



Prison Ministry: what is it and how do I get involved?

Tiaparani Whareherehere:
He aha tēnei mea, ā,
he pēhea te hono atu?

The Catholic Church in New Zealand continues to make a considerable contribution to the lives of people in prisons through prison chaplaincy. Our Prison Chaplaincy is holistic in its approach in that it provides for the spiritual, cultural and social needs of all prisoners. All members of the Catholic family are called to heed Christ's message "whatever you do to the least of my sisters and brothers, you do to me" and to support those who work in prisons, and to welcome those coming out. Your much needed support is able to be given through practical hands-on action, while for others the support will be in the form of prayer. Both are needed.

Cardinal John Dew

What is a prison chaplain?

Prison chaplains visit men and women in prison offering emotional, spiritual and sacramental support.

Chaplains listen, connect, walk beside and provide support and comfort to people who may otherwise feel lost or abandoned.

Catholic chaplains are members of an Ecumenical chaplaincy team and provide for the sacraments for those in prison, leading Communion services, sharing scripture, arranging for reconciliation and for celebration of the Mass.

Who is in prison?

Within the prison walls there are people of little or no faith, people of great faith, people with little support but with a desire for change. They suffer from separation from family, loss in many forms and a sense of hopelessness as they struggle to come to terms with what they have done and how to make amends. Many people consider prison as a "Hospital for the Soul."

Internationally, the majority of people in prison have come from the most disadvantaged and marginalised sections of the population: indigenous people, the poor, those with physical and mental illnesses or addictions, poor education, mental health disorders, victims of abuse.

E manaaki tonuhia ana te oranga o ngā tāngata i roto i ngā whare mauherehere, e te Hāhi Katorika o Aotearoa, i runga i tiaparani whareherehere. He aria torowhanuinui to tō tātou Tiaparani Whareherehere, e hāngai ana ki te taha wairua, ki te taha ahurea me taha whakawhanaungatanga o ngā mauhere katoa. Ka aro te whānau Katorika katoa ki te whakautu i te kupu a te Karaiti e mea ana, “Ko tā koutou i mea ai ki tētehi o āku tēina, ahakoa ki te iti rawa, he meatanga tēnā ki ahau”, ā, ki te tautoko i te hunga e mahi ana i roto i ngā whareherehere, ki te whakatau i te hunga e puta mai ana ki te ao mārama. Kei ōu ringaringa he oranga, arā, ki tētehi koia te ringa raupā, te hāpaiō. Ki tētehi atu koia te ringa rauhī hei tuku karakia, hei tuku īnoi. E rua, e rua ka hiahiatia.

Katinara John Dew

He aha tēnei mea te tiaparani/kaitautoko whareherehere?

Tā te tiaparani mahi he torotoro i ngā tāne me ngā wāhine kei roto i te whare herehere, me te tāpae tautoko ā-ngākau, ā-wairua, ā-hākarameta hoki.

Tā te tiaparani mahi he whakarongo, he whakawhanaunga, he hīkoi ngātahi, he tautoko, he atawhai hoki i te hunga tērā pea ka whakaaro kua ngaro, kua waiho atu ki tahaki rānei.

Whakarite ai hoki ngā tiaparani Katorika kia tae ngā hākarameta mō te hunga i te whare herehere, mā te ārahi i ngā ritenga Kōmunio, te noho tahi ki te pānui Karaipiture, te whakarite i ngā āhuatanga mō te rīpenetā, me te kawenga i te Miha.

Ko wai kei roto i te whare herehere?

I roto i ngā tūwatawata o te whare herehere tērā ētahi tāngata he iti te whakapono, kore kau he whakapono ranei, he tangata whakapono-nui, me ētahi tāngata he iti noa te tautoko i a rātou, engari e hiahia ana kia peka ki ara kē. Ka mate rātou i te tauwehenga i te whānau, i te ngaromanga o ngā mea maha, te tūmanako-kore, i a rātou e huritao ana i ngā hua o ā rātou mahi, me pēhea hoki te whakaea. He maha ngā tāngata e kī ana ko te whare herehere te “Hōhipera mō te Wairua.”

I te ao whānui, ko te nuinga o ngā mauhere i ahu mai i ngā wāhanga rawakore rawa, kahakore rawa o te taupori whānui o tēnā whenua, o tēnā whenua: ngā iwi taketake o aua whenua, te hunga rawakore, ērā kua pāngia e ngā māuiui ā-tinana, ā-hinengaro rānei, e ngā waranga rānei, ērā kāore i tino kuraina, ērā kua raru i ngā māuiuitanga ā-hinengaro, ngā pāpurenga hoki o te tūkinō.

