



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

We are now a week into Lent. Lent began this year with the plea from Pope Francis and other Christian leaders to make Ash Wednesday a Day of Prayer and Fasting for the people of Ukraine. A week after Ash Wednesday the news continues to be devastating and very worrying. Despite high level political talks around the world, we probably all feel that this is a hopeless situation and like me probably ask “what can we do when such power and evil prevails?”

It might seem simplistic, but we can pray. Pope Francis called us to pray for the protection of children, the protection of the sick and suffering and the protection of people. In an exceptional move the Holy Father paid a visit to the Russian Embassy to the Vatican on Friday 26th February. The visit of a Pope to an embassy to speak with an ambassador in a time of conflict is unprecedented. The Holy Father did this to highlight the tragic seriousness of this situation. We do need to keep praying.

This Lent may well be defined by this invasion of Ukraine. As I celebrate Mass each day at Connolly Hall I look out the window and see the Ukrainian flag flying outside the British High Commission. The first day I saw it I asked the congregation to look at it as they left and to remember it throughout the day and to pray from time to time that peace will be restored and lives saved. Please make this Lent a time to pray for Ukraine.

Prayers of intercession for Ukraine

We pray for the Church: that in this time of crisis, she may speak words of truth and justice, act with compassion and be a sign of Christ’s love for all those who are suffering.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders, that guided by integrity and wisdom, they may work together so that peace may flourish.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all those caught up in violence, remembering especially the people of Ukraine; that in this time of fear and conflict, they may know God’s presence and peace.

Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all those suffering from hunger as a result of conflict and injustice, in countries such as Sierra Leone, Afghanistan and Ethiopia.

Lord in your mercy....

We pray for our parish and our local community: that in this time of Lent, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

Lord in your mercy...

Nāku noa. Nā,

+John



NOTICES

- Please keep in your prayers all our clergy. The frail and those who are experiencing ill health at present are Frs Frank Maguire, Peter O'Connell and Mons John Carde. Please continue praying for Fr David Dowling who is recovering well.
- **Mass the People of the Ukraine**
The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa has arranged for the celebration of Mass to pray for the people of the Ukraine. This Mass will be celebrated at St Teresa's Pro Cathedral in Karori at 12 Midday on Thursday 17th March. The Diplomatic Corp have been invited to this Mass. There will probably be about 30 of them. That means there will be room for some parishioners as well. If you would like to attend this Mass please email the Cathedral Parish Office (cathedral.parish@wn.catholic.org.nz), or the Parish Office at Karori (office@otariparish.co.nz) and register your intention to attend.
- **Covid 19**
These are difficult and challenging days for Aotearoa as the Omicron variant continues to spread rapidly. Thank you to all Parish and School and College leaders for the ways you have had to adapt in order to keep everyone safe. I realize that it is testing time when adaptations are called for every day. Over the last few days I have had information from two different Ministry of Health Officials who are thanking us for all we have done as the Catholic Church. They are full of admiration for the ways we are doing things to keep everyone safe. Thank you and please keep up the good work.

*God of the home and God of the pilgrim,
we begin to dig in for an uncertain season,
and embark on a journey together.
This is a path we haven't been on.
Yet we know in each step you are there
alongside us:
a guide, a protector, a friend.
May each day on the road bring us
closer together closer to a land of
grateful reunion closer to the place you
call home.
Amen.*

- **Catholic Centre**
Most of you will have heard by now that two weeks ago we received notification that the Catholic Centre was 20% NBS (New Building Standards) and that the Centre is now closed for a period of two weeks through until Sunday 13th March 2022. while we consider the appropriate way forward. The ability for staff to access the Catholic Centre had been inhibited anyway because of the protest action at Parliament. We are expecting tomorrow the result of a peer Review of the Engineer's report. As soon as we know if we have to evacuate the Centre permanently we will advise everyone, in the meantime work continues from homes and makeshift offices.
I thank the staff again for the ways they have generously adapted to new ways of working. Everyone is doing all they can so that the Mission of the Church continues with as few interruptions as possible.

**If you are kind, people may accuse you of an ulterior motive.
BE KIND ANYWAY.**

**The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.
DO GOOD ANYWAY.**

Teresa of Calcutta