



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

Last Sunday I was at St Gerard's Monastery to join in celebrating the last Mass in the church which had been opened in 1908. The ICPE Community made the difficult decision to close the Church because it was only 25% of the New Building Standards.

Understandably it was a sad occasion. Yet at the same time there was deep gratitude for all that St Gerard's has meant for generations of people when the Monastery was run by the Redemptorists, and in latter years by ICPE. Many people reflected on the various ways God had touched and graced them over the years. It was Pentecost Sunday and there was a real sense of the presence of the Holy Spirit, of being gifted by the Spirit and sent out on a mission, as were those who had locked themselves away in the upper room in Jerusalem for fear of the Jewish authorities.

As the Sequence was proclaimed before the Gospel, the words about the Spirit of God as the **"soul's most welcome guest"** impacted on me, with the thought that wherever we are the Spirit is with us as our "most welcome guest." St Gerard's church was closing but this would not be the end of our faith. Wherever we are to go, whatever church people chose to worship in, the Spirit would always be there as our **"most welcome guest."**

Just a few hours after all this happened Pope Francis gave his Pentecost homily. He said, **"The Spirit also tells us, 'Look to the whole'. The whole, not the part."** The closure of St Gerard's or any church or parish could seem disastrous, but that would mean that we are only looking at **"the part, and not the whole"**. When we look to the whole, we look beyond ourselves, and we know that God is sending us out as people full of faith and hope. It is naturally sad when a church or a parish closes, even more sad when people become angry and bitter, or stop going to Mass, but that is because we are looking at only a small part of our faith and not the whole.

Blessings to all

Nāku noa. Nā

John



"You, of comforters the best;

You the soul's most welcome guest;

Sweet refreshment here below;

In our labour, rest most sweet;

Grateful coolness in the heat." ( **Pentecost Sequence** )

## NOTICES

Please continue to pray for the sick and frail clergy, especially Monsignor John Carde, Frs Maurice Carmody, Don Morrison and Colin Durning. John Carde has shifted to the Home of Compassion, Fergusson Drive, Heretaunga. Please pray for John as he settles into his new accommodation.

**Clergy Jubilee Mass** will be celebrated on Wednesday 14 July at St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie at 11am followed by lunch at The Pine, Houghton Bay. All are welcome to attend Mass and celebrate with the clergy of the Archdiocese.

**Clergy Retreat Date Saver:** More information will come out in due course but please note in your diaries now September 27 until October 1st at Tatum Park.

**Apartment at Summerset Aotea:** Due to a change in circumstances we are once again looking for an expression of interest from clergy who may be looking for new or alternative accommodation, as an apartment will be ready for occupancy in the near future at Summerset Aotea. You must be over 70 to take up this offer. Contact Linda MacGregor [l.macgregor@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:l.macgregor@wn.catholic.org.nz) 04 385 8642 by 3 June if you would like to discuss this further.

**Safeguarding:** Te Kupenga, Catholic Theological College in conjunction with the National Office of Professional Standards, have developed an online Safeguarding course for all people working in Catholic ministry. Click [here](#) for more information about this course.

The **New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference** has made a significant change to the proposal to renew the country's dedication to Our Lady Assumed into Heaven. The proposed hikoi of a special artwork around Aotearoa New Zealand, which was to happen in the three months leading to the Feast of the Assumption on 15 August, has been postponed. However, the bishops will still gather at St Mary of the Angels Church in Wellington on Sunday 15 August for a Mass to renew Bishop Pompallier's 1838 dedication of Aotearoa New Zealand to Our Lady Assumed into Heaven. Further details: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/changes-mary-renewal-dedication/>

Pope Francis has announced the new lay ministry of Catechist, which gives formal recognition of "those lay men and women who feel called by virtue of their baptism to cooperate in the work of catechesis." Bishop of Hamilton Steve Lowe, Secretary of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, says our bishops have received many questions about the formation of the new lay catechists, and how the ministry will link to lay pastoral workers. He says the bishops will discuss how the new ministry will work in Aotearoa New Zealand at their October meeting. Read more: <https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/nz-lay-catechist-ministry/>

**Alive in the Spirit Conference:** Kiwi Catholics hungering for inspiration after the long pandemic are invited to join the *Alive in the Spirit* online conference from 8-10 July. The innovative conference offers a variety of keynote speakers, home-grown workshops and enriching prayer and worship experiences. It will inspire and support lay people and clergy, staff, leadership teams, finance teams, pastoral councils, pastoral ministers and volunteers, those in education, counselling, pastoral care, youth ministry, family ministry, aged care and chaplaincies and anyone who wants to be Alive in the Spirit. For full details, go to [www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/aliveinspirit/](https://www.catholic.org.nz/news/media-releases/aliveinspirit/)