

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

25-31 May 2020

Parish Newsletters Ascension Sunday

Dear friends

During this week between Ascension and Pentecost Sundays the Christian churches make a special effort to pray for Christian unity.

The theme for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian unity is "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28.2), which refers to the reception given to Paul and companions when they were shipwrecked on the island of Malta.

There is much to reflect upon in this theme in the light of our experience of the last few weeks with COVID-19. We have been urged to "Be kind" and to "Stay united". The pandemic has been the equivalent of a shipwreck for many people, and "unusual kindness" is needed as never before.

Over centuries the Christian churches have moved from hostility and aggression towards one another to working together on the many things we have in common, especially our assistance for those who are most vulnerable. Kindness can unite us as Christians. We have already seen how it can unite us as Kiwis.

Please take part in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in some way. If gathering is not possible or risky, then use the Eight Days of Prayer for Christian Unity leaflet which is available on www.catholic.org.nz or your diocesan website.

Everything you do towards Christian unity counts.

✠ John A Cardinal Dew
Archbishop of Wellington