



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

Next week I will be in Rome for a few days for a Consistory for new Cardinals and then a meeting which Pope Francis has asked all Cardinals to be present at. The meeting is “ON THE ROMAN CURIA AND ITS SERVICE TO THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD.” Pope Francis has written a Document which we will be discussing and reflecting on called *Praedicate Evangelium* (“Preach the Gospel.”)

The Holy Father reminds the Curia and all of us that preaching the Gospel is the task that the Jesus entrusted to his disciples - that means all of us, not just the Roman Curia. I ask for your prayers for this meeting in Rome, but also ask you to reflect on the call to all of us to preach the Gospel. Pope Francis reminded us in his first major document *Evangelii Gaudium*: “*An evangelizing community thus gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives, it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others.*”

What Pope Francis is trying to do is encourage the Roman Curia to be at his service and the service of the Church throughout the world. He is stressing that as the Curia serves the world, their first and most important task is that of evangelization. In a speech he made at the Consistory when I became a Cardinal in 2015 he said: “*Reform is not an end in itself, but a means to give a more convincing witness to Christ; to favor a more effective evangelization; to promote a more fruitful ecumenical spirit; to encourage a more constructive dialogue with all.*”

The document we have been asked to read in preparation for this meeting reminds us that the Pope, the bishops and other ordained ministers are not the sole evangelizers in the Church. Each Christian, by virtue of baptism, is a missionary disciple; we are all called to participate in the life of the Church and to contribute to the well-being of the entire Church.

As I participate in this meeting in Rome I ask for your prayers, and I want to assure you that I will be praying for the Church in the Archdiocese of Wellington. Pope Francis has been reminding members of the Roman Curia that their service of the church always begins with personal interior reform and conversion. He reminds us always that some of the first words of Jesus were “*repent and believe the good news.*” Our service of the church, whoever we are, always begins with our own daily conversion, our own turning back to Jesus as we try “*to walk his way, to tell his truth and to live his life.*”

Your prayers are needed please for these days ahead.

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 Mons John Carde, and Frs Frank Maguire, Peter O'Connell, Kevin Purcell and Maurice Carmody. We also pray for our clergy who have tested positive for COVID and are now isolating and recuperating at home. We wish them a speedy recovery.  
Deep and prayerful sympathy to Fr Frank Whitaker at this time of the death of his brother Michael.
- The **Chrism Mass** for this year will be celebrated at St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. Parishes are requested to have representatives appointed to collect the Holy Oils at that Mass. South Island Parishes will have Oils sent to them.
- A special meeting of the **Clergy Trust Fund** will be held at Karori on Wednesday 14 September (the afternoon of the Chrism Mass). All clergy are requested to attend this important meeting.
- **Alfred Tong** will be ordained to the priesthood at the Church of **St Joseph's, Upper Hutt** at 11am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Please keep Deacon Alfred in your prayers as he prepares for priestly ordination.
- The Archdiocese of Wellington and the Ecology Justice and Peace Commission have signed up to the Laudato Si' Action Platform. Learn about and celebrate this commitment at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, 10.30am Mass, St Thomas More Church (30A Worcester Street, Wilton). All are welcome to attend this Eucharist on the last Sunday in the Season of Creation 2022, Sunday October 2.

**“Here, on earth, the process of our “novitiate” begins: we are apprentices of life, who – amid a thousand difficulties – learn to appreciate God’s gift, honouring the responsibility of sharing it and making it bear fruit for everyone. The time of life on earth is the grace of this passage. The conceit of stopping time – of wanting eternal youth, unlimited wellbeing, absolute power – is not only impossible, it is delusional.”**

General Audience August 10, 2022