

Archdiocese of Wellington



The Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Saint Mary His Mother was re-opened on 7 June 2024 after being closed since 2018 for earthquake strengthening.

Annual Report 2024



ARCHBISHOP OF WELLINGTON

17 March 2025

Dear friends

Tēnā koutou katoa.

Every year has its unique events which, because they only occur occasionally, may seem to define the year. In my time in parishes and schools, in Bishops Conference meetings, in meetings with other Church Leaders, I am often aware that there is a huge flow of work that continues every single day, in the Archdiocese and the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand. While the unique events may be highlights of a year, it is the continuing flow of ministry and work which shapes, supports, ministers to and unites us as one people in our following of Jesus Christ.

The most visible change in the life of parishes has been the increased number of religious order priests ministering in parishes. We now have the Society of Divine Word, the Passionist Fathers, the Missionaries of Faith, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and the Society of Mary ministering in parishes together with several priests from overseas dioceses. We are part of a global Church and the willingness of religious orders and other dioceses overseas to share their people with us is a great gift.

The Royal Commission on Abuse in Care began its work in 2018 and publicly released its final report and recommendations in July 2023. We entered into the process voluntarily by asking the government to include churches in the Commission's brief. The process in those years has been difficult, but very necessary, for the Church, and essential for survivors of abuse. The process did not finish with the Commission's report as the implementation of its recommendations now needs to happen.

On the weekend of 7-9 June 2024 we had the joy of re-opening our Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. The building is stronger and has the required earthquake strengthening, which is not as visible as the refreshed interior which has made the cathedral lighter and brought out the full beauty of this historic building. My thanks go to the many people who did work on the cathedral project, who fundraised for it or provided donations, who did the actual work on the building, and especially to those who carried the burden of leading the project. The Archdiocese once again has a beautiful place as its spiritual home.

In October Manuel Beazley from Auckland, Fr Dennis Nacorda and I attended the month-long second session of the *Synod on Synodality: Communion Participation Mission* in Rome. At the end of the session Pope Francis approved the Final Document and declared it to be part of the ordinary Magisterium of the Successor of Peter. The conclusion of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops does not put an end to the synodal process, as Pope Francis said in his Final Greeting to the Synod Assembly:

We come from all parts of the world, from places marked by violence, poverty and indifference.

Together, with the hope that does not disappoint, united in the love of God which has been poured into our hearts, we can not only dream of peace, but commit ourselves with all our might so that, even if we don't say much about synodality, peace may be achieved through processes of listening, dialogue and reconciliation. The synodal Church for mission now needs the words we have shared to be backed up by deeds. And that is the path.

Yours in Christ



+ Paul Martin SM
Archbishop of Wellington

Contents

Office of the Archbishop	5
Vicar-General	5
Vicar for Education	7
Safeguarding	11
Archives	13
Complaints and Concerns	14
Privacy	15
Advisory Bodies of the Archdiocese	17
Council of Priests	17
Archdiocesan Pastoral Council	19
Board of Administration	21
Ecology Justice and Peace Commission	22
Migrant Groups	24
Samoan Chaplaincy	24
Tongan Community	26
Filipino Chaplaincy	28
Archdiocesan agencies	30
Church Mission	30
Catholic Social Services	34
Seasons for Growth	37
Office of the General Manager	39
General Manager	39
Statement of Financial Administrator	40
Welcom	41

Office of the Archbishop

Office of the Vicar-General Annual Report 2024

The key objective of the Vicar-General's role is to assist the Archbishop as necessary in the work of the Archdiocese of Wellington.

Specific responsibilities of Vicar-General

Maintenance of some diocesan records, statistics, marriage dispensations.

Ex-officio member of Council of Priests and Consultors.

Archdiocesan Clergy appointments process; orientation of International Clergy new to the Archdiocese.

Administrator, Te Ngākau Tapu parish for Māori, Parish Priest of St Francis of Assisi Ohariu Parish.

Coordination of migrant chaplaincies; pastoral care of Spanish-speaking Catholics.

Work in 2024

Archdiocesan Synod follow-up: worked with Maya Bernardo of the Church Mission office on ways of involving migrant communities in the life of parishes and the Archdiocese.

Orientation of priests new to the Archdiocese: orientation (Landing the Waka programme) was organized in conjunction with the Church Mission office (Chris Duthie-Jung, Lucienne Hensel, Maya Bernardo). A monthly meeting for participants at varying venues replaced the previous one-off 3-day intensive event to allow a more continuous accompaniment, although those in the South Island usually had to join by video link. During 2024 priests arrived from India, Philippines, Fiji and Kiribati; in 2025 there will be priests born in Papua New Guinea, Australia, and India. Religious congregations represented in the Landing the Waka programme in 2024: Society of Divine Word, Passionist Fathers, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. About 10 clergy or pre-seminarians attended on a regular basis. There was also continued work with 3 Vietnamese pre-seminarians attending language school, and placed in local parishes. One was ready for the seminary in 2025. The gathering of information for visas requires much time.

Social Justice, Care of the Poor, Care of the Earth: I continue on the Archdiocese's Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission and its Bicultural committee, and also working with Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand.

Vicariate records: Some gathering of parish statistics has shifted to the Archbishop's executive assistant, Jude McKee, but I continue to work with Dorothy Jansen on police vetting records. The Archdiocese's Marriage Coordinator continues to oversee marriage preparation and process marriage papers.

Safeguarding, police vetting and complaints handling: I work with the current Archdiocesan Safeguarding Officer, Kevin Plant, especially in terms of the vetting of clergy ministering in the Archdiocese. I also assist with the handling of some complaints through the Archdiocese's complaints process. Following the Royal Commission into Abuse in State and Faith-Based Institutions Report in 2024 we await further developments in these areas.

Work with Māori: While the Archdiocese awaits a new adviser on things Māori I picked up some of that work in conjunction with my role as Parish Priest of Te Ngākau Tapu Parish. Fr Alfred Tong is also beginning work in this field as an assistant priest for both Ohariu and Te Ngākau Tapu parishes.

Tasks and challenges for 2025

Follow up on the synodal processes mandated by Synod on Synodality 2021-24.

Safeguarding policy implementation with clergy in the Archdiocese.

Expand participation of migrants in life of the local Church along with Church Mission office.

Assisting in Māori Pastoral Care, working to broaden participation.

Msgr Gerard Burns

Vicar-General

February 2025

Vicar for Education and Catholic Schools Education Services Annual Report 2024

"... Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others."

(St John Paul II, Message to the Catholic Educational Association of the United States, 1979)

Highlights

- Hautūtanga leadership programme – 37 participants. Evaluations received are overwhelmingly positive. A number of participants moved into the leadership positions - 1 to Principal; 5 to periods of Acting Principal; 5 to Deputy Principal; 1 to Acting SLT role; 1 to DRS; 1 to Acting HOD. While the promotions are not necessarily attributed to the HLP course, they do demonstrate that the course is targeting teachers considering stepping up to higher leadership roles in Catholic education.
- Twilight Korero on Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Three professional development workshops on building understanding of CST, *Laudate Deum* and *Who is my Neighbour?* These were very well attended and offered across the Archdiocese, with 581 attendees across the 3 workshops. This indicates relevance for our teachers. In 2025, the opportunity will be given for schools/teachers to identify a CST-based project to run throughout the year, with the chance to collaborate with other schools. Check-ins will occur each term.
- Working group across the Dioceses and Te Kupenga. Work has begun on creating a leadership programme that compliments existing offerings and provides consistency across the Dioceses.
- Catholic Convention.
- Scholarship from Catholic Foundation for teachers to finish and/or gain the Certificate of Christian studies.

Staffing

<i>TBC</i>	Administrator
<i>Anna Maria Vissers</i>	Religious Education Advisor – Primary
<i>TBC</i>	Religious Education Advisor – Predominately Secondary
<i>Gerard Tully</i>	Leadership Mentor and Advisor External Evaluator for Secondary Schools
<i>Kelly Ross</i>	Vicar for Education/Schools Manager
<i>Zita Smith</i>	External Consultant for Catholic Character Evaluations for Primary Schools
<i>Mary Cook</i>	External Consultant for Catholic Special Character Positions

Priorities for 2024

- New Curriculum Professional Development (PD)
- Internal Evaluation
- Qualifications

- Continue to increase participation in PD and services offered by CSES with focus on those schools who have not engaged in PD opportunities and identifying their needs.

Response to 2024 Priorities

New Curriculum PD

Termly workshops offered for DRSs and teachers on the new curriculum, with 17 tailored professional development workshops.

Secondary School DRSs and teachers had the opportunity to join the Palmerston North professional development session on the Level 1 curriculum.

12 short videos on cross-themes in the new curriculum, prepared by Christchurch Education Team, were shared with Boards to review at Board meetings.

Qualifications - Working towards Certificate of Christian Studies

Principals continue to ensure their teacher's well-being, which has led to a decrease in numbers completing papers. The cost of the papers is also prohibitive for some schools. The scholarship from the Catholic Foundation has been well received, with 5 applications already approved. This aims to help remove the financial barrier to completing a relevant qualification.

Increased Participation in Professional Development offered by CSES

Two retreat opportunities were offered for staff at schools. The first was well attended with 19 attending, but the 2nd had a lower attendance, likely due to its timing in Term 4.

Several schools still have not requested tailored support or attended the offered workshops. These will remain a focus in 2025. REAs will be encouraged to visit these schools and discuss their specific needs.

Boards

Monthly workshops were offered either face-to-face or online, with online workshops being the preferred option, though some board meetings were attended in person to deliver professional development.

Gerard Tully supported 3 presiding members in the appointment process of their new Principals.

2024 Workshop Attendance

Workshops offered helped ensure schools met the requirement of 12 hours professional development a year, as requested by the Bishops.

Total Workshop Participants - 1269

Primary = 369

Secondary = 24

Leadership = 176

Combined = 621

Board = 79

Face to face = 1008

Online = 261

Te Kupenga Papers: Religious Education Today = 4; Understanding Old Testament = 20;

Catholic Social Teaching = 1; What Makes a School Catholic = 1; Interpreting New Testament = 12 (attended but did not complete assessment)

Having Life to the Full – Sexuality Programme: special thanks to Lyn Smith for presenting the final 2 days of HL2F at Garin College. It is pleasing to see schools prioritising teacher participation.

The Catholic Education Network

The number of students in our schools for 2024, based on the July returns to the Ministry of Education, is 11,744 (2023 11,237, 2022 11,371). Of these, 6,691 in primary education, and 5,053 are in intermediate and secondary.

Data shows that 47% of Catholic primary schools and 67% of Catholic colleges are at 70% or above their maximum rolls.

Leaver's data indicates that 61% of primary students continue their education in Catholic colleges. Two schools have not yet provided data.

Network Review Progress

St Bernard's School Brooklyn - Ministry of Education consultation process is underway.

Cardinal McKeefry School Wilton – Ministry of Education consultation process is underway.

