward to a deepened communion. We pray that Bishop-elect Adams will always experience God's providence in his life, that the power of his grace is not limited by location, and that he will not lose his zeal for his people, who urgently need to hear the "Good News" of the Gospel. The Lord has indeed given. "Blessed be the Name of the Lord."

The Episcopal Ordination and Installation of Bishop-elect John Adams will take place on Saturday 30 September in the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, Palmerston North, at 11:00am. A live stream will be made available. For further information, see our Facebook page and diocesan website.

## Marian Statues

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# NET & Marian College “Come follow me,” Jesus said.

(Mark 1:17)



This is the scripture quotation for Marian College this year. Our Special Character leaders are embodying Jesus' words and have trained to be Peer to Peer Ministry Leaders with the guidance and encouragement of the National Evangelisation Team (NET). Throughout this year, our leaders have spent time watching and learning from NET, as well as participating in a training day with the focus on running and leading encounter days. Our leaders were given the opportunity to share their faith and lead an encounter day at the Year 5-6 St Joseph's Rangiora Encounter Day. Both the leaders and the children from St Joseph's enjoyed the day, and our Marian students really appreciated the openness, joy, and enthusiasm of the children.

## Catholic Cathedral College Students' Retreat at Living Springs

by Mathew Harris - DRS, Catholic Cathedral College

Amidst the picturesque backdrop of Living Springs, the Year 12 students from Catholic Cathedral College embarked on a transformative journey, offering valuable servant leadership lessons. The retreat, hosted by the dedicated NET team, provided an unparalleled experience which left an indelible mark on the young minds.

Throughout the retreat, the students took part in various activities and workshops, designed to instill the principles of servant leadership. They learned the art of selfless service, and the impact it can have on building stronger communities. The NET team's infectious energy and dedication added a dynamic touch to the proceedings, inspiring the students to cultivate empathy and compassion.

From collaborative problem-solving challenges to reflective exercises, the students were encouraged to embrace empathy,

active listening, and understanding as the pillars of true leadership. They discovered that leadership is not about wielding power, but rather, about empowering others, lifting them up, and fostering an environment where everyone can thrive. A highlight of the retreat was guest ministry from our former Pastoral Chaplain, Antje Duda, who led us in a powerful forgiveness liturgy.

As the sun set, a palpable sense of growth and unity lingered in the air. The Year 12 retreat at Living Springs will forever be etched in the memories of these young leaders, as the turning point in their understanding of what it means to be a servant leader. Armed with newfound wisdom, they are now poised to make a positive difference in their communities and beyond, leaving a legacy of compassion and selflessness in their wake.



# Catholic Community of Learning (Kāhui Ako)

## Community, Camaraderie and Celebration: The Sports Tournament that Brought Schools Together

by Chrystie Woods, Villa Maria College

We are pleased with the success of the recent sports tournament which united St Anne's, St Mary's, St James' and Catholic Cathedral College in a spirit of friendly competition and collaboration. This tournament featured Ki-o-Rahi, Touch Rugby, and Hockey, all hosted at Catholic Cathedral College. One of the focuses was on Manaakitanga, emphasising the spirit of care, support, and respect for others. In the pursuit of fostering leadership and a strong sense of unity, we acknowledged Kotahitanga. Another commendable aspect of the event was the acknowledgment of students' usage of Te Reo, the Maori language. Students who incorporated Te Reo while competing, leading prayers, and singing Waiata, were honoured for their efforts.

The involvement of Catholic Cathedral College students as referees and mentors for junior students showcased a beautiful sense of community and mentorship within the schools. It provided an opportunity for the older students to support and guide the younger ones, strengthening the bond among the school's generations. The winner of the Year 7-8 competition was St Anne's team Kapa Wha and the top achievers in the Year 5-6 tournament were the St James Korimako team. As the tournament drew to a close, our final week brought a delightful twist. Students from all schools mingled, forming mixed teams, and took the opportunity to get to know each other better. This week was a true highlight, witnessing students building connections, forging friendships and, most importantly, having fun together.



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# Jubilate is Under Way

by the Inform Editorial Team

Inform readers will recall that in 2022, Jubilate morphed from a single event into a series to protect it from Covid interruption. Catholic primary schools and colleges were joined by parish choirs, talented singers, and instrumentalists, in an hour-long concert, hosted by clergy from the newly established city parishes. This blueprint worked well, and is forming the pattern for Jubilate 2023. "We are now half way through the series, and everything is going to plan," said Jubilate Director, Ken Joblin.

On a cold winter's night in mid June, the Cathedral and Waimakariri parishes joined forces in a comfortably full St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. Their parish schools, along with Catholic Cathedral College (CCC), offered an hour of core singing, supplemented by feature parish and school choirs. Assistant Parish priests Frs Monty Bamford and Do Tran hosted the event.



OLV Samoan Choir

"A small schola which sings at the fortnightly Latin Masses in Rangiora offered us two beautiful, unaccompanied pieces of renaissance polyphony," said Ken. "We had a very polished presentation from Our Lady of Fatima Filipino Choir, who sang in their mother tongue. Two of our schools, St Mary's Manchester Street and Catholic Cathedral College (CCC), offered pieces in Samoan, Tagalog, and English. I had the privilege of singing the twelfth century Gregorian Chant, *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*. Eight quality hymns were learnt by all participants, led by our Jubilate choir. These were also in English, Maori, and Latin, and all done within the hour!"

