



24 August 2017

Issue No: 160

From +John...

Dear Friends,

For several months we have been praying at all our Sunday Masses the Prayer for the Synod "Go, You Are Sent." I am very grateful for the way the prayer has been prayed all over the Archdiocese.

The Synod is almost upon us and the need for prayer continues as we prepare to go into the weekend of prayer, reflection, discernment and sharing. It is an important weekend in the life of the Church of Wellington. There are two things I am now asking all parishes to do.

Firstly: I encourage every parish to have a simple ceremony to commission all the Synod delegates who live in your parish (not just those selected by the parish) as they prepare to come and take part in the Synod weekend's activities. A Commissioning at Masses will highlight the work of the Synod, remind those not coming to continue their prayers and will accompany the delegates with prayer.

Secondly: Please ensure that people in parishes pray in a special way over those days, from Friday 15 until Sunday 17 September. I ask that the intentions of the Synod be included in Prayers of the Faithful that weekend, and it may also be that some of the churches could be open for special times of prayer. Thank you.

On Saturday 16th September the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Cathedral will be open for prayer from 10.30am until 5pm. Please encourage those who are able to come to pray for the work of the Synod. The Cathedral will be in use by the Synod delegates until 10.30am, and then people will go to other venues to reflect on the various topics, at which time the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed and the chapel will be open for prayer. We are not able to do the same on Sunday 17 September, because the Cathedral will be used for the work of the Synod until 10am, then there will be the 10.30am Mass, and it will be used again for the first part of the afternoon. Please remember that the Synod has been an invitation to all people of the Archdiocese to engage in a

process of prayer, dialogue and discernment. This was all part of the consultation and many thousands of people participated. Thank you. Now we move into the next phase where all the material that was sent in will continue to be reflected on and ways forward discerned for the future. The focus is clearly on the fact that we are a Church with a mission, just as God is a God for us, so is the Church for others. The Church is continually called to become more fully the Church, a people sent by the One who was sent by God to be a light to the nations, a beacon of hope and joy to all people, in our own time and place.

Thank you for your prayerful support.

With every blessing

+ John

NEWS . . .

- **Fr Michael Sweere** passed away on Saturday 12 August after a relatively short illness. Michael had been a priest of the Archdiocese for 53 years. He was buried from St Joseph's Upper Hutt on Friday 18 August. May he rest in peace.
- **Prayerful sympathy** to Father Patrick Bridgman on the death of his mother, Helen, on Wednesday 16 August. A Requiem Mass and burial was held in Christchurch on Monday 21 August.
- **NZ Ordo 2018:** Anyone wanting to order the 2018 Ordo please contact Cathie Nicol 027 245 5715 or cnicol@nzcbc.org.nz The cost for the 2018 Ordo is \$25, this includes postage and handling. Attached to the newsletter is the order form .
- **Short Bios:** A reminder that all priests were asked for a short biography by 25 August (tomorrow). Thank you to those who have returned theirs.

"A Christian community is never meant to be just a comfortable place for its members local communities are to look beyond their own immediate concerns and reach out to others. The parish as a community cannot insulate itself from the realities of the world around it."

(Ecclesia in Oceania 33, John Paul II)

"Go, you are sent"