

Kia tau te rangimarie ki a koutou,

“To be a missionary disciple means to have had an encounter with MERCY and to lead others to it.” (Pope Francis)

Recently I read a book entitled “Tattoos of the Heart”. It is a book written by a Jesuit priest in the United States who for many years worked with drug addicts, street kids, gang members, the poor and the struggling. I found it a wonderful book with some incredible stories of love and forgiveness, stories of seeing the best in people who would often be ignored by society. One story was of a young man who had been in and out of prison, he had no confidence in himself, no self-esteem at all and thought of himself as worthless. One day a woman who was working with Fr Greg told the young man she had found a job for him, she welcomed him and treated him as he had never been welcomed or accepted before. He asked Fr Greg why she was doing this. His answer was “*because she saw you as somebody, she recognized you as the shape of God’s heart.*” His life was never the same again. Someone recognized him as the shape of God’s heart.

Over these **next two weekends** as we celebrate **MISSION EXPOs** at Viard College this Saturday and at Garin College next Saturday we are trying to put the Mission of Jesus at the heart of the Church, at the very centre of who we are. The mission of

Jesus was to give others the chance to encounter the mercy of God, and then to lead others to experience that same mercy.

Mission Expo will display the many many efforts all around the Archdiocese that help and enable people to encounter God’s mercy. It is to give thanks for the many wonderful things that are happening and to help every one of us to reflect that through our Baptism we too do not just have a mission, but in the words of Pope Francis “*I am a Mission.*”, and celebrate that fact.

When we see every other person as having “the shape of God’s heart” we are living our mission.

With every blessing

Naku noa. Na + Hoane

Please remember in prayer **Monsignor Michael Browne**, of the Hamilton Diocese who died on 2 March. May he rest in peace. Also please pray for our elderly clergy, especially Frs Bill Clancy, Michael O’Dea, Peter O’Connell and Colin Durning who are not keeping good health at present.

The Ministry of Health has issued a consultation document called “Death, Funerals Burial and Cremation: A Review of the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 and Related Legislation”. They are seeking submissions which need to be made by 10 April. Submissions can be made in two ways – making a written submission in response to the questions in the text, or by responding to the same questions in an online survey either supporting them or opposing them. Priests and others with experience of funerals may like to give their views – go to <https://tinyurl.com/deathburialcremation>

First Anniversary of Christchurch Mosque Attacks. This Sunday will be the first anniversary of the tragic shootings at the Christchurch Mosques. It will be appropriate to remember this in some way at all Masses. Perhaps a minute’s silence at the beginning of Mass, or a Prayer of the Faithful, or any other way you would like to ensure that this anniversary is observed.

April

5 Our Lady of Kapiti - Opening of new Church and Parish Centre

Chrism Mass (please note time 7pm)

7 South Island - Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Richmond, 7pm

8 North Island - St Teresa’s Pro-Cathedral, Karori, 7pm

20 - 23 Clergy Assembly - Tatum Park

24 - 26 (Anzac Weekend) - Takirua 2020: Shaping the Mission Conference; click [here](#) for more information

May

16-17 O’Shea Shield—Chanel College, Masterton

31 Pentecost Sunday - Mass for New Catholics, St Mary of the Angels - 5pm

What’s Happening