"It was so good for me to be there last night," said Fr Do Tran, who was there for the first time. "Thank you for your great

effort to bring school and parish together." Arlene Wilkins leads the Filipino choir; "Salamat for having us at Jubilate 2023. It was rewarding to share part of our culture to everyone." Dr Robert Loretz is a sacred music specialist who directed the Latin Mass Schola: "It was a pleasure and very good to be involved in this excellent initiative."

In late July, the second in the Jubilate 2023 series took place in a packed Pro-Cathedral for the Christchurch South and West parishes and their schools. It followed the same Jubilate blueprint. Frs Ben D'Souza and Sean-Mary Britto hosted the event on behalf of their parishes. This time, seven primary schools took part, along with CCC, whose student catchment is drawn from all of these parishes. The St Teresa's parish choir offered two unaccompanied pieces, the OLV Samoan Choir featured for the first time (offering several enjoyable songs), as did the St Peter's School Junior and Chapel choirs, who sang a two part piece by John Rutter. A small choir of St Thomas of Canterbury College also featured for the first time, singing a three-part unaccompanied piece in Fijian.

Michael Kim directs the St Teresa's Parish Choir: "I thought St Peter's choice of music was absolutely on point. Oh, and what about those St Thomas' boys? They were absolutely stunning." Lima Magele is a Samoan Community leader in the Christchurch West Parish. She said of the Samoan Choir's contribution: "It makes my day to hear that they made an impact. I am sure they would like to participate in 2024." Victoria Pankhurst directs the St Peter's choirs: "We really loved Jubilate this year!"



Caitlin Godfrey, Jubilate Admin Assistant with Jubilate Director, Ken Joblin

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Our Lady of Fatima Filipino Choir



Schola Rangiora



St Thomas of Canterbury College



Kelly Lambie, St Bernadette's



Sacred Heart Timaru Kapa Haka

Early August saw Jubilate return to South Canterbury, having last been in Temuka in 2019. A musician himself, Fr Chris Friel was happy to host it this year in Timaru's beautiful Sacred Heart Basilica. A full church appreciated the artistry of organists Martin Kane and Josh Anderson, who played *Bach's Toccata in D minor* and *Vierne's Carillon de Westminster*, featuring the majesty of the Hobday organ. There was no shortage of talent, with Sacred Heart school fielding a choir and a kapa haka group, along with contributions from the Holy Family Parish choir. Gregorian chant also rang out around the building. Students from St Joseph's Fairlie made a particular effort to go down to Timaru, joining in a rehearsal in the afternoon, enjoying some after-school activities, and returning to the Basilica for the evening event. A number of students representing Roncalli College also joined for the massed hymns. Debbie Plant is Director of Religious Studies at Sacred Heart School: "It was fantastic to have so many parents and wider whanau coming along to share in the experience with their children. I'm sure that they will remember it for a long time!" Cushla O'Connor is a Religious Education Advisor in our Catholic Education Office: "Go Fairlie! Their participation needs acknowledging. They see Jubilate as a valuable part of their programme. It's a great little place." Josh Anderson is organist at St Mary's Anglican Parish in Timaru: "It was an excellent evening and great to see so many children (and the young at heart!) engaged in church music."

Two more concerts in this year's series are to take place at St Mary's Pro-



Catholic Cathedral Choir

Cathedral, for the Christchurch East and North parishes and associated schools, before Jubilate visits Greymouth to bring the parishes of the West Coast and their schools together to sing in late October. Speaking from the heart, Ken observed

that "There is nothing better than bringing an inter-generational Catholic choir together, to draw on our beautiful tradition in sacred music, and to do so in praise of God, who gave us the voice to sing."

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Photo: Hawkes Bay Civil Defence



# Marian College: Our New Home

The excitement is building at Marian College as we get closer to moving into our new home this year. A key feature of the new school is sustainability, and that has been central to the design by architects Sheppard and Rout, and in our own planning. Some areas of the new school are approaching completion as we begin preparations to move. We will be taking much of our current furniture and equipment with us, and staff have been very busy sorting out resources and getting ready for packing up. This work was timely as we were able to donate sports uniforms,

stationery, and teaching resources to the recent appeal for Tongan schools.

Our students have been part of the planning and design of the new school from the beginning, and are looking forward to seeing many of their ideas come to fruition (although they are a little disappointed that there won't be a flying fox on the grounds!) One example of this student involvement can be seen in the special character tohu, or symbol, which has been developed for use in our new home. This tohu has been named Kotahitanga, meaning unity and





(Top left - right) Marian's head students 2023; Kotahitanga; Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop Chapel; a site visit for staff and students (left) the tabernacle; (below) students at the current site.

togetherness. It was designed by student Tiana Purdon (Ngāti Porou), during her Year 10 Te Reo Māori class. Ms Dianne Robinson of Ngāi Tūāhuriri led a workshop for the class on traditional Māori designs. Tiana is now a Year 13 leader, and she worked with Whaea Myra Fidow to refine her design to represent our Marian special character. Our students, staff, and whānau are at the base, with the koru on the right representing Mary Mother of God, and the smaller koru with her is Jesus. The larger koru on the left is St Joseph, her spouse. The smaller koru on each side represent St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Venerable Catherine McAuley. The tohu embodies our faith journey to developing a relationship with God.

We are blessed to have the beautiful St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Chapel under construction at the heart of our new home. We treasure and respect our history, so the Stations of the Cross and the original simple Mary MacKillop Chapel sign from our North Parade site have been kept. These will be in the chapel along with the

tabernacle and candlesticks which were recovered after the earthquake. We are delighted that pews from St Paul's Church in Dallington are being refurbished for use in the chapel. St Paul's was our parish at the original site in Shirley, and many Marian families have memories of that church and of Fr Miles O'Malley. Benefactors or Patrons of our Chapel will have their donation recognised by a naming disc on these seats. The new chapel seats 100, the right size for year level Mass and Whānau Mass. The chapel will be in daily use at school and past pupils, past staff, and parishioners will be welcome.