St Francis Xavier School Tawa – initial meeting held regarding possible re-capitation. Follow-up early in 2025.

St Theresa's School Plimmerton – initial meeting held regarding maximum roll increase and possible re-capitation. Follow-up early in 2025.

Property

Building Projects

19 building projects were completed, with many others in various stages of completion. These include:

- 8 new classrooms
- 7 remodelling of classrooms
- 2 admin upgrades
- 5 new toilet blocks
- 2 new fire systems
- Hall refurbishment
- 3 exterior window/door replacements

Current projects - 10 schools are currently undergoing refurbishments.

Major projects due to start – planning complete, out to tender or about to start:

- Chanel College – Refurbish student toilets, hallways and tech block; new switchboard.
- St Joseph's Kaikoura – Recladding of south side of the main block.
- St Teresa's Featherston – Refurbishment of F Block.
- St Anne's – Reconfiguration of administration area.

Smaller projects not included above - new carpeting in several classrooms across various schools.

External Catholic Character Evaluation

The Catholic Character focus for 2024 was on New Curriculum, Integration, Preference and Qualifications. 7 Primary and 3 Secondary Evaluations were completed.

Common recommendations for Primary schools

Create professional development plans for staff needs and how to address them.

Strengthen and embed internal evaluation processes.

Common recommendations for Secondary schools

Improve the teaching of Health and Sexuality Programmes by ensuring teachers have completed Having Life to the Full professional development.

Foci for 2025

Establishing a full CSES team

Continuing to engage all schools in professional development opportunities especially tailored support.

Supporting leaders and growing leadership capacity in all schools.

Qualifications – PD and certification hours.

Identifying reasons why some Primary Catholic students are not continuing onto Catholic Colleges.

Network Review.

Conclusion

CSES is dedicated to strengthening Catholic Special Character and Education by providing professional development opportunities for Principals, teachers, and boards. We will continue our support and mentoring for Principals as we move forward.

Looking ahead to 2025, it is essential to not only meet the identified professional development needs but also proactively address the distinct needs of each school. By focusing on inclusivity and outreach, we can ensure that CSES's professional development programmes are accessible to all schools, thereby supporting the success of Catholic education and upholding the Special Catholic Character of our schools.

Kelly Ross

Vicar for Education

February 2025

Safeguarding Annual Report 2024

Priorities for 2024 and response to them

Recruitment and induction of Safeguarding Coordinator for the Archdiocese

Commencing in the role in February 2024, I received induction into the work and nuances of Safeguarding from Lesley Hooper, who has long experience in Safeguarding.

Continue the promotion of the Te Kupenga Safeguarding course, with an introductory day for new participants

There were two Te Kupenga Safeguarding Courses – Safeguarding in the Catholic Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (SCCANZ) – delivered during 2024 with introductory days. In April six priests, new to both the Archdiocese and New Zealand, commenced the online course and a further SCCANZ course was undertaken in the South Island in October.

Develop appropriate social media platforms for wider communication about safeguarding.

This is an ongoing process.

Initiate a parish review process

One parish was formally reviewed during 2024 and further reviews are being scheduled during 2025.

Sixteen parishes voluntarily responded and completed a Safeguarding Self-Review during the year and the feedback will be used to enhance communication and future strategies.

Conduct regular visits to parishes for workshops, and staff formation

Thirteen parishes were visited in the latter half of the year – some on multiple occasions depending on their need. During this period, twenty-five Workshops and presentations were delivered to 307 attendees.

Continue to develop resources, including workshops, that reflect cultural and linguistic diversity

This is an ongoing process. There has been discussion with one cultural group and an offer to pursue the delivery of a Safeguarding Workshop in their language in order to encourage greater participation from their community.

Collaborate in the reception, reflection and response to the Royal Commission Report into Abuse in Care.

In response to the many questions about the Royal Commission while delivering workshops, facts from the numerous reports supplied by the National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) on the Royal Commission outcomes were incorporated into the workshop presentations. Audiences were appreciative of the update.

Overview

As noted above, the focus for 2024 has been one of learning and imparting Safeguarding knowledge and understanding to parishioners throughout the Archdiocese and to various associated groups. The workshops utilise a presentation developed by NOPS and delivered by all Safeguarding Leads in each Diocese in order to ensure there is a common message imparted nationally.

The value of these workshops cannot be underestimated as they provide an opportunity, not only for those in ministry to share safeguarding stories and experiences, they also provide parishioners who are not actively involved in ministry with an opportunity to learn about safeguarding and the steps the Church is taking through policies and procedures, to protect our vulnerable. Feedback from the workshops provides valuable opportunities to enhance future training. Some suggestions being:

- Discussion on more targeted scenarios
- Cross-cultural issues, such as having workshops presented in other languages
- Specific issues relating to young people
- Resources

Liaising with NOPS and the other Diocese Leads is valuable from a support and information sharing perspective. The monthly online meeting and two-day annual conference helps inform best practice, the opportunity to review policy and to discuss areas such as the GCPS Consulting report.

The Parish Safeguarding Advisors are valuable contributors to the Safeguarding message at a Parish level. Their input into ensuring process is followed and that paperwork flows is appreciated. They, along with the Parish priest and Parish administration, ensure that our Police vetting of those in Ministry is kept up to date. Dorothy Jansen at the Archdiocese office maintains accurate and precise records of the 820 Police vetted individuals and provides quarterly updates to the parishes.

Priorities for 2025

Visit and deliver Workshops to Parishes not yet visited.

Initiate a Safeguarding Adviser formation day.

Deliver a SCCANZ introductory day for new priests to the Archdiocese.

Develop and carry out a plan for ongoing Parish reviews.

Incorporate feedback from workshops into future workshops.

Implement any suggestions and recommendations that come from the Archdiocese Safeguarding Review by NOPS in March 2025.

Kevin Plant

Safeguarding Coordinator

February 2025

Archdiocese of Wellington Archives Annual Report 2024

In June 2024 the original music of Msgr John Bernard Durham (1911-1994) was transferred to the Alexander Turnbull Library music archives. Msgr. Durham was in training for the priesthood when he volunteered for military service at the outbreak of World War II. He was soon captured and spent most of the War as a POW in Italy, Germany and Poland – in one place required to play the piano during the meals of the Commandant, who kept a loaded pistol on the table in case he was displeased by the playing. He must have been satisfied as Durham was then assigned to teach music to the Commandant's children. Some of the compositions date from this time of incarceration – 'JB Durham, Hut 41'. On his return he concluded his clerical studies and became a priest. By the 1960s he was Chancellor (head of administration) for the Archdiocese. The deposit in the Turnbull adds his work to the national music collection.

In 2024 the Archives Office acted on 101 queries to August, both external and internal. In August health issues of the archivist required suspension of the reference service for the remainder of the year, although some of the further 27 queries received were answered remotely by the archivist or other staff.

**Peter Holm
Archivist
February 2025**

Complaints and Concerns Officer Annual Report 2024

As the Archdiocesan Complaints and Concerns Officer, my role is divided between those complaints that come under the jurisdiction of the National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) and which relate to the Archbishop and the Metropolitan, and those complaints which come under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop.

The role acts as a triage point for those who have a concern or a complaint and require advice or assistance in dealing with an issue; whether it be historic or current sexual abuse or matters that are more properly dealt with at a parish level. Any concern or complaint received is actioned according to the Archdiocese's complaints procedure.

The Complaints and Concerns Officer also assists NOPS as required during an investigation of complaints of sexual abuse by religious and clergy. The role supports the Archbishop who is responsible for issuing the relevant decrees, considering investigation reports and recommendations, settlement of the complaint and, where necessary, the ongoing monitoring of safety plans.

Some of the current complaints were received following the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care and it is likely that complaints of this nature will continue to be lodged for some time.

Over the past 12 months, complaints that are the responsibility of the Archdiocese have been of varying degrees of seriousness; from those relating to historic care under Catholic Social Services to issues relating to parishioner concerns. Where possible, concerns or complaints that are more properly the responsibility of the parish are directed to the parish priest in keeping with the principle of subsidiarity. However, I have assisted where there has been a conflict of interest or difficulty in finding a resolution. Where appropriate, some current complaints were referred to the General Manager, as decision-maker eg building and property matters or Human Resources.

During year, the Board of Administration approved a revised Complaints Procedure for the Archdiocese. This procedure was designed to achieve a standardised and straightforward process for managing complaints of abuse, general complaints or concerns, and in accordance with national policies adopted by the Catholic Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. The revision also remediated an earlier anomaly that excluded volunteers and employers working for a parish.

Priorities for 2025

- Promulgation of the revised procedure with a personal approach to parishes to clarify the role of the Complaints Officer and the emphasis of being here to support to those who approach the Archdiocese for assistance.
- Following on from the revision of the complaints procedure, I intend to arrange training for those at parish level who may receive complaints, which is a separate role to safeguarding. At the moment, I am aware there is a lack of consistency in how parishes treat complaints and/or how they think they should deal with them.
- As part of new staff induction, a complaints procedure information package specifically for employees will be prepared for inclusion in the staff handbook. Ongoing training for new staff and clergy will be provided as and when required.

Elizabeth Berry
Complaints Officer
February 2025

Privacy Officer Annual Report 2024

I have now completed my first full year as the Archdiocesan Privacy Officer, supported by the national team of privacy officers under the direction of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference.

The priorities for 2024 were to raise awareness of the need within the Archdiocese for 'privacy by design', with the aim of embedding good privacy practices into the design of projects, events, systems and any personal information storage held by not only by the Archdiocesan office but also by parishes. The aim is to manage privacy risk proactively, rather than be forced to be reactive when a privacy issue comes to light.

'Mindfulness' has also been promoted as a useful tool when considering privacy in the Archdiocese. Rather than just thinking of privacy as an office box-ticking exercise, it needs to be considered in a more holistic sense of responsibility for personal information that might come across our desks or be passed to individuals informally, and to ensure there is adequate protection of this information.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the annual National Privacy Officers meeting hosted by Palmerston North Diocese in March 2024. However, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC) held its annual Privacy Week with resources, seminars and office quizzes available to encourage all New Zealanders to treat privacy as an important part of any organisation.

I was invited to speak to a session of *Landing the Waka* run by Church Mission. This was a valuable learning opportunity for both the priests new to the Archdiocese and New Zealand and for me, as the new priests come from different countries with different experiences of privacy and its obligations. It was also useful to speak at a gathering of the Parish Secretaries and Administrators because, as frontline staff they often face issues for which they seek advice or reassurance. To assist parishes, I provided a copy of "A Guide to Privacy for Parishes" (courtesy of Christchurch Diocese and amended to reflect the Wellington Archdiocese) to the parish secretaries and administrators. The Guide is also available on the Archdiocese's website.

During the year I attended an online training seminar on data mapping and the necessity for the Archdiocese to have a comprehensive record of what information is collected and held by us. This will become a priority for 2025.

