# NZCatholic

Special Lockdown Digital Issue – September 15, 2021

# More discussion<br/>needed on hate speech<br/>legislation proposalCatholic reaction<br/>to Auckland<br/>terrorist attack

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On the front cover: Pope Francis greets the crowd before celebrating the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress at Heroes' Square in Budapest, Hungary, on September 12, 2021. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

# NZCatholic\*<sup>1</sup>

Pompallier Diocesan Centre, 30 New Street, Ponsonby, Auckland. P.O. Box 147-000, Ponsonby, Auckland 1144. Phone: (09) 360-3067 or (09) 378-4380. Email: admin@nzcatholic.org.nz Website: www.nzcatholic.org.nz Publisher: Bishop Patrick Dunn Editor: Michael Otto Journalist: Rowena Orejana Marketing and Administration: Claudia Cachay Design & Advertising: Anne Rose Advertising enquiries contact:

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St Dominic's Catholic College Founded by the Dominican Sisters

**Catholic School For Girls Years 7-13** 

- Beautiful Rahui Thought for the Day each school day from our DRS, Nicky Whitham-Blackwell.
- · Follow our Student Leaders Lockdown Instagram page @stdoms.2021
- Pacific student leaders: Rachel Ah Lin and Marcia Hoff, both Yr 13.
- Yr 7 to 10 Health and PE students are enjoying doing and recording Wellbeing Bingo tasks during Lockdown.

www.stdoms.ac.nz

# A message from the editor

alert level 4, NZ Catholic could not be printed or to parishes. delivered under the rules for non-essential businesses. Similarly, the rules do not allow printing ute free digital editions of *NZ Catholic*. These a level 4 area, but some of its customers are in level 3. *NZ Catholic* does not qualify as an es-

The latest advice from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage leads to the conclusion that *NZ Catholic*, as a non-essential business, should changes with subsequent advice, the viabiliquestionable while Auckland is at alert level 4. work at alert level 4.

It is planned that, when the whole nation returns to alert level 3 or lower, *NZ Catholic* will resume printing and distributing to subscribers. paper's staff, working from our homes. When the whole nation is at alert level 1, NZ

When the whole country was under Covid-19 *Catholic* will resume printing and distributing

So, we are continuing to produce and distriband distribution if an essential business is in are being sent to most parishes and to people who request it. Links to the free digital paper will be posted to NZ Catholic's website and will sential business. This was determined last year. be posted on our facebook page. Free digital editions do not count against subscriptions.

When we are able to print and distribute to subscribers, we plan to run several of the not be printed and distributed if Auckland is at stories that appeared in the digital editions as alert level 4, even if some customers elsewhere archive stories, so that our print subscribers do are at alert-level 2. Even if that conclusion not miss too much. We appreciate the patience and loyalty of our subscribers at this time. We ty of printing and distributing NZ Catholic is ask for your prayers. It is not easy to live and

> I hope you enjoy this digital edition of NZ *Catholic*, which has been produced by the news-- Michael Otto, Editor

### Bishop Dunn sends message of support, prayers to Mangere church community

### by NZ CATHOLIC staff

Auckland Bishop Patrick Dunn has sent a message of support to the Assemblies of God Church of Samoa in Mangere that has been hardest hit in the latest Covid-19 outbreak.

In a facebook post on August 29, Bishop Dunn noted that members of this church are "carrying a particularly heavy burden"

"I have contacted them to offer our prayers and solidarity," Bishop Dunn wrote in the post.

Several hundred people from this church have tested positive for the delta strain of Covid-19, less". making it the largest "cluster" in the current outbreak.

ter emerged out of a combined land parish and school commurally, attended by more than nities are being affected" by the 500 people, with several other outbreak. churches attending. The event was on Sunday 15 August, two days before the first Delta community case was detected and the country placed in lockdown.

Racist abuse has been directed at the AoG church members, and this has drawn condemnation from many quarters, including from the director-general of health, Dr Ashley Bloomfield, as "disappointing" and "gut-

Dunn also wrote that he was ness and compassion to all we According to a report on "conscious that many of you in meet. Amen."

Radio New Zealand, "the clus- our Mangere and south Auck-

"To all of you I offer my concern and heartfelt prayer that you are being cared for, looking after one another and staying safe. In these difficult times we are blessed to have our faith to sustain us.

Bishop Dunn added the following prayer: "Merciful God, in all things we open our hearts to you and give you thanks. Be with us in these times of uncerwho described such abuse tainty. Bring healing and peace to all who are suffering. Lift us up with your strength that we In his facebook post, Bishop may be a sign of your tender-

# **ARPA** awards for NZ Catholic

### by NZ CATHOLIC staff

tralasian Religious Press Association awards held online on September 4.

Both the awards related to NZ Catholic's on- about the story". going coverage on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

and conspiracy theories won a

silver award in the best news story category. The judge commented that the article was "helpful" and "highly newsworthy". The article was "well laid out, with useful subheadings and strong quotes". The judge added that "this was a challenging section to judge, as the quality of news stories was excellent".

A front page by Anne Rose won a gold award in the best cover newspaper category. The headline was "light in the darkness" over a photo of a silhouette of Pope Francis holding a candle at the Easter vigil Mass at St Peter's Basilica last year. This was the cover for one of NZ Catholic's editions produced during lockdown last year.

The judge stated that the

cover "demonstrated immediate and graphic visual appeal. The simple top coverline referenced *NZ Catholic* won two awards at the 2021 Aus- the photo perfectly. Along with the secondary coverline, the whole page made the reader want to move to the highlighted page to learn more

NZ Catholic editor Dr Michael Otto said the recognition at the ARPA awards shows the consis-An article by Rowena Orejana on the pandemic tent and ongoing quality of *NZ Catholic*'s writing, design and production.

"We were recognised as publication of the year by ARPA last year, and these awards show the continuing high regard of our peers in Christian media for NZ Catholic," Dr Otto said. "It is gratifying to receive

these awards," he said. Other New Zealand publica-

tions to received ARPA awards were Kete Korero (Hamilton), which won a bronze award in the best regional publication category, as well as a silver award in the best original photography category, and Tui Motu Interislands, which received a bronze award in the best feature, multiple authors category.

The 2021 ARPA publication of the year was Eureka Street, published by the Australian Jesuits.



NZ Catholic, Issue 587, April 2020

# Discussion needed on hate speech law proposal

#### by MICHAEL OTTO

law, and more research, consultation tice and Peace Commission.

An EJP commission submission to the Ministry of Justice on proposals to update laws on hate speech exmoves to protect more groups, infor criminal offences, and to match to discrimination". the language of civil and legal provisions.

But a fifth proposal, pertaining to the civil law, making "incitement to discrimination" illegal "opens room for potential inconsistencies. unforeseen outcomes and a great deal of anxiety in the community", the EID submission stated.

"There is a legitimate concern research and consideration". among religious groups that passing on the traditional teaching of different faiths, particularly about teachings on sexuality and marriage, could be held to a higher standard of characteristics," the submission stated.

"We also need to be able to discuss and debate this teaching within our own congregations."

2014 Vatican Synod on the Family There is legitimate concern about rethinking the language the among faith communities about Church uses in such matters. One making incitement to discriminate such example, the submission against certain groups against the stated, is the teaching in the Catechism of the Catholic Church that and discussion should take place homosexual acts are "intrinsically before the law is changed, says the disordered", which the cardinal Wellington archdiocese Ecology, Jus- said needed to be "rethought and re-presented".

The submission noted, with reference to the hate speech civil law put out by the Government in July proposal, that "it is important that we are able to discuss this within pressed support "in principle" for the Catholic community, and that people are able to read and access cluding religions, to update existing traditional teachings without fear criminal law, to increase penalties that it will be regarded as incitement

This does not excuse or allow incitement to hatred or violence against members of the LGBTQIA community, the submission added.

The incitement to discrimination proposal was not a "recommendation by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Christchurch attacks, and have not yet received as much

While the EJP commission supported "in principle" that "New Zealand's legislation should protect also from incitement to discrimination. we can understand fears present in accountability than other protected religious communities that, if such provisions are pushed through hastily, some groups could be restricted more than they are protected".

of consultation, discussion, research a building. The submission referred to Car- and reflection on this question to

dinal John Dew's comments at the ensure that any changes proposed are truly even-handed.

Commenting on the proposal to have a new offence created under the Crimes Act, the EJP submission recommended removing "insulting" of specified groups from the definition of actions that amount to hate speech.

Offensive and insulting matters should not reach the threshold of "hatred" required in this legislation, the submission stated. "The existing threshold is high and should remain

The submission noted that: "Many but not all — Catholics were genuinely offended and insulted by the South Park Bloody Mary episode in 2006 and the Virgin in a condom artwork displayed at Te Papa in 1998.'

"Similarly, some tenets of some religious doctrines will be held by members of other communities to be insulting, but we do not believe the formal teaching of doctrine within faith communities should be captured in this legislation as hateful communications or hate speech.

"That does not justify religious arguments being used as hateful speech or violence against anyone. However, context does matter, and there is a difference between a student studying their own religious heritage within their own community, and others using that heritage as a weapon against other people, for example, by putting it on a pro-"We recommend a longer period test banner or spray painting it on

Also in the submission, the EJP nications.

supported in principle "the extension of incitement provisions to protect from incitement to hatred against people currently protected against discrimination on the grounds of sex, gender, disability, age, employment status, family status and sexual orientation".

But the EJP had "reservations about whether it is helpful to extend this protection also to political opinion", stating that "debate about the limits of protection for political opinion could unhelpfully derail the more urgent need to extend protection for religious belief".

"We must prioritise ensuring whānau, surviving victims and targets of the 15 March 2019 attacks are protected from the hateful communications they already receive.

The submission noted that "Cath olic teaching recognises the right of people to be free from discrimination and racial hatred; the right to religious freedom; and the right to freedom of expression. Each of these rights comes with responsibilities – for example, the right to freedom of expression also comes with the responsibility to use that freedom appropriately with respect for the rights and freedoms of others".

The EIP referenced several teachings from Pope Francis in his encyclical Fratelli Tutti concerning proper communications.

The submission also stressed that it is essential that updated laws on hate speech explicitly include all means of digital and online commu-

# Churches won't have to enforce record-keeping

### by NZ CATHOLIC staff

record-keeping, Radio New Zealand reported.

Last month, the Government moved to make record-keeping mandatory at all alert levels for ers, and volunteers. certain businesses and large events.

But a spokesperson for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet told Radio New Zealand that it is only mandatory for businesses and events to have record-keeping available when people visit.

"If someone refuses to scan in, there is no expectation or requirement that businesses or locations should force a customer or visitor to scan in or provide their details for contact-tracing ence to alert level 2 restrictions. purposes," a spokesperson for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet said.

"Businesses and locations are also not required to make a record of their visit.

Businesses will not be punished if people do to attend Sunday Mass. not sign in, the Radio New Zealand report stated.

or event, must legally make sure they have safe and secure systems and processes in place so that than one way for people to record their visit, Churches will not have to enforce people scane everyone working on or visiting their premises especially for people who are not able to scan ning in or signing in when attending services, or can scan in or provide their details in an electronic QR codes. prevent entry for those who don't participate in or paper-based manual process, no matter how long they are there for.

"This includes workers, contractors, custom-

Some weekday Masses to resume

### by ROWENA OREJANA

of the country as bishops emphasise strict adher-

Restrictions on the size of congregations mean no Sunday Masses are being celebrated under the current alert level 2 and higher. Under these was required to manage the maximum number or expected to turn people away who may refuse conditions, Catholics in New Zealand have been of 50, and online registration was opened for the

Where alert level 2 restrictions can be ob-"The person in charge of a business, location served, including limiting numbers to 50 people **Continued on page 16** 

and providing facilities to scan in or sign in, weekday Masses have been given the go-ahead Weekday Masses are resuming in most parts in three dioceses — Dunedin, Christchurch and Hamilton. Weekday Masses were also celebrated in two churches in the Mid-North Parishes in Northland from September 8.

"The person in charge must legally have more

Organisations need to ensure that their sys-

tems and processes for record keeping comply

with the Privacy Act 2020. See <u>www.privacy.org</u>.

In Christchurch city parishes, registration dispensed by their bishops from the obligation cathedral, Christchurch North/South/East/West and Waimakariri.



# NZ bishops deplore Auckland terrorist attack

### by MICHAEL OTTO

New Zealand's Catholic bishops deplored a terrorist attack that took place in an Auckland supermarket on September 3, in which seven people were injured. A knife-wielding militant was shot dead by police.

The bishops issued a short stateattack on innocent people in the Countdown LynnMall supermarket in west Auckland.

"To those who have been injured, we hold you in our prayers and pray for your recovery. We are deeply saddened, and our hearts go out to you, your whanau (family), and the wider affected communities," the bishops wrote.

The terrorist, Ahamed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen, a 32-year-old Sri Lankan national and a supporter of Islamic State, was shot dead by members of the Special Tactics Group of the New Zealand Police in the supermarket.

were admitted to hospitals. Authorities are not looking for anyone else in connection with the attack.

