



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

In his first document as Pope, Pope Francis wrote *“I invite all Christians everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her since no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.”* Evangelii Gaudium 3

Last Sunday in his homily for the opening Mass to begin the 2-year process of consultation for the Synod on *Synodality, Communion, Participation and Mission* he encouraged all Catholics to become *“experts in the art of encounter”*. He wasn’t just talking about that renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, that kind of encounter needs to be something we do every day unfailingly, he says. He was speaking of an encounter meaning *meeting our fellow Catholics by being ready to listen to them with our hearts and our ears*. We have all been invited, every single baptised person in the world to meet other Catholics to listen to them, and to allow God to help us to walk together *“wherever we are”*. Pope Francis speaks of this as the Synod process of consultation beginning this coming Sunday 17 October, as *“an adventure in which everyone must take part”*. He wants us to make this an adventure, not just another task to be done, but an adventure in which we imagine together the future of the Church. He had a wonderful line in his homily where he said *“Let us not soundproof our hearts; let us not remain barricaded in our certainties”*.

Now is the time for all of us to genuinely encounter one another, listen to one another as we journey through life. Now is the time to listen to one another and to hear with our hearts, and not just our ears. This is for the good of the Church, this is for our good. Pope Francis longs for a Church in which we are open to listening to one another. That means everyone.

Over these next few weeks look for opportunities to become *experts in the art of encounter*, to engage in the Synod consultation process, to feed in your ideas of what the Church should be in the future, and above all let’s pray together for the success of this incredible adventure we have been invited to join in with over the next couple of years.

Nāku noa,

John

*“God’s style is nearness, compassion and tenderness. He always draws near to us, is compassionate and tender ... Allow me to say, we are saints. But then, by our actions, we become sinners. But fundamentally, we are saints.”*

Pope Francis General Audience Sept 2021



## NOTICES

- Please keep in your prayers all our clergy. The frail and those who are experiencing ill health at present are Frs Colin Durning, Frank Mcguire, Peter O'Connell and Mons John Carde. Last Saturday while Fr David Gruschow was at Hayden Powick's ordination in Richmond his house in Westport caught fire. A considerable amount of damage was done internally. Click [here](#) for a link to the Stuff article. Please remember David in your prayers at this times.
- **Congratulations** to Alfred Tong, who was ordained a Deacon for the Archdiocese on 2nd October and to Hayden Powick ordained a priest on 9th October for the Society of Mary.
- **Registrations** for Sunday Masses are now available on the Archdiocesan Website. Click [here](#) to register for Mass at your local parish, or another parish in your area. This booking system will be open from Wednesday 9am to Friday midday each week while we are in Alert Level 2.
- **Opening Mass for Synod** - this coming Sunday 17 October I will be celebrating the opening Mass of the Synod on "Towards a Synodal Church, Communion, Participation, Mission." at 10am Mass at the Pro-Cathedral, St Teresa's, Karori. If you wish to attend this Mass you will need to register by clicking the link above and choosing Otari Parish. All parishes that day will mark this occasion and pray for the success of the Synod.

### *Adsumus Sancte Spiritus - Prayer of invocation to the Holy Spirit for an ecclesial assembly of governance or discernment (thus synodal)*

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path

nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life

and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You,

who are at work in every place and time,

in the communion of the Father and the Son,

forever and ever. Amen.