As part of the Privacy Officer role, I have responsibility for the adoption and care records held by the Archdiocese and for providing information held by us when requested by those previously in our care. Mostly these are straightforward but in some complex family cases extra attention to detail is required to ensure redaction of personal information not related to the applicant. Legal advice has been sought on occasion to ensure the Privacy Act is not breached.

Priorities for 2025

In December 2024, all Diocesan General Managers were sent a copy of a memo relating to data governance and privacy risk management. Several recommendations were made by the working group, and I will be supporting the General Manager to assist the Archdiocese to actively identify and manage privacy risks.

In March 2025, the Archdiocese will host the annual meeting of the National Privacy Officers. This meeting of privacy officers is a learning opportunity and aim is for the sharing of information and collaboration to achieve consistency of practice throughout the country. The meeting will also be preparing for this year's OPC Privacy Week.

As part of new staff induction, a privacy policy and information component specifically for employees will be prepared for inclusion in the staff handbook. Ongoing training for new staff and clergy will be provided as and when required.

Elizabeth Berry
Privacy Officer
February 2025

Advisory Bodies

Council of Priests Annual Report 2024

The Council of Priests is one of the three Canonical Bodies in the Archdiocese. Its task is to assist the Archbishop in his governance of the diocese, so that the pastoral welfare of that portion of the people of God entrusted to the bishop may be more effectively promoted. (cf. Canon 495).

The Archdiocesan Council of Priests is made up of five members elected by the clergy, five members appointed by the Archbishop, and the Vicar-General *ex officio*.

Membership and Meetings

Membership in 2024: Archbishop Paul Martin SM (president), Msgr Gerard Burns (Vicar General), Reverends Maleko Api-Tufuga, Michael Bellizzi, Patrick Bridgman (chair), Andrew Kim, Kevin Mowbray SM, Dennis Nacorda, Seph Pijfers, Joy Thottankara and Bill Warwick. Fr Patrick Bridgman was elected as chair at the July meeting. Anne Dickinson was the secretary.

Meetings: the Council of Priests met in March, May, July, September, October (short meeting by zoom) and November.

Archbishop's Briefing

The Archbishop updated the Council of Priests at each meeting on events and matters he has been involved in. In 2024 these included the Cathedral re-opening, the Synod on Synodality, NZCBC and FCBCO meetings, Jubilee 2025, the Church Leaders meeting with the Prime Minister, the Royal Commission, confirmations, clergy and staff changes in the Archdiocese, school closures, and the re-development of presbyteries. The Archbishop and the General Manager also updated the Council of Priests at each meeting on the financial situation of the Archdiocese.

Canonical Matters

On some matters the Archbishop is required by canon law to consult the Council of Priests before making a decision. During 2024 Archbishop Paul consulted the Council about the relegation to 'profane but not sordid use' (Canon 1222 §2) of St Peter Chanel Church Murchison and St Martin de Porres Church Avalon. This is a necessary step if a church is to pass out of the Church's ownership.

Clergy Gathering

The Clergy Assembly was held from 6-9 May at Silverstream Retreat Centre. It was attended by all priests appointed to parishes in the Archdiocese. The Council of Priests spent time on its planning and outcomes at the March and July meetings.

Synod on Synodality

Archbishop Paul and Fr Dennis Nacorda attended the second session of the Synod on Synodality held in Rome in October 2024. At the November meeting of the Council of Priests they spoke about their impressions of the Synod and its potential implications. Archbishop Paul noted that Part 3 of the Synod Final Document contains some practical issues for priests. The Final Document explains the ecclesiology and theology behind the structure of the Church, and its relationship with synodality, which is a means to prevent misinterpretation of what synodality is.

Pastoral Matters

The Archbishop sought the Council's advice on a number of pastoral matters, such as Alpha and similar programmes, Shine TV Masses, the NZCBC's policy on columbaria, migrant communities, preference of enrolment in Catholic schools, and working with funeral directors.

Pastoral Handbook

The Council of Priests discussed a number of policies in the Pastoral Handbook and advised on their revision. These included policies on Catholic schools, migrant groups and clergy life. The Pastoral Handbook will be re-titled Archdiocese of Wellington Norms and Policies when the revision is complete.

General Manager's Report

The General Manager updated the Council of Priests on Archdiocesan matters at each meeting. In 2024 these included the Cathedral Project, the Hill Street development, financial sustainability, organizational change in the Archdiocesan Office, insurance issues, issues to do with schools, the Royal Commission, the revision of the financial norms, and property decisions.

Clergy Trust Fund

There was an update at each meeting on the activities of the Clergy Trust Fund (CTF). The Council of Priests decided on its appointee on the Board, Fr Dennis Nacorda, with the three-year appointment taking effect at the AGM of the CTF in November 2024.

Vocations Update

At each meeting the Vocations Director, Fr Andrew Kim, gave an update on priestly vocations. This included the pre-seminarians studying English prior to going to Holy Cross Seminary, the seminarians, and potential candidates for the seminary.

2025

In 2025 the Council elected and appointed in 2023 will be in the second full year of its 5-year mandate. The expectation is that it will continue to advise the Archbishop on canonical matters, in matters to do with clergy, and in whatever other aspects of the life of the Archdiocese he consults them about or they bring to his attention.

Fr Patrick Bridgman
Chair, Council of Priests
February 2025

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Annual Report 2024

Members: Archbishop Paul Martin SM, Geoff Mettrick (Chair), Lucienne Hensel, Chris Duthie-Jung, Aroha Allen, John Richards, Resty Sales, Bridget Taumoepeau, Amber Parry Strong, Christine Ammunson, Lusía Nikolao, Bill Warwick, Fiona D’Souza, Joanna Bello.

Meetings: In 2024, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC) met three times – in March, May and August, following the format of visiting a nominated Parish on the Friday evening, before meeting as the APC on Saturday. In November, members joined with the other Archdiocesan Canonical Bodies for their annual meeting.

Visits to parishes

In March, the APC visited St Theresa’s Parish in Plimmerton. In May, it visited St Francis of Assisi Parish Ohariu, and in August, a small group of members visited Richmond to catch up with parishioners from the Nelson/Tasman area. The overall purpose of these visits was two way - to help parishes to become familiar with the APC, introducing its members and explaining what its function is, and to allow APC members to see and hear from local Parish ministries.

The general format for these visits has been to start by listening to key groups from each of the Parishes share what their particular ministry does, who it involves, who it reaches out to and what its plans for the future are. Overwhelmingly, the local response to each of these meetings is that parishioners have not appreciated that so many groups are active in their own Parish and that so much good work is being done. If one thing is evident from the APC Friday night visits, it is that communication within individual Parishes needs to be improved, so that parishioners know what is available, and can either contribute to the ministry itself, or lead someone else to gain assistance from it.

The second part of the evening would then continue with a coordinated mini “synodal conversation” in small groups – a time of listening and reflecting on what had been presented by ministry leaders, and consideration of what was working well and what could be done to respond to any local needs that had been highlighted. Discernment of where the Holy Spirit could be leading the Parish was also encouraged. These sessions have proven to be extremely fruitful, and notes from the small group discussions have been passed on to the respective Parish Pastoral Councils for consideration and action.

Saturday meetings

During its regular Saturday meetings, the APC has been considering Archbishop Paul’s *10 Areas for Consideration for the Future*. So far, members have discussed:

- How do we help people to develop their relationship with Christ and to ‘fall more deeply in love with him?’
- How do we help people to grow in their understanding of the faith - building on what they may have learnt many years ago, or not learnt!?
- How do we build parish communities which have a cooperative leadership structure which reflects the appropriate roles of the priests and the people?
- How do we support school communities? How do our schools become places where Christ is encountered? How can we support the church/parish connections?
- How do we support our clergy so that they are able to lead effectively and are supported in their vocation?
- How do we ensure that we are financially viable as parish communities and as an Archdiocese so that we can fulfil our mission?

The notes from these focus sessions form part of the APC minutes and are available to Church Mission and Parishes, as well as to members for future reference.

The APC also took the opportunity to meet with a group after they wrote to Archbishop Paul voicing their collective concern about the number of Catholics leaving the Church. Using an adapted synodal process, both groups listened to members speak, agreeing that it had been a fruitful conversation, and that everyone had had an opportunity to be heard. There is potential for the APC to be used to facilitate such meetings in the future and for the synodal process to be used to foster open communication between groups.

Another priority that the APC has focused on is the potential role that the *Divine Renovation* programme could play within the Archdiocese. After reading James Mallon's book, members reflected on the first four chapters and shared feedback on its potential usefulness, along with identifying and discussing any potential concerns.

Key Priorities for 2025

The APC will continue its exploration of the *Divine Renovation* programme, considering its suitability within the context of the Archdiocese of Wellington.

The members of the APC are excited about the Jubilee Year of Hope and will be encouraging diocesan-wide participation. The APC will look to assist Parishes and pastoral areas setting up Jubilee teams or running events.

The APC will continue to reflect on Archbishop Paul's remaining four *Areas for Consideration for the Future*:

- How do we continue to work to help those who are the survivors of abuse by members of the Church community? What will the impacts of the Royal Commission be for us?
- How do we ensure that our outreach to those who are in need continues to be a clear focus for our Church community?
- How do we build a culture of vocations, so that young people who may feel called to religious life or priesthood are affirmed and supported in this calling?
- How do we work nationally with other dioceses in some of these areas?

The APC will be following how lay leadership formation takes shape within the Archdiocese, following recent changes to the Lay Pastoral Leadership structure.

Geoff Mettrick, Chair
Archdiocesan Pastoral Council
February 2025

Archdiocesan Board of Administration Annual Report 2024

The Board of Administration (BoA) is an advisory body to the Archbishop and is the canonical Finance Committee of the Archdiocese (canons 492 and 493). As such, the Board has responsibility for the annual budget and the financial reporting of the Archdiocese, and for advising the Archbishop on major financial decisions. The Board is also formally responsible for policies and advice on finance, governance, risk management, employment and legal compliance. Canonically, the BoA works collaboratively with the canonical Financial Administrator (the General Manager) and his staff.

Membership: In 2024, the Board remained largely unchanged. We welcomed Julianne Hickey in June, and while Vince Arbuckle stepped down as Chair, he continues to actively contribute as a Board member. I am serving as Acting Chair until a new Chair is appointed.

Activity in 2024

Financial sustainability: Following a period of significant personnel change in 2023, in 2024 the Board and management team prioritised addressing the financial sustainability of the Archdiocese. Like many non-profit and religious organisations, the Archdiocese is facing financial challenges that require strategic management. Our current financial situation has necessitated difficult decisions to balance fulfilling our mission with declining resources. This remains a significant focus for the Board and offers an opportunity to reassess how and what we do in the Archdiocese to fulfill our mission and purpose.