The bishops wrote that, "We are conscious that perpetrators of such terror attacks always seek to divide communities as much as to inflict direct violence on individuals. We know that the actions of this one extremist are his crimes alone."

"The Catholic community of Aotearoa New Zealand stands with situation. people of all faiths and alongside people who profess no faith, as a people united against violence in every form.

In a media conference hours after the attack, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern labelled the incident a "terrorist attack" undertaken by a "violent extremist".

"What happened today was despicable, it was hateful, it was wrong," she added. "It was carried out by an individual — not a faith, not a culture. not an ethnicity, but an individual person who is gripped by ideology that is not supported here by anyone or any community.

for these acts; let that be where the judgment falls.

The supermarket is in the Avondale parish and parish priest Pa Peter Tipene told NZ Catholic that "the reality of terrorism impacted upon our sacred land on March 15, 2019 (in a terrorist attack on two mosques in Christchurch in which ment on September 4 about the 51 people were killed and dozens injured). Then, as now, we recognised that this was the action of someone whose ideology was deranged. It has nothing to do with religion or ethnicity."

Pa Tipene grew up in Avondale, and the LynnMall shopping centre has "always been a local landmark and gathering place for retail, catering and entertainment. The fact and about in public. This is totally the attack occurred in our own back yard shows we are not immune to not allow a terrorist's depravity to gees and migrants, reject that, and such deplorable acts happening so close to home"

On September 3, Pa Tipene heard the police Eagle helicopter overhead, and observed a fleet of ambulances hope in each other. Seven people were injured and six and other emergency vehicles with sirens blaring and lights flashing racing past his presbytery.

"So I knew something was up and prayed a short karakia (prayer), for whatever was going on! Once I learned of the terrorist attack, I was at the frontline, are deserving of our respect, kindness, and love, he said. shocked and was also deeply saddened and concerned for those hurt. My initial reaction was concern for any parishioners, whanau or friends and the world in praying for all those usually kind, loving, hardworking who may have been caught up in the injured or affected by this tragedy. people.

He said that, while he knew of one parishioner employed by the rie – for unity, love and peace." supermarket, he was not aware of any others and, as of September 5. had not heard or received any information that any parishioners were involved or injured.

Pa Tipene said that parishioners' social media posts and messages he had seen or received highlighted their shock and horror at the "atrocious incident and their care and concern for all involved".

"I think that, for some within the with our present (Covid-19-related) lockdown, may cause even greater in our community, inspired by an He alone carries the responsibility anxiety and fear about being out ideology of hate".



The LynnMall shopping centre (Photo: Megan Harvey: Wikimedia Commons)

understandable, however we should we need to remember that, as a Christian people, we are called to have hope. Hope in the Lord and

social media how the community has responded with gratitude and compassion for the Countdown staff and police and emergency personnel involved. All essential workers, often grateful respect and of our prayers.

"St Mary's parish, Avondale, joins the rest of Aotearoa (New Zealand) We stand together as a nation praying for kotahitanga, aroha, rangima-

Reacting to discussion of Samsudeen's history as a refugee, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand director Juancestors arrived in the country, and the nation has had a long history of not excuse the terrorist's actions. welcoming refugees and migrants. "Migration has made our country the diverse and culturally rich place it is today". But "one person, who undermine that by a brutal attack

"By the far the majority of New Zealanders, including recent refucripple or reduce our lives. Rather instead will continue to aspire to creating communities of aroha/love and manaakitanga/welcome," Mrs Hickey said.

Stuff reported Southland priest "It is heartening to see on various Fr Jacob Thevasahayampillai saying the terrorist was a "lone wolf with absurd ideology", that did not represent his people.

There were four major religions in Sri Lanka, and all were based on

Fr Thevasahayampillai added: "We're sorry that this unfortunate thing has happened. Sri Lankans are

Samsudeen's family issued a statement that described his actions as a "horrible act" and expressed support for victims. The family referenced his deteriorating mental health, his being subject to "political lianne Hickey said that everyone in torture" in Sri Lanka and his obses-New Zealand has a migration story sive nature. New Zealand's Mental about how they or their family or Health Foundation subsequently stated that mental health issues did

The Al Noor mosque in Christchurch, one of two mosques in that city at which 51 people were killed in a terrorist attack in 2019, community, this incident, coupled claimed to be a refugee, has tried to condemned the attack, and set up a Give-A-Little page for victims. As of September 5, it had raised more than NZ\$20.000.

### New headmaster for St Paul's

### by MICHAEL OTTO

A deputy headmaster at Auckland Grammar School has been appointed as the new headmaster of St Paul's College in Auckland.

trustees announced that Keith Simento would start as headmaster at St Paul's at the start of term 4.

Kieran Fouhy, who is retiring from the management tasks. He also led the effective education profession after 50 years of sec- measurement of academic development of ondary school teaching, including 29 years Maori and Pasifika students. In addition to as headmaster at St Peter's College and six his outstanding academic experience, Mr years as headmaster at St Paul's College.

announced in a letter from the St Paul's College board of trustees chair Denis Wood to

lighted to appoint someone of his calibre that has been revitalised over the last five and experience.

Grammar School for 23 years and is current- forward to actively leading the community ly a member of their leadership team, is an of the college into the future.' active member of St Mary of the Immaculate Conception parish in Avondale, where he ticle in *Metro* magazine earlier this year has been a member of the Parish Pastoral that indicated that St Paul's College's UE Council and the Liturgy and Finance Compercentage achievement improved from mittees.

Among the positions Mr Simento has cent in 2019.

held at Auckland Grammar School are Head of Junior Science, Head of Chemistry, Head of the Science Faculty, Deputy Head of the Senior School since July 2016, and more recently Deputy Headmaster — Academic, In July, the St Paul's College board of the board's letter stated.

"As part of the leadership team at Auckland Grammar, Mr Simento is involved in strategic planning, curriculum development He takes over from current headmaster and policy making, among other school Simento has been significantly involved in The appointment of Mr Simento was co-curricular activities such as sports, performing arts and cultural groups.'

The letter quoted Mr Simento saying: members of the school community in July. "I am delighted to lead St Paul's College, The letter stated that the board is de- a Catholic school for boys. It is a school years, and I wish to build on the strong Mr Simento, who has been at Auckland foundations developed by Mr Fouhy. I look

NZ Catholic previously reported an arbelow 20 per cent in 2015 to nearly 80 per

### Thanks for Afghan refugee appeal generosity

#### by NZ CATHOLIC staff

Cardinal John Dew has thanked people who responded to an appeal he made to help Afghan refugees coming to Wellington

The cardinal said on facebook that there is "amazing generosity in our community".

In a facebook post on August 26, Cardinal Dew had made an appeal on behalf of Wellington Catholic Social Services, which was desperately seeking accommodation for the Wellington-bound families.

CSS in Wellington was also seeking basic furniture and household packs for the families.

In a subsequent facebook post in September, Cardinal Dew said the appeal for household items and furniture had seen an overwhelming response, and the appeal was now closed. CSS didn't have the capacity to manage the volume of goods being offered. Arrangements already made for delivery or pick-up would be honoured.

There is still an ongoing and pressing need for suitable housing, so those who can help with this can contact Paul Alsford at Catholic Social Services on 021 754 145 ees@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz or re

Any financial donations will be welcome, and this can be done through the Wellington CSS website https:// wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz/

# Seminarian diaconate ordinations delayed

#### by MICHAEL OTTO

The ordination of three New Zealand seminarians to the diaconate has had to be delayed because of Covid-19 alert level restrictions.

Alfred Tong (Wellington archdiocese). Monty Bamford (Christchurch diocese) and Adam Kirkeby (Hamilton diocese) were scheduled to be ordained as deacons at Sacred Heart church in Ponsonby, Auckland, on September 18. The ordination has now been rescheduled for October 2, but the location will depend on what alert levels apply throughout the country then.

As with the other seminarians at Holy Cross Seminary, the three men returned to their homes when the move to have the nation in alert level 4 was made last month.

That meant Mr Tong went to Upper Hutt, Mr Bamford went to his mother's farm in North Canterbury, and Mr Kirkeby to Hamilton diocese.

Mr Bamford said that, on the farm, he has been doing "pastoral work", helping "tail lambs and enjoying farm life in the spring"

"It will likely be my last period of time on the farm before beginning formal ministry," he said. "Being at Covid alert level 3 [at the time] means of the crucifix and Alfred Tong is next to him that I can play golf too.

Catholic Theological College from September 6. Mr Tong's first two weeks back home included

time for prayer and retreat, zoom calling, recreation and hobbies (for example, cooking food for family and playing music). A special encounter for tivation. In fact, I am grateful for the time off to him was when a parishioner in the Hutt Valley, who ponder, recollect and reflect on the journey so far." was grieving the recent loss of a family member, invited him to a Zoom prayer vigil, with an opportunity for prayer and togetherness.

The seminarian appreciated being able to "give and receive love" in a new way, even though there on the different alert levels, so I just have to be is physical distancing.

Mr Kirkeby said he is grateful to be able to spend time with his family. He added that, just before the latest outbreak, with increased talk of a likely Mark McKeon, FSC, told NZ Catholic that a defin-Delta incursion here, he took the opportunity to get a haircut — as it turned out, only a few days cannot be made at present. before the lockdown, and well before he had originally planned.

The three men are taking the postponement of their ordination in their stride. Mr Kirkeby said that everything is in God's

hands. "Providence, for one reason or another, has per-

mitted the current circumstances, and I place my trust in God on the matter. My attitude is similar to my vocation in general — if it is God's will that I am to be a priest, he will ensure that it happens."

"There are many people out there doing it tough because of the current circumstances," he added. "Everyone is affected one way or another. The

revised date (tentative) will mean my diaconate will take place on the feast of the Guardian Angels, one of my favourite feasts, and a little reminder to raro i te Taki-o Autaki: Weaving me that God has given us the angels to be with us together Liturgy and Life — Te during the challenging times we find ourselves in." Mr Tong doesn't see his ordination as an "onoff switch" that suddenly allows him to live his

vocation "Knowing that it's a gradual transformation organising committee stated



Holy Cross Seminary students and staff 2021. Monty Bamford is to the right of the crucifix, Adam Kirkeby is to the left

He resumed online study through Te Kupenga all the doubts and uncertainties of whether 'this is for me', gives me deep peace at these times of retreat under lockdown or restrictions." he said.

"After all, being able to 'love and serve others' in the spirit of a deacon will take a lifetime of cul-Mr Bamford admitted that the delay to diaconate ordination is "frustrating".

However, "there is not a lot I can do about it. There are a couple of different options depending flexible. In the meantime, I try to be patient, pray, and continue with my formation.

Holy Cross Seminary director of formation Br itive decision on the location for the ordination

"Our decision will be based on the alert level status of Auckland and the rest of the country, he said.

Br McKeon added that the seminarians, who returned to their homes with three days remaining in the semester, were to undertake a two-week parish placement during the term break.

"This is likely to now take place in November," he said.

He also noted that the seminarians are now continuing their studies using distance learning.

"The current plan is for the seminarians to return to Holy Cross Seminary once all New Zealand is at alert level 2," he said.

According to the Holy Cross Seminary website, Coadjutor Archbishop of Wellington, Archbishop Paul Martin, SM, is scheduled to be presiding at the ordination Mass.

# Catholic events affected by lockdown

### by NZ CATHOLIC staff

Many planned Catholic events have been postponed or cancelled because of the Covid-19 alert level restrictions. Among them were the following:

The Liturgy Conference, Worshipping under Southern Skies Te Huinga Whakamoemiti kei Raranga ngātahi i ngā ritenga me te oranga, planned for October 7-9 at Baradene College in Auckland has been cancelled. The process after years of seminary formation, with that the decision to cancel was tenary celebrations in New

was also put off because of alert level considerations.

A Divine Renovation Aotearoa Conference scheduled for St Patrick's parish, Taupo, from October 19-21 has been "postponed indefinitely". The alert level conditions in Auckland and uncertainty about levels for the rest of the country led to the decision. A free online webinar on October 20 will be offered, with details to be released through the Hamilton diocese's website www.cdh.org.nz

The Legion of Mary's cen-

taken with considerable regret. Zealand scheduled for Sep-A similar conference last year tember 9 have been postponed until further notice, preferably under alert level 1. Members and supporters were invited to join members overseas on September 7 in celebrating the centenary by lighting a candle and praying the rosary in thanksgiving from the safety of household bubbles in homes.

For the second year running, the Compassion Soup Kitchen (Wellington's) annual street appeal has had to be cancelled because of Covid-19 restrictions. Visit <u>www.soupkitchen.</u> org.nz/donate/donate-money to donate.

# see the Church as a field hospital after battle."

POPE FRANCIS

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If you would like to discuss a Bequest with us, please get in touch.



