

16 May 2023

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Greetings Parish Priests,

Earlier this year the Secretariat for the Synod wrote to all bishops' conferences and invited us to arrange a celebration of a moment of Marian prayer in preparation for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. This is intended to coincide with the memorial of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the conclusion of the Marian Month on Wednesday 31 May.

Our connection to Mary is deep-seated in Aotearoa; our country was dedicated to Mary as *Our Lady Assumed into Heaven* by Bishop Jean-Baptiste Pompallier when he celebrated the first mass in New Zealand at Totara Point in the Hokianga on the 13 January 1838. Last year, we dedicated St Mary of the Angels in Wellington as a national shrine to Mary.

The National Liturgy Office have prepared this prayer for 31 May that we invite all parishes to take up. We also thank those parishes that have submitted images of Marian significance throughout Aotearoa, which will be shared digitally via the National Liturgy Office and Catholic Discovery to help inspire all faithful about the presence of Mary among us.

May God bless you all with abundant faith, serenity and joy.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



✘ **Paul Martin SM**
Secretary – NZCBC / Archbishop of Wellington
Te Huinga o ngā Pīhopa Katorika o Aotearoa



Wednesday 31 May 2023

**Memorial of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
& conclusion of the Marian Month**

**Prayer for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly
of the Synod of Bishops**

**E te Atua aroha mā te whakapuaki
i tō mātou whakapono**

Loving God in professing the faith

In which we are united as your people
we unite ourselves with the yes
of your mother Mary, the first disciple.

**E te Atua, te Puna o ngā mea ora katoa,
te kaihomai o ngā mea pai katoa**

O God, Source of all life, giver of all that is good

We, your people of Aotearoa New Zealand
meet in the bonds of your love.

Keep us faithful in our response to your love.

**E te Atua aroha, ka karangahia houtia mātou
e koe ki ngā hua o te ora.**

Loving God, you call us anew to the abundance of life.

In these years of renewed synodal reflection
we are listening for your voice.

Now we pray for those who will take our voice
to the October Synod dialogue in Rome.

**E te Atua, mā roto i te korowai o Maria
te whāea o tāu tamaiti, tō mātou whaea anō hoki**

**O God, under the patronage of Mary,
the mother of your son, and our mother**

May we grow as people of communion, participation and mission.

We pray that those entrusted with leadership of your church will be open,
that together we may enlarge the space of your tent in our land and in our world.

I tēnei wā, ka whakahoungia e mātou tēnei oati tapu

We pray, turning to Mary with new fervour.

In union with her Son Our Lord Jesus Christ
who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit God forever and ever.

Amen