Another feature of the Marian new home project has been the opportunity for our students to learn about careers related to the project. As part of our Careers and Vocational pathways courses, students with an interest in architecture, engineering, and trades visited the Lydia Street site and spent time with the architects at their office. Several of the key women working on our project spoke to our Year 12 Mana Wahine group. They

shared their career paths in architecture, engineering, project management, and quantity surveying with the students, who will now remember their work every day in the new school.



To stay updated about Marian College, visit [www.ournewhome.nz](http://www.ournewhome.nz) or follow us on Facebook.

If you would like to know more about Marian College's fundraising campaign, go online or contact David on 022 093 5190.

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# Helping Parents Navigate 'The Talk'

by David Jackman - Facilitator

The Loving for Life Team of Facilitators

One of the most intimidating episodes in the life of a parent can be talking to your children about puberty, sexuality, and relationships. Through my work with Loving for Life I have talked to thousands of young people about relationships and sexuality, and also guided hundreds of conversations between parents and their children. One thing I have found is that talking about a Christian view of love and relationships doesn't have to be awkward - and can really help to bring parents and their children closer. Here are some take-homes I have gleaned from this work:

## Parents are still the biggest influence on teenagers' attitude to sexuality and relationships.

Often as parents we fear that our wisdom will be ignored by our teens. However, while peer influence is important, many studies show that parents are still the biggest factor in a young person's attitude to relationships. Pre-teens and teenagers want to hear what you have to say. We find this consistently in our Parent/Child evenings - we always get feedback saying 'I really loved talking to my Mum/Dad'.

## Make it an ongoing conversation not a one-off talk

Part of the awkwardness many of our generation experienced

in 'the talk' is that it came out of the blue, and was not followed up. If you are in the habit of regularly talking to your children about their friendships, interests, and health, there is no reason conversations about puberty and love can't be just as natural. I can recommend [www.axis.org](http://www.axis.org), which has great free resources on how to keep up an ongoing conversation with your child, and comes from a Christian perspective. We're also giving away a book over on our Facebook page, "Beyond the Birds and the Bees," by Lisa and Greg Popcak.

## Focus on the goal

Adolescence, puberty, dating, media influence - all these can be in equal measures exciting and daunting for a young person. One thing that we find helps young people see this time constructively is that there is a purpose to all these changes - preparing us for happiness in our own family or vocation one day. As parents we are in a unique position to offer this perspective to our children.

Loving for Life New Zealand offers relationships and sexuality programmes for parents and their children, as well as in schools and youth groups around the country.

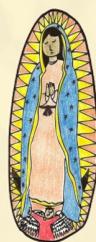
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# The Sudden Closure of Our Lady of the Assumption Church

## Hoon Hay

by Fr Peter Head SM - Parish Priest

On returning to the Catholic Parish of Christchurch South from the priests assembly in Hanmer Springs at the beginning of June, I received a letter from the Christchurch City Council. In referring to our church at Hoon Hay, part of this letter stated "This building is earthquake-prone. It has been assessed at less than 34% of the New Building Standard (NBS) and will be at risk during a moderate earthquake. If the building or a section of it collapses, it will likely result in injury or death to persons in or near the building."

The safety of the parishioners and the staff and pupils of Our Lady of the Assumption school left no other option but to close the church. After the 9.00am Mass on Sunday 18 June, the parishioners were informed of the closure of the church. This news was a shock to all in our parish, but especially to the parishioners of Hoon Hay, who have attended this church since it opened on 25 November 1956.



Several meetings have since been held with the parishioners of Hoon Hay to determine what their future will be with regard to where they go to Mass in the parish. At present, they have the options of two Vigil Masses on a Saturday night and they have the options of four Masses on a Sunday morning in Sacred Heart Church, Addington, Sts Peter and Paul

Halswell, the Carmelite Monastery, and St Peter's Beckenham. The possibility of having another Mass at 9.00am on a Sunday will also be considered. All the items in the church will remain there in the meantime, and we will look at having a gathering of the Hoon Hay parishioners at some stage in the future, to recognise the closing of the church.

## Dio Date Night

On 15 July, the John Paul II Centre ran their annual Diocesan Date Night event. The Dio Date Night is an event for married couples from all of the Christchurch parishes, where they can take some time out of their busy lives to relax with each other and other Catholic couples. This year the Dio Date

Night was held at the Commodore Hotel, with Simon and Angela Archer as the guest speakers. The Archers shared their story about how they met and how they grew in the Catholic faith. They then went on to relate some of their experiences of raising a family of 11 children.

*"My husband and I went to the Dio date night and absolutely loved it! From the fabulous buffet food (which was delicious), to meeting new couples and socializing, and everything in between. Simon and Angela (our guest speakers) were really entertaining and informative; it was super helpful to be able to hear about their faith journey with their 11 kids, and ask for their tips for new families like ourselves, who are just starting out. I could not recommend it enough! We definitely would love to go again!"*

- Madalyn

*"My husband and I attended the recent Dio Date Night. It was a relaxed evening that included a delicious meal and an inspiring couple speak about their marriage journey. It was a good opportunity to take time out for our marriage as well as chat to other married couples from around the Diocese. Overall, it was a great evening, and we look forward to the next one."*

- Emily



# Final Mass in Waiau Church

by Philippa Stainton - Hurunui Parishioner

On Sunday 30 July, the Parish of the Good Shepherd, Hurunui, celebrated the end of an era, with its final Mass in the church of Our Lady of the Rosary, Waiau. Parishioners from all six townships (Amberley, Cheviot, Culverden, Hanmer Springs, Hawarden, and Waiau) gathered with our parish priest, Fr Michael Pui, to farewell the quaint country church. With so many churches spread over a large area, and a declining number of parishioners, it is sadly no longer sustainable for Masses in Waiau to continue.