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# Totalitarianism and the distinction between fact and fiction

L Real: The Church Between Liberalism and Inte- by awakens it to its purpose. In the language of ised or set aside entirely, then all that remain are gralism". This text will be of interest to anyone Thomas Aquinas, the intelligibility of the world passionate about the vexed and much-discussed issue of the relation between religion and politics. But I would like to draw particular attention to the epigram that Schindler chose for his book, an observation that is meant to haunt the minds of his readers as they consider his particular arguments. It is drawn from the writings of Hannah Arendt, the twentieth-century German-Jewish scholar most famous for her lucubrations on the phenomenon of totalitarianism, and it is of remarkable relevance to our present cultural conversation. She the convinced Nazi or the convinced Communist,

### **Robert Barron**

and fiction (i.e., the reality of experience) and the distinction between the true and the false (i.e., the standards of thought) no longer exist."

scientific data, and philosophical arguments, the at all, except the one that we choose to provide. mind surrenders, and rejoices in its surrender.

### **Ronald Rolheiser**

am currently making my way through D.C. with totalitarianism; rather, the intrinsic truth she thought, the radical indifference to objective Schindler's marvellous book "The Politics of the of things imposes itself on the mind and there- truth, for once objective value has been relativactualises the mind.

In a similar way, the intrinsic goodness of things engages, excites, and actualizes the will. Aquinas said that the will is simply the appetitive dimension of the intellect, by which he meant that the good, understood as such, is automatically desired. The point is that, once again, the subjective authoritarian regime has to repress any attempt good whatever it wants to be good; rather, on the contrary, what is densely and objectively good commands the will by its own authority. And, said: "The ideal subject of totalitarian rule is not as I have argued often before, this acquiescence of the will is not a negation of freedom but the discovery of authentic freedom: the same St Paul who said that he was a slave of Christ Jesus also said that it was for freedom that Christ had set him free. That apparent contradiction is in fact the paradox produced by the fact that the will is but people for whom the distinction between fact most itself when it accepts the authority of the objective good.

a society that puts such stress on the feelings of truth, collapsed of its own weight. We might define totalitarianism as the con- and desires of individuals that it effectively untrolling of every aspect of life by the arbitrary dermines any claim to objectivity in regard to will of a powerful individual or group. If this is truth and goodness? Does anyone doubt that the accurate, we see why Arendt worried about the default position of many in our culture is that we blurring of distinctions between the real and the are allowed to determine what is true and good for relentless war of wills — and evidence of this is on unreal, between truth and falsity. The objectively us?... Do you recall the Academy Award-winning good and the objectively true have their own in- film *The Shape of Water*, in which a woman falls trinsic authority—that is to say, they command, in love with an aquatic creature? The title of that by their very excellence, the obedience of the movie gives away the game: a dispiriting number are poised to succumb to the totalitarianism that receptive mind and the responsive will. So, for of people in our culture feel that the only shape Hannah Arendt so feared. example, in the presence of mathematical truths, is the shape of water — which is to say, no shape

It does not arbitrarily impose itself on things as Arendt. What opens the door to totalitarianism is, republished here with permission.

wills competing for dominance. And since the war of all against all is intolerable in the long run, the strongest will shall eventually emerge – and inevitably impose itself on the other wills. In a word, totalitarianism will hold sway.

Notice, please, that one of the features of all totalitarian systems is strict censorship, for an faculty does not impose itself on reality, making at real argument — which is to say, an appeal to an objective truth that might run counter to what the regime is proposing.

The great Václav Havel was the first president of the Czech Republic after the break-up of the Soviet bloc, and a famously dissenting poet who had been imprisoned for his positions against Communism. He commented that, through his writings, he had opened up a "space for truth". Once that clearing was made, he said, others commenced to stand in it, which made the space bigger, and then more could join. This process continued until so many were in the space for Now, does anyone doubt that we are living in truth that the regime, predicated upon the denial

I do believe that we are in a parlous condition today. The grossly exaggerated valuation of private feelings and the concomitant denial of objective truth and moral value have introduced the display in practically every aspect of our culture. Unless some of us open up a space for truth and boldly stand in it, despite fierce opposition, we

Bishop Robert Barron is an auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles. The above is an abridged version of a column With all of this in mind, let us return to Hannah that was first published on www.wordonfire.org. It is

# Different ways of being spiritual but not religious

*II* Tothing so much approximates the language of God as does silence." Meister Eckhart said that.

Among other things, he is affirming that there is some deep inner work that can only be done in silence, alone, in private.

He's right of course, but there's another side to this. While there is some deep inner work that what I feared most was the vow of celibacy, the you and avoiding the difficult parts. can only be done in silence, there is also some loneliness it would bring. No wife, no children, deep, critical, soul work that can only be done no family, the isolation of a celibate life. with others, in relationship, in family, in church, and in society. Silence can be a privileged avenue has had its cost, admittedly; and admittedly it order to support them by your work and that to depth of soul. It can also be dangerous. Ted is not the normal life God intended for every- keeps you from many of its activities. Initially, Kaczynski, the Unabomber, lived in silence, alone, one. However, the loneliness I feared (but for this is a sacrifice – eventually, it's an escape, as have many other deeply disturbed individuals. brief moments) seldom ensued — the opposite an inbuilt dispensation from having to deal with Mental health professionals tell us that we need happened. I found my life overly full of relation- certain issues inside family life. Vowed celibacy interaction with other people to keep us sane. ships, interaction with others, flat-out busyness, and priesthood court that same danger. Social interaction grounds us, balances us, and daily pressures, and commitments that took up anchors our sanity. I look at some of our young virtually every waking hour. Rather than feeling not religious" (which we apply to people who are people today who are interacting with others (in lonely, I found myself almost habitually longing open to dealing with God, but not open to dealing person and through social media) every hour for solitude, for quiet, to be alone, and I grew with Church). However, we struggle with this in of their waking lives and worry for their depth, though not for their sanity.

We need each other. Jean-Paul Sartre once famously stated, "hell is the other person". He lived in large religious communities, and they, can avoid much of the daily asceticism demanded couldn't be more misguided. In the end, the other like any family, have their demands. However, of someone living in a family. However, this is a is heaven, the salvation for which we are ultimate- when I became president of a School of Theology, ly destined. Utter aloneness is hell. Moreover, I was assigned to live in a house designated for for every kind of good reason, we can cherry-pick this malevolent aloneness can sneak up on you the president and for a period of time lived alone. those parts of family and community we like and wearing the best altruistic and religious disguises. At first, I found it a bit disorienting, never having avoid those parts we find difficult, we are spiri-

knit family in a small rural community where me. I really liked it. No responsibilities at home family, neighbour, parish, and being with others to anyone but myself. meant everything, where everything was shared, and you were rarely alone. I feared being alone, with others.

gious order, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and every kind of demand on you. You get to call your for the next eight years lived in a large community where, again, most everything was shared and one Day called "the asceticism of living inside a famwas seldom alone.

commitment to religious life and priesthood,

Things turned out very differently. Celibacy quite comfortable with being alone. Too comfort- more ways than we might think. At least I do. As able, in fact.

Here's an example: I grew up in a very close- lived alone before, but after a while it grew on tual, but not religious.

celibacy, even if you are living faithfully, is that heiser/

Immediately after high school, I joined a reli-you don't have others to call you out daily and put own shots and can avoid much of what Dorothy ily". When you live alone, you can too easily plan As I approached final vows and permanent and live life on your own terms, cherry-picking those parts of family and community that benefit

There are certain things that begin as virtues then easily turn into a vice. Busyness is an example. You sacrifice being with your family in

We all know the expression, "I am spiritual but a vowed, celibate priest, I can be spiritual, but For most of the years of my priesthood, I have not religious in that, for the highest of reasons, I danger for all of us, celibate or married. When,

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is president of the Oblate Soon enough though, I perceived its dangers. School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He can After one year I ended the arrangement. One of the be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser. avoided it, and was only comfortable when I was dangers of living alone and one of the dangers of com Follow on Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrol-

# Keeping an eye on privacy

Tow that part of the country is at alert level 2 or lower by the time this paper comes out, those over that age of 12 who are able to attend church services — possibly weekday Masses in some places — will be getting used to signing in or scanning in using an app.

Record-keeping has been mandated by the Government for busy places and large events - and this includes churches — at all alert levels in order to be able to more rapidly facilitate contact-tracing to slow the spread of Covid-19.

Record-keeping was not great in New Zea-

### Editorial

land prior to the latest outbreak - only 10-15 per cent

of people were regularly scanning in. But record-keeping will be part of the new Delta normal for all alert levels at many places for the foreseeable future.

Even though it appears likely that the owners and operators of premises involved, including churches, will only have to provide record-keeping facilities, not enforce the use of them or prevent entry for those who don't comply, people who want to cooperate will still wonder about their privacy. There have been reassurances given by officialdom that any information generated by using the Covid-19 tracer app is released from a person's phone voluntarily.

But the question might be raised — if that is the case, how does the system know when to send an orange or vellow alert to someone about being at a location of interest at the same time as a person found to be with Covid, if all the information about my scanning is still in my phone?

The answer is twofold. In very broad terms - for a location alert, a "push notification" is sent out about a location of interest, and the app checks this to see if it matches location data scanned. If it does, it generates an alert. If one has been close to a person with Covid-19, then the Bluetooth system - if enabled in the phone - matches up "keys" from that person's phone and other phones that have been nearby, and this can generate an alert. The Ministry of Health only has access to the keys of the person with Covid-19 if that person consents to having them uplifted. The same applies to their location data. Consent has to be given for all information on phones to be shared, and the entire system is anonymous, officialdom assures people.

The Privacy Commissioner has previously approved of the way the app is designed to be used. New Zealand Police have reportedly given an assurance that they "have not and will not" use the NZ Covid Tracer data for law enforcement purposes.

The Privacy Act means that the information gained has to be kept securely, is only used for public health services, and has to be kept from other people

Such assurances about privacy might be well and good, but concerns have been raised in the wake of the record-keeping requirement at busy on this subject! places and large gatherings (there are some exemptions, such as supermarkets).

Speaking with Radio New Zealand last month, Privacy Commissioner John Edwards said that the Privacy Act is a "fairly enabling piece of legislation": taking police as an example, "agencies can disclose information if necessary to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law".

Information acquired for public health use in giving. other countries has been shared with authorities undertaking criminal investigations, for instance, words of Jesus on what we medical exemption won't in Singapore.

University of Auckland researcher Dr Andrew Chen was one of 100 academics and civil society organization representatives to sign an open letter to Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins calling for stronger privacy protections than those contained in the Privacy Act and public health orders. There is a strong case for such enhanced protections.

As Mr Edwards told Radio New Zealand, at the very least, the nation will want to hear more about how effective mandatory record-keeping proves to be, how this is assessed, how people's privacy is being protected, and how improvements might be made. A regular review, by some independent authority, that is made public, would be in order.

### **The Habit**



### Letters

### Giving

Recently, on Shine TV, I heard a preacher talking about generosity, and exhorting his congregation to learn from the words of Jesus. He quoted from the Gospel, contrasting the story of the widow's mite with the story of the rich young man; then he mentioned parables, including the one of the talents, and the one about the servant forgiven much, but who would not forgive his fellow servant a small amount

The preacher challenged all his listeners to trust in God's care for them, and to give generously to those in need. Many of us are familiar with these stories, and I ask — how many of us have taken them to heart?

All of us should accept this challenge and act accordingly. I don't think I have ever before heard such a powerful homily

This century has seen the gap between the rich and the poor grow bigger and in this time of Covid, the problem is adults once 70 per cent of Only time will tell getting worse. I hope all, the adult population has including those who call received full vaccination themselves Christians, against Covid-19. are moved to generous

will be judged on at the Last Judgement (Matthew 25: 31-46): " . . . whatever you did or neglected to do for the least of my brethren you did to me"

Kathleen Kenrick, Dunedin.

Except for our own editorials, opinions expressed in NZ Catholic do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the newspaper or of its owner, the Bishop of Auckland, unless otherwise indicated.

### Readings

In reply to the letter from C. Wheeler (NZ Catholic, September 1), No! in answer to the appeal in the letter for deleting travel overseas. The artipassages from the readings at Mass from the Book of Revelation. Please read Revelation 1 verse 3. Please read Revelation 22 verses 18,19.

What about the Passion of Jesus Christ? I do find the Passion story a horrific story to

read, but do I want it to be deleted? No. Soon there will be a request to remove Jesus Christ from the Cross? I

say "No" to that as well. Please reconsider this point of view for our sake. and the sake of our chil-

Peter Boeckhout,

Waihola.

### **Passports**

drei

On September 9, New South Wales released its same direction as New list of freedoms that will South Wales in terms of be available to vaccinated Among other restric-

tions, it appears unvac- Synod Let us not forget the cinated adults without a be permitted to go to a church service.

So-called vaccine passports will be used to determine access. Church leaders have spoken out in protest at this.

On the same day, an gagement from ordinary

article on the website of our major metropolitan newspaper referenced New Zealand Health Ministry advice that a digital vaccine certificate will be available from December for those who want to cle forecast that it would not be long before such tools are used for domestic purposes.

Also on September 9. the Prime Minister said in her 1pm broadcast that she wanted everyone to get vaccinated, so that children and adults who cannot be vaccinated are better protected. She urged business operators and sports people to support and encourage others in their workplaces or teams to get the jab.

