



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

Early last year it was announced that Bishop Paul Martin, the then Bishop of Christchurch had been appointed as the Coadjutor Archbishop of Wellington. I welcomed this news with great gratitude knowing that when I am required by Canon law to hand in my resignation to the Pope, we would not have a long wait for a new Archbishop to be appointed because Archbishop Paul had already been nominated by the Pope to be my successor.

Not long after that announcement was made, I sent a letter to all the parishes requesting that Paul's name be included in the Eucharistic Prayer. I said that you had been used to praying for Pope Francis for the last nine years and for me as Auxiliary Bishop and then Archbishop for the last 28 years and asked you to add Paul's name. We thank you for your constant prayer for me and now for Paul, please continue your prayers for us.

I am delighted to tell you via this newsletter that Archbishop Paul is now living in Wellington permanently. Bishop Michael Gielen has been appointed as the new Bishop of Christchurch and Paul has joined us. I know that you will welcome Paul and look for opportunities to welcome him into the parishes and schools of the Archdiocese.

Over twenty years ago Pope Saint John Paul II wrote a Document **The Bishop, Servant of the Jesus Christ for the Hope of the World**. The very first words of that Document (*Pastores Gregis*) are ***“The shepherds of the Lord's flock know that they can count on a special divine grace as they carry out their ministry as Bishops.”*** Paul and I know that we have your prayerful support, and we thank you for that. We could not fulfil our mission as your Bishops without your prayers. Thank you.

Another part of that document says: ***“the ideal figure of the Bishop, on which the Church continues to count, is that of the pastor who, conformed to Christ by his holiness of life, expends himself generously for the Church entrusted to him....”*** When you do pray for us, please remember that you are asking that we be ***“Good Pastors,”*** that we ***“expend ourselves generously”*** and ***“bear in our hearts concern for all the Churches throughout the world.”***

With blessing to you all.

Nā māua noa. Nā

+ John, +Paul



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. 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.
- **Warmest congratulations** to Frs Ron Bennett, Alan Roberts and Julian Wagg as they celebrate 50 years of Ordination this month. We look forward to celebrating with each of you at the upcoming Clergy Jubilee Mass and Luncheon on Thursday 14 July at St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie at 11am followed by lunch at The Pines, Houghton Bay. All are welcome to attend Mass and celebrate with the clergy of the Archdiocese.
- **Congratulations** to Jenny Gordon, former Vicar for Education for the Archdiocese, who was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday and Platinum Jubilee Honours list, for services to Catholic education.
- The annual **Peter's Pence** collection will be taken up this Sunday 26 June. This collection offers financial support to the Holy Father for the many different needs of the Universal Church and for the relief of those most in need.
- The final stage of the **National Synod** process will be held on Saturday 2 July where we will continue the dialogue looking at the Syntheses of the six diocese of New Zealand.. Please continue to pray for the Synodal process.
- I will be attending the **5th Plenary Council** meeting of the Church in Australia, as an observer, from 3– 9 July. Please pray as we gather to discern what God is asking of the Australian Church at this time.

MATARIKI BLESSING

The new light of Matariki has risen!

May it be to you a sign of resurrection and new life.

May it be to you a sign of hope in times of darkness.

May it be to you a sign of the wondrous mystery of Atua who loves you.

May it be to you a sign that the eyes of the Eternal One are ever upon you and that the presence of the Holy One is ever with you. And may this be the cause of your rejoicing.

Go in peace.

Through Christ and in the perfect unity of the Holy Spirit,
we pray.

Amen

National Liturgy Office

