



23 November 2017

Issue No: 166

THE CARDINAL'S  
CARE CAMPAIGN 2017

## From +John...

Dear Friends

On the Solemnity of Christ the King last year I was privileged to be at a Mass in St Peter's Square, the closing Mass for the Year of Mercy. At the end of the Mass Pope Francis signed his Apostolic Letter *Misericordia et Misera*. In that letter, he told us that while the Year of Mercy might have finished "*Now it is time to look to the future and to understand how best to continue, with joy, fidelity and enthusiasm, experiencing the richness of God's mercy, Let us not sadden the Spirit, who constantly points out new paths to take in bringing to everyone the Gospel of salvation.*" (MM5) This is a wonderful Letter and it is worth reflecting on, praying with and then acting on. It can easily be found by going online and searching for *Misericordia et Misera*.

The Holy Father reminded the world that "*the door of mercy of our heart continues to remain wide open. We have learned that God bends down to us (cf. Hos 11:4) so that we may imitate him in bending down to our brothers and sisters.*" (MM 16) He then went on to tell us that he had the idea that the Church might celebrate, on the Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, the **World Day of the Poor**. That of course was last Sunday for us. All parishes were sent a video to be played which encouraged us to create a "**culture of encounter**" with the poor in our society. Just as the Year of Mercy continues by our living MERCY, so last Sunday was not just one day to give a little thought to the poor and then to be forgotten about. There are homeless on our streets, there are people who struggle to make ends meet, there are families who cannot afford medical care, who cannot educate their children; there are endless opportunities for us to encounter the poor and reach out a helping hand. "*We are called to promote a culture of mercy based on the rediscovery of encounter with others, a culture in which no one looks at another with indifference or turns away from the suffering of our brothers and sisters.*" (MM 20)

Last Sunday was the first World Day of the Poor and this coming Sunday it is a year since Pope Francis wrote this powerful letter and released it in the Solemnity of Christ the King. This Sunday we will hear the words in the Mass about Jesus presenting to God the Father "*A kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace.*" We help build that Kingdom by the way we care for the poor.

With every blessing

+ John

## NEWS . . .

- **Food for Faith** is offering an Online Advent Retreat for the month of December 2017. Those who want to take part will need to visit the [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz) website and sign up to receive the daily Advent emails.
- Please remember to register by tomorrow, 24 November, for the **Clergy Retreat Day** being held 5 December at St Thomas More Church, Wilton, starting at 10am.
- **World Retreat for Priests 24—29 September 2018** The Shrine of Ars organizes this event for secular and religious Priests. 2018 is the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the arrival of St John Vianney as the Patron of parish priests. The theme of this retreat is The fire of the Gospel (translated into English). For more information [www.arswr2018.org](http://www.arswr2018.org).
- Communication regarding the **Cardinal's Christmas Appeal**, rebranded as the Cardinal's Care Appeal, has been sent to all Parishes. Further information will be sent in the next week. Please encourage church communities to support this annual appeal.
- **123 young adults** from the Archdiocese of Wellington are travelling to Auckland next weekend, 1-3 December, to attend a National Youth Conference. Please keep them in your prayers as they journey, meet, and experience church together.
- From the 11-15th December the **Young Catholic Leaders Camp** will be held at Forest Lakes, Otaki. This is a gathering of young Catholic students with leadership positions in secondary schools for 2018. Please keep these young adults in your prayers as they meet to grow, learn and support each other.

"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully,  
everyone is blessed."  
Maya Angelou

*Love not in word but in deed*