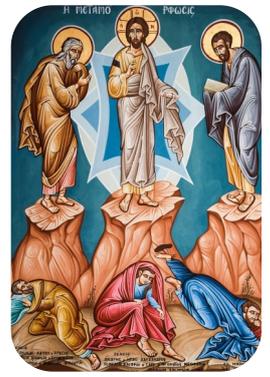




8 August 2019

Issue No: 205



## From +John...

Kia tau te rangimarie kia koutou

Two days ago we celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration. For me it is one of the most powerful and wonderful incidents in the life of Jesus recorded in the Gospel. While at prayer Jesus heard the words **“This is my chosen Son; listen to him.”** Hearing those words his identity was confirmed as the Son of God and he was able to come down from the mountain and **“resolutely take the road to Jerusalem”** or **“set his face to Jerusalem.”** He chose to set out for Jerusalem even though on the mountain he had heard Moses and Elijah “speaking of his passing which he was about to accomplish in Jerusalem.”

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July I read about the saint of the day, Saint Junipero Serra, a Franciscan friar who traveled from Spain to the Pacific Coast of America to take the Gospel to the Native Americans. Saint Junipero’s motto was **“Siempre Adelante,”** which means **“always go forward.”** For me that motto has the same meaning as Jesus “resolutely taking the road to Jerusalem.”

Just a few days ago Pope Francis sent a message in a short video clip to the Indonesian Missionary Congress with a very simple but deeply profound message. He said: **“We are not people who go backwards. No! We are people who go forward, always. Baptised and sent: the Christian goes forward and this is what ‘sent’ means. It is the Holy Spirit that impels me to go forward.”**

“Go, you are sent”, are familiar words to us as they were the words which conveyed the message of the Archdiocesan Synod two years ago.

As we look for new ways to engage, as we realise more and more that we all “are a mission” and that we have work to do which calls for all of us to be fully involved, I can think of no better words than that motto of Saint Junipero Serra **“Siempre Adelante.”** His words were inspired, I believe, by the example of Jesus who set his face towards Jerusalem.

As the Holy Father says, **“So, take courage, go forward, always forward. You are baptized and sent.”**

Naku noa

+ John

## NEWS . . .

**RIP** Please remember in prayer: **Bishop Stuart O’Connell SM (Auckland), Fr Bob Lee SM and John Mori SM and Columban Fr Maruice O’Connor** who have all died this last fortnight. May they Rest in Peace.

**Reminder - Clergy Only Day:** Tuesday 24 September has been set aside as a clergy only day . The theme of the day will be “They returned to Jesus and told him all that they had been doing” *Luke 9:10*. This will be a time to reflect and have conversations about the reality of our life today. The day will be facilitated by Cenacle Sisters Mary J Kay and Anne Powell. St Teresa’s Plimmerton will host the day which will start at 10.00am. Further information will follow in a letter which will be sent to all clergy. All clergy are asked to set this date aside as an important day for sharing with each other.

**ROYAL COMMISSION** — The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions is gathering speed [website link [here](#) ].

The 6 dioceses of New Zealand along with a number of religious orders has set up a group called *Te Rōpū Tautoko* which will coordinate and manage cooperation between the Commission and the Catholic Church. We have people working hard doing research for us so that we will be ready to answer questions which may be put to us.

On 19<sup>th</sup> August Sister Katrina Fabish RSM and I will appear before the Commission to explain something of the structure and governance of the Church in New Zealand. Please pray for all those involved in this very important work.

If you require any further information please contact the Archdiocesan Royal Commission Response Team on 04 496 1756.

**“Be a gift of love & compassion for one another”**

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop  
Feast Day 8 August

*“As an older brother and a father, I too would like in this letter to thank you in the name of the holy and faithful People of God for all that you do for them, and to encourage you never to forget the words that the Lord spoke with great love to us on the day of our ordination. Those words are a source of our joy: “I no longer call you servants...I call you friends” (John 15:15)*

**From Letter of Pope Francis to priests on Feast of St John Vianney. 4th August 2019**