



26 October 2017

Issue No: 164

From +John...

Dear Friends,

“Thanks be to God for all he has done and is doing for us.”

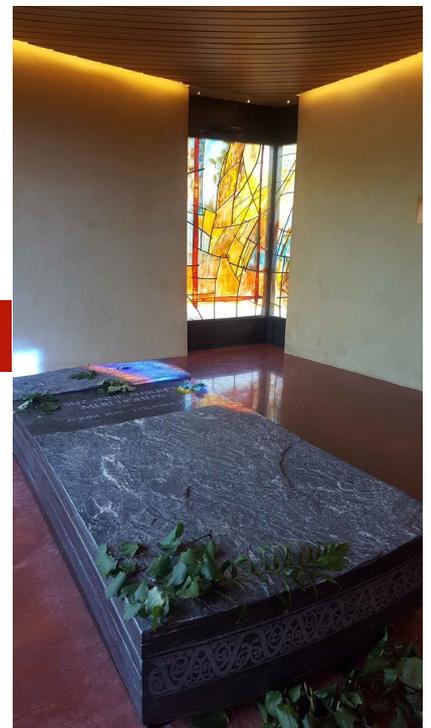
These words were one of the most used phrases of the Venerable Suzanne Aubert. I believe that here in New Zealand we can genuinely say those words with her. We can say them in gratitude for all that she was and is for the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand.

On Saturday 14th October we had a wonderful day with the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion as they celebrated 125 years since the Congregation was founded by Suzanne Aubert. It was a great day as we joined the Sisters in giving thanks with them and for them. The day began at 6am with a solemn and beautiful celebration led by the Mana Whenua as everyone was welcomed and processed up the pathway through newly landscaped gardens to the chapel where Suzanne has been laid to rest. There was a solemn blessing of the crypt and of the Resurrection window by Iwi leaders and me, a Powhiri followed, and then blessing of the other new buildings including the Visitor Centre. The whole day was a truly bi-cultural celebration which honored Suzanne and her legacy, the Sisters of Compassion. Miha Maori (Maori Mass) concluded the celebration during which the sisters renewed their vows and we all gave thanks with them. Included in all of this was, of course, very generous hospitality which included breakfast and lunch.

The magnificent resting place of Suzanne, the Resurrection window, (and the other windows in the crypt area), the Visitor Centre, the gardens outside are all worth visiting. The Home of Compassion at Island Bay has always been a holy place, a place where all have been welcomed warmly and with gracious generosity. Go and visit. Go and pray at the tomb of Mother Meri Hohepa. Go to the Visitor Centre and learn more about this incredible woman whom we are waiting to be declared New Zealand's first canonized Saint. We are still able to learn so much from her. Go and visit and learn with her how to say ***“Thanks be to God for all he has done and is doing for us.”***

With every blessing

+ John



NEWS . . .

- Please remember in your prayers **Fr John Berry** who died peacefully in the early hours of this morning at the Home of Compassion, Heretaunga. May he rest in peace.
- This **weekend we pray** for the parishes of St Peter Chanel Motueka, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Richmond and Sacred Heart Takaka, as they amalgamate formally to become the Parish of Our Lady of the Bays.
- Please remember to return to my office your parish form regarding changes to be made for the 2018 Catholic Directory. The last day for these to be returned is 31 October 2017. Please return this form, even if there are no changes, to confirm your order for 2018. Thanks.
- **Anglican** Archbishop David Moxon will be welcomed back to New Zealand next Tuesday 31 October. You are invited to attend Vespers at 6pm at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

God hears us wherever we are, whether we are on the land or the sea, without our moving our lips. We can prayer to Him in our heart without uttering a word.

Suzanne Aubert

Thanks be to God for all he has done and doing for us