Then she added: "If you are a vaccinated faith leader who wants your congregation to continue to be able to worship together, you can help support and enable that by supporting your congregation to be vaccinated as well.

Are we heading in the access to church services?

Auckland.

Another synod prowith the focus being on "svnodalitv

I'm predicting that church. might be quite a hard sell, in terms of getting en-

**Ūnlike** previous synods on specific regions, such as the Amazon, or on topics like youth, family, vocations, the Eucharist and the Word of God, most people are going to have to have the concept explained to them pretty much in totality.

So, from the start, their response is going to be conditioned, to an extent, on the quality of the definitions given and the engagement processes that follow.

If this is not done very carefully, there is a danger that the exercise becomes a free-for-all, with every topic under the sun up for grabs. Just look at Germany

As Sydney's archbishop warned last year, in an interview on the Crux website: "If you say to the world, everything is up for grabs, say anything you want to say, anything could happen; that is not true. We are recipients of a precious tradition, we have the revelation from God, not everything is up for grabs.

"If you give people the impression that some proposals or changes are **S. Maitland**, going to happen or could happen, but actually can't or won't, that would lead to more disillusionment at the end of that process," the archbishop added

Let us hope this synod cess has just started, process does not lead to further disillusionment in the New Zealand

> John Cowen, Te Atatu, Auckland.

NZ Catholic welcomes readers' letters, although receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication. No correspondence will be entered into concerning publication Letters should be no longer than 220 words and should be topical, to the point, and include the writer's address and phone number. Ad hominem attacks are not welcome. Emailed letters should be sent as part of the text message - not as an attachment - to editor@nzcatholic.org.nz and include the writer's physical address. Pseudonyms are not accepted, except by special arrangement.

Principal's Pulpit

Dean Wearmouth

Marcellin College,

# Up and down the mountain with Christ

Working in a Marist Brothers college, I share in the vision of St Marcellin Champagnat. This mission is a shared mission for all who are committed to the various visions of our Catholic schools in New Zealand today; that is a celebration. to show the glory of God to children through an authentic Catholic education. So, what are when we can clearly see and celebrate the glothe practical steps to do this? Through our rela- rv of our Lord when we are up there. But what tionships with Christ, how do we recognise and about the moments when we come down from respond to the Glory of God in everyday life, the Glory of God in

every one of us? The Transfiguration of our Lord is a great starting point; this may seem too obvious because, in this part of the Gospel, Peter, James and John see Jesus in all his ra-

diant and beautiful glory on the mountain. What is also important for us, as followers of Christ, is how Jesus, Peter, James and John respond. Of course, this would have been overwhelming for the disciples, and they were absolutely terrified. Jesus though, the glorified Lord, is human, he touches the disciples, and asks them not to be afraid — then they look up and they only see him. How wonderful.

provides us with a model of trust. To follow Jesus, How do we walk alongside them and meet them we must put our trust in him, our faith in him. We can show the glory of God by showing this trust and faith, this is a blessing of our faith.

way is to be out there with faith. We should celin school, I wanted the students to be their best, faith and following in his example. and when I say "best", I mean faithful to God. I



**Dean Wearmouth** 

But that was an "on the mountain" moment

the mountain? Coming down from the mountain, like the disciples who were lacking in faith straight afterwards, like Peter – who, so many times, was up the mountain with Christ walking on water, and down the mountain struggling and falling below the surface. It's easy to see the face of Christ in others when things go well. It's the same in schools and every other organisation; it can be easy to see the face of Christ in the well-groomed, well-behaved and involved, they are already on the mountain. How about those who are down the tations and lacking in their own faith? What are the ways in which we try to accompany those who are

This response by both Jesus and the disciples down the mountain, in the valley and struggling? where they're at? How do we find ways to help them on their journey up the mountain to be the disciples on the road to Emmaus and opened their faith-filled disciples they are called amidst their eyes to who he was, we walk alongside others So, in our ministries, how do we do this? One own struggles, daily to be? This is when we are and open their eyes to who Jesus is, so that their called to be the face of Christ, and this is to show ebrate Jesus at the centre of our lives with those others the glorious example of Christ; the Christ sus and celebration of our faith, let us all see and around us; this is truly passing on our faith to who is there for others, to help them encounter celebrate the transfigured face of Christ in those others. At a singing assembly before the lockdown him through our actions; through celebrating our around us and do our best to be that face; we are

asked students to be proud of their faith, sing for ity. We are called to "do this in memory of me". God and to show others around them how faith- In the Mass, Christ goes beyond the transfigured in Auckland.

mountain, falling below expec- reality the disciples saw and is really present sacramentally. We are called to be transformed by Christ within us so that we too can transform the lives of others. The Transfiguration foreshadowed what we are able to share in today – transformation, so that the Kingdom of God is breaking into the here and now. As Jesus walked alongside the hearts can be on fire too. So, through trust in Jecalled to do this, and be his glorious example. Faith is a blessing, but it is also a responsibil- What a privilege to be the people of God.

Auckland

Dean Wearmouth is principal of Marcellin College

# **Celebrating the gift of Catholic education**

#### by ROSALIE CONNORS

Catholic Schools Day 2021 will be celebrated by school communities and videos of their own local celethroughout the country on Wednes- brations. It serves to remind us that day, September 29. This year marks Catholic education is about much 180 years since the first Catholic school in Aotearoa was opened by lay people in Auckland in 1841.

Catholic schools is that they came about as the result of the hard work and generous contributions of generations of religious and lay people in Catholic parishes and communities across the country" said Dr Kevin Shore, chief executive officer of the New Zealand Catholic Education Office. "Our Catholic schools are the outward sign of a long commitment from both the Church and parents of Catholic children in 'helping form bours to get to know each other at by Wellington. Christ in the lives of others'"

through the generations, Catholic Catholic schools are about. In 2021, Schools Day is an opportunity for this may be restricted because of our students to develop a sense the Covid-19 situation. Whatever nities where there is a need for it. in faith are laid. Our schools become of connectedness to our wider te schools do to celebrate, it will be The newest addition to the network whānau whakapono (religious fam- Christ-centred and fun! ily) throughout Aotearoa. It is aimed at supporting pride in individual schools, as well as in the whole schools in New Zealand, spanning Catholic Schools Day is a chance to pallier Catholic School in Kaitaia to

**PAPAL** PRAYER

people who are resolutely committed to this.

The Pope's universal intention for September: An environmentally

sustainable lifestyle. We pray that we all will make courageous choices for

a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young

showcase the faith, diversity, and inclusiveness of Catholic schools, as schools share stories, photos more than subjects in the classroom.

The New Zealand Catholic Education Office provides schools with The beauty of our network of a range of resources and suggested activities on their website (www.nzceo.org.nz/catholic-schools-day/), including personal messages from students stating what they love about Catholic schools, and from Archbishop Paul Martin SM and Dr Shore (CEO), sharing their personal reflections on the importance of Catholic schools.

a local level, to share in activities, onga that has been passed down nity to share or see a little of what Zealand Catholic Bishops Confer- community. In partnership with par-

schools and 48 Catholic secondary 2021. network of which they are a part. the length of the country from Pom- tending Catholic schools come from ty to experience God both personal-



File photo of pupils at Christ the King School in Christchurch in 2016

was Suzanne Aubert Primary School, There are 187 Catholic primary Papamoa which opened in February

> a wide range of ethnic and social ly, and in the community". backgrounds, which mirrors the de-

in Aotearoa New Zealand today. Day 21 is Tūrangawaewae: Catholic to celebrate where it is happening Schools-A Place to Stand. Catholic well, and to strive to see where we schools are places of security and can achieve this even more fully, in foundation, places which have this great calling and gift of Catholic shaped us, and where we have a education. deep sense of connection and community. Catholic schools are an in- character manager

In the past, schools have joined St Theresa's School in Bluff. The tegral part of the wider Church. For with their Catholic school neigh- majority are in Auckland, followed many young people today, Catholic schools play a central role in form-This network of 235 schools ing their sense of what it means to As well as celebrating the ta- and to include the wider commu- fulfills the commitment of the New be Catholic, and to belong to a faith ence to ensure that there is access ish and whānau, Catholic schools are to Catholic education in all commu- places were firm foundations in the tūrangawaewae.

Archbishop Paul Martin, SM, has said, "Our challenge is to see that our schools are places where our The 66,000+ plus students at- young people have every opportuni-

"As we reflect on our Catholic mographics of the Catholic Church Schools and our mission, may we take the time to look at how we are The theme for Catholic Schools doing that in our own communities.

Rosalie Connors is NZCEO special

# Youth hyped up for Life Teen summer camp

#### by ROWENA OREJANA

Alert level 4 lockdown did not put a crimp in the style of Auckland's young Catholics as they held the "hypest" launch party ever on Zoom.

The Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry's opening night for registration with the Life Teen summer camp had dancing, singing, sharing, praise and worship, and a quiz portion which quickly became competitive. The opening night was held on August 29, 2021.

"I don't think we let Covid stop us from arranging an opening night on Zoom. It was the most hypest party that I've even been to on Zoom," said programme leader - youth and young adult ministry Rochelle Dias, who is coordinating the summer camp.

January 14 to 18, 2022 at the YMCA Camp Adair in the summer camp. Hunua. The last day of registration is on October 31, 2021, and it is open to kids aged 13 to 19.

Ms Dias said they are hoping that more teens will join the camp. They are also inviting more voung adults to join as summer missionaries.

"I think it's beautiful because we'll have the camp in our own back yard. It gives us the opportunity to start connecting with people, right from the get go, so that camp doesn't become just this one-time event," she said.

"Those relationships can continue after camp, support them. We're hoping to create that sustainadults.

Romwell Ramos and Bridgette Carne are work-

ing on the communications side of the camp. Both were previously involved in Life Teen as a parish chaperone and as a camper, respectively.

Ms Carne said she owed her growth in faith to the two summer camps that she joined.

"I never realised there were so many young people who are on fire for Jesus," she said. "It was cool to be able to relate to so many people in a way I haven't been able to.'

She recalled the theme of one of the camps was Mary's "fiat".

"It was a big thing for me because I had just finished high school and I was like, 'Lord, what am I supposed to be doing with my life?'," she said, with a laugh. "It kind of gave me the inspiration to say 'yes' to different opportunities."

Mr Ramos, on the other hand, accompanied 12 The Life Teen summer camp will be held from teenagers from St Joseph's parish (Takapuna) to

It was a huge responsibility, handling both logistics and finance, while making sure the kids were having a great and meaningful experience. He said he had just come from World Youth Day in Panama, where the theme was also Mary's "ves".

"I saw them (teenagers) transform from 'I don't want to be here' to 'I don't want to go'," he said.

Mr Ramos said that, this time, he wants to serve as a summer missionary to "share the fire a little bit more"

"I think I can relate to a lot of youth leaders because we'll be seeing each other at youth events and teens who are feeling anxious about attending and Masses. We can go to each other's parishes to summer camp. I've been there. But I think you can never underestimate how powerful and how ability, that synergy between parishes and young transformational this camp would be. I've seen it Facebook page. first-hand," he said.

Ms Dias said updates on the Life Teen summer

People can also send their queries to

Eco-theology is the 'highest calling of Christians'

by ROWENA OREJANA

Eco-theology is the "highest calling of Christians" at the present time. This was the message that came out of the Wellington Theological Army.

Business journalist Rod Oram a point in Christ". noted "one of the very best expresframework is Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical Laudato Si'

"I hunger for a similar integration fully in theology and spiritual terms, and how we might apply them," he said

study being done by the Stockholm Resilience Centre, which has "estabboundaries of the planet are, and how proposition. we are performing on each of them".

things not in terms of a climate cri- and that it's imperative, and a normasis, but also the crisis of ecosystem tive part of Christian discipleship," collapse, and the two are very, very he said. interdependent, both within their causes and their solutions," he said. an Auckland-based theologian, said ed from the Christian tradition. theology needs to catch up if Christians are to protect God's creation.

She remembered, as an intensely religious Catholic child, learning that motivation of caring for creation," the spirits of humans go to heaven he said. and that those of animals "go to ground".

"I love the natural world, but that sion of worship". was like a switch. I remember being that," she said.

"In retrospect, I would say theolo-[a] massively unhelpful emphasis, ful worship towards our creator".

which has left us on the back foot when it comes to ecological work. But now we have to catch up. It has divided humans and divided humans from animals," she said.

Fortunately, an encounter with Consortium's seminar, "Caring for the works of Jesuit priest Teilhard de our Common Homeland", held on Chardin, as well as with other theothe last weekend of August through logians and philosophers, "gave me Zoom. The seminar was moderated a new vision of the whole of life on by David Wardle from the Salvation earth and evolution as swept into a spiritual continuum, and it's having

"I had become increasingly consions" of how ecological, economic vinced that eco-theology requires not and social issues fit in a theological only a knowledge and activism, but also a mystical connection to nature," she said.

Dr Hoggard Creegan said we need of all these issues expressed wonder- to return to the heritage of St Francis, which Pope Francis has done.

"Although eco-theology has been seen as a sideline and an eccentrici-At the seminar, he described ty, leading this charge is the highest the current situation, based on a calling of Christians, I think, in the current age," she said.

