

Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

It is very likely that at 11.59 pm on 2nd December all of New Zealand will move to the Covid- 19 Protection Framework. Auckland will move to red, the rest of New Zealand is yet to be announced. While that is still uncertain for us there are some things which *are* certain, and which are very difficult for some people to cope with.

For various reasons not everyone wants to be vaccinated. Some are very anxious and concerned about what they see as strict Government mandates, and the need to show a vaccine pass is worrying many.

A few days ago, I heard from a parishioner who wrote *“Unfortunately not all Catholics, see vaccination as a moral obligation ... being confronted by them while trying to ensure protocols for the safety of us all is stressful, and I believe is about to become even harder...”*. Unfortunately, I think that is true and that it is going to get harder. This person also told me *“I was registering those coming to Mass and told that I was wearing the mask of Satan and the pen I was holding was Satan’s”*.

When I read something like the above, I worry about the people who have to listen to this kind of nonsense. It is wrong, it is unfair, and it is untrue. This time we are living in is building up to be a tense, anxious and a soul-destroying time.

What is it that we need to do?

- Pause and reflect, pray about this situation of anxiety, which is affecting many people, ask for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and remember the words of Jesus; *“My own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you,”* (John 14:27)
- Be kind, be gentle, be patient.
- Look for ways to do simple acts, random acts of kindness.
- Tell the stories of kindness and gentle thoughtfulness.
- Make this an opportunity to be positive, to reach out in Christian love and compassion.
- Support one another, especially those in the frontline.

With abundant blessings

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 Colin Durning, Frank McGuire, Peter O'Connell and Mons John Carde.
- Father Colin Durning will celebrate his **Silver Jubilee of Priesthood** on 30th November, warmest congratulations and best wishes to him. Colin is now in rest home care in Christchurch. Please remember him in prayer.
- **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** The Annual Mass for the Archdiocesan Feast Day and the rededication of the Archdiocese to the Immaculate Conception will be at St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral, Karori, at 7pm on 8th December. If we are at the Orange in the Traffic Light system at that time, the numbers will be unlimited and everyone must show their vaccine pass.
- **Warmest congratulations to Recipients of the Fitzgerald Awards** Next Sunday, December 5th is International Volunteers Day. It is also the day many people throughout the diocese will become recipients of the Fitzgerald Awards. The Fitzgerald Awards came out of a recommendation from the 2006 Synod, and were awarded in 2010 and 2014. They acknowledge women and men who have generously given their time and skills for the benefit of their parish community.
- At the NZCBC meeting recently the bishops decided that they would each make the latest edition of **Te Houhanga Rongo – A Path to Healing** Particular Law in their diocese. The decree which does this needs to be made known in the diocese. The decree for the Archdiocese of Wellington is attached to this newsletter.
Te Houhanga Rongo – A Path to Healing sets out the principles and procedure for responding to complaints of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct against clergy or religious in the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand.

"We must wake up Christ in our hearts and only then will we be able to contemplate things with his eyes for he sees beyond the storm. Through that serene gaze, we can see a panorama that we cannot even glimpse on our own... We cannot allow ourselves any tiredness when it comes to doing good. Do not grow tired of doing good. We have to trust that the Spirit always comes to assist us in our weakness and grants us the support we need. Let us, therefore, learn to invoke the Holy Spirit more often!"

Pope Francis GENERAL AUDIENCE NOVEMBER 10, 2021