



Archbishop of Wellington

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

27th August 2021

Dear Fathers and Lay Pastoral Leaders,

Greetings, blessings, and good wishes to you all. While we are in Lockdown and perhaps anxious and concerned about what is happening, please remember in your prayers the people of Afghanistan and the thousands of people in need of help as they seek a new and safe life. **Please read carefully the last part of this letter.**

Now that new measures of keeping everyone safe have been announced by the Government I write to remind you of what is required of everyone.

Yesterday I sent you a letter with an attachment of what we are to do to keep ourselves safe at levels 2 and 3. In that I did not say anything specific about what we are to do in terms of liturgical celebrations and parish activities.

Now that we will go to Level 3 late on Tuesday 31st August, I ask you to please be aware of the following, and to be very strict about these protocols. Not everyone observed the protocols last time and I had to tell some clergy to stop some of the practices they had adopted. The Delta variant of Covid 19 is highly infectious and therefore these restrictions are essential.

LEVEL 3 At Level 3, gatherings of 10 people are permitted. For us this will apply especially to funerals, and ALL protocols must be observed. People must wear masks, keep social distancing, sanitise, and use the Covid Tracer App or sign-in, and everyone must follow the instructions of the funeral director.

At Level 3 there are to be NO public Masses celebrated, or any other kind of public liturgical gathering.

Afghan Refugees and Situations in Afghanistan

While we are in Lockdown here in New Zealand the situation in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate. Please remember the people of Afghanistan in prayer, especially after the dreadful bombings in Kabul last night. There has been an amazing response to a post on my Facebook page to an appeal to help Afghan Refugees, people's generosity has been outstanding with offers of very practical help pouring in.

It would be very helpful if the following could be promoted through parish Newsletters:

Afghan refugees – please, can anyone help? Catholic Social Services has been resettling refugees for some time now and is facing a challenge in resettling Afghan refugees who will soon be coming to Wellington. CSS staff are desperate to find rental housing for the Wellington bound families. There are just a few weeks to find them accommodation. Anywhere in Wellington will help - City, Hutt Valley or Porirua, any 1–4-bedroom houses, flats, units that can be rented for at least 6 months and ideally longer. CSS are also seeking basic furniture and household packs for the families including bed linen, towels, kitchen utensils etc and pantry items like rice, cooking oils, canned black/kidney beans, tea and coffee etc. If you can assist with rental housing, household and/or pantry items, basic furniture like beds, drawers, dining table, then please contact Paul Alsford at Catholic Social Services on 021 754 145 or p.alsford@wn-catholicsocialservices.org.nz

Thank you.

E te Atua aroha, ka karangahia houtia matou

e koe ki nga hua o te ora

Loving God, you call us anew to the abundance of life
for which we have been created.

In our life with you we mature

in relationship with you,

with one another, and with our land.

We repent the harm we have caused in this holy place
to our sisters and brothers and to our land.

In hi-humility we turn to Mary,

Mother of God, Assumed into Heaven.

(Rededication Prayer, Feast of the Assumption 2021)

With all good wishes and every blessing

Yours sincerely in the Lord



John Cardinal Dew