



# **Te Huinga o ngā Pīhopa Katorika o Aotearoa**

*New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference*

## **Summary of NZCBC Meeting, November 2025 | Wellington**

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference met in Wellington from November 3-6. Te Rōpū Māori, the bishops' advisory group on matters of particular pastoral interest to Katorika Māori, met on November 3 and joined the bishops for discussions on November 4.

The bishops celebrated the daily 8am Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Gábor Pintér, addressed the bishops on the opening morning of the meeting, sharing with the Bishops Conference Pope Leo XIV's vision for the life and ministry of bishops. Archbishop Pintér also proposed how that vision can be lived out in the Church in New Zealand. The bishops expressed their gratitude to the Nuncio for his reflection and for his work in this country and across the Pacific.

The bishops held in-person or video discussions with a number of NZCBC staff or leaders of related entities, including from: Te Kupenga; the Tribunal of the Catholic Church; Holy Cross Seminary; Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand; National Office for Professional Standards.

On the afternoon designated for a pastoral conversation, National Centre for Religious Studies director Colin MacLeod presented to the bishops on his recent doctoral thesis, which explores the relationship between Catholic parishes and Catholic schools. The bishops shared Mr MacLeod's keen interest in that relationship and will continue to reflect on how it can be strengthened in various contexts.

Key agenda items during the meeting included:

- The preparation of a pastoral letter for the World Day of the Poor, inviting the Catholic community to consider how each person can demonstrate a spirit of generosity, including through almsgiving. The letter will be read in churches on the weekend of November 16/17.
- The 100th anniversary of the death of Meri Hohepa Suzanne Aubert next year. The bishops will participate in a Mass commemorating the anniversary on October 4, 2026.
- An evaluation [of the pilot programme supporting the development of facilitators of Communal Apostolic Discernment](#). Fr Michael Smith SJ and Lucienne Hensel, who led the programme, shared their insights. The bishops agreed to welcome a new cohort of participants in 2026.

- Ongoing planning for the International Conference on Catholic Indigenous Ministry, which New Zealand will host in March 2026. This will be the second such gathering, with a focus on indigenous Catholic ministry in New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States.
- Review of a paper prepared for the bishops on the dignified care of bodily remains.
- A report on a recent pastoral research workshop, led by Dr Trudy Dantis from the Australian National Centre for Pastoral Research. The bishops supported the establishment of a working party to consider how Church entities can collaborate on research initiatives.
- Feedback on the recent Hope and Renewal Summit, hosted in the Diocese of Palmerston North in conjunction with Divine Renovation. The bishops received a report from the Summit's organisers and shared their own reflections.
- The 2026 visit of liturgical expert Fr Paul Turner, who will lead workshops for priests on presiding at Mass. Fr Turner is an American priest and an advisor to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.