In 1888, Mass was celebrated in the local school room. Towards the end of 1899, Fr Walter Price was appointed Parish Priest of Hawarden, and over the next five years, he would build a new presbytery at Hawarden, enlarge the church there, and build three new churches at Waiau, Cheviot, and Hanmer Springs. There were many generous benefactors in Waiau, including George O'Malley, who worked hard to help raise funds, and was on the building committee. The architects were Messrs Collins & Harman of Christchurch, who were asked to design a church to seat 100 people. The small church, in simple Gothic style, was built at a cost of around 350 pounds, and was opened by Fr Price on Sunday 14 October, 1900. Fr Price preached at this Mass and based his homily on the book of 1 Kings 8:27.



Waiau can boast of three vocations to the religious life from our area. Fr Cecil Crocker SM, Sr Stephen RSM (Cecily O'Malley), and Sr Rosalie O'Malley SM. There have been many marvelous priests who served the church here over the years, as well as many boundary changes

and integrations into new parishes.

It has not yet been decided what will happen with the church building or the land. We give thanks for all the graces received by many parishioners in the 122 or more years of this little country church.



## St Patrick's Mid-Winter Parish gathering

More than 110 parishioners gathered at the Mid-Winter Parish Gathering at St Patrick's Greymouth; an opportunity to come together to celebrate our faith and friendship. After the Vigil Mass on Saturday 29th July, people gathered at the Marist Rugby Hall bringing food of their own country to share with everyone.

# Grow West!

by Jo McGirr - Christchurch West Parish

It is no surprise that the 2022 Christchurch West Parish Survey found that “people who are involved in parish activities feel more connected to other parishioners.” For those of us who have long been active in volunteer roles within our parishes, it is more a case of how do we engage more people to get involved and spread the workload?

You might say that at Christchurch West, a lot of muck is spread! Sometimes we can't see the wood for the trees! We fight dirty and deal with the thorny issues! We are the Christchurch West gardening group, who have been meeting every second and fourth Fridays of the month, 9.30am-12.30pm, to put in the hard mahi! As the notice in our newsletter says, “Give us your labour; enjoy a laugh and homemade baking at break time.” We check in with each other, swap gardening and baking tips, and even manage to do some gardening and fill the trailer.

A gardening group ticks a lot of boxes, the most obvious being the maintenance and beautification of our church gardens. Do not forget the connections we make as we meet regularly, and the fact that not all people find it easy or comfortable to socialise and meet new people. Yet, if you have people working together, there is a focus, and conversation becomes that much easier.

Our parish is home to a lot of green



fingered gardeners, and 2023 marks the tenth year of our annual Parish Plant Sale. From small beginnings, this yearly event has grown to be the biggest fundraiser for our parish, and owes its success to our 30 or more volunteers, some who've been involved for ten years. All proceeds go to maintaining our church grounds, from fixing potholes to improving the soil and putting in new plantings. The 2023 Christchurch West Plant Sale, at Our Lady of Victories on Saturday 21 October, from 9.30am-12.30pm, is not to be missed. We have also started running seed growing workshops in our parish, to teach people how to grow their own food, and maybe grow a few extra plants for the plant sale?

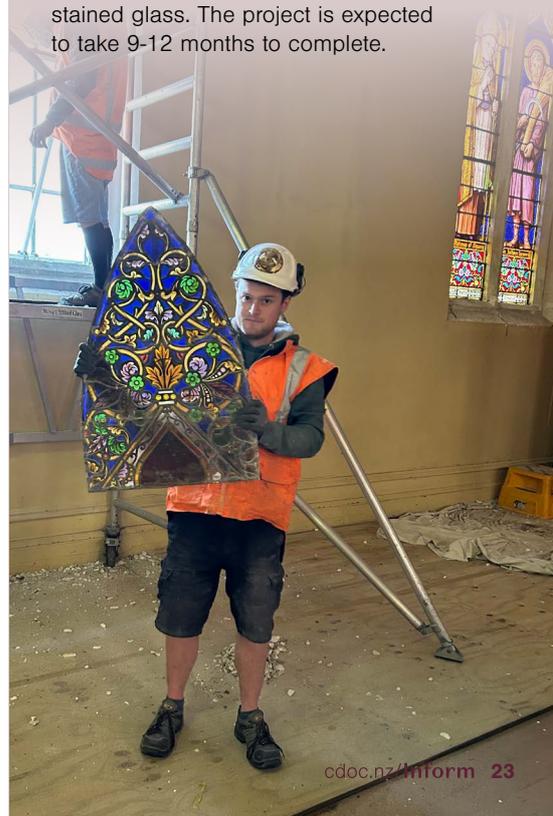
We are a large parish. In order to build community, we must never underestimate the power of our small groups. For it is the Holy Spirit working within ordinary people, who empowers us to do extraordinary things.