Will I be safe?

Anyone who enters a prison is required to have a health and safety induction which will teach them about being in a prison and give guidance on how to keep yourself safe.

Why does the church need to support prisoners?

Having someone to walk with you, shoulder-to-shoulder, along your journey can help you to feel cared for, less alone and more empowered. Chaplaincy can help with a prisoner's rehabilitation and readiness to return to society.

Who is there to support me?

All staff and volunteers in the prison form a team. As a chaplain or chaplaincy volunteer you are part of the chaplaincy Team. Training and support are given when you start and there is always someone available to assist.

I can't be a prison chaplain but I would like to help. What other opportunities are there?

We're always looking for volunteers to help with prison ministry and you can assist in a number of ways: leading groups, assisting or leading Sunday services, visiting one-to-one.

If you don't want to go to a prison, you can still help support your local chaplain(s). This can include praying individually or as a group for people in prison, their victims and families and for the staff in the prison.

You can help welcome anyone who comes into your church or community who may have spent time in prison.

Ka haumarū au?

Ahakoā ko wai te tangata ka tomo ki te whare herehere, me mātua tae atu ki tētahi akoranga hauora, haumarū hoki e ako ai rātou i ngā tikanga o te noho i roto i tētahi whare herehere, e tohutohuria ai rātou mō te noho haumarū.

He aha i tika ai kia tautoko te Hāhi i ngā mauhere?

He mea nui kia whai tangata koe hei hīkoi tahi, pakihīwi-kī-te-pakihīwi, i tō ara, e mōhio ai koe e manaakitia ana koe, kāore e haere takitahi, he whai mana tonu. Ka āwhina te tiaparani i te whakapakaritanga o te mauhere, me te whakarite i a ia kia hoki mai ki te ao kei waho.

Ko wai kei reira hei tautoko i a au?

Mahi tahi ai ngā kaimahi me ngā tūao katoa hei tīma kotahi. I a koe e mahi ana hei Tiaparani, he tūao Tiaparani rānei, ka noho koe hei wāhi o te Tīma Tiaparani. Ka hoatu ngā whakangungu me ngā tautoko i tō tīmatanga, ā, he tangata kei reira hei āwhina mai i ngā wā katoa.

E kore e taea e au te haere hei tiaparani, engari e hiahia ana au ki te āwhina. He huarahi anō e taea ai e au te āwhina?

Kāore he mutunga o tā mātou kimi tūao hei āwhina mō te minitātanga herehere, arā anō ngā huarahi āwhina mōu: tētahi mahi pea he ārahi rōpū, he āwhina, he hautū rānei i ngā karakia hei te Rātapu, he peka noa atu rānei.

Ki te kore koe e hiahia ki te haere ki tētahi whare herehere, ka taea tonutia e koe (t)ō tiaparani ā-rohe te āwhina atu. Ka uru ki tēnei momo mahi te karakia takitahi, hei rōpū rānei mō te hunga i te whare herehere, mō ō rātou pāpurenga me ngā whānau, mō ngā kaimahi hoki i te whare herehere.

Ka taea e koe te pōwhiri i ngā tāngata katoa ka tata mai ki tō whare karakia, ki tō hapori rānei, kua noho i te whare herehere mō tētahi wā.

How do I become a prison chaplain?

Ideally, we'd love to hear from anyone who's involved in their Church community, has experience in pastoral care, a grounding in Catholic theology and has an understanding of bi-culturalism.

If you think you would like to be involved in this ministry please contact Senior Prison Chaplain, Sr Veronica Casey PBVM at vcasey@nzcbc.org.nz or on 027 523 3983.

I have had a number of convictions in the past including being in prison. Does that mean I cannot be a chaplain or a volunteer?

Having convictions and/or being in prison does not necessarily exclude you from this wonderful ministry. Everyone applying to work or volunteer in the prison is required to have a Ministry of Justice clearance and/or a police check. The Diocese also requires a police check. The important thing is to be honest about the convictions. If they were long ago, they may not be a problem; more recent convictions will be considered case by case.

If I volunteer how much time would I need to give?

Volunteer activities are arranged to match the needs of the prison, your skills as a volunteer and your availability. This varies from person to person and prison to prison. The majority of the volunteers who come to the prison are involved in the Sunday services, rostered on a monthly basis.