University of Otago lecturer Dr lished what the geophysical chemical Andrew Shepherd voiced a similar

"I want to strongly advocate that "So, now, we're thinking about it's a fundamental marker mission,

He said he becomes concerned when the care for the environment New Zealand Christians In Science falls into the "progressive Western director Dr Nicola Hoggard Creegan, narrative", and becomes disconnect-

> "I want to suggest that part of the Christian contribution to conservation is telling the story beneath that

> Finally, he said, "I want to suggest that our actions come as an expres-

Dr Shepherd said our motivation much less interested in animals after for caring for the planet is not "to be successful and to prevent climate change", but an "understanding of gy, in practice and in theory, has had hope, and that it is an action of faith-



Students at St Francis International School in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, tend the lettuce and other greens in the school garden as a part of their environmental science curriculum



Smoke and steam billow from Poland's Belchatow Power Station in 2018 (CNS Photos)



camp will be posted on Instagram: https://www instagram.com/lt.auckland/ as well as on ACYM's

# Eucharist heals from idolatry of 'self', – Pope

BUDAPEST, Hungary (CNS) — Spending time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can heal Christians from a self-absorbed religiosity that is ostentatious and triumphalist, Pope Francis said.

Presiding over the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress on September 12, the Pope urged people to make time for eucharistic adoration.

"Let us allow Jesus, the living bread, to heal us of our self-absorption, open our hearts to self-giving, liberate us from our rigidity and self-concern, free us from the paralysing slavery of defending our image, and inspire us to follow him wherever he would lead us," he said.

After departing from Rome's Fiumicino in the early morning, the Pope told journalists aboard the flight that the papal trip had "a bit of a farewell feeling" due to it being the last time that Bishop-designate Guido Marini would serve as papal master of ceremonies. The Pope named the bishop-designate to lead the diocese of Tortona, Italy.

Pope Francis also noted that it was the final papal flight aboard Alitalia, which will shutter operations in October after serving 75 years as Italy's national airline.

"So many farewells, but we continue the trips cause we will go to bring the word and a greeting to so many people," he said of the visit, which included three days in Slovakia after the short proclaiming his death on the cross, and the Eucha- and indifference, to that land of fellowship [for] visit to Budapest.

Landing in Budapest, the Pope was welcomed by as love crucified and bestowed". Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén. He the site of the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress.

The Vatican said Pope Francis met privately with Hungarian President János Áder, Prime Minister "in a cordial atmosphere".

"Among the various topics discussed were the role of the Church in the country, the commitment to the protection of the environment, the protection and promotion of the family," the Vatican said.

In a statement on his Facebook page, Orbán, who views migration as a threat to Europe's Christian identity, said, "I asked Pope Francis not to let Christian Hungary perish.'

Pope Francis, arriving in his popemobile, was greeted warmly by thousands who lined the street leading toward the Mass site in Heroes' Square.

### Homily

In the homily, Pope Francis reflected on the Sunday Gospel reading, in which Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

Christians today, and requires a response that is Churches, along with several Jewish communities. "more than a quick answer straight out the catechism".

The first step in responding to Jesus' question, he explained, is to proclaim Jesus as Lord. However, the Pope recalled that Jesus told his disciples to "tell no one about him"

the Christ the Messiah is correct, but incomplete. munities' efforts "to break down the walls that There is always the risk of proclaiming a false separated" Jews and Christians in the past. messianism, one of human origins, not from God," he said.

# New leadership for wellbeing project

### by NZ CATHOLIC staff

St Vincent de Paul Hamilton manager Mike Rolton has been appointed co-chair of the advi- the next generation and beyond. We have all the sory board of the Waikato Wellbeing

Project (WWP), an initiative launched by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern last year, which aims to improve the well-being of the region's population by 2030.

Mr Rolton and Delwyn Abraham have been named co-chairpersons of the project's kaitiaki board. Ms Abraham was endorsed by Waikato-Tainui.

WWP executive director Harvey Brookes said the appointments provide fresh perspectives and an extraordinary depth of experience to ensure the WWP delivers on the expectations of our communities.



again, and this is something very important, be- Pope Francis uses incense as he celebrates the closing Mass of the International Eucharistic Congress at Heroes' Square in Budapest, Hungary, on September 12 (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

rist serves as a reminder of God "as bread broken, which we long", the Pope said.

Christians can also "be blinded by that way of thinking".

"We, too, can take the Lord 'aside', shove him into a corner of our heart and continue to think of own way without letting ourselves be affected by Jesus' way of thinking," the Pope said.

Lastly, Christians must learn to "walk behind Jesus", because Christianity is not "a race toward success", but they should find true freedom in "not needing to be the centre of everything".

In doing so, Pope Francis said, Christians can learn to follow in the footsteps of Christ, "who came to serve and not to be served.

"The Eucharist impels us to this encounter, to the realisation that we are one body, to the willingness to let ourselves be broken for others," the Pope said

#### Jewish

Prior to celebrating the closing Mass, Pope Francis met in private with the country's bishops. Jesus, he said, addresses the same question to He then met with Hungary's Ecumenical Council of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople was among those at the Mass and the meeting with religious leaders.

Noting the recent celebration of Rosh Hashanah and the September 15-16 observance of Yom Kippur, Pope Francis offered best wishes, and There was a very good reason: to call Jesus expressed his appreciation for the Jewish com-

Just as God "transformed the desert into a highway to the Promised Land, so he wishes to Nevertheless, to proclaim Christ means also bring us out of the barren deserts of bitterness Drawing a parallel on the famed Széchenyi

Like Peter, who was scandalised at Christ's Chain Bridge, which links the eastern and western then made his way to the Museum of Fine Arts near announcement of the suffering he must endure, sides of Budapest, the Pope noted that the bridge "does not fuse those two parts together, but rather holds them together".

"That is how it should be with us, too. Whenever we were tempted to absorb the other, we were Viktor Orbán and Semjén for roughly 40 minutes ourselves as religious and respectable, going our tearing down instead of building up. Or when we tried to ghettoise others instead of including them," the Pope said.

"How often has this happened throughout history," he added. "We must be vigilant and pray that it never happens again."

Lamenting "the threat of anti-Semitism still lurking in Europe and elsewhere", Pope Francis said the best way to defuse hatred is "to work together positively and to promote fraternity".

"The bridge has yet another lesson to teach us," he said. "It is supported by great chains made up of many rings. We are those rings, and each of us is essential to the chain. We can no longer live apart, without making an effort to know one another, prey to suspicion and conflict."





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Mike Rolton

Mr Rolton expressed optimism about the proj-

"The vision is to create a better future for tools to complete this task and we

are about to start the journey, and at some point hand it over to those who follow us," he said.

He also said that making a difference in the community "is the key to our future".

"I want to help the WWP to clear a path for our tamariki and rangatahi to thrive. By working together as a community, we all benefit," he said.

The WWP set ten targets based on the 17 United National Sustainable Development Goals, but adapted to the challenges that are facing the region.

# **Bishops warn Lebanon's future is dire**

ronite Catholic bishops have warned gain illegal profits in the face of that the future of the crisis-stricken people's pain and their basic life country is "a matter of life or death", needs". They urged the government as the dire situation continues to to prevent smuggling on the Lebaunravel.

In a statement following their September 1 monthly meeting, the bishops denounced "the systematic banks, or in endless lines at gasoline stations, or with the lack of medicine and other essentials.

This summer, Lebanon has been plagued by a crippling shortage of fuel and medicine, due in particular to the depletion of the central bank's than 50 per cent of the population foreign exchange reserves used to into poverty. Families have seen subsidise imports.

have forced Lebanon's hospitals to last up to 22 hours a day.

ings have become commonplace at petrol stations, where wait times to fill up typically exceed five hours. in their cars overnight to secure a place in line.

The Maronite bishops criticised the "irresponsible mismanagement of public interests and funds", and spoke of successive disasters

caused by those in power. They also criticised people who

BEIRUT (CNS) — Lebanon's Ma- are "exploiting the situation to nese-Syria border and to prosecute those responsible.

Lebanon's financial meltdown has been characterised by the World humiliation of citizens", whether in Bank as one of the worst worldwide since the 1850s.

The crisis has decimated the once-thriving middle class, with the value of the Lebanese currency plummeting by more than 90 per cent in two years, throwing more their salaries dwindle to barely a Fuel and electricity shortages tenth of their previous dollar values.

The last government resigned scale back operations. Power cuts after the August 2020 Beirut port blast, and political deadlock meant Violent skirmishes and shoot- a new government didn't form until September, 2021.

Without including specifics, the bishops charged that Lebanon's "lib-Motorists have resorted to sleeping erty, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity are on the verge of disappearance, and there are re- matter of life or death". gional and local forces behind this".

They called on the people of Lebanon to oppose this with strength,



People wait in cars to get fuel at a gas station in Zalka, Lebanon, last month. (Photo CNS/Mohamed Azakir, Reuters)

international community "to act future, as well as the Lebanese peoswiftly to respect and forcefully ple's future, away from international "no matter how much the sacrifices implement the international reso- and regional political interests that may be", noting that what is at stake lutions concerning Lebanon, and to have only pushed Lebanon into de-"is a matter of destiny, and hence, a work toward their strong and firm struction".

implementation, in order to protect The bishops appealed to the the Lebanese state's structure and

# Pope names Salesian sister interim secretary of dicastery

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has named Salesian Sister Alessandra Smerilli as interim secretary of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the Vatican announced.

In a statement released on August 26, the Vatican said Sister Smerilli will also be a part of the management team of the Vatican's Covid-19 Commission, together with Cardinal Peter Turkson, prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, and Scalabrinian Father Fabio Baggio, undersecretary of the dicastery's Migrants and Refugees Section.

The 46-year-old Italian is an economist and professor of economic policy, an adviser to pointment makes her the highthe governing office of Vatican est-ranking woman serving in City State, and a consultant to the Roman Curia. She is the first the Synod of Bishops. Prior to woman to hold such a senior-levher appointment, she served el post in the Roman Curia, the as undersecretary for faith and article stated.



Sister Smerilli is pictured meeting the pope at the Vatican in an undated photo. (CNS photo

development at the dicastery.

According to an article in America magazine, the ap-

At the dicastery, she replaces both Msgr Bruno-Marie Duffé, who served as secretary of the dicastery since 2017, and Argentine Father Augusto Zampini, who was appointed adjunct secretary of the dicastery by Pope Francis in 2020. Father Zampini had also been serving as secretary coordinating the Vatican's Covid-19 Commission.

In a statement released shortly after the announcement, Sister Smerilli said she was grateful to the Pope "for the demanding task he has called me to take on", and expressed her hope that she would fulfil her duty in "a spirit of obedience to the Church, with the humility, passion, creativity and ability to listen that it requires".

"My desire and commitment is to serve the mission of the Church in the best possible way, for as long as the Pope sees fit,' she said.

### **Remains of first Catholic** Korean martyrs recovered

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — The mortal remains of the first three Korean Catholic martyrs have been recovered more than two centuries after their deaths, announced the Diocese of Jeonju.

Ucanews.com reported that, following historical research and DNA tests, it has been confirmed that the remains are of Paul Yun Ji-chung and James Kwon Sang-yeon, both beheaded in 1791, and Yun's brother, Francis Yun Ji-heon, who was martyred in 1801.

Bishop John Kim Son-tae of Jeonju made the announcement during a news conference on September 1.

During his visit to South Korea in 2014, Pope Francis beatified the three, along with 121 other martyrs persecuted and killed during the rule of the Joseon dynasty in Korea.

Bishop Kim said the remains were recovered in March in Wanju, on the outskirts of Jeonju, near the burial ground of family members of another beatified person that was being converted to a shrine.

"The discovery of the remains is a truly amazing and monumental event," the bishop said, according to Yonhap News Agency.

### German bishop sceptical about exempting priests from celibacy

German bishop who co-chairs the interview. Synodal Path's forum on priests said he is "sceptical" about exempting Catholic priests from celibacy.

said he accepted that people were on whether it should be voluntary deciding not to become priests or compulsory. because they did not feel called in the Church."

Catholic news agency KNA.

"As a bishop, I also see my

clear position on celibacy. He said

The bishop called for a change to celibacy, adding: "Perhaps they in the status of priests, saying that below him who lift him up; they will then choose another profession they must, under no circumstances, could also just let him walk," Buttcontinue to always have the final The bishop spoke in an interview say. Church ministers must not be group in Osnabrück. His remarks where it seems inconceivable that in the forum, where clerics have a scandal, after the German bishops' were then reported by the German they could also commit massive mistakes and even crimes".

responsibility to the universal eral of the Catholic Association for either. He added that the debate Church from 1946 to 2014.

Synodal Path forum on "Priestly Ex- to be able to live celibacy well. He also expressed doubts about istence Today", said laypeople were whether the forum would come to a also to blame for this exaltation. When a bishop visited parishes, Bishop Felix Genn of Münster there was likely to be disagreement he said, it was like the comic book characters Asterix and Obelix.

> "The chieftain is carried on top Church. of the shield, but there are people gereit said.

