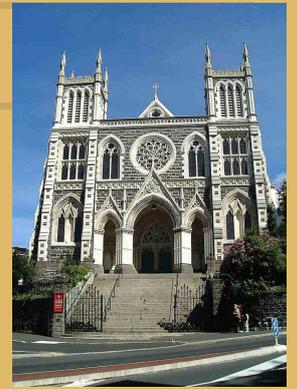




| OCTOBER. 2020 |

# Catholic Diocese of Dunedin



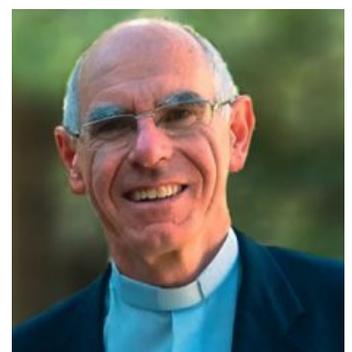
## Bishop Michael

This is my first contribution to this Diocesan Newsletter and first of all I want to congratulate the members of the Diocesan team who have got this new means of communication underway. As a Church our continuing experience of Covid 19 shows us that connection between people is vital. This is especially important in difficult times. For example, when we could not attend physical Masses during the lockdown we adjusted quickly to offering online Masses which provided a means for people to connect with the community. These are the ways we need to use the technology available, it is great to hear that there are over 1000 people signed up to receive this newsletter by email.

Speaking of connectedness, a few days ago Pope Francis released an encyclical letter Fratelli Tutti – on Fraternity and Solidarity. In the past these papal letters have been important but rather hard to read due to the dense language. This letter is certainly important, but it is easy to read, Francis describes clearly the problems we are facing in the world today and then proposes what we need to do. To sum it up it is “connectedness” that is badly needed in our world. He quotes St Francis of Assisi who speaks of a love being needed that transcends the barriers of geography and distance. Isolation between individuals and groups leads to suspicion, conflict and even war. People can be marginalised because they are seen as different or discriminated against due to race, sex or age. An approach that acknowledges we are brothers and sisters and that we each have an innate dignity as human beings is an antidote to this. What Pope Francis is doing in this letter is providing us with a guide to living the Gospel in our modern times. You can read Fratelli Tutti online by clicking here [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-rancesco\\_20201003\\_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-rancesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html) for those on email.

I am very happy to be able to visit parishes and schools once again and it is great to see the good things happening and the way people have staying in touch with each other over the lockdown time. Let us continue praying with and for you each other.

+Michael Dooley



# New Care Village Proposed for Invercargill

Calvary Hospital was established in Invercargill in the 1960's by the Little Company of Mary.

The sisters staffed it until the 1980's when they withdrew from Invercargill and the facility was handed over to a local board to manage it. The Diocese of Dunedin had a part to play on the board but effectively it was locally run and owned by the community.

The existing Calvary board have been working on a proposal for a new site and an aged care village that will be modern and able to focus especially on the needs of those with dementia.

While there is still fundraising to do there have significant donations that have enable this stage to be reached. The Little Company of Mary are supportive of this initiative.



## The Hawthorndale Care Village, Invercargill

If this project goes ahead the Calvary Hospital site will be sold and the new village will be called the Hawthorndale Care Village. The new village will not be called a Catholic facility but the Diocese is fully supportive of the venture as it will provide a community owned facility that continues to operate with the values of the previous hospital. I am pleased to see this initiative happening and pray that it will proceed and continue to provide the excellent care that Calvary Hospital has done for the last seventy years.

+Michael Dooley

# PRESBYTERIAN / CATHOLIC DIALOGUE

Maureen Smith 2020

For the past 10 years I have enjoyed being part of the Presbyterian / Roman Catholic Dialogue. This was established in New Zealand in 1981 and centred in Dunedin. The aim of the Dialogue was to bring about friendship and a greater understanding between the two churches.

Many discussion papers on matters of great importance to both Churches were presented to the Dialogue throughout these early years, and this practice continues to this day

As well as working at a Theological level, it was also seen to be essential to work for understanding and reconciliation at the parish level. To this end, a discussion programme 'Seven C's to Unity' was prepared based on Covenant, Co-existence, Co-operation, Commitment, Communion and Celebration. The Programme proved to be very popular within the many combined parish groups as it helped participants bring into the open deep differences, questions, misunderstandings and hurts. The Spirit led process that followed helped heal the rift between the two traditions and was truly remarkable.

In the following years two large city-wide events were initiated by the Dialogue. In 1988 an ecumenical celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Otago was marked by a Vigil on Good Friday evening. Then on the first Sunday in 2000 an ecumenical Celebration Service was held in St Paul's Cathedral to celebrate the Millennium. In recognition of Otago's Christian forbears, a large, beautiful Celtic Cross was erected in Dunedin's Queens Garden. The Good Friday Vigil continues annually to this day, taking the form of a 'Meditation on the Cross' and alternates between Knox and Holy Name churches, North Dunedin.