Hill Street campus: During the year, the Board evaluated options for the Hill Street campus. Subdued market conditions and the response to an earlier Request for Proposal led the Board to recommend that the Archbishop pause this process. However, given the condition of the Catholic Centre and the related financial and stewardship implications, finding a sustainable long-term solution that serves the best interests of the Archdiocese and its community will be a priority in 2025. I extend my gratitude to the Board sub-committee, consisting of John O’Sullivan and Clint Ramoo, for their valuable advice to the Archbishop and General Manager throughout the year.

Critical issues: Throughout the year, the Board was briefed and provided guidance on critical issues, including the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care, the Cathedral restoration project, and updates to school and parish properties. A significant focus was also placed on the Education Network Review.

Priorities in 2025

Looking ahead to 2025, the Board's priorities will include addressing the outcomes of the Royal Commission, particularly regarding any proposed redress scheme, and advancing the initiatives of the Education Network Review.

Over the past year, our finance team has faced several challenges. We are pleased with the substantial progress in addressing the historical audit findings. While there is still work to be done, the strides we have made have strengthened our control environment. We are committed to maintaining this momentum and further enhancing our financial practices in 2025.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my fellow Board members, as well as the management and staff of the Archdiocese, for their commitment and work this year. Your contributions have been vital in advancing our priorities and serving our community.

Chris Barber
Acting Chair, Archdiocesan Board of Administration
February 2025

Archdiocesan Ecology Justice and Peace Commission Annual Report 2024

The Archdiocesan Ecology, Justice and Peace (EJP) Commission is mandated to support the Archbishop and parish communities to build bicultural relationships, go forth to address needs at the peripheries, scrutinise the signs of the times in order to be a prophetic voice on issues of injustice, and foster and promote the social teaching of the Church.

The EJP Commission has three Committees, which each focus on a specific area of the 2017 Archdiocesan Synod recommendations.

Poverty Committee: Synod outcomes 1: Go you are sent to the peripheries of society, particularly f and g: *1f: The people of the Archdiocese collectively deepen their understanding of the nature of “the peripheries” – where, what, who and why.*

Bicultural Relationships Committee: Synod outcomes 5: Go you are sent to deepen your bicultural relationship, particularly b and d: *5d: The Archdiocese continues to provide education about our history, including challenging racism in attitude and practice.*

Integral Ecology Committee: Synod outcomes 8: Go you are sent to care for creation, particular b and c: *8b: Ongoing formation based on Laudato Si’... is available to parishes, with a process that leads to practical actions by individuals and groups.*

The work of the Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission is primarily undertaken by volunteers, with the part-time support of Deirdre Meskill, who is Community Facilitator for both Ecology Justice and Peace and for Catholic Social Services (the EJP part of Deirdre’s role includes much more than the work of the Commission).

Meetings and Formation

During 2024 we have held almost all meetings of the Commission and Committees online.

Each meeting started with at least 20 minutes prayer and reflection on Catholic Social Teaching. The EJP Commission met every second month, with each of the Committees meeting in the intervening month.

In early March members were commissioned (and departing members thanked) at a Mass presided over by Archbishop Paul, and following morning tea members contributed to the ongoing reflection process for the Synod in Rome in October.

We held our annual face-to-face formation day in August, with a focus on Encounter, as well as a discussion of the Commission’s mandate, reviewing each committee’s work, and identifying priorities.

Activity in 2024

Notable points in the year’s work included:

As the Archdiocese has adopted the *Laudato Si’* Movement’s Action Platform, a vision statement for the Archdiocese has been completed and referred to the Archbishop’s office.

The Integral Ecology Committee held workshops to assist parish leaders and others interested in marking the Season of Creation (September-October). That Committee also made a submission to the relevant select committee on the proposed Fast Track legislation

The Poverty Committee has continued to be involved in the Living Wage Movement. A major initiative during the year was a Housing Forum, held on 28 September at St Bernardette’s, Naenae with approximately 22 people attending, including representatives from key local Catholic church affiliated entities involved in aspects of housing. Edna Bell and Msgr Gerard Burns facilitated the

forum and those gathered expressed a desire for the mahi to continue. The objective of the forum was to raise awareness about housing issues, including our individual and collective responsibilities for these issues from a faith perspective, as well as bringing to light various issues related to housing in Aotearoa. This work is ongoing, with a second workshop scheduled for 29 March 2025.

A major undertaking involving the Christian Life Community and the Bicultural Relationships Committee was a two-day hui on the theme Ko Te Tiriti Mai Rānō - The Treaty is Always Speaking. The hui, held at Our Lady's Home of Compassion, involved presentations and discussion of historical contexts, te tiriti and the churches, and future directions. Later in the year the Committee prepared a submission on the Treaty of Waitangi Principles Bill.

Members

2024 Commission members: Jim McAloon (chair), Mgrs Gerard Burns, Estelle Henrys, Fr Tom Rouse, Tafadzwa Dhlakama, Sr Ruth Pickering, Deirdre Meskill (EJP Community Facilitator).

Integral Ecology Committee: Estelle Henrys (Convenor), Catherine Gibbs, Tafadzwa Dhlakama, Hélène Doyle, Fr Peter Healy, Ian Munro, Fr Alfred Tong, Adrienne Gallie.

Bicultural Relationships Committee: Mgrs Gerard Burns and Christine Ammunsen (co-convenors), Carolyn Carr, Robert Oliver.

Poverty Committee: Fr Tom Rouse (Convenor), John Kennedy-Good, Sr Ruth Coleman, Sr Ruth Pickering, Ray Botardo, Des Low, Rose Powell.

During the year, Rex Begley, Catherine Gibbs, and Hélène Doyle resigned. A number of people have expressed interest in membership, and we hope to soon have them appointed.

In conclusion, I would like to express my personal thanks to Deirdre Meskill for her work in support of the Commission, to all who have been and are members of committees and the Commission, and to Archbishop Paul for his support and advice.

Jim McAloon

Chair, Archdiocesan Ecology Justice and Peace Commission

February 2025

Migrant Groups

Samoan Chaplaincy Annual Report 2024

Embracing Collaborative Ministry

The year 2024 began, entrusting our faith to God to strengthen, sustain and embracing the essence of collaborative ministry as a new way forward to do ministry in the Samoan Chaplaincy.

During the year, new ways of leadership emerged to sustain the work of the Samoan Chaplaincy such as character, passion, health, engagement and loving all people the same but treat them differently. These principles guided the work and the following activities of the Samoan Chaplaincy during 2024.

Samoan Masses in 2024 were rostered by Fr Maleko Api-Tufuga prepared in accordance with his availability, specifically outside his Parish duties and responsibilities.

The Pastoral Leadership Team under the pastoral leadership of Fr Maleko Api-Tufuga worked collaboratively with the Catechists to organise and foster pastoral activities such as seminars and workshops according to the Samoan Chaplaincy's Annual Plan.

The ministry and activities of the Samoan Chaplaincy concluded with a social evening in November 2024 to celebrate the year's work, followed by the end of year Mass celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Paul Martin to thank the Lord for his love and guidance during the year 2024.

Special events

The life and ministry of Fr Petelo Mauga was acknowledged and celebrated in his passing. He served the Archdiocese and the Samoan Chaplaincy for many years.

The Samoan Chaplaincy was represented by Fr Maleko Api-Tufuga, Pāuli Sola Nei (President), Catechist Paulo and Mrs Nive Fiso Savaiinaea at the episcopal ordination of Archbishop Mosese Tui SDB of the Archdiocese of Samoa-Apia in August 2024.

Sunday Schools

The Sunday Schools continued to use the Religious Education Programme for Children in Catholic Parishes in Aotearoa. A refresher workshop held to support Sunday School teachers followed by a Commissioning Mass in February in Wainuiomata to bless the Sunday School ministry during the year. Bi-monthly meetings were held for Sunday School Teachers and Catechists to monitor progress and provide support for the Sunday School ministry. There were 5 Sunday Schools in the Samoan Chaplaincy, namely St Michael (Te Awakairangi), St Anne (Wellington South), St Anthony (Holy Trinity), St Peter and Paul (Te Awakairangi) and St Patrick (Te Wairua Tapu). The number of children from pre-school to youth was 144 with 28 Sunday School teachers supporting this important ministry.

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry theme for 2024 was *Weaving Together Culture and Faith*, emphasising the significance of growing in faith and intertwining it with our Samoan culture and heritage. During the year, the youth gathered in worship and evangelisation using scriptural passages, song, dramatization and storytelling, intertwining it with the Samoan culture. Bi-monthly meetings were

held by the Youth Leadership Team to provide support and ensure the smooth running of youth activities during the year.

Health Partnership

In September 2024, a partnership initiative was established with Pacific Health Service Hutt Valley. The initiative is to promote and improve the health of the people in the Samoan Chaplaincy. Health programmes and services are provided free aiming to improve the health, well-being and health knowledge of the people. This initiative will expire in June 2025, but we are hoping for the relationship to continue. The two partners believe that good health has positive effects on people's spiritual well-being.

Achievements

- The *collaborative leadership* model was highly effective in 2024, modelled on a high level of transparency, clear communication and consensus decision-making.
- Smooth and effective running of the Pastoral, Sunday School and Youth ministries.
- Acquired the partnership initiative with Pacific Health Service Hutt Valley to promote and improve the health and well-being of the people of the Samoan Chaplaincy.
- Achieved the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the St Patrick's Samoan Community in Wainuiomata with a Mass of Celebration, entertainment and meal.

Priorities and Ongoing Activities for 2025

All activities of the Samoan Chaplaincy will be based on the Jubilee theme of *Pilgrim of Hope 2025*.

- Achieving the completion of the review of the Samoan Chaplaincy Constitution.
- Achieving the deliverables and evaluation under partnership initiative with Pacific Health Service Hutt Valley.
- Ongoing provision of support for the Sunday Schools, Youth and Pastoral ministries. We note the importance of the voice of youth in the work of the Samoan Chaplaincy.
- Achieving the '*unity and oneness*' of the Samoan community under the leadership of His Grace, Archbishop Paul Martin.

In conclusion, we have seen an increase in the level of passion in the Samoan Chaplaincy. In fact, Samoan people are generally passionate people. We don't see work in the Samoan Chaplaincy as a job, we see it as a calling. As a quest. As a mission. We can't wait for the next Samoan Chaplaincy activity and then attack it. We are engaged relationally; we are fully present in everything we do now in the Samoan Chaplaincy. When we are with our Samoan Chaplaincy, we are with our Samoan Chaplaincy. We give our best effort to everything that's important to the work of the Samoan Chaplaincy.

For 2025, we will allocate our energy so we can do everything we do, including rest and relaxation, with passion. Soifua ma ia manuia.

Pāuli Pula Faivaofaleupolu Sapatū Sola Nei
President, Samoan Chaplaincy
Archdiocese of Wellington
February 2025

Tongan Community Annual Report 2024

The Tongan Community of the Archdiocese of Wellington has continued to work and help to grow our parishes throughout the year, as we have been doing in previous years. There is no change from the tasks we usually do to build up our relationships as parishioners.