He said it would be disastrous if

OSNABRÜCK, Germany (CNS) — A Church," Bishop Genn said in the Social Services and co-chair of the should also focus on what it takes

The German bishops and a national council of laity designed the Synodal Path to discuss issues of power, sexual morality, priestly life, and the role of women in the

The pandemic disrupted the schedule of the Synodal Path, which began in December, 2019, and was scheduled to run for two years.

The aim is to restore trust in with the Bistumspresse publishing seen as untouchable, "as people the issue of celibacy were blocked the Church lost in the clergy abuse majority. He said it was important conference released a study that not to "jump too short", but also revealed an estimated 3700 cases of Stephan Buttgereit, secretary-gen- not to completely reject celibacy, sexual abuse reported in the German

# Vatican releases guidance for synodal path

ican has issued the preparatory document and a "handbook" for dioceses as part of the global Church's preparation for the 2023 assembly of the Synod of Bishops, discussing the theme, "For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission".

"Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is ation and "share with honesty and decisive for its life and mission: 'It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium'," the new document said.

The handbook or "vademecum" offers guidelines for bishops and those helping facilitate the synodal process locally on how they can best listen to and consult with Catholics and the wider community, particularly those on the margins of society, crated men and women? What space as well as Christians and non-Christians.

Pope Francis is scheduled to forbishop of every diocese should open context in which we live?" the process in his diocese on October

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vat- 17. The diocesan phase runs until April next year.

The materials present a number of questions to help prompt reflection, input and ideas from as many people as possible.

The questions fall under 10 general themes, and people can address what is most pertinent to their situopenness about their real-life experiences, and to reflect together on what the Holy Spirit might be revealing through what they share with one another", the document said.

Some suggested questions in- Pope Francis speaks at a pre-synod gathclude: "To whom does our particular church 'need to listen to'" and "how are the laity, especially young people and women, listened to? How do we integrate the contribution of conseis there for the voice of minorities, the discarded, and the excluded? Do we identify prejudices and stereo-



ering of youth delegates in Rome on March 19, 2018. (CNS Photo)

damental question guiding the whole process is: "How does this 'journeying together', which takes place today on different levels — from the local level to the universal one — allow the Church to proclaim the Gospel in acmally open the synod process at the types that hinder our listening? How cordance with the mission entrusted Rome in October 2023, to speak and Vatican on October 9-10, and the dowe listen to the social and cultural to her; and what steps does the Spirit listen to one another on the basis of invite us to take in order to grow as a the process that began at the local However, the basic and most fun-synodal Church?" the document said. level

Widespread participation is an important part of the diocesan process, the document said, with no one being excluded.

This will require creativity, especially in parts of the world where restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19 are still in place, it added

All the feedback that is generated throughout the listening process should be gathered into a "synthesis" after each gathering, followed by a "synthesis" to be written for each diocese and ultimately for each bishops' conference.

Bishops' conferences and the synods of the Eastern Churches will provide a synthesis of all the local feedback to the Synod of Bishops, and all of that material will be the basis for the writing of two working documents. Bishops and auditors will then gather with Pope Francis at the assembly of the Synod of Bishops in

### Contemplative life responds to thirst for eternal, Pope tells Carmelites

doomed to die out, Pope Francis told a group of Discalced Carmelites.

"These pessimistic views are destined to be disproved, as are those about the Church herself, because the consecrated life is an integral part of the Church," he said.

"Consecrated life is part of the Church, just as Jesus wanted it to be, and as the Spirit continually generates it. Therefore, the temptation to worry about surviving, rather than living to the full by welcoming the grace of the present, even with the risks it entails, must be removed," he said in an address to the group on September 11.

The group of Carmelite friars represented the order's approximately 4000 brothers around the world during the order's general chapter being held in Rome. Pope Francis told the group that the Carmelite life "is a contemplative life" that responds to "the thirst of contemporary human-

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Consecrated life is not ity, which deep down is thirsting for God, thirst- from psychologism, spiritualism or false noveling for the eternal – contemporary humanity often does not understand this, and looks for it everywhere".

Those who live as a Carmelite are "sheltered

ties that conceal a spirit of worldliness", he said. He said they must watch out for spiritual worldliness because "it is very subtle — it enters and we do not notice it".

### **Polish cardinal, blind Franciscan who** knew each other beatified together

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) - The Czacka, who died in 1961, at in helping all those who expearchbishop who steered Poland's Catholic Church through communist rule, and a blind Franciscan nun who founded one of Europe's foremost centres for the sight-impaired, took a step closer to sainthood on September 12.

Some 7000 people, including government leaders, bishops from Poland and abroad, as well as two women whose cures were the miracles for the advancement of the sainthood causes, were at the beatifica-Wyszynski, who died in 1981, eraro. and Mother Elisabeth Rosa

Providence.

prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, who preached at the Mass, said both "gave testimony of a life faithful to the Gospel at all costs - a model of service to a specific person in need, even when no one cares and indifference seems to prevail".

"knew how to fill each other with strength, endurance and tion Mass for Cardinal Stefan courage", said Cardinal Sem-

Warsaw's Church of Divine rienced abuse and limitations in practicing freedom and Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, professing their faith; she, blind among the physically and spiritually blind, helped all those abandoned and left at the margins."

Cardinal Semeraro said Cardinal Wyszynski had defended freedom and defied an ideology which "dehumanised and led eems to prevail". people away from the fullness of faith", but had also been "edified by the faith and perseverance" of Mother Czacka, who had "recognised the signs of God's calling" from youth, "He was personally involved despite her own blindness.

### Christian leaders share environmental plea

weather events and natural disasters show humanity is now paying the price of how it has been live.' We must choose to live differently; we must treating creation, said a joint message by three choose life," the joint message said. Christian leaders, including Pope Francis.

For the sake of younger generations and their future, "we must choose to eat, travel, spend, invest and live differently, thinking not only of immediate interest and gains, but also of future benefits", the message said.

"We repent of our generation's sins," the leadcommitted action by individuals and world leaders ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference in message said. Glasgow, Scotland, in November.

The joint message was signed by the Pope, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, and Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury, England.

The joint message was dated September 1, the matter of survival," it said. World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. It marks the month-long Season of Creation, which runs until October 4.

"We must decide what kind of world we want workers with God' to sustain our world".

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The recent extreme to leave to future generations. God mandates: 'Choose life, so that you and your children might

> Christianity presents a concept of stewardship, showing there is an "individual and collective responsibility for our God-given endowment," it said. However, "we have taken the opposite direc-

> tion. We have maximised our own interest at the expense of future generations," it said. The world must make a change and "pursue

ers said, and join together in prayer, hoping for generosity and fairness in the ways that we live, work and use money, instead of selfish gain," the

"Today, we are paying the price. The extreme weather and natural disasters of recent months reveal afresh to us, with great force and at great human cost, that climate change is not only a future challenge, but an immediate and urgent

"Tomorrow could be worse. Today's children and teenagers will face catastrophic consequences unless we take responsibility now, as 'fellow

# Enthusiasm aplenty at CWL annual conference

### by SYLVIA MELLISH

women, was "Kia Kaha: Courage, Take of "faith and service". Heart". There was much enthusiasm conference had to be postponed because of Covid-19.

The 2021 conference opened with a powhiri. Attendees were greeted by members of the Kapa Haka group from John Paul College.

A conference Mass was celebrated at St Mary's church, and members of the local parish were present as well as conference attendees. Hamilton Bishop Stephen Lowe presided over the Mass, where he was joined by four priests and two deacons. The Mass was celebrated on the Feast of St Mary Magdalene, whom Bishop Lowe referred to as the first apostle.

presidents reported on what had been achieved by members since our skills and being involved in church ministries. Ecumenical services are supported and members attend



Some of the attendees at the conference

### **Family** Matters

catering, and selling plants, to setting up a path of memories, with named The biannual conference of bricks, at a local church. Presidents the Catholic women's League of also spoke on ways in which the CWL Aotearoa New Zealand was held in might increase membership, with Rotorua from July 23-25. The theme positive leadership and enthusiasm, for the conference, attended by 100 delivered through the league's motto

Each branch of CWL supports a at the gathering, because last year's mission community in the Pacific. Members also fundraise to assist organisations in New Zealand and overseas when they are in need. An 'at home" annual appeal, where members donate to a specifically worthy cause in New Zealand, is set up in January of each year — this year it is the New Zealand Down Syndrome Association camp appeal. Proceeds from the appeal will go to the running of a camp for children and their caregivers.

Mission officer Jenny Muschamp reported that, although membership was down this year, members have still been very generous, gifting out. Ms Dickson then lit a candle for cited and a little overwhelmed when During the conference, diocesan more than \$150,000 in donations to the Pacific and to other New Zealand organisations. Social issues officer last national conference. Members Dawn Mullins reported on proposed are involved in parish affairs, sharing actions to be taken regarding dyslexia, payment for midwives, and women in the workplace.

International secretary Dr Colvarious meetings of other faiths. leen McMurchy encouraged CWL Fundraising has seen some amazing conference attendees to focus on a ventures take place in branches, rang- Worldwide Union of Catholic Woming from baking, euchre evenings, en's Organisations' resolution on

the elimination of violence against women. At the conference. CWLANZ president Susan Dickson's address was based on the premise of "old ways won't open new doors". This was well received

A liturgy for deceased members recognised the loss of more than 200 members in the past three years. Names of those



CWL diocesan presidents (from left) Margaret Brownsey (Hamilton), Sylvia Mellish (Christchurch), Susan Dickson(national president), Fleur de Farias (Auckland), Susan Lloyd (Wellington), Anne McRandle (Dunedin)

names from each diocese were read attendees sang "Eternal Rest". In recognition of past members and their work, display boards had been created and set up around the conference centre for all to peruse.

The keynote speakers at the conference gave attendees plenty to think about concerning the theme.

Annah Stretton, who started an organisation called RAW (Reclaim another Woman), spoke about setting up the organisation and how successful it has been. Through inclusion, community and opportunity, RAW is building hope, purpose and prosperity, one woman at a time.

NZDSA national executive officer Zandra Vaccarino spoke about the challenges faced by parents of, and carers for, children with down syndrome. Ms Vaccarino, who has a down syndrome adult child of her own, said that, although this makes life very different, it is also very rewarding.

Two more guests were two young ladies from Family Focus Rotorua, Tania and Shannel. Their work is folost were displayed on cused on counselling and supporting ident, Christchurch.

scrolls on a screen. Diocesan presi-victims of abuse. The energy and dents, in turn, each laid a rose and enthusiasm these ladies put into lit a candle on a prepared table as their job overflowed to all at the conference. Tania and Shannell were exall deceased members of CWLANZ as presented with the blankets that had been sewed together (from the Peggy squares that had been brought by attendees) during conference

Sr Clare Murphy, RNDM, inspired attendees with her thought-provoking presentations — firstly on prayer to the Holy Spirit, which has been adopted as the CWL's league prayer, celebrating who league members are, and secondly in a workshop entitled "A moment with God".

The conference dinner was followed by lots of frivolity and dancing, endorsing the fact that, despite a few grey hairs, CWL members are very definitely a group that is very much young at heart.

The conference concluded with the dedication of the new officers of the board, led in prayer by Fr Peter Farrant, Christchurch diocesan chaplain.

À visit to Ohinemutu, the Māori village where St Faith's (Anglican) and St Michael's (Catholic) churches stand almost side by side, impressed many.

Sylvia Mellish is CWL diocesan pres-

### Helen Luxford



### Change is the only constant in life

t's been easy for us in New Zealand to forget that we are living through history. We are living through a global pandemic. There is a saturation of social media everywhere we turn, and a level of connectivity online that is extraordinary.

It was inevitable that the highly contagious Delta strain would arrive in our community, but it literally turned our world upside down. We'd had a period relatively free of disruption with Saturday morning sports, regular commitments ongoing, and school and work proceeding pretty much as normal. I was on my way home when the rumour started going round about there being a Delta case in the community and, within a few hours, everything was different, as we were thrown back in to a level 4 lockdown.

It's interesting this time to see some businesses and organisations continue seamlessly — they know what to do, they've done it before and there is no hiccups. Some, of course, can't operate at all under level 4, which means they cease altogether; in some cases we get credits (rather than refunds) and go into a holding pattern. It must be heartbreaking for some industries, such as food and hospitality, who had stock on-site that could not be used. There were some amazing acts of kindness, with people giving away

food to the community. Schools regrouping and kindy doing some more activities on-line. This time it was all very sudden, mid-week, and took us all by surprise. I think we all knew from the outset that we were in for a much longer stretch than what was initially announced

The saying goes that change is the only thing constant in life. We hear so much nowadays about being resilient and adaptable. We have to accept and roll with the punches and, indeed, are called to thrive in the constantly changing world. Some very privileged people have gone online and have said that, if you haven't learnt a new language or a new skill or made a new business during all that spare time in lockdown, you have wasted an opportunity. That is pretty tone deaf to me. I think a lot of people are just surviving. Just trying to hang on and get through - be it mentally or financially. I haven't left the house except to go to work. Because I am still at work, I guess staying home at other times doesn't matter to me so much, but I know the kids are much better when they get off the property for a walk or a local bike ride.