I think I would like to be a chaplain: is it paid?

Yes: Catholic chaplains are employed by their Diocese and their appointment is endorsed by the Diocesan Bishop. These positions are paid and covered by employment legislation.

He pēhea au e uru ai ki te mahi tiaparani whareherehere?

Ko te tūmanako, ka whakautu mai ērā o rātou e hono ana ki ō rātou hapori Hāhi, anō nei e mārama ana ki te kaupapa manaaki tangata me ngā tikanga mātauranga Katorika, ā, e mātau ana ki te kaupapa tikanga-rua.

Mēnā e pai ana tēnei kaupapa whakapono ki ā koe, tēnā whakapā mai ki to mātou Matua Tiaparani Herehere, ki a Whāea Veronica Casey PBVM, ki vcasey@nzcbc.org.nz, ki 027 523 3983 rānei.

Kua kitea e te kōti kua hara au i mua, ā, kua noho au i te whare herehere i mua. Nā reira, e kore pea au e āhei hei tiaparani, hei tūao rānei?

Ehara i te mea mā te kitenga hara a te kōti i mua, mā te nohonga i te whare herehere i mua e aukati tō tūnga mō tenei minitanga, i ngā wā katoa. Ko ngā tāngata katoa e tono ana kia mahi, kia tū rānei hei tūao, me mātua whakawātea te Tāhū o te Ture, me arotake ngā pirihiimana hoki/rānei i a ia. Kei te hiahia hoki te Rohe Pīhopa i tētahi arotakenga pirihiimana. Te mea tino nui kia kōrero pono koe mō aua kitenga hara. Mehemea he wā roa ki muri, e kore pea e kīa he raruraru; heoi anō, kā āta tirohia tēnā kitenga, tēnā kitenga hara o ēnei tau.

Mehemea ka tū au hei tūao, kia hia te taima ka whakapaua e au?

He mea āta whakaraupapa ngā mahi tūao kia hāngai ki ngā hiahia o te whare herehere, ō pūkenga hei tūao, me tō wātea. Ka rerekē tēnei mō ia tangata, mō ia tangata, mō ia whare herehere, mō ia whare herehere. Ko te nuinga o ngā tūao ka haere mai ki te whare herehere ka whai wāhi ki ngā karakia i te Rātapu, he mea āta whakaraupapa ia marama.

E mea ana au e hiahia ana au hei tiaparani au: e utua ana?

Āe: He mea whakawhiwhi mahi ngā tiaparani e tō rātou Diocese, ā, he mea tautoko tō rātou tūnga e te Pīhopa o te Rohe Pīhopa. E utua ana ēnei tūranga, ka kapi hoki i nga ture whakawhiwhi mahi.

Are volunteers and chaplains appreciated in the prison?

Absolutely they are! Inmates are invariably surprised that people would give up their own time voluntarily to come to the prison to visit them. These people have a very long history of being let-down and abandoned and respond positively to genuine people with no agenda but to bring hope and good news.

What about victims? Why give so much attention to the offenders?

It's imperative that victims have their lives restored. Catholic social teaching demands accountability and sanction of offenders and healing and restoration for victims. The Catholic Church supports restorative justice processes that are victim focused and can assist to restore the victim to wholeness. Prison chaplains work with offenders to help them to accept the harm they have done and seek means of reparation. Many offenders are victims too.

How can chaplains work with people who have committed heinous crimes?

Prison chaplains are not naïve. They are fully aware of the devastation and harm caused by crimes such as drug trafficking, organised crime, murder and other significant offences. They also know society needs to be protected from some dangerous people. But the reality is that the majority of people in prison are not dangerous or psychopathic but are the poor and disadvantaged from our communities.

Are prisons a place of punishment?

No: losing their freedom is the punishment. The purpose and focus of prison is to re-orient lives and to make good neighbours. Everyone, once their sentence is complete, is released into the community. They may be next door neighbours to you and me. If their life has been dysfunctional before prison, they need significant support and acceptance to integrate into society in a more positive way.

E whakanuia ana ngā tūao me ngā tiaparani i te whare herehere?

Āe mārika! Ka mīharo ngā mauhere katoa mō te whakaaro atawhai o te hunga haere mai i runga i te aroha ki te whare herehere ki te toro i a rātou. Kua tino roa rawa ēnei tāngata e tukua ana kia hinga, kia ngaro i te ao whānui, ā, he rite tonu te whakamihi ki ngā tāngata ngākau-pono kāore he tikanga huna, e haere mai ana ki te kawē mai i te tūmanako me te rongopai.

