



Kia tau te Rangimarie kia koutou

On Monday, 15 March, The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care commenced Phase 2 of its Hearings which will run until 29 March 2021. This phase of the Hearings will hear evidence from the Salvation Army, the Anglican Church and the Catholic Church, and will focus on the processes for resolving historic and current abuse claims.

Evidence from the Catholic Church representatives will begin on 22 March, with an opening address from me, followed by evidence from Rev Dr Thomas Doyle, canon lawyer (USA). Br Peter Horide (Marist Brothers), Fr Tim Duckworth (Society of Mary) and Virginia Noonan (National Office of Professional Standards) will present their evidence on 23 and 24 March. Finally, on 25 March, and as Metropolitan of New Zealand, I will speak on the diocesan approach to redress, the Catholic Church's national approach to redress, and developments in redress from the Vatican. These Hearings are public, and the timetable may be found on the [Royal Commission website](#).

I ask for your prayers at this difficult time; not just for those of us giving evidence, but for the survivors of abuse and our Catholic Church community as a whole. Be mindful of each other and those who may be suffering. As Pope Francis said, *"How beautiful it is when people select their words and actions with care, in the effort to avoid misunderstandings, to heal wounded memories and to build peace and harmony."* Let our words and deeds communicate our care for one another.

Naku noa

+ John

Almighty God and Father, you love all people and have sent your Son to heal those who are wounded. In the midst of our world, your Church is called to proclaim your love and kindness. But countless children, youth and adults have become victims of crimes in your Church. Many have fallen silent and could not call for help. Others have spoken, but no one has believed them, or they have been called liars and silenced. This is what we ask of you, the Father of the poor and the friend of life.

Open our ears to the message of those who have been violated and hurt in the midst of your Church. Touch our hearts with the pain of those who have been mistreated and abused. Let us recognise the wounds of the people and show us how we must act so that the truth is not suppressed and justice is given to the injured. Do not let our failures cause people to lose faith in you and your gospel.

Meeting—Protection of Minors in the Church

Vatican 21-24 February 2019

NOTICES:

Please continue to pray for the sick and elderly clergy especially, Frs Maurice Carmody, Don Morrison, Colin Durning and Kevin Connors and for those who are waiting test results.

Chrism Masses

Everyone is invited to attend the Chrism Mass held during Holy Week. Please note the dates in your diary now.

Palmerston North, midday on Monday 29th March at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

Wellington, South Island, 11.40am Tuesday 30th March at Garin College

Wellington, North Island, 7pm Tuesday 30th March at St Teresa's Pro-Cathedral, Karori

Instructions for Holy Week services will be forwarded to all parishes tomorrow [Friday 18 March].

Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land The Christians of the Holy Land have suffered greatly during the pandemic. Many are poor and lost their livelihoods due to the absence of pilgrims. Every year the collection for the Holy Land is taken up on Good Friday and it provides support for housing those in need, the ill, orphaned children, and the parishes and schools of the Holy Land. Last year's collection was much reduced worldwide due to the pandemic. Please encourage people to contribute generously this year. A suggestion has been to provide parishioners with the parish bank account number so a direct debit can be made as people no longer carry cash on them.. Remind parishioners to include ***Holy Land donation*** as their reference.

Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institution

For several months an enormous amount of work had been going into preparing for the Church to appear before the Royal Commission. I will give evidence along with others during the week of 22nd -26th March. Your prayers will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Date Saver:

The Annual Clergy Jubilee Mass and Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday 14 July** at St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie followed by lunch at The Pines in Houghton Bay. Please note this in your diary now.