Jesus had a fairly settled childhood, from what we know about it. Once he entered ministry, he was faced with constant change. Moving around from place to place, meeting

new people, facing new challenges. His moth-er probably didn't know where he was a lot of the time and, with slow/minimal means of communication over distance, she would be left with prayer alone to comfort her in these times. Change is hard for so many reasons. Even good change is stressful. It is at these times that we often fall back to old habits or reassess where we are at

This holds for our spiritual journey. It's a great time to reconnect with prayer and the Bible, and to remind ourselves of our Catholic Christian roots.

Our second child decided the Catechism we were using was too basic for him, which was so great to hear. And, luckily, I was prepared, so I brought out the second and more detailed one which he wasn't expecting. We have learnt lessons in being prepared for all eventualities, and that is true for faith as much as it is for the other areas of our lives.

Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you', declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'.

Helen Luxford is a physician, working part-time. She is a parishioner of St Michael's, Remuera. Together with her husband Michael, they are raising their children in the Catholic Faith and reflecting on the challenges and joys that brings.

# Hidden gems in lockdown

### by NEVIL GIBSON

Streaming services received another boost when the pandemic again closed cinemas, and new releases went into abeyance. Amazon Prime Video and Netflix filled the gap with some originals, but most of the plaudits were for miniseries such as The Pursuit of Love, The Defeated and The Chair.

HBO's The White Lotus on Sky's Neon and Amazon's Nine Perfect Strangers showed their small-screen origins in weekly episodes. Fortuitously, a handful of previously unseen movies were taken off the shelf.

The Empty Man was made by 20th Century Fox, but fell foul of the merger with Disney, which has now released it on its adult-oriented Star channel. It opens with two couples on a hiking trek in Bhutan in 1995. One of them falls down a crevasse and is eventually rescued. But a snowstorm claims the others.

Some 23 years later, the story proper begins in Missouri where an ex-cop (James Badge Dale), who lost his wife and daughter in a car accident, is tormented by his memories. A neighbour's daughter goes missing amid a mysterious series of youth suicides. His investigation finds they are linked to an occult organisation. Director David Prior, from his original screenplay, avoids the usual bogeyman tricks to leave the audience with a memorable if often confusing experience. Rating: R16. 137 minutes.

Genius, made in 2016 by Michael Grandage from John Logan's long-overlooked screenplay, is now on Amazon. Based on Scott Berg's biography of famed American book editor Max Perkins, it covers the period when he published the first ers some 70 years in the life



Detail from the official poster for The Glorias. (Wikipedia)

### Movie Review

writer Thomas Wolfe – Look actresses: Ryan Kiera Armstrong Homeward, Angel (1929) and Of *Time and the River* (1935).

Perkins (Colin Firth) faced the daunting task of reducing Wolfe's wordy manuscripts to publishable length, but later wondered whether his severe editing "made the books better or just different".

Jude Law goes over-the-top as Wolfe, making him seem more of a pain-in-the-neck than a great talent. Two of Perkins's other star authors, F. Scott Fitzgerald (Guv Pearce) and Ernest Hemingway (Dominic West), have minor roles.

Nicole Kidman is Wolfe's married lover, Aline Bernstein, who was 17 years older. Wolfe died prematurely at 38 in 1938, while Perkins's fame lasted well after his death in 1947.

Rating: Parental guidance advised. 104 minutes.

The Glorias on Neon covacclaimed novels of the prodi- of American feminist Gloria 147 minutes.

gious but now largely forgotten Steinem. She is played by four as a child and Lulu Wilson as a teenager; in later years by Alicia Vikander and Julianne Moore.

The story is structured around bus, car and train trips, taken from her autobiography My Life on the Road. On these journeys, director and co-writer Julie Taymor (Frida) stages conversations between the Glorias on how her life was shaped.

These include Steinem's gap vear in India, encounters with her Walter Mittyish salesman father (Timothy Hutton) and ailing mother (Enid Graham), and her first jobs in journalism, where her famed good looks bring the wrong sort of attention.

She finally achieves deserved fame with her 1963 breakthrough story as an undercover Playboy bunny. Soon after, she quits paid employment to launch Ms Magazine, sealing her role in history.

Rating: Mature audiences.

### **CLIPS**

### **Mosquito State**

(Shudder)

The combination of Wall Street machinations with the horror elements of a bug infestation is a worthwhile risk in this Polish-American thriller. An introverted data analyst (Beau Knapp) is bitten by a mosquito and is soon seeing patterns of a financial collapse as his body becomes covered in lumps. The setting is August, 2007, a year before speculative fever brought down the world's banking system. Director and co-writer Filip Jan Rymsza contrasts the protagonist's physical and mental breakdown with the understated luxury of his apartment overlooking Central Park, and the emotional pull of an uncomprehending female friend (Charlotte Vega). Rymsza's feature debut echoes David Cronenberg's The Fly while standing alongside Margin Call and The Big Short for its high finance insights. Unrated. 100 minutes.

#### The Old Ways (Netflix)

An American-raised journalist (Brigitte Kali Canales) returns to a village in Veracruz in search of the story behind her Mexican mother's encounter with witchcraft. The quest includes a cave which the locals believe is haunted by evil spirits. Pagan practices and Catholicism co-exist in this community and the visitor is given plenty of warning by a cousin (Andrea Cortés). When the advice is ignored, she is subjected to various forms of exorcism, including psychic surgery and hallucinogenic drugs. Though targeted to horror audiences, the underlying themes of cultural dislocation and mental illness, backed by impressive special effects, are well above the ordinary. Writer Marcos Gabriel and director Christopher Alender explore the extremities of religious experience with respect, leaving the viewer, and the heroine, to accept that ancestry can have a deeper meaning than superficial understanding. Rating: R16. 90 minutes.

### Luz: The Flower of Evil (Shudder)

The clash of the "old ways" with the new is also at the heart of this story about an isolated cult living in the highlands of Colombia (also the setting for last year's Monos). The leader (Conrad Osorio) is grieving the loss of his wife, Luz, and ruthlessly dominates the lives of three young women. His oldest daughter (Yuri Vargas) finds a cassette recorder, a symbol of modernity in the world outside their primitive lifestyle. When it is discovered and destroyed as the work of the devil, the women start to question their submission. This boils over when they release a chained boy, who has been named Jesus in the hope this will regenerate a withered tree where Luz and some other boys are buried. The highly visual style and disturbing content in director Juan Diego Escobar Alzate's first feature has been compared with those of Chile's Alejandro Jodorowsky, who wowed movie buffs in the 1970s with the surrealist spiritualism of *El Topo* and The Holy Mountain. Unrated. 104 minutes.

# A gripping account of the persecution of George Pell

THE PERSECUTION OF GEORGE PELL by culture wars". This is the context of Keith Windschuttle, Quadrant Books, Sydney, 2020, \$A39.95+pp. Reviewed by BERNARD MORAN

Most *NZ Catholic* readers will recall the vivid scene on television news of Cardinal George Pell, aged 77, arriving under police escort on June 5, challenged Australian "progressive" 2019 at the Victorian Supreme Court in Melbourne.

His hands are handcuffed in front of him, presumably in case he tries to run away down the street. The crowd is seething, some are loudly through his newspaper columns, and jeering; it is a picture of Pell's vilification and gained many admirers for his robust public humiliation.

George Pell is found guilty of sexually assault- morality, based on natural law ing two choirboys, and was sentenced to six years in prison. After serving 404 days, on April 7, 2020, the High Court of Australia unanimously ruled that the conviction should be quashed and Cardinal Pell set free.

How did Cardinal George Pell find himself in this predicament, accused of being a serial sexual predator? Were the accusations true, and who were Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to sition was reversed; so that Pell was guilty if the the individuals and groups behind the campaign that came to be known as "Get Pell"?

Eminent Australian historian Keith Windschuttle set out to explore why George Pell was considered such a polarising figure, the court trial, and the potential for what he describes as nearly the "greatest miscarriage of justice in Australian history".

Windschuttle is also the editor-in-chief of Quadrant Magazine in Sydney.

He begins with a prologue succinctly summarising, for the reader, Pell's trials, convictions, sentence and release. Then he moves on to George complaints were found to be false. The evidence Pell's involvement in what is currently termed "the vindicating Pell was never published, or was con- Life in New Zealand.

the "Get Pell" movement's maleyolent desire to see him destroyed.

Appointed a bishop and then archbishop, George Pell directly idealogues and the secular establishment; the proponents of the sexual revolution. He became influential defence and promotion of Christian

However, the shocking details of sexual abuse by ephebophile priests began to emerge, and Pell's enemies saw their opportunity.

Until I read Windschuttle's book (which has footnotes and references

Child Sexual Abuse was in damaging George Pell's defence couldn't prove otherwise — "beyond all public reputation.

Established by then-Prime Minister Julia Gillard in 2012, the royal commission dealt with 20 sexual complaints revealed vile abuse of adolescent boys, and were widely reported in detail in the Australian media, particularly the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Ordinary Australians were understandably appalled, and Pell's reputation was trashed. What people didn't learn at the time, was that all 20



**KEITH WINDSCHUTTLE** 

fined to a few lines buried deep in newspapers.

The Victorian Police set up "Operation Tethering" to find complainants who could testify against George Pell. It was later admitted to be a "Get Pell" ploy looking for a crime. A year went by before the lobby group 'Broken Rites" furnished them with a suitable complainant, the choirboy known as "J". The Victorian director of public prosecutions advised the police that the evidence was insufficient to prosecute and that they (the police) were on their own.

The Victorian trials of George Pell went ahead, but on a novel basis for Australian law. Instead of the prosecution having to present evidence

on every page) I hadn't realised how influential the to convict "beyond all reasonable doubt", the poreasonable doubt".

Windschuttle (assisted by eminent legal experts) has written a gripping account of the persecution abuse complaints against George Pell himself. The of George Pell, a modern cautionary tale exposing the corrosive fissures in post-Christian Australia.

It was a close-run thing. Cardinal George Pell was saved by Justice Mark Weinberg, a Jew, and widely regarded as Australia's leading criminal law expert.

The Persecution of George Pell can be ordered through Quadrant Books: www.quadrant.org.au Bernard Moran is a former president of Voice for THE CHURCH YEAR

### Sharp contrasts lead to a genuine reflection on our faith

Eastertim

### Scripture

The sharp contrasts drawn in these biblical Mark's. texts make us focus upon the essence of what our faith calls us to live by. For it is each au- uses striking contrasts. His message directs us thor's intent to lead us into a genuine moment of reflection on what that faith really entails.

The Wisdom verses might be considered confronting, but their very words centre our attention on the one named "the righteous man". And the author's contrasting points of view lead us to recognise in him the true value of his role as someone who will forever alter our outlook. Obviously, this very person helps us anticipate pel text is most instructive. For his Jesus is and show our profound commitment to Jesus

by Fr Kevin Waldie sm

In a similar way to Wisdom, James today also to view the future with eyes of faith, and adopt a particular sense of the good way ahead for us all. Having the right orientation to how we should think things through, especially in light of life's conflicts, occupies James' mind here. From a faith perspective, doing the right thing is, for us, a fundamental life principle.

the role Jesus himself will play in a Gospel like thoroughly in control of the moment. Also, his our teacher and saviour.

September 19: Twenty-fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Readings: 1. Wisdom 2:12,17-20; Psalm: 54; 2. James 3:16-4:3; Gospel: Mark 9:30-37.

We are here: **V** Twenty-fifth Sunday

**Ordinary Time** 

destiny is plainly mapped out. Because of this point of view, Jesus' role as teacher stands out. His words are not just directed to the disciples, but to us as well. For through them we, like the first disciples, are to understand the way Jesus wants us to see both ourselves and the world in which we live.

Because of the reflective attitude these readings call us to adopt, today's Scriptures provide Mark's presentation of Jesus in today's Gos- a sound means by which to conduct our lives,

# The reality of God's plan is keenly communicated

The demanding reality of living the Christian sign of divine activity that we must accept and life is to the fore in this set of Scripture texts. All three pieces continue to enlighten us about the call we have been given, particularly as recipients of a long, formative biblical writing New Testament author. That means that today's tradition.

The text from Numbers is a curious presentation of what it means to be inspired by God's spirit, and then, in turn, to speak for God. The unexpected part played by Eldad and Medad reveals that God sometimes works in a way that is distinctly different from human decision-making. Their call to be prophets is therefore clearly

welcome

As we have come to expect over recent weeks, New Testament author. That means that today's passage offers advice that is grounded in the reality that surrounds us all. We have to recognise that it is too easy to become comfortable in life and, as a consequence, fail to act justly. In duty-bound to live as God's children, constantly bearing witness to the divine will.

The message that we hear from Jesus through God's choice. And the gift of the spirit descends Mark is also a strongly-worded one. The ex-personal responsibility to hear this Word of God upon them in an equally powerful way. This is a amples he cites demonstrate that Jesus is the and act upon it.

