

WYD27 pilgrimage launched with Korean inspiration

On June 7, the Dioceses of Auckland and Hamilton launched their combined pilgrimage to World Youth Day 2027, being held in Seoul, South Korea. The launch brought together 320 young people, youth leaders and parents from across the dioceses for a vibrant event at Holy Family Korean Parish.

The afternoon began with Mass, celebrated by Bishop Steve Lowe and concelebrated by priests from across Auckland. The celebration held special significance as it also marked Bishop Steve's 30th anniversary of priesthood.

Mass was followed by a time of celebration. Participants enjoyed kai, K-pop music and a WYD27 photo booth. Parishioners extended generous hospitality, serving a range of traditional Korean food including gimhap, tteokbokki, and kkul tteok.

An information session, led by organising team members Sam Brebner and Fr Thomas Park, outlined the plan for the pilgrimage. The 19-day journey will include:

- Five initial days visiting key pilgrimages sites across South Korea;

“The Dioceses of Auckland and Hamilton hope to send 250 young adults on this unforgettable journey of faith.”



Bishop Steve, congratulations and thank you for your 30 years of priestly service

- Days in the Diocese in the vibrant coastal city of Busan, where pilgrims will be hosted by local Catholic families;
- WYD27 Week in Seoul, participating in a wide range of WYD events and celebrating faith with Pope Leo XIV;
- A Post-WYD retreat surrounded by mountains near the city of Jeonju.

The pilgrimage is open to young adults aged 18-35 (as at April 1, 2027), with both a full 19-day option and a shortened 13-day option available. Applications are now open and will close on September 30. People can find out more and apply through the dedicated website: wyd27.org.nz

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MissionNZ director meets Pope Leo

Fr Michael Pui, the national director of MissionNZ (the Pontifical Mission Societies in New Zealand), has had a second meeting with Pope Leo XIV in Rome.

Fr Pui's meeting with the Holy Father took place at a June 1 private audience involving national directors of



the Pontifical Mission Societies, who were attending their 2026 general assembly. Fr Pui thought it was fitting to bring the Pope a gift; he gave him an All Blacks cap.

Fr Pui also reiterated the invitation for Pope Leo to visit Aotearoa New Zealand – something he had proposed at his first meeting the new Pope last year. Bishop Steve Lowe, on behalf of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, has also invited Pope Leo to visit New Zealand.

This year marks 40 years since St John Paul II visited this country. It also marks the 100th year of celebrating Mission Sunday.

In his message for the centenary, Pope Leo said: "Following the Jubilee Year, I wish to encourage the whole Church to continue its missionary journey with joy and zeal in the Holy Spirit.

"This requires hearts united in Christ, reconciled communities and, in everyone, a willingness to cooperate with generosity and trust."

Find out more about the work of MissionNZ at <https://missio.nz/>

Nominations open for the 2026 Delargey Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Delargey Awards, recognising significant and outstanding ministry with young people in the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The awards, which have been made every two years since 2004, are named for Cardinal Reginald Delargey, who served as Bishop of Auckland and Archbishop of Wellington and was well known for his ministry with young Catholics.

In addition to honouring those who receive recognition for their own efforts, the awards also serve to shine a light on the Church's important work with young people and raise its profile.

"Through our parishes, schools and agencies, the faith that has inspired generations of Catholic Kiwis is being passed along and is shaping our homes and communities," said Nick Wilson, the chair of the National Council for Young People.

"Much of that work is being carried out in selfless and unsung ways. The Delargey Awards are an opportunity to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of these magnificent contributors to young church."

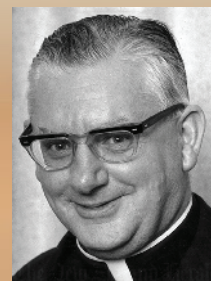
Bishop John Adams, who represents the bishops on the National Council for Young People, encouraged people to consider those who are helping nurture the faith of teenagers and

young adults in local communities.

"Past recipients include people who have had major national or diocesan roles, as well as people who have humbly and faithfully toiled away in a parish or other local ministry," he said.

"We would love to hear stories from throughout New Zealand of such dedication and mission."

Find out more about the Delargey Awards and the nomination process at bit.ly/Delargey2026



Cardinal Reginal Delargey

"an opportunity to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of these magnificent contributors to young church"

US liturgist set to visit New Zealand

Liturgist Fr Paul Turner, a consultant to the Vatican and several international groups, will visit New Zealand's six dioceses this winter to share his expertise with clergy and the lay faithful.

A priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-St Joseph, Missouri in the United States, Fr Turner will begin his national tour in Hamilton Diocese on July 21 and conclude in Christchurch on August 8.

The focus of the talks he will give is *ars celebrandi*, the art of celebrating Mass.

"I hope to give everyone a deeper appreciation of the richness of our liturgy," Fr Turner said.

While the task of leading the celebration of Mass falls to the priest, Fr Turner said the laity are deeply engaged in the sacred event.

"I think lay people have always had an interest in the liturgy," he said.

"The focus of their interest may change from time to time, but everyone has experiences and memories they treasure and hopes for which they aspire."

