



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

Greetings to you all from Rome where for the last few days I have been participated in the ceremony in which Pope Francis appointed 20 new Cardinals, and in meetings where most of the Cardinals of the world have been present. The meetings have focused on a document Pope Francis promulgated a few months ago called *Praedicate Evangelium* - “Preach the Gospel”. It has not been plain sailing over the last few days, but in a spirit of “*communio*” and “synodality” we have tried to discern our way forward so that the Roman Curia can truly live out the task that Jesus gave to all disciples to “preach the Gospel.”

The days have been focused on the role of the Roman Curia, and it has been clear that Pope Francis has seen that this as one of the tasks he was elected for. He has at heart the vision of the Church which the Second Vatican Council dreamed of 60 years ago. He has courage and he has wisdom, and he has absolute confidence and trust that the Holy Spirit is leading us today.

There has been so much to think about and reflect on over these days. Some of my thinking is that what is asked of the Roman Curia is asked of each of us, no matter what our place in the Church may be... a Parish Council or Liturgy Committee member, a teacher in a Catholic School, someone running a sacramental programme... me, as the Bishop of the Diocese. We all have a responsibility through the gift of Baptism. *Praedicate Evangelium* speaks to us all: “based on their encounter with Jesus Christ, the members of the Roman Curia (**and each one of us**) are to carry out their work in the joyful recognition that they are missionary disciples at the service of the entire people of God”. (No. 6)

What can we do? What do we do to help someone else meet Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life?

With deep thanks for your prayerful support over these days.

Nāku noa. Nā

+ John

“The hymn that opens the Letter to the Ephesians is born of the contemplation of God’s saving plan in history. Just as we marvel at the sight of the universe all around us, so we are full of wonder as we consider the history of salvation. And if, in the cosmos, everything moves or stands still according to the invisible force of gravity, in God’s plan, down the ages all things find their origin, existence, end and purpose *in Christ*.

In the Pauline hymn, that expression – “in Christ” or “in him” – is the foundation supporting every stage of salvation history. In Christ we were blessed even before the world was created; in him we were called and redeemed; in him all creation is restored to unity, and all, near and far, first and last, are destined, by the working of the Holy Spirit, to the praise of God’s glory.

As we contemplate this plan, “praise is due” to God (Responsory, Lauds, Monday Week IV): praise, blessing, adoration and the gratitude that acknowledges all that God has done. Praise born of wonder, praise that will never become force of habit, as long as it remains rooted in wonder and nourished by that fundamental attitude of the heart and spirit. I would like to ask each of us, you dear brother Cardinals, Bishops, priests, consecrated persons, people of God: how is your wonder? Do you sense wonder at times? Or have you forgotten what it means?...

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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.
- The **Chrism Mass** for this year will be celebrated at St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral on Wednesday 14th 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. For catering purposes, please RSVP to my office your attendance. Clergy are also asked to RSVP for the Clergy Study Day on Thursday 15 September at St Theresa's, Plimmerton.
- **Alfred Tong** will be ordained to the priesthood at the Church of **St Joseph's, Upper Hutt** at 11am on Saturday 24th September. Please keep Deacon Alfred in your prayers as he prepares for priestly ordination.

Anniversaries of Ordination

September

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | David Dowling (2007) |
| 4 | + Paul Martin (1993) |

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Today, truly, the word of God awakens in us *wonder at being in the Church, of being Church!* Let us return to our initial baptismal wonder. That is what makes the community of believers attractive, first to themselves and then to others: the double mystery of our being *blessed in Christ* and of *going forth with Christ into the world*. This wonder does not diminish with the passing of the years; it does not weaken with our increasing responsibilities in the Church. No, thanks be to God. It grows stronger and deeper."

Pope Francis
Homily at Mass with new Cardinals 08/22

We pray for our Dead - September

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Michael Faherty (2009) |
| 6 | Patrick Quealy (1958) |
| 7 | Lawrence Hickey (1979) |
| 9 | John O'Brien (1995) |
| 10 | Michael Cahill |
| 11 | Desmond Moosman (2017) |
| 12 | Cronan Fahey (2006) |
| 15 | Patrick Minogue (1970)
Philip Tuohy (2001) |
| 16 | Eric Urlich (2017) |
| 17 | Patrick Carmody (1979) |
| 19 | Nicholas Moore (1985) |
| 21 | Brendan Kenny (2013) |
| 25 | John Griffin (2014) |
| 26 | Albert Heavy (1974) |
| 30 | Michael Brennan (1980)
Peter Dunn (2009) |