2024 was an unforgettable year of appreciation for our Tongan community. We had two Tongan Priests, Fr Willie Uvea SVD and Fr Akuila Talia'uli SVD who have joined our community to help and work with us. They have come from wide and far, and we are very blessed to have them with us. Although they are here for the Archdiocese, our prayers were answered that one of them would take part in our Tongan community.

With the arrival of the two Tongan priests we have been able to start fresh and initiate new goals as a community. Our official meeting was held at the beginning of the year allowing all leaders from the community to come together and express their thoughts and help map out a plan for the year.

A main focal point from our meeting for the year was to bring back the togetherness of our Tongan Community with the return of our monthly Tongan masses. This opportunity has massively impacted us all for good, as each of our three parishes take turns hosting. We were also able to reach out again to our Tongan communities in Levin and Blenheim, moving forward to include them in our monthly Masses. We are so thankful that we are able to still sustain our Tongan language and culture.

Although the year had felt like it had started off in the middle for us it was definitely a year of significance and endorsement, a year of working together to build up our spiritual faith, our relationship with others. We are looking forward to what comes in the new year where we can start afresh and begin a new journey full of growth as one community.

Highlight of 2024

In July, our Tongan community was asked to transfer the Cathedra (the Archbishop's chair) from the Pro Cathedral, St Theresa's, in Otari Parish, Karori, back to the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Thorndon, a request we humbly accepted. We were honored and prepared, knowing how important it was for the Cathedra to return to the Cathedral. We wrapped the Cathedra with fine mats, and the youth carried it according to our tradition and culture. We get along with other local Pacific communities and parishes, and we all came together to celebrate the reopening of the Cathedral. We were also very grateful to have the first Tongan Mass in the Cathedral after its reopening.

Activities in 2024

We had our first council meeting in April with the Tongan community.

The new positions for our Tongan council to guide us for the next 3 years:

Chairperson Leader: Sonatane Kula

Catechist Leader Sione Pole'o

Secretary: Lavinia Tuiketeki

All the various communities within the Tongan community still continued their tasks in their own parishes eg taking turns for the choirs on Sunday Mass, Stations of the Cross throughout the Lenten season, taking part in Parish activities and others.

We slowly moved to begin the process of creating our yearly plan for the community. Fr Akuila gave us a few months to review and process all our tasks that we used to do. There were visits to all three communities (St Joseph's Upper Hutt, St Patrick's Kilbirnie and St Teresa's Karori) to get feedback from them. Fr Akuila celebrated Mass for the elderly people and anointed the sick.

We have council meetings every 3 months to review how our communities are going according to the yearly plan, and to receive feedback. In any case of an emergency meeting needing to happen eg a funeral, we call upon the leaders of each community and discuss what we need to do.

We had our Tongan Mass take place every second Sunday of the month at 2pm. We rotated the venue for the mass between St Joseph's Parish in Levin, Star of the Sea Parish in Blenheim and our three parishes in Wellington. The program for the Tongan Community Mass is for it to be in Blenheim every 3 months, Levin every 3 months, and the same in the three communities in Wellington.

Father Akuila began a programme to teach us as a community how to pray, as well as a variety of prayers we can learn to further our understanding of our Catholic Faith and the importance of prayer.

There is a special blessing for the young children in the Tongan Community once a year.

At the end of the year, we farewelled Fr Willie Uvea SVD, as he has gone to Australia for his religious order.

We are looking forward to the Jubilee in 2025 as a time for hope and renewal. "Pilgrims of Hope" is intended to be a time of conversion, with an increased emphasis on God's mercy and forgiveness of sin.

Malo 'Aupito

Lavinia Tuiketui
Secretary, Tongan Community
February 2025

Filipino Chaplaincy of the Archdiocese Annual Report 2024

In 2024, the Filipino Chaplaincy Pastoral Council (FCPC), under the guidance of Fr Dennis Nacorda as the Priest Coordinator, continued to provide Christ-centred pastoral care to the Filipino Community through our three focus areas: Settlement, Evangelisation, and Integration.

The main activities of FCPC in 2024 included:

Settlement

- Visiting new Filipino migrants, particularly those that encounter immigration challenges, to support their settlement and better understand their needs.
- Connecting new arrivals with parish and community networks.

Evangelisation

- Celebrating the Filipino mass every first Sunday of the month in Sts Peter and Paul Church in Lower Hutt.
- Hosting the annual “Sinulog” Feast in honour of the Sto Niño, the Child Jesus.
- Observing Marian Month with a novena and the traditional Filipino procession called “Sagala”.
- Organising novena and rosary prayers to promote and deepen devotion to Our Mother Mary.

Integration

- Encouraging various Filipino communities to integrate and engage actively in their respective parishes.
- Providing strong support for local parish activities during the Holy Week.
- Holding Advent Novena Masses or “Simbang gabi” in several parishes.
- Celebrating the feast days of barangay patron saints.

The monthly Filipino mass, celebrated primarily by a roster of Filipino priests, remains the cornerstone of our pastoral care, drawing an average of over 300 attendees per month. This Eucharistic celebration continues to provide:

- an opportunity to celebrate mass in a culturally familiar setting through readings, music, and traditions, sometimes incorporating the Filipino language or shared experiences;
- a gathering for fellowship, bringing together members of the Filipino community from different parts of Wellington;
- an avenue that helps new migrants build connections that support their adjustment and settlement in New Zealand.

The Advent Novena Masses celebrated in the parishes are attracting a growing number of regular attendees, including not just Filipinos but also other parishioners. Parish communities participate by providing church ministries such as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and choirs.

Filipino communities in various parishes continue to grow and actively participate in church activities and services. Many parishes have Filipino representation in parish councils and liturgy committees, while others contribute as readers, leaders, and Eucharistic ministers. Additionally, Filipino youth are becoming more actively engaged in church life, serving as altar servers and joining church choirs.

The FCPC looks forward to 2025 with the same vision and mission of providing Christ-centred pastoral care to the Filipino community in the Archdiocese of Wellington. It will be led by a new set of officers, with Ahmed Hemady as the new chairperson.

Filipino Chaplaincy Pastoral Council
March 2025

Archdiocesan Agencies

Church Mission Annual Report 2024

In 2024 the Archdiocesan Church Mission team included the following positions and staff:

Pastoral Ministry (Lucienne Hensel)

Marriage Ministries (Simone Olsen)

Young Church Ministries (Louise Lloyd)

Parish Engagement Ministries (Chris Walkerdine)

Launch Out Formation Programme (Maria (Maya) Bernardo)

Lay Pastoral Leaders in parishes (Barbara Rowley - Te Awakairangi, Debbie Matheson – Sacred Heart Cathedral, Joe Green – Ohariu)

YC Tuākana: College Youth Ministers (Timothy Ale – Chanel, Alysse Saipani and Sabrina Brown – St Catherine’s, Nick Meli – Bishop Viard, and Sarah Beamish / Jessica Devery and Annie Watson – Sacred Heart)

Office Administration (Frank Doherty)

Director (Chris Duthie-Jung)

Our priorities in 2024

Guided by recent synods at the local and universal level, Church Mission continued in 2024 to promote and develop ways of being a synodal or listening Church. Lay formation, and especially leadership formation continued as a priority in response to synod calls emphasizing an outward, missionary focus (evangelisation).

A major emphasis this year was the refreshing of our clergy induction process acknowledging that many priests arrive from ministry within quite different cultures and need concrete assistance to adjust and become effective here in Aotearoa New Zealand. In a related way, an emerging priority became ministry support for our diverse migrant communities within our parish communities.

Vocational discernment, retreat opportunities and liturgical formation also featured in the work of Church Mission.

The above priorities were reinforced by Archbishop Paul Martin’s initial list of ten foci which were explored by the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and applied in the work of Church Mission. When Archbishop Paul returned from his participation in the two October Synod gatherings in Rome (2023 and 2024) and the Final Report was made available, we were delighted to find these familiar themes coming through as the new Catholic normal.

In 2024, the Church Mission team encompassed three Lay Pastoral Leaders in parishes and five Youth Ministers (Tuakana) in colleges as well as the ministries described below.

What we did in relation to these priorities

Lay Leadership Formation

Te Hao Nui - Launch Out continued with five candidates. Major activities included prayer, pastoral development and retreat day with a range of presenters (Sisters Regina Daly PBVM and Carmel

Cole RNDM, Fr James Lyons, Sister Mary Kay RC, Joe Green and Fr Alan Roberts). Candidates received monthly spiritual direction and continued their pastoral theological studies including joining their mentors in engaging with the Archdiocesan contribution to the preparatory documentation for the final Synod session last October.

Under the guidance of their pastoral mentors, candidates worked on their local pastoral projects throughout the year and presented a report of their work as usual. This included the following projects:

Margaret Bearsley - *Building Families of Faith* of Holy Family School, Holy Trinity Parish.

Bernadette Patelesio - Sacramental Programme for the 3 schools and 4 faith communities of Te Wairua Tapu Parish, Lower Hutt.

Victoria Raw - RCIA programme for Te Whetu o te Moana Parish, Marlborough.

Jude McKee - Synod discernment on parish mission statement among the members of the parish pastoral council at St. Theresa's Parish, Plimmerton.

Rutger Keijser – exploring possible ministries with youth and driving a project for the 2025 Jubilee year for St Mary's of the Angels Parish, Wellington.

Te Hao Nui's regular newsletter and journal on lay leadership, *Launch Out Letters*, was published ten times in 2024.

Migrant Ministry

A multicultural Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Paul Martin SM on 13 July to welcome the different ethnic communities to the newly opened Cathedral. The Mass was followed by a hui among the community leaders to hear their suggestions on how the migrant communities can take more part in the life of the Archdiocese. Taking to heart Archbishop Paul's invitation to recognise the Cathedral as 'our home', the various migrant communities have begun making themselves more at home in their Cathedral.

Landing the Waka

A significant effort in 2024 involving three of our staff plus Vicar General, Msgr Gerard Burns, was the restart of the Landing the Waka clergy induction and inculturation programme. After a 3-day (live-in) session at the end of 2023, we met monthly throughout the last year to reflect on the previous month's ministry and to explore topics of direct relevance to our clergy new to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Parish Pastoral Council and Administrator Support

Church Mission continued to keep in regular contact with parish administrators (secretaries) around the Archdiocese. Weekly email, a formation and information day in May and a 'thank you' morning tea session in November allowed us to explore and troubleshoot the concerns and issues faced at the parish level.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) chairs and members were offered three formation and information evenings in 2024, and each saw a good turnout. Working with PPC's also took place in parishes and via direct contact with Chairs via email and phone. Church Mission continues to recognise that the Parish Pastoral Council is a key synodal body in the local church and is critical to the success of the parish project.