Carefully removing a stained glass window

## Work Begins on St Joseph's Church, Temuka

Recently, work began on our beautiful historic St Joseph's Church in Temuka. This project will include the installation of new steel frames within the roof space, to provide additional strength to the walls and support to the gable ends, as well as the installation of a new lightweight spire. Additional work includes the installation of a fire protection system, an upgraded electrical switchboard, emergency lighting, toilet and accessibility facilities, improved sacristy layouts, and a new reconciliation room. Other refurbishment work includes stone repairs and re-pointing, a lighting upgrade, audio system installation, new spouting and downpipes, new floor coverings, plaster repairs, repainting to walls and ceilings, additional heating, and repairs to stained glass. The project is expected to take 9-12 months to complete.



### Pastoral Transport

to keep the faith alive

One of the project areas of **Aid to the Church in Need** is **pastoral transport** to help priests, religious sisters and catechists reach the faithful.

In 2022, ACN provided **1,253 pastoral vehicles**.

This included 564 cars, 406 bicycles, 252 motorcycles, 16 boats, 11 buses, and 4 trucks for the pastoral work of the Church – particularly in Latin America and Africa.

Transport is often the pivotal key that makes it possible for the faith to be taught and the sacraments provided.



Aid to the Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Can you help ACN supply transport to keep the faith alive?

When you make an offering you can select to receive a rosary blessed by the Pope.



To make an offering scan the QR code or visit [www.aidtochurch.org/transport2023](http://www.aidtochurch.org/transport2023)

# Confirmations & First Holy Communions



Christchurch East Parish  
- Confirmation Mass, Pentecost Sunday, 28 May 2023



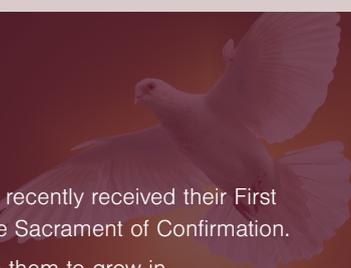
St Augustine of Canterbury, Catholic Parish of Mid Canterbury  
- 45 young Catholics made their first Holy Communion in Holy Name Church, Ashburton, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 11 June 2023



Christchurch North Parish - 64 young people celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation at Christ the King Church, Burnside, on 18 June, 2023



St Patrick's Catholic Parish, Greymouth - 10 children received their first Holy Communion in St Patrick's Church, Greymouth, on 18 June 2023



Heavenly Father,  
 We pray for all who have recently received their First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation. May your Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope and love.  
 May they come to know you as the one true God who loves them without limit.  
 May their hearts welcome you gladly;  
 May their ears hear your voice in the scriptures;  
 May their eyes see you in all things;  
 And may they love you and proclaim your glory as they walk in the ways of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.  
 Amen



Guests included previous speaker Kieran Read



MC Dave Dunlay, Sir Brian Roche and Dame Therese Walsh on stage

FAITH AND WORKS

# Catholic Business Network



Over 130 guests gathered at the second Catholic Business Network Event for 2023 held at Te Pae Convention Centre in late June. The event hosted prominent Catholic businesspeople Dame Therese Walsh and Sir Brian Roche as guest speakers.

Interviewed by Dave Dunlay, Dame Therese and Sir Brian reflected on their careers so far, aligning their values in business and discussed the challenges presented to operating business in the current environment.

Both guests have an established business pedigree with illustrious careers starting in finance and rising into senior management and governance roles with organisations such as TVNZ, ASB, Air New Zealand, New Zealand Rugby, NZ Post, Waka Kotahi, and many other large national organisations. Both Dame Therese and Sir Brian were involved in the hosting of the last Rugby World Cup and Cricket World Cup in New Zealand.

Present at the event were Villa Maria students, Head Girl Ella Youngman-Mark and Deputy Head Girl, Cara Morrison, whose attendance had been kindly sponsored by Modern Consulting. In a stroke of good luck, both students won vouchers for return domestic flights on Air New Zealand presented by Dame Therese.



Villa Maria Head Girl Ella Youngman-Mark and Deputy Head Girl Cara Morrison with Therese Fisher from sponsors Modern Consulting

The Catholic Business Network presents an opportunity for Catholic professionals to come together to network and catch up, however anyone is welcome to come to the event to enjoy the guest speakers and a wonderful lunch. You can sign up to the CBN newsletter and keep up to date at [cbn.nz](http://cbn.nz).

Photographs © Sarah Blair Photographer



**St Albans Catholic Chapel**  
2023 CANTERBURY ARCHITECTURE AWARDS WINNER



Project Management | Architectural Design | Contract Supervision

The judging panel noted that “ While created as a prototype design, this small building achieves a strong and welcoming presence in its corner location on the school grounds. Refined detailing, acoustics and the play on the geometry create a quiet, soothing space for students, teachers and clergy. The users remark at the immediate calming effect of space on students. ”

CONTACT  
**Vanessa Anderson** | +64 27 229 7649



# Investing in the good of our Catholic community

## 2022-23 Summary Annual Report

by Liza Sparrow - CDF Marketing & Business Development Manager

CDF Chair Graeme Wilson is pleased to announce that at the CDF’s Annual General Meeting, a distribution of \$450,000 was made available for the Bishop of Christchurch to continue supporting good works within his Diocese.

Graeme commented, “With our strong capital base and investment policies, we are confident that the CDF will be able to continue to support the Diocese going forward... We will provide loans to enable our Diocese to evolve, and we have the financial capacity to do so. The surpluses we achieve will also provide ongoing benefits to the Diocese.”

