



ARCHBISHOP OF WELLINGTON

4 October 2023

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

I am writing this to you on the last day of our retreat here at Fraterna Domus on the outskirts of Rome. It is a very large establishment with over 500 rooms and a chapel that can fit that many as well! There are four hundred of us here for the retreat which is being given by Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP. He is a well-known Dominican who has been to New Zealand in the past. His input to us was very thought provoking and if you have a chance, I encourage you to read or watch the talks that he gave us. The link for them

is <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/search.html?q=Synod%20retreat%20meditation&in=all&sorting=latest>

On September 18th I joined with Manuel Beazley and Lorraine Elliot of Auckland at a conference for Indigenous Catholic People from Australia, United States, Canada and New Zealand held in Washington. It was an initiative of the US Bishops Conference and brought together 22 delegates to look at the way the Church has worked and is working with the indigenous people of these countries. It was a very interesting meeting in terms of hearing what has happened and is happening now. There is a real interest in continuing this work and so hopefully the opportunity to build on this initial meeting will come to fruition.

October is the month of Our Lady and traditionally this has been a time when we focus on the beautiful prayer of the rosary and ask for Mary's help and intercession for us as we follow her Son. If the rosary is not part of your regular spiritual practice then it could be a good chance to reacquaint yourself with it, or to bring a group together to pray all or some decades each day.

It is with great joy we celebrate the ordination of Bishop John Adams for the diocese of Palmerston North. I know that the people there are delighted to have a bishop again and I would ask that you keep our brothers and sisters in the diocese in your prayers as Bishop John begins his ministry of Shepherd of the Diocese.

Next week the priests of New Zealand will be gathering in Rotorua for their assembly. This happens every five years and is a chance for priests to meet each other, spend time in prayer and have some input and reflection and enjoy one another's company. Thank you for your willingness to allow your priests to be away from the parish during this time and I know that they would appreciate your prayers for the success of this programme.

On Monday our students and teachers return for the last term of the school year. I hope that the holidays have been a time of rest and for family life and that this will be a successful term for all involved in education.

Tomorrow morning we gather at St Peter's for Mass with Pope Francis to open the Synod on Synodality. In the afternoon we gather in the Paul VI Hall for our first session. This is an

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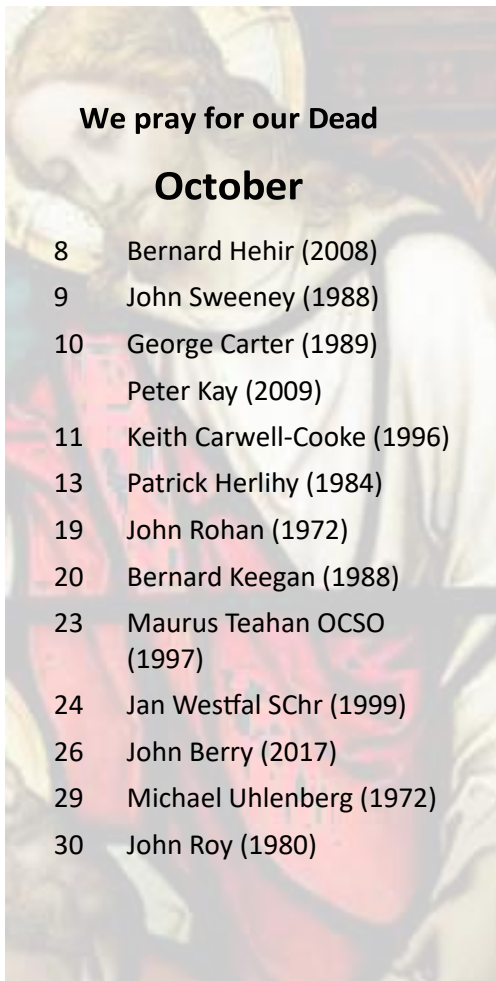
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important time in the life of our Church and the call for us is to listen to the Holy Spirit, to be open to one another and to see what we are being called to consider for the future. Never before have so many had the opportunity to feed into a synod and while our Church is very diverse in its make up, we are one in Jesus Christ and in this His body. Please pray for the Synod, for all who are involved and for the Church in general.

Ngā mihi nui

+ Paul sm

+ Paul Martin SM
Archbishop of Wellington



We pray for our Dead

October

- 8 Bernard Hehir (2008)
- 9 John Sweeney (1988)
- 10 George Carter (1989)
Peter Kay (2009)
- 11 Keith Carwell-Cooke (1996)
- 13 Patrick Herlihy (1984)
- 19 John Rohan (1972)
- 20 Bernard Keegan (1988)
- 23 Maurus Teahan OCSO
(1997)
- 24 Jan Westfal SChr (1999)
- 26 John Berry (2017)
- 29 Michael Uhlenberg (1972)
- 30 John Roy (1980)

Anniversary of Ordination October

- 25 Raymond Soriano (1980)**
- 30 Peter Timoteo MoF (2020)**
- 31 Francis Maguire (1998)
Willie Uvea SVD (2015)**