The Presbyterian / Catholic Dialogue has been a success in meeting most of its aims. Presbyterians and Catholics are now comfortable in each other's company, whether in a shared church service, a helping organisation, or in social settings. Many lasting, deep friendships have been formed, and hopefully the scandal of Christian disunity will soon be completely in the past.

## **A prayer from Pope Francis's new encyclical**

*Fratelli tutti*

O God,

Trinity of love, from the profound communion of your divine life, pour out upon us a torrent of fraternal love. Grant us the love reflected in the actions of Jesus, in his family of Nazareth, and in the early Christian community. Grant that we Christians may live the Gospel, discovering Christ in each human being, recognizing him crucified in the sufferings of the abandoned and forgotten of our world, and risen in each brother or sister who makes a new start.

Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty, reflected in all the peoples of the earth,  
so that we may discover anew that all are important and all are necessary,  
different faces of the one humanity  
that God so loves. Amen.





On Tuesday, 7 October Tui Pasco, Amy Armstrong, Ken Fahey, Linea Simons, Fr Gerard Aynsley and Mark Botting met to review the applications for funding from the Tindall Foundation. It was encouraging to see so many projects being considered throughout the diocese; parishes, schools and groups exploring how to provide support within the community and reach out to those in need. The amounts being requested was significantly more than what was available, but we were pleased to be able to confirm support for 10 projects. We were also able to provide additional funding from our own Catholic Caring Foundation to some projects. Congratulations to the following groups:

1. Oamaru Combined Churches Christmas Trust: Providing a Christmas dinner and gifts for children for families in the community suffering hardship. \$1000
2. St Francis of Assisi Dunedin Trust: walking with and supporting members of the community facing financial hardship, building community bonds and providing opportunities for young people and parishioners to volunteer. \$5000
3. Catholic Social Services: support for a new initiative to assist people with housing issues. \$7000
4. University St Vincent de Paul: A new initiative with University students providing breakfasts for children in a local primary school. \$1500
5. Sri Lankan Community Dunedin: A Christmas gathering for the small local Sri Lankan community supporting members affected by Covid-19. \$1200
6. Ko Ngā Rourou Manaaki: A collaborative initiative with the Araiteuru Marae that organises pōwhiri as a way of welcoming recent migrants and former refugees. \$1500
7. St Joseph's Parish, Western Southland: Reaching out to members of the rural community who have become isolated during the Covid-19 pandemic. \$750
8. Rangatahi Tumeke Charitable Trust: A 5-day camp in the Catlins for rangatahi (youth) aged 12-17 helping them reconnect with the land, sea, bush and their Māori culture. \$5500 + \$2000 (CF)
9. Diocese of Dunedin Catholic Prison Chaplaincy: Providing resources for the Seasons for Growth programme that is run in Milburn and Invercargill prisons and led by volunteers. \$6000 + \$1000 (CF)
10. St Bernadette's Primary School: A project planned by the children to build a community pantry, garden beds and a Lilliput library. \$1300

# A reflection on Human Dignity

Father Gerard Aynsley



In the lead up to the election we are surrounded by slogans. They are designed to catch our attention and hint at the approach of a particular political party, but we all recognize that slogans tend to be somewhat superficial. However, there are 3 slogans that have arisen in recent years, not from the deliberations of a marketing team, but spontaneously from within the culture that touch on something deeper. “Black lives matter”, “They are us” and “Me too”. These three slogans express our deep-felt belief that every human being is worthy of respect, that human beings have an innate dignity that needs to be honoured and protected. I am also aware that there are different ways of thinking about human dignity and the fact that our faith provides us with a very specific understanding.

As a people of faith, we affirm that human beings have dignity because each person is created in the image and likeness of God. Pope Benedict in his inaugural speech stated that, “We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed. Each of us is loved. Each of us is necessary.” Our lives have meaning, not because of what we have achieved or because of our capacity to do particular things, but because human life is an expression of the creative activity of God. Furthermore, it follows that a correct understanding of God is crucial. We believe in a God who is a community of Love: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is not some remote, self-contained being who exerts control from afar, rather a dynamic, self-giving God of love. Our dignity is founded in being a living expression of this image.

There are two important principles that flow from our thinking about human dignity; subsidiarity and solidarity, principles that necessarily stand in relation with each other. The principle of subsidiarity affirms our freedom and our ability to make choices that help shape our personal lives. However, as human beings our lives are not self-contained and are not lived in isolation. There are times that we need one another and are called to stand alongside each other. For this reason, subsidiarity is balanced by our solidarity with one another.

Needing care from another does not limit our dignity, rather our dignity is expressed in our participation in the loving and divine dynamic of giving and receiving.

God of all life,

Help us to appreciate the great gift that is human life formed in your image, a reflection of your holiness. Help us to recognize you in all whom you have created: children not yet born, families affected by poverty and war, people of different abilities, people from other lands, and all who are victims of hatred and racism. Help us to bear witness to the dignity of all whom you have created, regardless of stage of life, or wealth, or ability, or color, or creed, for every person is fully equal in your loving eyes. Share with us your holy knowledge that we are all your children, each bestowed with inherent dignity. May your justice reign forever!

Amen.