Pastoral Ministry Support

The synodal process continued in early 2024 with a final diocesan phase in preparation for the final Synod gathering in Rome in October. Church Mission collaborated with the Archdiocesan Pastoral

Council to facilitate numerous synod conversations among targeted groups, collating feedback which contributed to the final national synthesis submitted in May 2024.

Throughout the year we continued to work with parishes to implement synodal techniques and processes at all levels. We responded to parish requests for formation and provided days of prayer and reflection for Catholic School teachers and the Aspiring Leaders programme. We also gave a very successful workshop at the National Education Convention in June.

We continued to promote the new faith formation programme, *Called and Equipped*. A lack of registrations for 2024 had seen this programme postponed, but the opportunity to further develop it saw 30 registrations from across the Archdiocese for a February 2025 start.

We ran our first *Vocations Weekend* for young men discerning priesthood, with eleven participants. During the year, a good number of young men attended our regular bi-monthly *Come and See* mornings which were held in parishes around the Archdiocese. These *Vocations Weekends* will continue into 2025 and are proving very effective.

In 2024 we continued to make the *Building Families of Faith* programme available to schools and parishes, with limited success. We also provided support to parishes in their implementation of the Archdiocesan Sacramental Programme where required.

Marriage Ministries

The Archdiocesan dual programme approach to marriage preparation for engaged couples continued this year with excellent numbers participating in both parts: 1) *Commit* and 2) *Love Is A Decision (LIAD)*. A move of venue to St Catherine's College has proved ideal for the LIAD programme allowing space and a modern environment for couples. Three couples currently present LIAD with a fourth couple in the wings to do so. *Commit* involves around twenty lay people on a regular basis meeting with individual couples in a home environment.

The formation of our marriage educators gained valuable insight this year from an examination of the key reasons and issues leading to cases coming before the Marriage Tribunal in the annulment process. Educators turned these around focussing on what positive messaging and recommendations might assist young couples in their marriages. Taking such a proactive approach and opening up conversations about sometimes taboo topics led to real insight for our educators.

With a new Coordinator this year, the focus remained on marriage preparation but in 2025 we plan to restart our St Valentine's Day Mass for couples and provide a marriage enrichment opportunity for the Archdiocese.

Young Church Ministries

2024 saw five college youth ministers (YC Tuākana) working in four Catholic colleges. The Tuākana team met throughout the year for formation, collaborated on activities in each other's schools, assisted with the leadership of the 20th *Young Catholic Leadership (YCL)* camp in December and supported the regular student-led YAFA ('youth allowed faith aloud') inter-college youth gathering.

The (young) Catholic Worker community in Berrigan House, Kelburn, continued to be a safe haven for residents and their 'walk-in' community this year. Unfortunately, the Archdiocese has had to give notice to the ministry in this location as we can no longer afford to gift this valuable property at 4 Kelburn Parade for this purpose. 2024 has been a year of preparing the community for transition to a new home.

The above mentioned YCL servant leadership camp with 70+ participants was again a great success in its 21st year in the Archdiocese. Ministries for youth continued in various parishes around the Archdiocese and another sizeable cohort of participants attended the national Life Teen Summer Camp in January 2025.

Louise Lloyd continued as the Archdiocesan representative on the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference (NZCBC) Council for Young People before completing her employment with the Archdiocese late in the year. A new Young Church Ministry Coordinator appointment is expected early in 2025.

General

In 2024, Church Mission has increasingly been engaged in parish building and development projects on behalf of the Archbishop. These projects are led by pastoral councils and finance committees and Archdiocesan guidance is needed and appreciated in what can be challenging locally led processes. Formation in synodal methods, consultation and pastoral theology are often needed and it is this expertise that Church Mission continues to offer.

Sadly, 2024 also marked a major organisational review for the Archdiocesan curia resulting in the loss of five employed positions. The constraints of a significant operational funding deficit could not be ignored leading to a regrettable reduction in Church Mission staff numbers including the loss of the three Lay Pastoral Leader appointments in the Archdiocese (the last of these to cease in early March 2025). Archdiocesan commitment to lay formation and leadership continues however with a new emphasis in coming years on volunteer roles in our communities.

Key priorities in 2025

With the publication of the Final Report from the Synod on Synodality, our commitment to a synodal, formed and missionary Church is renewed. The Archdiocese finds itself well placed to continue previous years' priorities with a strong focus on synodal bodies and practices (councils and methods), and new ways of forming our people for mission.

Te Hau Nui - Launch Out continues but will be augmented by more accessible formation programmes aimed at equipping lay people for ministry and mission.

The invigoration of parishes via tools such as Alpha, Divine Renovation and Pastoral Council renewal will remain a focus assisted by the pending release of a revised and update Archdiocesan Pastoral Handbook.

Church Mission will assist the Archdiocese in a major project around the spirituality of generosity and renewed fundraising/planned-giving efforts.

Archbishop Paul often refers to the need to revitalize and discover the Monday to Saturday Church (i.e. beyond Sunday alone) and Church Mission looks forward to developing ways to achieve this at the local level in collaboration with our Archdiocesan Pastoral Council.

Chris Duthie-Jung
Director, Church Mission
February 2025

Catholic Social Services Annual Report 2024

Staffing

2024 was a year of significant change for Catholic Social Services. Our Director, Kamau Holland, who had been with the agency since 2018, decided to step down. We are grateful for all her mahi and are thankful that she remains active in Hāto Mere – St Mary’s Parish Ōtaki. Then, in August, Linda MacGregor, our long-serving Clergy Healthcare Co-ordinator also retired. Linda was a passionate advocate for the wellbeing of our Clergy and retired Clergy.

Chris Ward joined as the new Director in August 2024, followed shortly by Angela Chapman as the new Clergy Healthcare Co-ordinator. They joined our other staff members: Deirdre Meskill (Community and Ecology, Justice and Peace Facilitator); Ian Gault (Senior Social Worker); Vivien Chiu (Administrator); Jess Ferroni (Seasons for Growth Co-ordinator) and Lyneen Allen (Community Navigator).

Following an organisational review, and the loss of an Oranga Tamariki contract, we sadly lost the Community Navigator role through redundancy. In addition, the Administrator role was reduced from full time to 3 days per week. Our best wishes and blessings go with Lyneen, who was a constant champion for those with disabilities and the Deaf community.

Priorities for the year

Our priorities for 2024 were: to be on the margins; to be more collaborative; to grow relationships through communication; to find more funding to grow our service.

The financial realities of the Archdiocese, of Catholic Social Services and of the external funding environment have meant that we have had to evaluate every part of our service and ask ourselves hard questions such as: Are we the best organization to deliver this service; is this request a priority need for us, given our limited resources; can we resource requests for help effectively so as to deliver the best outcomes for our clients?

This approach has led to focusing on delivering those services and programmes in which we have particular strengths and capacity. It is also consistent with our 2024 priorities of collaboration and communication.

What we did in relation to priorities

Refugee resettlement

We have been supporting former refugees to settle in the Greater Wellington region since 2015, in partnership with Red Cross, the Anglican Diocese of Wellington and our own Catholic parishes who so generously donate pantry items and household goods. Carolyn, our volunteer refugee resettlement coordinator, oversees our stock of items, liaises with parishes and supports the set-up of the household goods and pantry items in the houses, in preparation of their occupation by the incoming families. In November, we gathered supporters from our parishes together to celebrate their faithfulness and generosity to this programme.

In 2024, 87 people were settled (23 households). 24 volunteer groups provided household goods and pantry packs and 74 volunteers were involved in house set ups.

Social Work

We saw continuing demand during the year due to the ongoing financial crisis, with 39 new clients supported in addition to 41 clients carried over from the year before. Housing affordability and rental availability remain key issues. In addition, Wellington has been particularly badly hit with significant job losses putting additional strains on family relationships. More and more we are

having to point people seeking help to other agencies, in order to focus our resources on Family Violence protection – an area in which we have considerable expertise and contractual responsibilities to meet.

Men's Parenting programme - 'Game On' by Dads for Dads

Game On! is an 8-week facilitated programme that helps Dads to be the best Dad they can be. The programme creates a safe space where men can discuss their own experiences as a child; how their actions impact on their own children and how they can act as positive role models to their children. In 2024, 25 men attended the programme in Levin, Wellington, Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt, including one participant who has seen such a significant restoration in his relationship with his daughter that he now wants to become a social worker to continue the good work.

Our participants come from a range of backgrounds and referrals come from a variety of agencies including the Courts, schools, other social service agencies and Probation. All our dads participate as equals and value the peer support offered through each course.

Game On could not be run as extensively without the Counselling support provided by Francis, ably supported by our volunteers Duncan and Dylan.

Seasons for Growth

Seasons for Growth continues to be a major focus for our team. During 2024 we ran 5 training programmes and 2 reconnectors. We now have 60 trained companions across the motu and demand for training remains high. Most of our Companions are trained to work with children, however, one of our volunteer Companions, Bridgett, also ran an adult course at St John of God Karori residential home. A total of 20 programmes were run by Companions in 2024.

Community Facilitation

Our Community Facilitator works with parishes and other organisations in the community to help them build their capacity, identify social needs and respond to those needs in an effective and safe way.

Projects this year include:

Women's Friendship Project: We bring locally connected women and former refugee and migrant women together for intentional friendship, with a commitment to meet regularly for at least 6 months. This year we supported women in Te Awakairangi to connect with former refugees who have resettled there.

Building Connections: working with schools, parishes and agencies in the valley of Te Awakairangi to build a common understanding of the community, its needs and its strengths in order to deliver better outcomes for people in need and those on the margins.

Chaplaincy

Our 4 hospital chaplains and 1 prison chaplain deliver hope and peace to the patients, prisoners, whanau members and staff within their institutional settings. Our Hospital Chaplains enjoyed the meeting with other Catholic Chaplains from around the country at a special retreat in Auckland. A highlight for our prison chaplain was the opportunity to bring Matariki celebrations into Arohata Prison. The ceremony supported the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of the Arohata wāhine, and concluded with waiata, karakia, kai and fellowship.

Clergy Healthcare

Linda and Angela shared the load this year, working with Clergy Trust Fund, Rest Homes, Medical practitioners, the Council of Priests to ensure the health needs of our Clergy are being addressed and our Clergy are supported through times of illness and injury. They also play an important role in maintaining the social connectedness of our retired clergy.

Key priorities for 2025

Our key priorities for 2025 are to:

- Build on our strengths as we seek to deliver meaningful outcomes to those in our community experiencing significant need
- Actively seek collaboration with those who share our desired outcomes
- Grow relationships with parishes to support them in community outreach.

Other matters of significance

Our new website (www.catholicsocialservices.org.nz) was launched in November to support the Annual Appeal. This includes a copy of our Impact Statement for 2024 (<https://tinyurl.com/CSSImpact>).

Finally, a heartfelt thank you goes to all our funders, donors, supporters, volunteers and to our dedicated team for being part of the Catholic Social Services whānau. We appreciate your ongoing support and prayers for our work.

