



From +John...

Dear Friends

Already a month into 2017 it's easy to acknowledge how quickly the weeks fly by. I am very conscious that one of the major challenges for me, and part of the work of all of us this year, is the Archdiocesan Synod to take place in September. Although it will not just be September, the Synod Planning Committee has already been hard at work. Hopefully you are already praying and imploring the Spirit of God to inspire and guide us. I have asked that every parish pray the Synod Prayer at every Sunday Mass between now and September 24th, please do so. Naturally all the other work of our parishes, schools, colleges and organizations has to continue this year, because pastoral, spiritual, sacramental, and educational needs must be attended to. However we also need to plan for the future, discern directions for the future and see how we will respond to them as the Church of Wellington.

I will be inviting *ALL* people of the Archdiocese to engage in the Synod preparation process, to pray, reflect, discuss and prepare for the future. This will require all of us who are in positions of leadership to be ready to encourage, support and give confidence to all people as we invite them to participate. We do this because we want the best for the Church of Wellington, we do this because we know we cannot stand still, we do this because we know what the Gospel offers us, we do this because we know who Jesus is, we do this because like Peter we too say "*Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.*" (John 6: 68).

All readers of this newsletter, please pray for the success of the Synod, please support it in every way and do all you can to encourage others to engage in the Synod process.

With all good wishes and blessings for 2017, and with my prayers in gratitude for all that you do.

+ John

NEWS ...

- We remember **Fr Kevin Mears SM**, who died on Christmas Eve in Kaikoura. May he rest in peace.
- **Teachers' Commissioning Mass:** All teachers, school staff and priests are welcome to attend the 2017 Commissioning Mass.
North Island: Tuesday, 21 February, 5.30pm, Cathedral, Hill Street.
South Island: Friday, 24 February, 5.30pm, St Mary's Nelson.
- The South Island **Chrism Mass** will be held on **Monday 10 April** at a venue yet to be decided. The North Island Chrism Mass will be at the **Cathedral, 7.30pm Tuesday 11 April**.
Tuesday 11 April will also be a **Day of Prayer** for clergy, at St Thomas More Church, Wilton. More information regarding this day will be forwarded in due course.
- **Valentine's Day Mass:** The annual Mass to celebrate the gift of married love will be celebrated at the Cathedral at 7pm on Tuesday 14 February. This is a way to highlight and celebrate married love and the value of Catholic family life. You are most welcome to stay after Mass and share a glass of champagne with me.
- Since the **Clergy appointments** were announced towards the end of last year I have asked Fr Julian Wagg to accept appointment to Kaikoura within the Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea. Julian has generously accepted this appointment for a one year term and will work with the two Passionist priests at Blenheim — Father John Pearce CP, the new Parish Priest and Father Pat McIndoe.
- With great pleasure I announce the full-time appointment of Deacon Danny Karatea-Goddard as **Tūranga Māori** for the Archdiocese of Wellington. Rangimoeroa Waikari will continue as Assistant Tūranga Māori. Danny has made a wonderful contribution to Māori pastoral care and bi-cultural relations in the Diocese of Palmerston North. Danny will take up this position on Monday 27 February. That afternoon there will be a Powhiri to welcome Danny, his wife Maru and their whanau. We warmly welcome Danny to his new role with the Archdiocese.

"Go, You are Sent"