

20 May 2022



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Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

Over the next two Saturdays I will be privileged to be engaged in what we have called “SYNOD DAYS,” on Saturday 21 May in the Diocese of Palmerston North and on Saturday 28 May in our own Archdiocese of Wellington.

I am very much looking forward to these days of prayer, listening and discernment. I am also excited about what the whole Catholic world is currently engaged in. I'm excited because I see this process of synodality as a way that we, the People of God, clergy and laity together, are listening to the Holy Spirit and to one another. I believe that this Synodal process enables us to take responsibility for one another as disciples, it is about building one another up in the love of Christ and being supportive of one another as we walk through life together.

Synodality, which Pope Francis has clearly described as what God wants of the church in the third Millennium, is also about recapturing the vision of the Second Vatican Council. Recapturing that vision and helping the world to see it is also defining the ministry of Pope Francis.

I hope that these two Synod days will remind us of what the Second Vatican Council called the Church to be in the world today, that is:

- A community of witnesses, drawn together by the reality of Jesus, inspired by the word, nourished and celebrated in Eucharist;
- oriented towards the poor, the marginalized and those on the edge;
- embracing and ecumenical, engaged with our world, society, including other faith traditions;
- simple and humble and style, mindful that the mission served is not our own but that of Jesus himself;
- on a journey like pilgrims, both holy and sinful, always open, under the guidance of the Spirit, to the necessity of conversion, and
- ecologically integrated, embracing stewardship of creation and the common good-as emphasized by Pope Francis in Laudato Si.

On our discipleship journey we need the support of one another, remember that through our Baptism we are all the People of God. As we prepare for and engage with one another over these next two Saturdays I ask for your prayers for the success of these days, that all who will be present from both dioceses will be guided by the same Spirit who guided the early Christian disciples as they prayed and discerned how to live the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Your prayers will be greatly appreciated.

With thanks and every blessing

Nāku noa. Nā

+ John

Let us not soundproof our hearts; let us not remain barricaded in our certainties. So often our certainties can make us closed. Let us listen to one another.

Pope Francis, Opening Mass for the Synod on Synodality 10 October 2021



Notices

Synod Day Saturday 28 May: please pray for the work we will do on this day.

Clergy Jubilees Mass: the clergy jubilees will be celebrated on 14 July., details to follow.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: the annual Week of Prayer takes place between Ascension and Pentecost Sundays 29 May—5 June. Resources for individual and group prayer can be found at <https://www.catholic.org.nz/resources/wpcu2022>

Prayer for Peace

O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

From the Act of Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pope Francis 25 March 2022