TŪMANAKO
United in Hope • *I te Tūmanako o te Kotahitanga*
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From the desk of Bishop John Adams

As we continue our journey through Lent, I want to share a few reflections and updates from around our Diocese that speak to the life, faith and hope I see growing among our people.

Many of you will be aware of the conversation we've been having about liturgical posture. I am grateful to the more than 150 individuals and groups who have already shared their thoughts. If you still wish to contribute, please email me at *bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz*. The closing date for submissions is Easter Sunday.

This year's Rite of Election on February 22 was a moment of genuine joy for our Diocese. Across the country, and in other dioceses overseas, numbers are increasing, and we are one of those places experiencing that growth. We celebrated two Rites of Election this year: one in New Plymouth and one at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

It was heartening to see so many young people present. I met two young women from Eketāhuna, whose mother – though baptised – had not been practising for some time. Now, moved by her daughters' example, she has started to return to Mass. Isn't it incredible that sometimes it is the children who lead their parents back to faith. Stories like these remind us that the Spirit is at work in quiet and unexpected ways.

In May I will be leading a pilgrimage from Lourdes to Lisieux. We will travel through places marked by saints such as Bernadette, Thérèse of Lisieux, John Vianney and Joan of Arc. We will then visit the D Day sites before finishing up in Paris where we will visit special places of interest such as Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur, and the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. We are still welcoming expressions of interest for another month – visit *www.harvestjourneys.com/pv2659* for more information.


Rite of Election

Later this year, our Diocese will have the great privilege of hosting a relic of St Carlo Acutis. Relics can seem mysterious, yet they are deeply rooted in biblical tradition; Peter's handkerchief and even the cloak of Jesus were instruments of healing. Objects touched by the holy can become conduits of grace. Carlo's witness as a young, modern disciple offers something particularly powerful for our time.

+John



"Across the country, and in other dioceses overseas, numbers are increasing, and we are one of those places experiencing that growth."

Upcoming Events

TUE 31 MARCH — **CHRISM MASS**
12:05pm, Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

Bishop John invites all members of the Diocese of Palmerston North to this important event.

SAT 11 APRIL — **PILGRIMAGE TO HIRUHĀRAMA**

If interested, email bishop-pa@pndiocese.org.nz with your name, parish and phone number.

SAVE THE DATES — **DIOCESAN HUBS**

Saturday May 30 or Sunday May 31: 12.30-4.30pm
Manawatū-Whanganui/Taranaki

Saturday August 15 or Sunday August 16: 12.30-4.30pm
Manawatū-Whanganui/Hawkes Bay

REGISTER:
https://forms.office.com/r/si6GpNKWz9

Caritas launches Lent campaign in challenging times



Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand launched its annual Lent fundraising appeal at a time when humanitarian needs are rising in many parts of the world, but some countries are cutting aid.

Communities across the Pacific, Southeast Asia and conflict-affected regions are facing mounting pressure from climate change, violence and economic instability, Caritas said.

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand chief executive Mena Antonio said this year's Lent Appeal comes at a difficult moment.

"We are seeing unprecedented hardship in many parts of the world," she said. "Climate pressures are deepening poverty in our own Pacific neighbourhood, while unprecedented humanitarian crises and displacement continue elsewhere.

"At the same time, funding for international aid has fallen. All of this creates a real gap for communities already under strain."

Funds raised through the Lent Appeal support Caritas' work with trusted local partners. Caritas provides improved food and water access, climate-resilient farming and other livelihood support to communities across the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

In the last year, it has also been called upon to respond to emergencies, such as the war in Gaza, the conflict in Ukraine, the Rohingya refugee emergency in Bangladesh, the Myanmar earthquake and the displacement caused by clashes on the Thai/Cambodian border.

Caritas helps about 620,000 people a year.

Last year also saw the US government gut USAID, which triggered a raft of cuts across the sector from other donor nations. These cuts are expected to affect humanitarian operations globally, including programmes supporting food security, protection and livelihoods.

Ms Antonio said Lent is a time when faith is expressed through practical solidarity.

"We walk with communities before, during and after emergencies," she said. "When people give this Lent, they are helping families stay safe and build a future in very difficult circumstances."

A central focus of this year's appeal highlights protection work with Rohingya refugee families in Bangladesh. More than 1.3 million Rohingya people remain confined to camps with limited rights and ongoing risks of violence, trafficking and exploitation. Caritas-supported community volunteers provide counselling, case work and referrals to safety for women and children facing abuse.

One Rohingya mother supported through the programme said access to a trained Caritas volunteer changed her situation after she fled violence in Myanmar.

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference has endorsed the appeal.