Bishop Michael was very grateful for this distribution, commenting that the CDF “provides a practical way for parishes, schools, and business communities to invest in the good works of this Diocese. When reflecting on the 2022-23 results, I am very thankful for the generous and giving spirit of these CDF members whose

investment has contributed to this year’s distribution.”

The fund’s values-based approach to investing and lending provides CDF members with an investment option that not only provides a healthy investment return, but also an investment option that impacts the local community. This year the

CDF’s annual distribution will enable good works to be undertaken by:

- Catholic Social Services
- Catholic Youth Team
- Chaplaincy Services
- Catholic Education Office
- The National Seminary



*Bishop Brian Ashby established the Christchurch Diocesan Catholic Education Fund in 1967*

## PROVIDE PEACE OF MIND FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

A Catholic Development Fund **Funeral Savings Account** allows you to invest in the good works of the diocese now and secures future peace of mind for you and your family; contact us to find out more.

**CDF - INVEST IN GOOD: 0800 403 863**

**cdf.org.nz**



Bishop Michael with the CDF team



Members of the National Evangelisation Team sharing a cuppa at Golden Catholics



Check out the CDF's Summary Annual Report online

[www.cdf.org.nz/about-cdf/annual-reports](http://www.cdf.org.nz/about-cdf/annual-reports) or request a copy be posted to you via calling 0800 403 863 or emailing [cdf@cdoc.nz](mailto:cdf@cdoc.nz)

# Golden CATHOLICS

## FROM SHED TO SHELF - SHARING STORIES OF OUR PAST

From a shed by the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Presbytery to various archive spaces, and now online, listen to how stories are taken off the shelf and shared with our community. **Golden Catholics are delighted to host Diocesan Archivist Triona Doocey** as she discusses the journey of the Archive Collection. Bring along your own family's sacred item or treasure and share your story in our informal "Show n' Tell" session over lunch.

**WED 11 OCT 2023**  
 11:00am Talk with lunch to follow  
**HOLY NAME PARISH CENTRE**  
 Cnr Winter & Burnett Sts  
 Ashburton

**CATERING AND TRANSPORT** We welcome guests from beyond the parish, so feel free to bring a friend. A light lunch will be provided. For catering purposes, RSVP by 4 Oct and advise of any dietary or transport requirements. Parish Office 03 308 6793 or Stephanie Butchard [jabutchard@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jabutchard@xtra.co.nz)



# Quick stop in Christchurch for Superior General of the Rosminians

by Nicola McCormick - Administrator, Sisters of Mercy Christchurch

It has been some years since the Rosminian priests have been resident in Christchurch, but the newly elected Superior General was determined to include Christchurch on his busy New Zealand visitation schedule.

Fr Marco Tanghetti IC celebrated Mass for the Sisters of Mercy, together with the Ascribed (lay) members of the Order, formally known as the Institute of Charity. Fr Marco recalled the collaboration between the two Orders over many years at Rosary House Retreat Centre. He explained that this was not just an administrative choice; rather, the beauty of Religious Orders' charisms shine forth when they come together, in complementarity and contrast, in a common apostolate or work of service.

Fr Marco, who was accompanied by Fr Francis Menacherry, the Rosminian Provincial in India, also had this to say: "I have been greatly humbled to learn of the love of the Rosminians in this country, so far from Rome. The stories have lifted my heart. It seems that truly, our men have had a wonderful influence on the people they have served, from school students to retreatants, to parishioners, and perhaps most importantly, through simple Christian friendship and companionship."

That mission or service, Fr Marco is keen to grow. July is a special month of Vocations awareness for the Rosminians. For further information he can be contacted on [rosminiansnz@gmail.com](mailto:rosminiansnz@gmail.com).



Fr Marco Tanghetti IC, Superior General of the Rosminians, with Ascribed lay members of the Order, friends, and the Sisters of Mercy

## Season of Creation

by Kathleen Rushton RSM [kprushton@gmail.com](mailto:kprushton@gmail.com)

Pope Francis's World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (1 September) message explores the 2023 Season of Creation theme "Let Justice and Peace Flow," which draws on the prophet Amos: "Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (5:24). Francis asks: "How can we contribute to this



mighty river of justice and peace?" Then, he suggests that Christian communities can do so "by resolving to transform our hearts, our lifestyles, and the public policies ruling our societies."

To prepare for the transformation which the international, ecumenical Season of Creation (1 September - 4 October) calls Christians to embrace, the *Laudato Si'* Group, which has met regularly since the Ablaze Conference held in November last year, held a screening of "Rohe Kōreporepo (*The Swamp, the Sacred Place*)" at Lumiere Cinema, Christchurch Arts Centre on Sunday 6 August.

Filmmaker Kathleen Gallagher, who is a *Laudato Si'* Group member, travelled throughout Aotearoa New Zealand to visit wetlands. This inspiring film offers us an opportunity to reflect on the Season of Creation in our own local context, because included are Ōkarito, Ō Tū Wharekai and Wakanui Ashburton, Ōtautahi Christchurch wetlands, and Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere, which are within our diocesan area. We are introduced to fishermen, local iwi, farmers, healers, artists, scientists, trappers, teachers, and students as they replant, relood, and restore our old intimate relationship with rohe kōreporepo; our swamps, our sacred places.



**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River  
Amos 5: 24

Pope Francis closes his message by reminding us of another parallel perspective which is the commitment to synodality. The closing of the Season of Creation on 4 October, the Feast of St Francis, will coincide with the opening of the Synod on Synodality: "In this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work, and pray that our common home will teem with life once again. May the Holy Spirit once more hover over the waters and guide our efforts to "renew the face of the earth" (cf. Ps 104:30)."

