



From +John...

Dear Friends,

Easter blessings to you all.

In my last newsletter, I wrote about the words of St Paul *“The mystery is Christ among you, your hope of glory.”* (Col 1: 27) I also went on to talk about how, as the years go by, and we celebrate another Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday we simply delve deeper and deeper into its richness and meaning. In delving deeper and deeper into the mystery we grow in love, understanding and appreciation of the mystery of God in our own lives.

I have heard over the last few days many wonderful comments about beautiful liturgies celebrated around the parishes over Easter. Thank you to all who prepared those liturgies and worked hard to make them a prayerful and reflective experience for all. These days have certainly provided the opportunity to experience the mystery of Christ among us.

It is my hope and prayer that each of you has been graced in some special way this Easter, graced and loved by the actions and love of Christ himself. I can only hope that Easter has touched me in such a way that I want to respond in a more generous and gracious way to the events of daily life, the routine and mundane situations where God is also present. Because this is about God’s goodness I don’t just want this for myself, I want it for everyone in this Church of Wellington to which we all belong.

Easter, is not just the few days of ceremonies and then we go about our daily lives again. As we delve deeper into these mysteries we come to understand that we too die to the things we want and are attracted to, and in letting them go we find a new life. We find life gifted, graced with Jesus who still stands among us and says *“Peace be with you.”*

May His Peace and abundant blessings be your this Easter.

With every blessing

+ John

Items of Interest

Retreat at Home of Compassion Island Bay 13-18 May This retreat, to be facilitated by Fr Alan Roberts, will go ahead even though there have not been many registrations. If anyone is interested please contact Fr David Dowling directly.

One Day Seminar of Homiletics, 26 June and Clergy Jubilees 27 June Both of these events will be at The Pines in Houghton Bay, with the Jubilee Mass at St Patrick’s Kilbirnie before the Jubilee Dinner. Details and times will be advertised later. These days have specifically been put together to enable as many as possible to attend. I encourage Clergy attendance at the day on Homilies. Please remember Pope Francis has said, *“The one who gives the homily has to remember he isn’t doing something of his own. He’s preaching, he’s giving a voice to Jesus, he’s peaching the word of Jesus. It has to be well prepared and brief, brief.”*

Refugee Housing - Amanda Calder from the Refugee Family Reunification Trust is desperately looking for a four bedroom home to accommodate a refugee family of 6 in the southern suburbs of Wellington. If you know of somewhere, or someone, that may be able to help Amanda please contact her directly acalder@xtra.co.nz.

Annual Mass to Welcome New Catholics This Mass will be celebrated as usual on Pentecost Sunday 20 May at the 7pm Mass at the Cathedral. All parishes are asked to invite their recently baptized and those welcomed into the Church to come to this Mass and be welcomed into the wider community of the Archdiocese.

We Christians believe and know that Christ’s resurrection is the true hope of the world, the hope that does not disappoint. It is the power of the grain of wheat, the power of that love which humbles itself and gives itself to the very end, and thus truly renews the world.