Chris Ward

Director Catholic Social Services

Seasons for Growth Aotearoa New Zealand Licence Council Annual Report 2024

The priorities for 2024 were:

- To hold a national gathering for Trainers providing support, encouragement and formation.
- To engage with Agency Leadership to renew all Agency Agreements under the new banner of *MacKillop Seasons*.
- To continue to explore how best to manage and provision programme materials including exploring the feasibility and cost effectiveness of printing key materials in Aotearoa rather than importing from Australia.
- To begin succession planning, to replace our Master Trainer who indicated in late 2023 that she would be resigning her position within the next two years.

Achievements and Notes

A successful National Hui for Trainers was held. Eighteen people attended, sharing their experiences and skills as trainers, learning from and with one another, while building a network of support and collaboration.

This also provided an opportunity for the *Seasons for Growth Aotearoa New Zealand* whānau to acknowledge the work of retiring Master Trainer Sue Devereux. Members of the wider *MacKillop Seasons* community digitally joined in from Australia.

Archbishop Paul and the License Council were informed of the change in management structure for *Seasons for Growth* from *Good Grief* to *MacKillop Seasons* in November 2023 and were hopeful that a new License Agreement would be imminent. Since this was not received until November 2024 the process of engaging with agencies and renewing Agency Agreements has been deferred to February/March 2025.

With the closure of LabOraNZ who held sole distribution rights to the *Seasons for Growth* material in Aotearoa an alternative way of ordering of bulk resources from *MacKillop Seasons* and providing a systematic way for agencies to order and receive these was required. Anglican Care Waiapu agreed to take on the role for a limited period. They are not available to do this post March 2025.

MacKillop Seasons scoped the possibility of the License Council printing the resources for *Seasons for Growth* in New Zealand. While there was some saving to the unit price, it was not sufficient to absorb the increased work that would be incurred by sourcing storage and the additional administration. Consequently, the License Council agreed it could not take on the additional responsibilities of printing the resources locally.

Brian Dawson, owner of LabOraNZ also served on the Licence Council and acted as treasurer. With his departure to the United States a new way of managing the finances and ensuring the ongoing viability of *Seasons* in Aotearoa was required. The Council is most grateful that the Archdiocese of Wellington has taken on this role and we greatly appreciate the work of Maria Rosario who has taken on this responsibility.

The replacement of Sue Devereux as Master Trainer became more important when she became ill. Sandie Speeden (Anglican Care Waiapu) and Chris Procter-Abraham (Stand Tū Māia) generously took over the responsibilities in the interim and on Sue's official retirement in December 2024, with the concurrence of Archbishop Paul, took on the Master Trainer role together.

Aotearoa New Zealand Programme statistics for 2024:

New Companions trained in young persons' programme	Young person programmes facilitated	Young person participants	Companions trained in adult programme	Adult programmes facilitated	Adult participants
117	277	1272	31	40	Seminar 149 Small gp 132

Companions trained in parent programme	Parent programmes facilitated	Participants parent programmes
7	5	25

Companions trained in the Stormbirds programme	Stormbirds programmes facilitated	Young person participants
-	5	41

Key priorities 2025

2025 will be a year of transition. The Licence Council will need new members with the resignation of Brian Dawson and Sue Devereux. The new structure of support and formation of trainers will need bedding in as we move to two people holding the Master Trainer role, and there is need to find a more permanent solution to resource distribution. Other priorities are:

- To engage with all agencies to renew Agency Agreements and update contact details to facilitate good communication and clear lines of accountability and responsibility.
- To find a structure of resource distribution that is sustainable and enables the provision of resources across Aotearoa in an accessible and financially reasonable manner.
- To realign processes and expectations as the Master Trainer role is shared.
- To introduce new members to the License Council to manage, maintain and develop *Seasons for Growth* into the future.

Other Matters

Seasons for Growth Aotearoa New Zealand exists because of the generosity of individuals and institutions that provide trainers, companions and participants with the resources and support required. Much of the work done is on a voluntary basis or is due to employers releasing staff. Thanks are due particularly to Anglican Care Waiapu for supporting one of our Master Trainers and providing resource distribution in 2024, Stand Tū Māia for providing the second Master Trainer and Auckland Catholic Diocese for providing data entry support and enabling the Licence Council chair to fulfil that role.

Sr Siân Owen RSJ

**Chair, Seasons for Growth Aotearoa New Zealand License Council
February 2025**

Office of the General Manager

Office of the General Manager Annual Report 2024

It is with gratitude that I present this report as General Manager of the Archdiocese.

The 2024 year has been one of visiting the parishes across the Archdiocese of Wellington, listening, explaining the work of the Archdiocesan office, and establishing plans in place for implementation in future years.

A financial sustainability plan has been recommended by the Board of Administration to the Archbishop for implementation over the next three to five years. The outcome of the plan is to ensure that the Archdiocesan curia operates within its means, meets the needs of the Archbishop, and supports the parishes, schools and services within the Archdiocese of Wellington. The work on implementing that plan commenced in the second half of 2024 and will continue into 2025.

The implementation of this financial sustainability plan for the office is not without its difficult decisions and unfortunately this year we had to undertake an office restructure resulting in the disestablishment of some roles to reduce the Archdiocesan operating deficit. I want to acknowledge the hard work of all staff who have been a part of this office.

Cathedral Restrengthening Project

The Sacred Heart Cathedral project was completed in 2024. The re-opening of the Cathedral on June 7 and the following weekend was a great celebration for all involved. Thanks must go to the groups working on the project management, and the fundraising committee for their tireless efforts to see this project through to completion. Thanks, also to the Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish for their support, prayers, and patience while they have been away from their much-loved place of worship.

Hill Street Development

Expressions of interest were sought during the first half of the year from interested parties during which several were received for development of the site. However, given the current economic conditions of Wellington, the decision was made to put the development on hold.

Thank You

Thank you to all the volunteers, clergy, religious, parishioners, families, and staff for your dedicated service during 2024. This year I have visited most parish councils, and I am overwhelmed with the work and support you provide, I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Thank you to the Directors as the Archdiocesan Leadership team, the staff, the Board of Administration and the Council of Priests for their guidance and support. Finally thank you to Archbishop Paul for his leadership and direction over the year. Without his support a lot of the work would not happen.

**Reuben Norris
General Manager
February 2025**

Statement of the Archdiocesan Financial Administrator (Canon 494) for 2024

As Financial Administrator of the Archdiocese of Wellington under Canon 494, my responsibility is 'to administer the goods of the diocese in accordance with the plan of the finance committee' (our Board of Administration). Much of this responsibility is effectively delegated to our Director of Finance and his team and includes the provision of statements of financial performance and statement of financial position sheet of the Archdiocese. Such financial statements are produced as of 31 March each year.

The consolidated Archdiocesan financial statements posted a comprehensive surplus for the year of \$1.3M, predominantly due to its revenue from school operations which needs to be solely used for the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese. The fiscal management in Catholic schools of Policy One funding, and the collection and administration of Attendance Dues represent more than half of the income and expenditure of the Archdiocese, and a much larger proportion of assets, which is represented in the annual financial statements of the Archdiocese.

However, the cash flow of the Archdiocese (except for school funding and operations) remains a concern.

With a projected Archdiocesan operational deficit of about \$2.0M for 2024/2025 year, the Archdiocese will continue to work hard to seek alternative sources of revenue, reduced expenditures, and opportunities to improve the returns from Archdiocesan assets. A five-year financial sustainability plan was presented to the Board of Administration for recommendation to the Archbishop during 2024 and its implementation is underway. Main areas of work to improve the financial stability of the Archdiocese during 2024 included:

- An organisational redesign of the Archdiocesan office staffing structure
- A review of the levies to parishes to be implemented from April 2025
- Continuing review of Archdiocesan expenses

We continue to try to do more with less, and to ensure decisions leave a legacy for generations to come in the Archdiocese of Wellington.

Thank you to the Board of Administration, and to the Finance Director Roshan Abeyesundere and his team for their work and support.

Reuben Norris
Financial Administrator
February 2025

WelCom

Annual Report 2024

WelCom began in 1984 and has continued for over 40 years, as a professionally edited and managed, printed newspaper, connecting and informing its wide readership of Catholics in the Archdiocese of Wellington and the Diocese of Palmerston North. It began at a time when media reach was largely through print, television and radio. The media landscape in New Zealand and worldwide has and is undergoing significant changes and traditional media is being continually challenged and or replaced by new media platforms and drivers.

At the end of 2024, a decision was made to cease publication of WelCom. This decision was formally and jointly announced by the Archbishop and the Bishop of Palmerston North in the final edition of WelCom, which was produced and distributed at the end of February 2025.

For the purposes of this annual report, the following sections report on the contents and focus of the newspaper over the last 12 months.

Background

WelCom is the official Catholic monthly newspaper for the Catholic Archdiocese of Wellington and the Diocese of Palmerston North. Its proprietors are the bishops of Wellington and Palmerston North.

Its two key audience sectors are Catholic parishioners in the two dioceses, reached through physical delivery of the newspaper to parish offices for distribution at parish churches and communities each first Sunday of the month; and families and whānau, reached through delivery of hard copies to schools for the eldest child of each family to take home a copy

Some deliveries are made to other Catholic communities, agencies, religious communities and other interested groups.

Readers are Catholic parishioners, schools' families and whānau, chaplaincies, Catholic faith communities and individuals in the lower North Island and upper South Island; readers outside the two dioceses include individuals, diocesan offices, Catholic Bishops' agencies, religious communities, other bodies and media.

WelCom draws on global, national and local perspectives from a range of sources. Contents include faith information, reported news, opinions, education analysis and spiritual reflections.

A frequent comment among readers' feedback is that WelCom connects them to what is happening in the Church – locally, nationally and globally – and is valued as a credible, interesting and reliable source of Church information.

Content and structure

Content is based on four core pillars: Holiness; Catholic Social Teaching; Education; and Community. It supports, builds and enhances parish and church developments and activities of the two dioceses as welcoming; grow Young Church, ministry and local leadership; reflect bicultural and multicultural Catholic communities and a commitment to Katorika Māori, appealing to a wide range of Catholic and non-Catholic readers.

Distribution and readership

10 printed publications x 20 pages, are produced each year.

Print run – 16,000 copies per month with estimated reach of 50,000–70,000 readers.

Readership profile – Catholics, non-Catholics of all age groups and socio-economic groups.

As well as being distributed as hard copies to schools and parishes throughout both dioceses content is posted on the *WelCom* website linked to the two diocesan websites.

Production costs

The annual production costs are shared by the Archdiocese of Wellington and the Diocese of Palmerston North, with support through paid advertising from a range of clients, as well as grants including from the Catholic Foundation of Wellington and (February 2024) the Knights of the Southern Cross Trust, Wellington.