Donations to the Lent Appeal can be made online at *caritas.org.nz/lent*



Content on this spread provided by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference



Holy Cross Seminary makes pilgrimage to Christchurch

Seminarians and staff from Holy Cross Seminary completed a very busy schedule in Christchurch Diocese during their annual start-of-year pilgrimage.

There were six first-year students among the 31 seminarians who visited Christchruch from February 8-12. In the first-year group, one is in preparation for Palmerston North Diocese, one for Dunedin Diocese and two each for Christchurch Diocese and Wellington Archdiocese.

The 2026 hikoi started with the seminary students and staff joining Bishop Michael Gielen and parishioners for Mass at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral. Participants learned about the history of Christchurch Diocese in a talk at Nazareth House and visited Sacred Heart Basilica in Timaru and the St Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in Temuka.

A prayerful time was spent at the Beatitudes Community in Leithfield, which was described as "a time to slow down, listen and be renewed in the Lord".

At Akaroa, the hikoi participants learned about Bishop Pompallier and the first church in the South Island. On February 11, they visited the Carmelite Sisters and later gathered with 130 young people for dinner before attending the Youth and Young Adults Encounter Night at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

Sixth-year seminarian Gerson Badayos from Wellington said being on the hikoi this year was "a privilege and a blessing". "I would like to mention the church in Timaru. It's really beautiful. Being inside that church, you can really feel the Holy Spirit moving," Mr Badayos said.

Another highlight for him was visiting the Beatitudes Community. "It's just so nice seeing holy men and women responding to God's call, and inspiring others to do the same...I'm very inspired to live a life of holiness and of service to others," he said.

Another sixth-year seminarian, Tung Tran (Ignatius) from Christchurch, enjoyed the "companionship and brotherhood that I have shared with all my brothers in the last few days".

Second-year seminarian Samuel Turnbull from Hamilton Diocese also enjoyed visiting the basilica in Timaru, adding that another hikoi highlight for him was "visiting the Carmelite Sisters and getting to talk with them, and asking them for their prayers".

NZ leader says Mercy Sisters' mission still strong and active

Missions of Mercy inspired by Venerable Catherine McAuley are widespread and achieving much good today, says the Aotearoa New Zealand leader.

Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand congregational leader Sr Denise Fox RSM discusses religious life in an interview with Joanna Kearney in the latest episode of the Catholic Kiwi Podcast.

"We all joined the Sisters of Mercy because we were captivated by the mission, which for us is the spiritual and corporal works of mercy," she said, with the religious women carrying out what the congregation's founder, Catherine McAuley, called "the work of our lives, or the business of our lives".

Among the subjects Sr Denise discussed were her own background growing up in Wellington, her ministry as an educator and leader in various capacities and the work of evangelisation.

Search Catholic Kiwi Podcast on YouTube or Spotify to find this and other episodes.





Rite of Election celebrated in the Diocese

Words and photos by Lee Russell, RCIA Coordinator for the Catholic Parish of Hastings

On February 22, RCIA groups from around the Palmerston North Diocese gathered at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Palmerston North for the Rite of Election and Enrolment of Names. Something that was immediately obvious was the range of ages and ethnicities, accentuating that the Roman Catholic faith is appealing to people everywhere.

The service, conducted by Bishop John Adams, was welcoming, simple and flowed beautifully with everyone present learning from Bishop John's homily.

Sponsors and catechists felt pride and joy as the Elect and Candidates placed their names in the Book of the Elect.

Those people attending who had not seen the Cathedral before were in awe of the beauty of the stained-glass windows.

It was a lovely day and one that will be remembered by the Elect, Candidates, sponsors and catechists for a long time.

Fr Marcus celebrates 25 years of priestly service

by Katey Jewell, Catholic Parish of Hastings

On February 28, the Catholic Parish of Hastings gathered to celebrate Fr Marcus Francis' 25th jubilee of priestly ordination, marking 25 years of dedicated service to God and the Church.

Around 250 people attended, including family and friends who travelled from out of town to share in this significant milestone. Their presence reflected the strong support surrounding Fr Marcus and the parish community.

The jubilee Mass was uplifting and culturally diverse. The St Peter Chanel multicultural community led the procession of the Gospel and provided the jubilee cake. The Samoan choir presented the offertory and the combined parish choir contributed music that enriched the liturgy and the celebration.

A special feature of the day was the presence of priests who have served alongside Fr Marcus over the years – a visible sign of shared ministry and fraternity. Fr Marcus was clearly moved as he acknowledged the support of those gathered.



Following the Mass, the celebrations continued with an art deco-themed gathering. The "best dressed" presentation added a fun element to the morning, and live entertainment provided music fitting for the occasion.

The jubilee was a successful and memorable day for the Hastings parish, bringing people together in faith and fellowship as they gave thanks for 25 years of priestly service.