Pēhea ngā pāpurenga? He aha tātou e aronui ai ki ngā kaihara?

He mea taketake, me whakaora anō ngā pāpurenga ki te ao. E whakahau ana ngā Ākoranga Pāpori Katorika i aua whakawā, me te whakawhiu i te hunga hara, waihoki te whakaora me te whakahokinga ora ki ngā pāpurenga hara. E tautoko ana te Hāhi Katorika i ngā tukanga whakahokinga mana e aro ana ki te pāpure, e hoki ai te pāpurenga ki tōna tū o mua. E mahi tahi ana ngā tiaparani me te hunga hara kia whakaae rātou i mahi hē rātou, kia kimihi hoki ngā ara e ea ai te mate. He maha hoki ngā tāngata hara kua noho hei pāpurenga.

Nō hea te kaha o ngā tiaparani ki te mahi tahi ki te tangata kua mahi i ētahi mahi kino rawa atu?

Ehara i te mea he kūware ngā tiaparani ki ngā āhuetanga o te ao. E tino mārama ana rātou ki ngā wharanga, te tūkinu hoki ka hua ake i ngā hara pēnei i te hoko rauhea, i te hara ā-rōpū nui, te kōhuru me ētahi atu hara nui. E mōhio ana hoki rātou he tika kia tiakina te hapori kei whara i ētahi tāngata mōrearea. Engari, he tika te kōrero, mō te nuinga o ngā tāngata i te whare herehere, ehara i te mōrearea, i te pōrangi rānei, engari nō ngā wāhanga rawakore, ērā kua ngoikore rawa i ō tātou hapori.

He wāhi whakawhiu tangata te whare herehere?

Kāo: ko te korenga e wātea te whakawhiu. Te kaupapa me te arotahitanga o te whare herehere he whakaanga kē i te noho, kia hoki anō hei hoa tata papai. Ka tukua kia hoki ngā tāngata katoa ki te hapori, ina mutu tō rātou whakawhiu. He hoa noho tata pea rātou ki ā koe, ki ā au hoki. Mehemea i te pōraru tō rātou noho i mua i te whare herehere, he mea tika kia tautokona rātou, kia whakamanaia hoki kia hoki tūturu mai ki te ao tangata, kia pai ake ai te noho.

What do others say about volunteering in prison?

This is the most rewarding thing I have ever done.

Retired Orthopaedic Surgeon

I don't know why I didn't retire a long time ago and do this. It is wonderful.

Retired GP

It's wonderful and often sometimes I can't wait to go inside.... It's a rewarding role.

Halamehi, former chaplain

It's a privilege to be there... it's standing in solidarity with another human, helpless as we both are and for me to see the suffering face of Christ in that person...there's nowhere else I'd want to be in that moment.

Margaret, chaplain

He aha ngā kōrero a ētahi atu mō te mahi tūao i te whareherehere?

Ko tēnei te tino mahi whai hua kua mahia e au.

Kaipoka Wheua kua Mutu Tana Mahi

Kāore au e mōhio ki te take i kore ai au e tuku i taku tūranga i mua noa atu, kia haere mai ki tēnei mahi. He rave.

He tākuta ā-whānau kua mutu tāna mahi

He mea miharo, ā, i ētehi wā e hīkaka ana ahau ki te uru atu ki roto...he mea whaiora.

Halamehi, tiaparani i mua

He mea mananui i kōnā... hei reira he mea tūtahi me tētehi atu tangata, māua e noho kau ana, ā, ka kite atu au i te kanohi o te Karaiti i ā ia ... i taua wā, mōku, kāre kau he wāhi atu i tērā.

Margaret, tiaparani



We'd love to hear from anyone who's interested in becoming a prison chaplain or supporting our prison chaplaincy work now or in the future.

**Please contact Sr Veronica Casey on 027 523 3983
or by email at vcasey@nzcbc.org.nz**

E tino hiahia ana mātou ki te whakapā atu ki ērā ō koutou e pīrangī ana ki te rapu kōrero kia tū hei tiaparani, ki te tautoko i ā tātou mahi tiaparani ināianei, i ngā rā ki mua rānei.

**Tēnā, whakapā mai ki a Whāea Veronica Casey ki 027 523 3983
mā te īmera, mā vcasey@nzcbc.org.nz**