



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

It is time, after almost 57 years that we all took notice of the phrase “*The People of God*”.

It is time we recognise that “*the People of God*” refers to everyone, to all the baptised. Pope Francis knows this. Pope Francis in a courageous move has asked every Bishop in the world to ensure that people will be consulted in preparation for a Synod in Rome in 2023. A synod that hopefully will enable everyone to know and to experience that we are *in communion* with every other baptised person and help us *to participate* in the life of the Church and to be “*on mission*”.

That phrase *The People of God* appears in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*) of the 2nd Vatican Council. This document opened the way for a new understanding and theological insights into appreciating what the Church is, and who its members are.

When the document was being prepared in the early 1960s it began with a reflection on the Mystery of the Church and then went straight on to speak of the Pope and the Bishops, the clergy and then the laity. After much thought and much discussion those gathered placed the topic of *The People of God* straight after the discussion on the Mystery of the Church, so that *the People of God* came first, then Pope, bishops, clergy etc.

The People of God is the promise of full equality and the full inclusion of men and women, lay and ordained, rich and poor, saints and sinners. The Church is us. We are all invited to be part of the synod process which will lead up to the Synod Assembly in 2023. Soon you will see more information about how this consultation will be carried out in our diocese.

I would love to see hundreds of people involved. It is our journeying together that most effectively shows what the Church really is, people on a journey together, the pilgrim and missionary people of God. Please keep your eyes and ears open so that everyone has the opportunity to respond to this consultation which has come from Pope Francis.

Nāku noa, John

The Lord's Prayer—in A Covid World

Our Father in heaven - *We are helpless and so vulnerable without you*

Hallowed by your name - *We call your name with bowed heads and outstretched arms. The holiness of your creation is under threat as Covid plays greedily with life*

Your kingdom come - *The virus confronting us spawns disruption and disharmony, separation, isolation and death - so opposed to your kingdom of light and grace and peace. Enclose us in your loving embrace that we might know the splendour of your reign*

Your will be done on earth as in heaven - *Your love for the world brought Jesus to us; you spoke your Word to us in him. We have not always listened. Our misuse of your gifts has surely contributed to our present distress. Help us to honour your will in all things.*

Give us today our daily bread - *The virus has isolated us from one another, starving us of company and the means to live in the joy of community. Feed us now with awareness of how necessary our connection is to one another and to all creation. May our care and love become the daily bread that feeds every life.*

Forgive us our Sins - *We have wasted and spoiled much of your creation. We have thought only of ourselves. Perhaps this is why the virus attacks only humans. Shake us awake to our indifference. Forgive our selfishness, our neglect, our greed.*

As we forgive those who sin against us - *It is easy to feel hard done by, to blame others for our own ills. Yet forgiveness is so healing, calming, peaceful. Rid us of all resentment which, like the virus, isolates and destroys. Withholding forgiveness locks down pity and mercy.*

Save us from the time of trial - *The pandemic of Covid-19 has shown us the negative side of exclusion. It is the doorway to loneliness and the end of community. Save us from any temptation to exclude others, to belittle or devalue companionship. This is the trap that Covid sets. Protect us.*

Deliver us from evil - *Come to our rescue, gentle and merciful God. Bring us through this terrible time with our faith and love stronger, with a clearer vision of your precious gift of life, and with a fuller understanding of our responsibility in the world that means so much to you.*

For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours now and forever.



NOTICES

- Please keep in your prayers all our clergy. The frail and those who are experiencing ill health at present are Frs Colin Durning, and Peter O'Connell.
- Please also remember in prayer Claudette Berecz mother of Fr Stephen Berecz who has died. May she rest in peace.
- **CLERGY RETREAT CANCELLED** - due to the uncertainty of these times the decision has been made to cancel the annual Clergy Retreat. It is hoped that we will all be able to gather in 2022.
- **Opening Mass for Synod** - on Sunday 17 October at 10am Mass will be celebrated at St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral to mark the opening of the Synod on "Towards a Synodal Church, Communion, Participation, Mission." All parishes that day will mark this occasion and pray for the success of the Synod. All parishes will mark this day at Masses.

Anniversaries of Ordination— September

- 1 David Dowling (2007)
- 4 Archbishop Paul Martin sm (1993)

There is a gaze and a heart that penetrates to your very marrow and loves you all the way to your destiny, a gaze and a heart that no one can deflect from this course."

Fr Luigi Giussani

Anniversaries of Death — September

- 1 Michael Faherty (2009)
- 7 Lawrence Hickey (1979)
- 9 John Finbarr O'Brien (1995)
- 10 Michael Anthony Cahill (1995)
- 11 Desmond Moosman (2017)
- 15 Patrick Minogue (1970)
Philip Tuohy (2001)
- 16 Eric Urlich (2017)
- 17 Patrick Carmody (1979)
- 19 Nicholas Moore (1985)
- 21 Brendan Kenny (2013)
- 25 John Griffin (2014)
- 26 Albert Joseph Heavey (1974)
- 30 Michael Brennan (1980)
Peter Dunn (2009)