

4
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Issue No: 152

From +John...

Dear Friends,

This newsletter comes to you from Christchurch where I am attending the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference for the week.

This coming Sunday is an important one for the Archdiocese because it is one of the major steps in preparing for our Synod in September. It is also important for the Church throughout the world as it is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, with the theme ***“Led by the Spirit for Mission.”*** Our Synod theme fits in perfectly with that chosen by Pope Francis for this Good Shepherd Sunday, the day on which we pray for vocations.

I have asked that a Pastoral Letter be read out at all Masses in the Archdiocese this Sunday. This pastoral letter informs people of what the Synod is all about and encourages people to participate. Everyone can participate, through prayer and by being actively engaged in the Synod process, whether or not they are actually attending the Synod.

In his message the Holy Father wrote: ***“In the last few years, we have considered two aspects of the Christian vocation: the summons to “go out from ourselves” to hear the Lord’s voice, and the importance of the ecclesial community as the privileged place where God’s call is born, nourished and expressed.”***

Please think very seriously about these words, We are all asked by our Baptism ***“to go out from ourselves,”*** to be ***“sent out,”*** and we hear God’s word in our communities of faith, our families, schools, colleges and parishes. The Pope’s message focuses on ***“the missionary dimension of our Christian calling.”*** It is that very focus that we want the synod to reflect on and prepare us for our missionary work ***“to follow Jesus and discover within ourselves an irrepensible desire to bring the Good News to our brothers and sisters through proclamation and the service of charity.”***

This coming Sunday, please highlight prayer for vocations, and please link the Pastoral Letter about the Synod to the Holy Father’s theme. This is a great opportunity for us all to reflect on what we are called to, and on the fact that we are all ***“sent,”*** but in various ways. This is the one Sunday of the year when we think particularly and pray about the call to priesthood and religious life and the absolute necessity for those vocations to grow if the Church is to flourish and bear fruit. We are all ***“Led by the Spirit for Mission,”*** we are all ***“sent out”*** to the world around us.

Please know that in all we do to respond to our missionary call, whatever that may be, we are at all times accompanied by Jesus the Good Shepherd. He is always with us and His mercy and goodness follow us all the days of our lives.

With every blessing

+ John

NEWS...

- **Cirilo Barlis** will be ordained to the priesthood this coming Saturday, 6 May at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Please continue to support Cirilo in prayer as he starts his priestly ministry in the Archdiocese of Wellington. Congratulations Cirilo!
- **Congratulations** to Fr Gregory Lakra OFMCap celebrating 25 years of Ordination on Tuesday 16 May.
- **Mini Clergy Assembly 17-18 May:** Registrations forms for the Mini Clergy Assembly should now have been received in my office. If you have not registered, the final day for registration is tomorrow Friday 5 May.
- Please pray for the **Sisters of Compassion** who are having their Chapter this week.
- **Synod Invitations:** If you have received a letter of invitation to the Synod, please let Anne Dickinson know as a matter of urgency whether you are attending or not. (a.dickinson@wn.catholic.org.nz tel 04 496 1793). This information was requested by 1 May and there are many responses still to be received.
- On Sunday 4 June at 3pm the Lutheran and Catholic churches will gather to pray in Commemoration of the **500th Anniversary of the Reformation**. All are welcome.

“Go, you are sent”