



18 May 2017

Issue No: 153

From +John...

Dear Friends,

Last weekend the annual O'Shea Shield Competition was held at St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt. Seventeen Catholic Colleges from the Wellington and Palmerston North dioceses participated in this wonderful event of Debating, Oratory, Scripture Reading in both Te Reo and English, Impromptu Speech, Religious Drama, and Religious Questions. Congratulations to St Bernard's, who won the 2017 O'Shea Shield Competition, and congratulations to them also for their very generous hospitality to us all, as hosts of this year's event.

The theme of the weekend was "Living in Harmony with God's Creation", inspired by the Encyclical of Pope Francis, "Laudato Si" (On the Care of our Common Home).

The Religious Questions topic was based on "*Amoris Laetitia*" (The Joy of Love), the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis from the two Synods on the Family. Having sat through those two very long Synods in Rome, where thousands and thousands of words were spoken, I have often wondered how many would read the resulting document. It was therefore a real honour to sit and listen to students of our Colleges respond so convincingly and with such understanding to questions about *Amoris Laetitia*. They had reflected deeply on the writings of Pope Francis, were very aware that this spoke about married love, and time and time again spoke of how moved they were by his writings!

As they responded to the Holy Father's reflection on St Paul's Hymn to Love in First Corinthians they spoke about how they were trying to apply this to their lives today. This was so gratifying and edifying to all present. Well done and congratulations.

Amoris Laetitia is worth reading, so rich in teaching, with much to reflect on for all of us. It is about love, and all of us are called to love.

With every blessing

+John

NEWS ...

- Everyone is invited to the Cathedral at 3pm on Sunday 4th June. This is for a special Commemorative Service with the Lutherans to remember the **500th anniversary of the Reformation**. Lutherans will be gathering in Wellington for the weekend and a highlight will be this Service prepared by Lutheran World Federation and Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity. All are welcome.
- Also on **Pentecost Sunday** (4th June) the Sunday 7pm Mass at the Cathedral is the annual Mass to welcome new Catholics to the Archdiocese.. All are encouraged to accompany to the Cathedral those who were baptized or received into the Church at Easter.
- On Thursday 8th June at 7pm, a **Memorial Mass** will be celebrated at St Sacred Heart Petone to remember the 100th anniversary of the death during the First World War of Fr James McMenamin (8th June 1917).
- For the next two Saturdays **pre Synod workshops** will take place. The first of these will be for South Island parishes on Saturday 20th of May at Our Lady of the Bays Parish, Richmond, 12.30pm until 3.30pm. **Everyone** is welcome to attend this, not just those who will be attending the Synod in September. The following Saturday 27th May, the workshop for the North Island parishes will be at Bishop Viard College from 1.30pm until 4.30pm. Again all are welcome.
- If you would like more copies of the **Synod Participation Booklets** contact Anne Dickinson, a.dickinson@wn.catholic.org.nz or 04 4961793
- Fr Dennis Moosman has a new telephone number. Please change your records to read (04) 237 3938.

"Go, you are sent"