September 26: Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Readings: 1. Numbers 11:25-29; Psalm: 19B; 2. James 5:1-6; Gospel: Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48.

supreme teacher. We, along with the original disciples, learn what it truly means to be worthy members of his faith community. The seemingly brief, his wake-up call is a reminder that we are extreme nature of his teaching thus signals the commitment demanded of a true disciple.

This Sunday, the reality of God's plan for us all is keenly communicated. It is therefore our

### SAINTED GLASS



The Gospel this Sunday (September 19) finishes with Jesus taking a little child into his arms. In other similar passages in the synoptic Gospels, he is emphatic that we have to be child-like in our faith. It is such an important message. I have photographed 56 different windows telling the story. This very different one is in St Stephen's church, Fairlie, and features six children covering our cultural background in New Zealand. I like it because Jesus is leading us New Zealanders forward to our destiny - to be with him in his Kingdom. What does it say to you? - Glen McCullough

### While space tourism needs regulations, a Jesuit astronomer is ready to go

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With private companies planning to expand their offerings in orbital and suborbital space tourism, and more and more civilians already shooting into space, one Jesuit astronomer said that, if he were ever offered the possibility, he would go.

"I know enough to never say no to an opportunity," US Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno, a planetary astronomer and director of the Vatican Observatory, told Vatican News.

The enormously high ticket price - one seat can cost millions or tens of millions of dollars — has drawn criticism that the money should be used for helping the poor.

Brother Consolmagno agreed there is some merit to that criticism as well as "to saying that these billionaires are arrogant and quite irritating people. Of course, if you read Scripture, you realise that King David could be pretty irritating at times, too".

"This comes with the territory of being someone who does new and exciting things and often can get wrapped up in their own self-worth," he said.

However, "we are more than just animals that need to eat. We also need to feed our souls," and no human being should be denied "a chance to explore and to satisfy that curiosity about 'Who am I?' and 'Where did I come from?' and 'How am I in a relationship with this creation?'" he said.

"After all, you look at the seven days of creation in Scripture and, while the first six are all about making sure there is a planet we can live on, the ultimate goal of creation is the Sabbath, the day that we spend contemplating God and God's creation," said Brother Consolmagno.

"We are called to feed the poor, so that the poor have the chance to also be able to contemplate creation, whether it's through science or through art," he said.



Billionaire businessman Jeff Bezos is launched with three crew members aboard a New Shepard rocket on the world's first unpiloted suborbital flight from Blue Origin's Launch Site 1 near Van Horn, Texas, on July 20, 2021 (CNS photo/Joe Skipper, Reuters)

For now, every single human being has the possibility to contemplate and be amazed by the cosmos, he said.

"Whether you get into a spaceship or not, (people) can at least go outside at night and take a look at the stars, take a look at the moon, and just spend a few moments remembering that the world is bigger than whatever my day-to-day worries might be," he said.

### Poster was used to explain Catholic Church and its history

#### ◀ Continued from page 17

couldn't, perhaps, imagine what good that would bring about," Bishop Pompallier wrote.

from more than 250km away just "to see a crudely coloured picture which represents the mystery of the birth of our Saviour and the adoration of the shepherds".

He added that all those who saw it were amazed at it.

"The explanations which we gave them at the same time will not disappear from their memories. The bishop noted that the room containing the mission's altar was adorned with several large pictures, and people who saw it took pleasure in contemplating each one in different ways, which made their visits rather long.

"In all the chapels which will be built in future, if the Lord wills it, it will be very worthwhile to their descendants. That is why, with the help of adorn them with pictures and paintings," the bishop added. Three other letters from 1841 to 1869 have he said.

given Fr Duffy clues that there are several copies of the "True Vine". "For 30 years, this poster was in use in New

Zealand and Western Oceania as a way of explain-The bishop said that people have come here ing the Catholic Church and its history. It was on display in churches and copies were given to people," he said.

Fr Duffy said that the copy in the archive referred to as Bishop Pompallier's copy was trimmed very closely when it was glued onto a fabric to preserve it.

"Any detail as to who the printer was has been trimmed off. It would have been printed in France - the copy we have is in French," he said.

Fr Duffy said it was suggested to him that there may be some surviving posters in Samoa, as it was also used there.

"Those families would have treasured such a holy thing, and copies may still be held by Veronica Kirisome, I put out a request on Facebook in Samoan asking if anyone had a copy,"

### WIT'S END

### Since most of the country is

at level two, here are some two-line jokes:

What did the pirate say when he turned 80? Aye, matey!

My son tried to catch fog today. Mist!

My wife accused me of being immature! I told her to get out of my fort!

You don't need a parachute to go skydiving. You need a parachute to go skydiving twice!

Parallel lines have so much in common. It's a shame they will never meet!

I broke my finger last week. On the other

hand, I'm OK!

A skeleton walked into a bar. He ordered a beer and a mop!

I told my friend 10 jokes to make him laugh. No pun in 10 did!

### Some weekday Masses to resume

### ◀ Continued from page 3

scheduled to restart on September 15, under alert level 4. level 2 restrictions. In a pastoral letter, Bishop Stephen Lowe asked Catholics not to "give grief to those who ensure we do not exceed 50 people". He also said that, while some people like to attend Mass every day, this might mean that others cannot do so under current conditions, so he asked people to "please be aware of others wanting to attend a weekday Mass".

Bishop Lowe noted that the day that the Masses resume is the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. vited to stand at the foot of the cross of suffering that Covid is bringing to our world," he wrote.

In Wellington, Cardinal John Dew said, in a letter to priests and lay pastoral leaders, that there would be no Masses or liturgical celebrations in the archdiocese until September 21. He would be discussing the matter with the Council of Priests.

In some dioceses at alert level 2, some churches have been opened for private prayer. Funerals and weddings can take place under level 2 restrictions, but people should check with their parish what is permitted in their diocese.

Bishop Lowe, at a livestreamed Mass on September 7, said the Government's revised level 2 restriction created "an issue for our celebration of the Eucharist".

"This was a real curveball. We were all set up for our parishes for the previous restriction for level 2. We thought there will be some changes, but the number of restrictions caught us unaware.

will bring new challenges.... Please be gracious outbreak is another indicator of this personal conin accepting these [level 2] requirements as a cern, and also shows that people feel responsible sign of your love and concern for your brothers for one another and for the common good of all." and sisters in your parish community," Bishop Cardinal Dew said.

Lowe added.

At his livestreamed Mass, he asked people to In Hamilton diocese, weekday Masses were remember those in Auckland, who remain in alert

Christchurch apostolic administrator Archbishop Paul Martin, SM, said there will be no Sunday Masses in the diocese as long as they are in alert level 2.

"The limitation of 50 people in a gathering indoors, with a 2-metre distance between bubbles, is very limiting for us in terms of our eucharistic gatherings. This is especially so for Sunday when most parishes have many more people than this at Mass. It is important that all people "With Our Lady of the Sorrows you and I are in- are able to attend Mass on Sunday and so, given the restrictions, we do not consider that this is possible for us to offer at this stage," he said in a pastoral letter.

Archbishop Martin said there is a possibility to receive the Eucharist during weekday Masses. Catholic churches in Christchurch diocese can

remain open for private prayer, and facemasks are strongly encouraged. Contact-tracing is required.

Cardinal John Dew, in stating there will be no public Masses or other liturgical events in Wellington archdiocese diocese until September 21, said churches will also remain closed "except for funerals, as it is difficult to monitor contact-tracing, social distancing, mask wearing, and numbers".

The cardinal noted there is a higher level of concern in Wellington where the delta variant of the Covid-19 virus had been detected previously.

"Anecdotally, it seems that many people are feeling vulnerable with the high transmissibility of the delta virus, and its presence in Wellington in this outbreak. The high level of compliance . In this Delta world, visiting the churches with the Government's restrictions during this

Dunedin Bishop Michael Dooley said Sunday Masses are still suspended until further notice "but parishes can celebrate weekday masses if they follow all the Alert Level 2 restrictions".

In a pastoral letter on September 7, Bishop Dooley said the restrictions on gatherings make it difficult to gather for Mass.

"In the light of these restrictions, I have made the decision to continue to suspend public Sunday Masses until further notice. I know that this is difficult for us who value the importance of gathering for the Sunday Eucharist, but the reason for this sacrifice is the health of the community," the bishop said.

Local administrator for the Palmerston North diocese Fr Craig Butler also said there will be no public Masses, except for funerals and weddings, at the diocese during alert level 2.

### To subscribe to NZ Catholic, follow the link below

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### **CAPTION** CONTEST

Caption contest is taking a break until the Auckland region, Level 4 lockdown is over and NZ Catholic can resume publishing and distributing in its regular newsprint format. All entries submitted for Caption Contest 621 will be held until then. We apologise to our regular caption contest contributers for the inconvience.

### **EVENTS**

### AUCKLAND DIOCESE

Ruakaka: Sunday 14 November, 2021. The Ruakaka Holy Family Catholic Community is celebrating 30 years since moving into the new church in Peter Snell Road, Ruakaka. Mass at 10.30am followed by a shared luncheon and entertainment. Of course, present parishioners and friends are warmly invited to attend, but we are specially reaching out to past members and friends who could be interested in coming along and sharing a few memories. Please contact either; Ray Timmins: 02102788867, email: raydale. timmins@xtra.co.nz or Monica Johnson: 021382401, email: monica.johnson01@gmail.com

### TE AWAMUTU

St Patrick's Catholic School, Te Awamutu Centenary 22 October: 12.30pm, Powhiri, classroom tours, mix and mingle. 23 October: 1.30pm, liturgy, speeches, class photos; 5pm, Centenary Mass celebrated by Bishop Steve Lowe; 6.30pm, dinner and dance at the TA Sports Club. For more information and registration details visit www.stpatta.co.nz

### ASHBURTON

Sacred Heart College Ashburton's Nor'Westers and Panamas book, documenting the history, will be launched at a reunion on Labour Weekend, 50 years since it closed its doors. The 150-page book is included with the registration for those attending. Late registrations will be accepted. If unable to attend, and interested in early education with the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, you are welcome to order the book by pre-paying \$25 plus p&p. Contacts: Audrey at abjleath@gmail.com Ph: 027 292 4443 or Kath at kath\_bryant@hotmail.com Ph: 027 688 6889



A woman prays during Mass (CNS file photo)

### **Features** 17



Auckland diocese archivist Narelle Scollay with a copy of the "True Vine"

Detail from a section of "True Vine"

# **Researcher seeking 19th century 'True Vine' posters**

#### by ROWENA OREJANA

Te Kupenga — Catholic Theological College lecturer and former dean Fr Merv Duffy, SM, is on the hunt for images of the "True Vine", which may still be held on to by some families in Samoa.

chives, there is an artefact dating from the time of Bishop Pompallier parts of the globe, while the branchhead and theology lecturer.

"I have been researching this were known at the time. poster, its origins and its use, and have found that there were originally many copies.

The image kept in the Auckland diocese's archives is that of a large tree. In its trunk, the names of all the popes from St Peter to Pope Pius "In the Auckland Diocesan Ar- IX are listed. The branches show the Church growing in the different which is referred to as the True es that have broken off and falling Vine," said Fr Duffy, CTC level 7 into hell represent the schismatic and heretical movements, as they

Fr Duffy said his interest in the image lies in the theology of the Church that was first preached here.

parts of the world where Protestant missionaries preceded the Cathwhy there were different Christian of the Catholic Church," he said. The image was first referred to in

a letter dated May 14, 1838, written **Continued on page 16** 

by Bishop Jean-Baptiste-François Pompallier to Fr Jean-Claude Colin, who was then in the Bay of Islands.

"A silent but very effective way "New Zealand is one of the few of preaching, and very beneficial for our islanders, is pictures of the principal mysteries in the life of Our olics. A challenge for those first Lord and of the Blessed Virgin, of Catholic missionaries was to explain our Holy Father the Pope, and the chronological tree of the Church. If churches and to assert the priority you can send us some in both small and large sizes, a large number, you



Aid to the Church in Need has expressed its solidarity in prayer with Haiti, following the devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck the country on 14 August. ACN International immediately approved an





emergency aid package of \$800,000 AUD for the Haitian people. So far, over 2000 people have lost their lives and thousands more have been injured.

The majority of the country is Catholic and ACN has project partners on the ground. ACN is in contact with the local Church in the most seriously affected dioceses,

in order to assess where the greatest need lies in the immediate aftermath and how we can best help those in need.

"We are conscious of the great efforts made by the Church to offer signs of hope

to the people in their desperate situation, after so many natural disasters and in





the midst of the violence and extreme poverty. At this difficult time, we cannot abandon this Church, which is fighting to support its people. May Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Patroness and Protector of Haiti, bring them all support and consolation," declared the ACN executive president, Dr Thomas Heine-Geldern.

ACN Australia has set up an emergency aid appeal to help the people of Haiti during this extremely hard time for their country and for their families.

Can you help ease the burdens of our brothers and sisters in Haiti?



Scan the QR code or visit aidtochurch.org/haiti to make an offering.

Aid to the Church in Need is the only rnational Catholic charity dedicated to he spiritual and pastoral support of sufferin Christians. Each year ACN supports some 5000 projects, helping to keep the faith aliv here it is at areatest risk.