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From +John...

Kia tau te rangimarie ki a koutou,

On Monday August 20 2018, Pope Francis wrote a letter to the People of God about the recent revelations of sexual abuse, abuse of power and abuse of conscience by a significant number of clergy and consecrated persons around the world. Pope Francis particularly wanted to acknowledge the suffering endured by many minors, their families and the larger community due to these crimes.

With shame and repentance Pope Francis acknowledged the failings of the ecclesial community with regard to these crimes. He wrote that the extent and the gravity of all that has happened requires coming to grips with it in a comprehensive and communal way. He wanted us not just to acknowledge what has happened but to 'take on the pain of our brothers and sisters, wounded in flesh and spirit', and to offer those who have experienced abuse an outstretched hand of assistance. Some people have asked questions about why we should all pray and do penance when we did not commit these crimes. However Pope Francis is suggesting that we all take on responsibility for stopping this. He invites us all to work on the means to ensure the present and future safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults, and to fight against all forms of spiritual corruption and clericalism, causes of these offences. He wants us to be part of a social and ecclesial change including a personal and communal conversion to see things as the Lord does.

Such change and conversion cannot be successful if only a small group are involved in the work. Pope Francis sees that it requires the active participation of all members of the People of God to generate the necessary dynamics for sound and realistic change. He invites us all to a prayer and fasting that opens our ears to the pain of those who have suffered, that gives us a hunger and thirst for justice, and that moves us to action in truth and charity to combat all forms of abuse of power, sexual abuse and abuse of conscience.

The Council of Priests spent a whole day and a half looking at this on 15th-16th of this month. The next day the Council met again, together with the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, the Board of Administration and Te Kahu o te Rangī (the Māori advisory council for the ADW) and the Archdiocesan Directors. That day we all considered Pope Francis' letter. As another step in this process of prayer and action, I am inviting us all at the beginning of this penitential season of Advent to use the penitential rite which follow this newsletter and with this to seek forgiveness and conversion.

A few weeks ago all the priest of the Archdiocese had a day of prayer and fasting (October 5th). I am inviting all people in the Archdiocese to pray in a special way on Sunday December 2 and to reflect on what we can all do to be more aware of this and to find new ways to work together.

Naku noa. Na + Hoane

Penitential Rite for Sunday 2nd December. (To be prayed in parish Churches, and in your homes)

1. For the times we have looked the other way when we have seen abuse of power or injustice in the Church or in the world, *Lord have mercy.*
2. For the times we have not ensured the safety of children, young people or vulnerable adults, *Christ have mercy.*
3. For the times we have not listened to the cries of those physically and sexually abused, *Lord have mercy.*
4. Almighty God, you break through our defences and bring us to the truth, *Christ have mercy.*
5. Persistent God, your word comes to us in the cries of the broken and marginalized, *Lord have mercy.*
6. Gentle God, you breathe new life into us from the stable of Bethlehem and the Cross of Calvary, *Christ have mercy.*

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen

Now we light this first Advent candle as a special remembrance of all children, young people and vulnerable adults who have been abused by clergy and religious members of the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand.

NEWS . . .

World Day of the Poor – thanks so much to everyone who participated in any way to our Archdiocesan activities and initiatives for the World Day of the Poor. I enjoyed serving breakfast at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday with members of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. Some of the other activities in the Archdiocese included:

- **Mass for the World Day of the Poor and Tercentenary of the birth of Presentation Sisters founder Nano Nagle:** Over 400 people attended the Mass at Taita, and four large boxes of non-perishable food items were taken to the Lower Hutt foodbank.
- **St Vincent de Paul pop-up free stores:** Over 1100 people visited the St Vincent de Paul free pop-up stores throughout the Archdiocese.
- **Better off together/He waka eke noa gathering:** Over 80 people met for workshops and discussion at Bishop Viard College in Porirua at the gathering hosted by Challenge 2000.
- **Fruitcakes for Kaikōura:** 145 fruitcakes were delivered to Kaikōura by the Society of St Vincent de Paul – the response was that they were received with the love and goodwill with which they were sent.
- **Compassion Soup Kitchen:** Thanks to all who sponsored and served meals at the Soup Kitchen last week.
- **St Joseph's Upper Hutt** welcomed people to check benefit entitlements, and distributed 125 sausages for lunch, and with the support of other Hutt communities distributed \$1000 worth of meat packs
- **JPD Commission social analysis workshop:** 30 people gathered together for a day-long reflection and analysis based on the experiences of the Upper Hutt and Naenae benefit impacts.
- Please pray for Taara Tinganga, father of **Fr Tikoua Kautu**, who died just after the last newsletter was sent.
- A reminder - the 5.30pm Vigil Mass at St Teresa's Karori on **Saturday 8 December** will celebrate the Cathedra (the Bishop's Chair) being installed and St Teresa's formally becoming the Pro-Cathedral. The Archdiocese will be re-consecrated to Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception. All are welcome.
- **Something for Advent** . Receive daily New Zealand based Advent reflections in your inbox. Sign up at www.foodforfaith.org.nz.
- All clergy and lay pastoral leaders are asked to respond to the invitation for **Advent Holy Hour and supper** on Friday 14 December. Please RSVP to my office, 496 1766 or t.halliday@wn.catholic.org.nz your attendance to this evening by Friday 7 December.
- On Sunday **13 January 2019** all are welcome to celebrate the 181st anniversary of the First Mass at Totara Point, Hokianga, . A shared picnic lunch will follow. Ph: 09 409 5330 or 09 405 7433 for directions and more information.

"The Lord stretches out his hand, freely and not out of duty. And so it must be with us. We are not called to do good only to those who like us. That is normal, but Jesus demands that we do something more (cf. *Mt* 5:46): to give to those who have nothing to give back, to love *gratuitously* (cf. *Lk* 6:32-36). Let us look around in our own day. For all that we do, do we ever do anything completely for free, something for a person who cannot repay us? That will be our outstretched hand, our true treasure in heaven."

Pope Francis, World Day of the Poor