Asked what advice he would offer clergy, and the laity, in supporting a profound experience at Mass, he offered the same answer.

"Pay attention to everything that happens," he suggested, adding that one of the priest's tasks is to "help people engage in the mystery".

Living in an era when there has been major liturgical change in people's lifetimes, especially through the reforms of Vatican II, is not all that common in the Church's history. But that has created opportunities, Fr Turner said.



"The Second Vatican Council paved a way for us to treasure our tradition and to be open to its development in keeping with the times," he said.

"We stand on the wisdom of the past, which helps us adapt to the present."

Bishop Steve Lowe, president of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, said as a member of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy he has seen Fr Turner's love for and knowledge of the Church's liturgy.

"The Bishops Conference is delighted Fr Turner accepted our invitation to speak in New Zealand. His visit is a response to Pope Francis' apostolic letter *Desiderio Desideravi*, which invites us to contemplate the beauty and truth of Christian celebration.

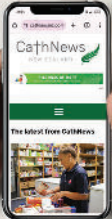
We hope his visit will strengthen

the faithful's understanding of the liturgy and advise our priests on how to celebrate the Mass in ways that enhance the faith of all," Bishop Lowe said.

"The Mass is the greatest prayer we have, and the Eucharist is our source and summit. I encourage people to take this opportunity to deepen our connection with these treasures of our faith."

Fr Turner has written several books on the liturgy and won several awards, including from the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions and the Catholic Media Association.

In addition to his liturgical focus, Fr Turner's priestly vocation has also included prison ministry, supporting the homeless and multicultural chaplaincy.



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Fr Turner will speak:

Saturday, July 25 2026
10am-2.30pm, Mass at 9.00am

Christ the King Catholic Parish
Owairaka
260 Richardson Road
New Windsor, Auckland 1041

All welcome. Koha welcomed.

SCAN TO REGISTER



International speaker John Pridmore coming to Auckland

The Diocese of Auckland is excited to welcome internationally renowned Catholic speaker John Pridmore for a series of parish missions and school visits this August and September.

Growing up in London's East End, John became immersed in a world of gang violence and crime, in a lifestyle driven by money, status and power. Following a profound encounter with God at the age of 27, he left that life behind and began a journey of faith – a journey that would see him sharing his testimony with millions of people across the globe.

Over the past two decades, John has spoken in parishes, schools, prisons and at conferences and major Catholic events throughout the world. In 2008, he addressed more than 400,000 young people gathered for World Youth Day in Sydney, helping launch an international ministry that continues to touch lives today.

What makes John's message so

compelling is not simply his dramatic past, but the hope he offers through his witness. Drawing on his own experience of God's mercy, he speaks about forgiveness, healing and discovering one's true identity as a beloved child of God. John's talks are honest, engaging and deeply moving, encouraging people to look beyond their mistakes and recognise the transforming power of faith.

During his visit to Auckland, John will lead three deanery missions across the diocese. Each evening begins at 7pm.

- **August 17-18**
St Joseph's Church
10 Dominion Street, Takapuna
- **August 24-26**
Sacred Heart Church
16 Vermont Street, Ponsonby
- **August 31-September 1**
St Anne's Church
126 Russell Road, Manurewa

John will also visit several Catholic schools and meet with young adults during his stay.



Whether you are a lifelong Catholic, returning to the Church after time away or simply searching for answers, John's story serves as a powerful reminder that no one is beyond God's love and that every life can be transformed by grace.

All are warmly invited to attend the parish missions. There is no need to register. Just come and bring family, friends, anyone who will benefit from hearing a message of hope, faith and renewal.

The cost of living falls on children

This winter, too many families are carrying more than they can bear

Across the Auckland Diocese, many families are carrying a quiet but relentless burden. Rent, food, power, transport, doctor's visits and debt are pressing in all at once. For parents and caregivers already stretched, each week can feel like an endless juggle.

Bishop Steve's Caring Foundation sees this reflected in the number of social service agencies and communities seeking support through this year's grants round.

Stress is showing everywhere: homelessness is increasing, foodbanks are under extreme pressure and agencies providing wrap-around care are stretched. Youth unemployment rose to 17.3 per cent in March 2026 – 14.4 per cent of young people aged 15 to 24 were not in employment, education or training.

But the deepest cost is often carried by children. They live with cold bedrooms, empty fridges, missed doctor's visits and the stress at home when mum and dad cannot make ends meet.

As winter takes hold, the choices become even harder. After rent, there is too often not enough left for power, groceries, warm clothing, transport or basic household bills. A growing number of school students are working at night to help support their struggling parents.

Childhood should not be shaped by damp rooms, hunger,

worry or adult financial concerns. These experiences can have an enduring effect on a child's health, learning, confidence and future.

The Caring Foundation is humbled to work with local agencies carrying extreme workloads to provide care and support at the right time. But the need is growing and, for too many families, crisis is only one payday away.

This winter, your donation will help stop children and their families from reaching crisis point. A gift to Bishop Steve's Caring Foundation Annual Appeal will help trusted local agencies respond with practical, compassionate support when families need it most. Please give today by visiting www.caringfoundation.org.nz, calling (09) 360 3045, or scanning the QR code.



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Caring for Communities.*



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