For more information see: <https://www.wickcandle.co.nz/the-swamp-rohe-koreporepo/#>

To arrange a screening within a reflection on *Laudato Si'*, contact the *Laudato Si'* Group. This film presents us with both joyful and troubling aspects, so: "Let us sing as we go. May our struggles for this planet never take away the joy of our hope." (*Laudato Si'* #244).

# Do you feel called to a life of prayer?

“... since He has shown me that he alone is perfect happiness.” (St Therese of Lisieux)



Do you want to live a more prayerful life, but find it difficult because of a lack of: inspiration, spiritual guidance, a rule of life, or a support community that shares your values? Then the Secular Discalced Carmelites (OCDS) may be for YOU!

The Order of Carmel has been raised up in the Church and endowed with a special charism (gift of the Holy Spirit) to bear witness to the supreme importance of contemplative prayer and union with God. The fruit of Carmel is in serving each other, serving the Church, serving the people about you. The more you are led into prayer, the more you feel you can give to others. The true charism of Carmel is contemplative prayer, which is always working towards union with God.

Among the many saints in the Order, there are three Doctors of the Church: St Teresa of Jesus, St John of the Cross, and most recently, St Therese of Lisieux.

## What is required of a Secular Discalced Carmelite?

*Meditation - Morning Prayer - Mass - Mary - Meetings - Mission*

- To spend at least half an hour each day in quiet prayer.
- To recite Morning and Evening prayer and if possible, Night Prayer from the Divine Office.
- To wear the brown scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as a sign of our devotion and of her motherly protection.
- To participate in the Celebration of the Eucharist, daily when possible.
- To develop a relationship with God through regular spiritual reading.
- To attend monthly meetings.
- To undergo Initial and Ongoing Formation.
- To attend the Annual Retreat when possible.

The lifestyle of a Secular Discalced Carmelite is one of simplicity of life, according to the beatitudes, and a spirit of self-denial and detachment, accepting in faith, hope, and love; all that makes up our earthly existence. There are many little ways you can be of service, and if you cannot act, then prayer is the service. As you grow in the steps of Carmel, prayer just becomes a part of you. It is like having another arm or another leg. Over time, you find that prayer is there all the time.

“*Draw us after you, O Virgin Mary and we will follow in your footsteps.*”

Responsorial Psalm 15:1-4

## Contact Details:

[carmel.org.nz](http://carmel.org.nz)

Mary O'Boyle: [moboyle12@gmail.com](mailto:moboyle12@gmail.com)

Megan Emery: [benedictus@windowslive.com](mailto:benedictus@windowslive.com)

## Advent with Carmel - Carmel Retreat 2023

*Peace of Christ Community*

**Retreat Director:** Fr Michael Therese Scheerger, csj

**Retreat Dates:** 24 - 26 November 2023

**Cost:** Live in \$240 Day only \$120

**Contact Megan Emery:** [benedictus@windowslive.com](mailto:benedictus@windowslive.com)

## Come and enjoy social interaction with other seniors...

### MONDAYS

9.00am Board Games  
10.00am Morning Tea  
10.30am Arts and Crafts  
12.00noon BYO Lunch / Socialise  
12.45pm Exercise Class  
1.30pm Variety Hour  
2.30pm Afternoon Tea

### THURSDAYS

9.00am Board Games  
9.30am Mass  
10.00am Morning Tea  
10.30am Board Games  
12.00noon BYO Lunch / Socialise  
12.30pm Housie (*numbers limited*)  
2.15pm Afternoon Tea  
3.00pm Exercise Class

*Gold coin donation for non-residents*

## MARY POTTER COMMUNITY CENTRE

442 Durham Street North, St Albans, Christchurch 8014 **Telephone** 372 9224

**Website** [www.lcmchristchurch.org.nz](http://www.lcmchristchurch.org.nz) **Email** [nzadmin@lcm.org.au](mailto:nzadmin@lcm.org.au)



# Do You Know How to Listen to Your Heart? (Part 2)

by Kevin Gallagher

Understanding the fundamental elements of listening to your heart is essential for discerning the choices in our everyday lives. In his weekly General Audiences (August 2022-January 2023) Catechesis on Discernment, Pope Francis introduces the elements of discernment.

The primary element of a discerning heart for Pope Francis is prayer. Prayer is indispensable for discerning what is going on within us. For Francis, "True Prayer is familiarity with and confidence in God. It is not reciting prayers like a parrot, blah, blah, blah, no. True prayer is this spontaneity and affection for the Lord." Being in prayer also means intimacy and friendship with God, "opening my Heart to Jesus, drawing close to Jesus, allowing Jesus to enter into my Heart and simply feeling his presence." From the heart, we discern when it is Jesus and when it is us, in our thoughts and decisions. Francis continues, "Jesus lets you know his will, with all his heart he lets you know things, but he leaves you free." Prayer with an open heart is an indispensable environment for discernment.

A discerning heart for Francis also requires the element of self-knowledge, of knowing oneself. "Discernment involves our human faculties: memory, intellect, will, and affections. Often, we do not know



What made me joyful? Did I harm others?" This important daily prayer practice of awareness helps me know myself.

