



ARCHBISHOP OF WELLINGTON

7 November 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Greetings to you as we come to this month of November. I am very pleased to be home in this wonderful country of ours.

The Synod in Rome was an experience that I feel very privileged to have attended. There were 350 delegates; 270 cardinals and bishops and 70 lay people, religious and priests. We worked hard and the synthesis of this first session is available for you to read on the Archdiocesan website or the Vatican site. Being with so many people from around the world was a reminder that the Church is much bigger than just our country or diocese, that the challenges we face are not the same as those for other places and yet we are all united in this one Church. This was an opportunity to see how we as a Church can be more authentic in our living of the Gospel and how our structures can help us to do this in the age in which we live.



There were differences of opinions about matters but there was a positive sense of wanting to work through these and a willingness to talk about them, which is not to be taken for granted. It was great having Fr Dennis Nacorda from our archdiocese present and Manuel Beazley from Auckland. We will return next October for the second session and pick up with the Synthesis document in the light of the next 11 months.

I was fortunate to be living in the same house as the Holy Father and so saw him at meals as well as at the Synod itself. He is not very mobile, but he comes alive when people talk with him, it is very inspiring to see him in these moments. I cannot help but marvel at the faith and hope he shows as he leads the Church with all that is going on and at a somewhat advanced age. Please continue to pray for him.

One of the powerful experiences of the Synod was the use of spiritual conversations in the Spirit. There was a lot of listening to do, but we stopped very regularly to pray for three minutes at a time on what we had heard and to discern what was the Holy Spirit saying. It kept our conversations in the realm of faith as well as discussion and ideas. It is not the only way of operating in these sorts of meetings, but it is a powerful way of allowing the Holy Spirit to work.

In this last month we have had a general election and a new government is being formed hopefully! It is important that we pray for our politicians and that we continue to take an interest in the political realm. Our faith demands that of us and it can be difficult, especially when decisions are made that we do not agree with, or which are counter to our beliefs. Christians have always been called to play their part in the community and this is a very practical way of doing so.

This Sunday Matthew White will be ordained a deacon at St Theresa's Pro Cathedral in Karori. Please pray for Matthew as he prepares for his ordination. We have five seminarians at present, which is a blessing for us, but we will need more if we are to be a Church that is able to celebrate the Eucharist and receive the

Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington

Level 2, 204 Thorndon Quay, Pipitea, Wellington 6011 - PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

T: 04 496 1766 E: abp@wn.catholic.org.nz W: wn.catholic.org.nz

Sacraments. Please keep calling our young people to this vocation and to religious life. Vocations begin in families and are encouraged in the faith community.

Our secondary school community will be adjusting to the farewell of their senior students. I hope that the year has gone well and that the young people have a sense of gratitude for what they have experienced. Our Catholic schools are such a key part of our Church community and I want to acknowledge and thank all of you who work in this important ministry of our Church. I know too that there are still a few weeks left before school finishes, so I hope that the remainder of the term continues well for you all.

One of the strong messages that came out of the Synod was about ensuring that we continue to care for the poor and those in need. The focus was not just on doing things but actually taking the time to be with them. This can be a lot more challenging for us. It is not a case of either/or but of both/and. This month Catholic Social Services, one of the key outreaches of our Church to those who need help, is having their appeal. I would encourage you to do what you can to help us in this ministry, both with your charity in terms of resources, but also what you may be able to do with your time to help those in need.

This week we have Bishops Conference here in Wellington. It is a great joy to finally have a full contingent of bishops after four years. Bishop-elect Richard Laurenson of Hamilton is joining us for the meeting.

Last Sunday I received the pallium from Bishop Steve Lowe, representing Pope Francis. The pallium is a woollen vestment worn around the neck of the Pope. He in turn gives one to the Archbishop who is the Metropolitan of his province, as a sign of his sharing in the Pope's pastoral authority. It also symbolizes the unity of the Church through the Bishop of Rome.

The Church is divided into dioceses and groups of dioceses are clustered into ecclesiastical provinces. The bishop of the Archdiocese in the province is called the Metropolitan. There is a long history and tradition around the pallium and it is interesting to google. I feel humbled to wear the pallium and to carry the responsibility that comes with it.

Please keep in your prayers those priests who are unwell, especially Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, Fathers Peter O'Connell, Frank Maguire, Denis Collins, and all those who have Covid.

Nga mihi nui



+ Paul Martin SM
Archbishop of Wellington

We pray for our Dead

November

- 1 Conal Hurley (2009)
- 3 Michael McDonald (1971)
- 4 Edmond Cashman (2007)
- 5 Arthur Devine (2005)
- 6 Martin Brooks (1964)
- 13 Vincent McGlone (1960)
- 15 Humphrey O'Leary CSsR (2009)
- 18 Leo Daly (1962)
Cardinal Peter McKeefry (1973)
Robert Ryan (1983)
- 27 Louis Gleeson (1977)
Brian Fletcher (2016)
- 28 John Broadbent (2016)
- 29 James Kershaw (2020)

Anniversary of Ordination October

- 9 Andrew Kim (2012)
- 26 Michael McCabe (1983)
Patrick Bridgman (1994)