In late 2023 early 2024, *WelCom* began a ‘please donate’ campaign to appeal to readers to donate toward production costs. Due to the uncertainty of *WelCom*’s future indicated from March 2024, it was inappropriate to continue this campaign until a decision about *WelCom*’s future was made. The campaign attracted a small amount of donations from readers.

Advertising revenue was steady but, again, due to the future uncertainty of *WelCom* it was difficult to drive existing and new advertising. Because other Catholic printed media had recently closed, new advertisers were approaching *WelCom* from around New Zealand and overseas to run their material, as *WelCom* was seen as the only remaining Catholic print newspaper in New Zealand. Future revenue from advertising had strong potential had *WelCom* continued.

2024 priorities

- Connect Catholics in the two dioceses – and wider – to shared faith experience through reported news (local, national international), analysis, features, opinions, spiritual reflections, education, shared Catholic community stories and events.
- Monthly content columns alternated between the two diocesan bishops.
- Proactively engage with regular and casual contributors from diocesan office teams, and with parishes and schools to bring news, events, developments and articles, to support, reflect and grow Church mission. Source new writers to expand the writing pool.
- Report on high profile and important local, national and global issues about Catholic social justice, Catholic teaching perspectives and key Church matters, eg Synod on Synodality and diocesan priorities.
- Build content source, scope and variety. Expand feature articles about topical faith matters.
- Continue *WelCom*’s strong design profile and content so the publication grows as an informative, attractive and professional Catholic Faith communication and readership experience to reach and inform readers directly and indirectly connected to the Church.
- Expand advertising to increase revenue and stakeholder interest.
- Develop and expand ‘*WelCom* Donate’ campaign to help offset production costs of the newspaper.

Content summary 2024-25

Global Church	<p>Catholic-related news and articles from around the world including: Synod on Synodality – local, national global; Assembly of Bishops in Rome, October.</p> <p>Pope Francis’ pilgrimages, messages, announcements, prayers; visit to Southeast Asia, Oceania, extensive coverage.</p> <p>Ethics and morality issues.</p> <p>Catholic commentary on environmental and humanitarian issues.</p> <p>Church prayer days and responses, eg: World Day of the Poor; Day of Prayer for Refugees; Day of Prayer for the Sick; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and Season of Creation; Support Life Sunday; World Mission Sunday, Mission month.</p>
---------------	---

	<p>Church surveys, trends. Pope Francis prayers and response to Ukraine invasion. War in Gaza and related on-the-ground reports from Br Peter Bray and Caritas. US Bishops on migrant policies and developments. Oceania bishops on pastoral care of migrants. Care for Creation. Notre Dame progress to reopening and Paris Olympics. Church and First Nations challenges. Holy Year of Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope.</p>
<p>Church in New Zealand news, impacts, profiles, features</p>	<p>Synodal Church consultation, participation, global gatherings Rome. Royal Commission into Abuse in Care – report findings, apologies; Safeguarding work and culture development profiled; Climate Change; Catholic agencies submissions and engagement, eg Caritas (notably Lenten Appeal, Social Justice Week, environmental reports); St Vincent de Paul; New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services. Salvation Army’s annual State of the Nation report. Anzac, National Day of Remembrance – articles, reflections. Church calendar seasons, dates and remembrances. Local news such as revisiting impacts of climate-change-related cyclones a year on, notably Cyclone Gabrielle impacts in Hawke’s Bay and Wairoa. Director Catholic Enquiry Centre monthly article in WelCom. Catholic ethics and morality – reports, articles, eg Nathaniel Centre. Feature article – Christians and Common Good in society today. Profile – new CEO Mary Potter Hospice, Tony Paine; new co-CE Our Lady’s Home of Compassion, Dcn Rebecca Packer; Challenge 2000 appoints former Cabinet Minister and MP, Poto Williams, as new CEO,</p>
<p>Local Church and community</p>	<p>WelCom closure announced by two bishops. WelCom bids ‘haere rā’ – feature from longstanding contributors. Synodal Church - towards October 2024. Celebration of Metropolitan Cathedral of Sacred Heart, Wellington reopening and ongoing fundraising – major feature in WelCom. Cathedral project architect Jane Kelly nominated for Wellington Award. Bishops’ monthly column – spiritual reflections, current affairs and diocesan and wider Church topics (Bishop Paul Martin SM; Bishop John Adams). Cardinal John Dew resumed public Church activities. Papal Nuncio Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa health and return to Rome. New nuncio appointed, Archbishop Gabor Pinter, welcoming Mass. New priests welcomed to dioceses. Church closures and property sale, eg St Peter Chanel, Murchison; Sacred Heart, Church Manaia. Suzanne Aubert garden in Lower Hutt. EJP Commission activities and submissions. Parish and school news, events, achievements; awards, eg Benemerenti medals. Dedicated Vocations weekends and gatherings. Vocation Awareness Week profile – stories and memoirs. Landing the Waka events for overseas priests new to New Zealand. Individual and Church leader profiles.</p>

	<p>Events and monthly listings, what is on in the dioceses, eg parish and school jubilees, parish seminars and workshops.</p> <p>Clergy and religious jubilees, eg Bishop Owen Dolan’s 70 years of priestly service, milestone anniversary.</p> <p>Clergy appointments – annual schedule.</p> <p>Polish Mass of commemoration.</p> <p>Chaplaincies – various.</p> <p>Ethnic group reports and events.</p> <p>Vocations Awareness week – profile and stories from religious, seminarians and clergy.</p> <p>Supporting appeals, eg Catholic Social Services; Home of Compassion, St Vincent de Paul; Sacred Heart Cathedral restoration fund.</p> <p>Ongoing Hīkoi Whakapono: Journey of faith series profiling parish and school communities in the two dioceses – concluded in December year after an eight-year journey throughout the two dioceses.</p> <p>Church community groups, eg Passionist Family Group.</p> <p>Books profiled and reviewed.</p> <p>Catholic Women’s League – activities and updates.</p> <p>Interfaith engagements and Ecumenism – World Day of Prayer, reflections on Ratana.</p> <p>Obituaries, local and national clergy and laity.</p> <p>Church parishes, parishioners and school anniversaries and jubilee celebrations.</p>
Catholic Social Teaching	<p>Solidarity and engagement – Caritas, and diocesan Ecology, Justice and Peace Commission initiatives; SvDP activities, Catholic Women’s League.</p> <p>Annual reports and updates, Caritas reports, eg opposed Fast Track Approvals Bill; Catholic Social Services; Salvation Army State of the Nation report.</p> <p>Community support eg, refugee settlement.</p> <p>Respecting the Treaty. Treaty Principles Bills – Church leaders support hīkoi.</p> <p>New Zealanders called to educate themselves on gene technology.</p>
Education	<p>National Catholic Education Convention 2024.</p> <p>Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics contributions.</p> <p>NZCEO – news, reports, eg new RE curriculum; 2024 conference.</p> <p>Catholics Thinking – contributing and sourced local, international.</p> <p>History, arts and literature reports and events.</p> <p>Education grants and scholarships offered and awarded eg, Catholic Foundation, Suzanne Aubert.</p> <p>Teachers Commissioning Masses.</p> <p>Delargy Awards 2024.</p> <p>Cultural celebrations at Catholic schools.</p> <p>Catholic schools’ sports and arts participation and achievements.</p>
Young Church	<p>Leadership; camps.</p> <p>Sacramental programmes. New RE Curriculum.</p> <p>Schools’ news and events; student community engagement, eg climate action; Young Vinnies; Archdiocesan Tuākana Catholic colleges’ programme.</p> <p>Two-page annual profile of student achievements, awards and leaders.</p> <p>Catholic community outreach, Challenge 2000 initiatives and activities; Church Mission Team.</p>

	<p>O'Shea Shield; Caritas Challenge events.</p> <p>Archbishop Paul Martin, Bishop John Adams and other Church leaders engage with young Catholics, eg school visits, young Masses, Sacraments.</p> <p>Scholarships – Suzanne Aubert; Catholic Foundation of Wellington.</p> <p>Council for Young People of NZCBC – Nick Wilson.</p> <p>Free school lunches in lower decile schools – student engagement.</p> <p>National Syro-Malabar Youth conference: Unite 2024.</p> <p>Commissioning Masses for educators.</p> <p>Archdiocesan Tukana programme – young people walking beside college students as faith guides and mentors.</p> <p>School jubilees – St Paul's School Richmond 25 years. St Teresa's School Plimmerton 75th jubilee; St Peter's College PNth 50th jubilee; St Catherine's College 75th jubilee.</p> <p>Student fundraising events, Vinnies, fashion shows.</p> <p>Student entrepreneurs 'Yes' programmes and initiatives.</p> <p>Conventions and Youth gathering, eg Hearts Aflame, Life Teen, YCL.</p> <p>New buildings celebrated – eg, Sacred Heart Lower Hutt, St Peter's College, Garin College, St Joseph's Hawara.</p> <p>WYD 2027, Seoul, Korea.</p>
Katorika Māori	<p>Respect for Tikanga, Māori stories and input. Waitangi Day Masses, St Mary of the Angles, Pukekaraka, Ōtaki.</p> <p>Matariki and church.</p> <p>WelCom celebrated Māori Language Week – Te Wiki O Te Reo Māori, 14–21 Mahuru 2024 14–21 September 2024 – Kia Kaha Te Reo Māori.</p> <p>Consultation Hui with Archbishop Paul Martin sm.</p> <p>Pukekaraka leads World Rosary Day, October.</p> <p>Learning about traditional Māori musical instruments with Henare Walmsley, Te Ngakau Tapu parishioner.</p> <p>'Ko Te Tiriti Mai Rāno: The Treaty Is Always speaking. A Covenant for the Generations', hui in July.</p> <p>Rā Maumaratanga at Korokoro Catholic Cemetery, Lower Hutt.</p>
Holiness	<p>Celebration of Sacrament of Holy Orders – Deacon to Priest, Fr Matthew White.</p> <p>Spiritual reflections and prayer – monthly gospel readings with contributors' reflections; Church Seasons – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost; theological presentations; Vocations Awareness; Mission month; Mary's Month; Rosary. Feast of Christ the King.</p> <p>Church documents, papal encyclicals, eg: <i>Dignitas infinata</i> (infinite dignity); <i>Dilexit nos</i> ('He Loved Us'): new encyclical on Sacred Heart of Jesus.</p> <p>Support Life Sunday; World Day of the Poor (call to action in the Pacific).</p> <p>Deacon Kinh Van Nguyen ordination to the diaconate.</p> <p>Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope – 2025 diocesan openings and programmes for year.</p> <p>Laudato si' Week – Seeds of Hope. Season of Creation.</p> <p>Divine Renovations – reports on gatherings.</p>

Key priorities 2025

Produce a strong final edition of WelCom with a retrospective theme about the newspaper as well as contemporary content.

Wind down the newspaper office and files appropriately.

Communicate with stakeholders and supporters in a timely way thank them for their years of support.

Annette Scullion

Editor, WelCom

February 2025