Another element of a discerning heart is desire, which Pope Francis describes as "a nostalgia for fullness that never finds complete fulfillment, and is the sign of God's presence in us." Desire comes from the Latin term *des-sidus*, literally "lack of the Star." The lack evokes a suffering; the star, an intuition to reach for the good I am missing. Francis invites us to notice how Jesus often asks people an obvious question to help focus their desire. For example, he asks Bartimaeus, who is blind, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Learning to read one's own life story is

***"True Prayer is familiarity with and confidence in God. It is not reciting prayers like a parrot, blah, blah, blah, no. True prayer is this spontaneity and affection for the Lord."***

how to discern because we do not know ourselves well enough, and so do not know what we really want." An aid to self-knowledge is a daily practice of prayerfully looking back over my day. "What satisfies my heart?" asks Pope Francis. "What passed by today? What made me sad?

also an essential ingredient for discerning. When one reads this precious book, they discover what they pointlessly seek elsewhere. St Augustine discovered this as he read back into his life and wrote, "You were with me and I was not with you." Pope Francis invites us all to read our own life story, "Return within yourself, read your life, read yourself within. Wisely it has been said, if you do not know your own past, you are condemned to repeat it." A listening heart for Pope Francis, attends to these essential elements of discernment to make choices in our lives.

In part 3, we will deepen our understanding of listening to the heart with Pope Francis: Exploring interior movements of a discerning heart.

All fourteen sessions are available on the Holy See site ([www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2023.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2023.html)).

Kevin Gallagher offers this, the second of a three-part series on discernment, on behalf of the Christchurch Diocesan Spiritual Directors Group *Whakakōingo o te Ngakau*: The Yearning Heart.

St Bede's College Chapel

Te Raekura Redcliffs School

Spark Square

Paragon Apartments

Ballantynes Redevelopment

Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement

**Building Christchurch Landmarks**  
[naylorlove.co.nz](http://naylorlove.co.nz)

**Naylor Love**

# World Youth Day 2023

by Grace Challies - Catholic Youth Team



The Diocese of Christchurch has a long history of sending young adults to World Youth Day, and Lisbon 2023 was no exception. More than 30 young people from six of our parishes undertook this pilgrimage, as part of a Kiwi contingent. We spent 17 days touring holy sites throughout France. Of these sites, some of the favourites of the pilgrims were Le Puy-en-Velay, where we visited the large statue of Mary. We then visited St Michael's Chapel in Ars, where we learnt about St John Vianney, and had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. At Lourdes, we walked through the life of St Bernadette. There, with hundreds of others from around the world, we enjoyed a time of prayer to Mary, our Blessed Mother. When visiting these places, our accommodation varied between the occasional hotel and sleeping on classroom floors.

We were fortunate enough to celebrate daily Mass, sometimes in the chapel at the places in which we stayed, as well as in the chapels and basilicas we visited. Some of the most memorable Masses for us as pilgrims were in the crypt of St Therese of Lisieux's basilica, in the side chapel at the Basilica of Fourvière, and a Mass at the Grotto in Lourdes.

On concluding our time in Lourdes, we

took an overnight bus through Spain to Portugal to begin our 'days in the Diocese' experience. We stopped en route in Fátima to join the evening candlelit rosary, and spend some time visiting the Sanctuary and various other sites. As there were so many pilgrims at the Days in the Diocese in the small town of Pampilhosa de Serra, we were not able to stay with the host homes, so it was back to classroom floors. We tackled this challenge and the challenging rise in temperature incredibly well.

During the Days in the Diocese, Pilgrims prayed Lauds and Vespers each day, as well as celebrating Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Other events included a sports tournament, a testimony from a Muslim convert, a performance from a Portuguese reggae band, and a traditional Portuguese Festival, which got everyone out on the dance floor.

We travelled on to Lisbon and joined with the Pope and millions of others in the World Youth Day celebrations. Taken from the first chapter of Luke's Gospel, the theme of this year's event was "Mary arose and went with haste." Pope Francis observed that this scripture calls young people on "the path of proximity and encounter."



*Pilgrims carrying the statue of Mary in the Candlelit procession in Fatima*



*Sunrise the morning of WYD after sleeping outside*

Pilgrims could choose from the many events on offer each day, after attending the morning 'Rise Up' led by different English-speaking countries including New Zealand. Highlights included a gathering for America (which New Zealand and other countries also joined) to hear from Bishop Robert Barron before an evening of Adoration, a day session with Jason Evert (who himself gave talks in Christchurch some years ago) and Chris Stefanick, and an evening event at the Stadium of Lights which included a talk from Jonathan Roumie and a performance from Catholic contemporary composer and musician, Matt Maher.

The major World Youth Day events included the opening ceremony on

Thursday, where we first saw the Pope, the Way of the Cross on Friday, the overnight sleep-out and Vigil led by the Pope on Saturday, and the final Mass on Sunday.

"There's something so incredibly special about being able to see how large and diverse the Catholic Church is. Being able to celebrate Mass with 1.5 million people was a spectacular way to grasp this," reflected one pilgrim. As the World Youth Day pilgrimage came to an end, the pilgrims left feeling physically very tired but spiritually filled. There is already a lot of interest in World Youth Day 2027 in South Korea. The pilgrims are so grateful to all those who supported them, both financially and through prayer for this amazing trip.



Pilgrims walking around the village during days in the diocese in Portugal



Full pilgrim group photo in front of the monastery in Paris

# Inform

A PUBLICATION OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF CHRISTCHURCH

**Deadline for next issue:  
Wednesday 15 November 2023**

Contributions may be sent at any time to:

The Editor, PO Box 4544, Chch 8140

**E** [inform@cdoc.nz](mailto:inform@cdoc.nz) **P** 03 366 9869

Please attach your high resolution images or send us a link to a file sharing website. Do not embed images in your article. jpeg format is most suitable for photos. Please identify people featured in images and where images are taken.

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