



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

Last weekend as we celebrated Pentecost Sunday I recalled the homily of Pope Francis on Pentecost Sunday 2021, when he began by saying Jesus promises to send us, his disciples, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Father continued by speaking of the Holy Spirit as the ultimate gift, the gift of gifts. And then speaking of the gift of gifts, he referred to Jesus using an unusual and mysterious word to describe the Spirit - the word of course was “Paraclete.” That’s a word which is not easy to understand or translate, but it does have two particular meanings, they are “Comforter” and “Advocate.”

Over the last several months the whole of the Archdiocese has been encouraged to take part in the Synod process, and in doing so has been asked to listen carefully to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us as the “People of God.” Thank you for the wonderful way you have taken part in that process, which will of course continue throughout the world for some time. Please ask the Holy Spirit to be our Comforter and our Advocate, please keep pleading with the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us.

At the end of last year’s Pentecost homily Pope Francis concluded with this prayer, this Pentecost let’s make his prayer our own.

“Holy Spirit, Paraclete Spirit, comfort of our hearts. Make us instruments and missionaries of your comfort, paracletes of your mercy before the world. Our Advocate, counsellor of the soul, make us witnesses of the “today” of God, prophets of unity for the church, and humanity, and apostles grounded in your grace, come which creates and renews all things. Amen.

I am very sorry to have missed the Archdiocesan Synod Gathering due to contracting COVID-19. My thanks to all who organised the Gathering and those who took part. We are playing our part locally in the global synod process, which reminds us that we are part of a church which extends throughout the world and which is guided and rejuvenated by the Holy Spirit.

With every blessing

Nāku noa. Nā

+ John



NOTICES

- Please keep in your prayers all our clergy. The frail and those who are experiencing ill health at present are Frs Frank Maguire, Peter O'Connell and Mons John Carde. We also pray for our clergy who have tested positive for COVID and are now isolating and recuperating at home. We wish them a speedy recovery.
- The season of **Confirmation** is upon us. Please keep in prayer all those taking this further step in their faith journey.
- **Clergy Jubilee Mass** will be celebrated on Thursday 14 July at St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie at 11am followed by lunch at The Pines, Houghton Bay. All are welcome to attend Mass and celebrate with the clergy of the Archdiocese.
- **Archbishop Paul Martin SM** will be permanently in Wellington from 22 June. **Bishop Michael Gielen** will be installed as the new bishop of Christchurch on 9 July. A ceremony of welcome for Archbishop Paul will be arranged in due course. Please keep both Archbishop Paul and Bishop Michael in your prayers at this time.
- **Date Saver** - Tuesday 19 July, Safeguarding Formation Day. St Mary of the Angels, Wellington 9.30am - 4.30pm . Offered in conjunction with Te Kupenga and the National Office for Professional Standards. Further information and registration details will be sent out in the next few days. Contact Sr Catherine Jones c.jones@wn.catholic.org.nz for more information.

HEARTS ABLAZE

Beautiful Lord, may we say "yes" to you
so that the Spirit in our hearts will
once again be set ablaze.

Spirit of Wisdom,
guide our actions so they tell of God's love.

Spirit of Truth,
open our eyes to see the world as it really is.

Spirit of Power,
enthuse us to work for justice throughout the world.

Spirit of Love,
inspire us to respect the dignity of each person.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts.
Come, Holy Spirit, fill us.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come.

Stephen Davies
CAFOD

