



11 October 2018

Issue No: 186

From +John...

Kia tau te rangimarie ki a koutou,

We are living in an unprecedented time in the history of the Church. There are major challenges for anyone in leadership today, from Pope Francis to anyone who leads in the Church in any way. There appears to be a culture around the world where everyone is expected to be perfect and to never have made a mistake. I fully acknowledge that all leaders are to be accountable to the people they serve, and that there should always be openness and transparency. The Church has not been good at that and we need to make great improvements.

Our lives are also to be lived realistically, and the reality of human life is that nobody is perfect, and very clearly neither is the Church. As Cardinal Williams said back in the late 1980s, and has been quoted many many times - *"I have to be a realist like yourselves and accept that the most telling image of the Church is an untidy caravan struggling across the desert, not a regiment of infantry marching in perfect step across an immaculate parade ground. We are, after all, the People of God, and people are imperfect and contradictory. To know it we have only to look at ourselves."*

We, the People of God, are imperfect and contradictory. That is why we have faith communities where we try to help support one another, where we talk together and listen to one another, where we try to create close and warm relationships, and hold one another in a network of solidarity and belonging. Our parish, college and school communities and our faith organizations are called to support everyone and find ways to encourage one another on life's journey.

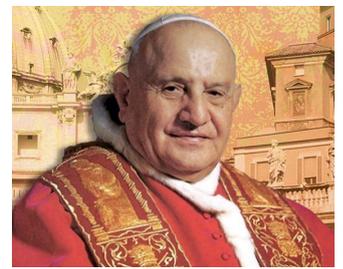
Internationally the Church has some major challenges, every diocese has challenges and must look to new ways to be Church today. That can really only start with every one of us as individuals, deciding each day to do our best, seeking out others who need love and care, forgiving others when that is called for rather than dismissing and casting aside someone who has made a mistake. One of the questions I like to ask myself at the end of each day, and I find it very helpful, so I share it with you is: *"Have I been a good memory in someone's life today?"* I wonder if we all honestly asked a question something like that if it would be a step in making our Church and our world a better place and a little more Christlike.

With prayers and blessings

Naku noa. Na + Hoane

If people laugh at you, laugh with them and tell them they are quite right. This will contribute greatly to the harmony and the good humour which we ought to cultivate."

Suzanne Aubert



Feast Day 11 October
Pope John XXIII - pray for us

NEWS . . .

- **Holy Land Good Friday Collection**
Recently I received communication from the Holy Land Commissary with the New Zealand figures for this year's Good Friday Collection. \$30,312.40 was given by the Archdiocese.
Thank you for your generosity.
- **Centenary of the Armistice which ended the First World War, Sunday 11 November 2018.** The main World War 1 commemorations will take the form of a live-streamed National Service at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park in Wellington. Churches throughout the Country are invited to join in the **Roaring Chorus** campaign. The idea is to recreate the 'roaring chorus' of thanksgiving and jubilation that erupted across New Zealand as word of the Armistice was declared 100 years ago. The aim is to recapture this moment immediately following **the two-minute silence that will be observed nationwide at 11am.** Churches, organisations and community groups are invited to gather whatever 'instruments' they have at hand and help create a 'roaring chorus' to once again celebrate peace and hope for the future. New Zealand's Roaring Chorus campaign connects with the British and German Governments' invitation to nations across the world to participate in bell-ringing at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 2018. **If you have Church bells, please join in marking the Centenary of the Armistice 100 years ago.**
www.100govt.nz, [facebook.com WW100nz](https://www.facebook.com/WW100nz),
twitter.com/WW100nz
- **Mass on Armistice Day at St Joseph's, Mt Victoria.** Father Frank Whitaker and Father Julian Wagg will be celebrating the Eucharist at 11am on Sunday 11th November at St Joseph's. This is to remember all those who lost their lives in WW1, and especially any family members whom anyone would like to remember.