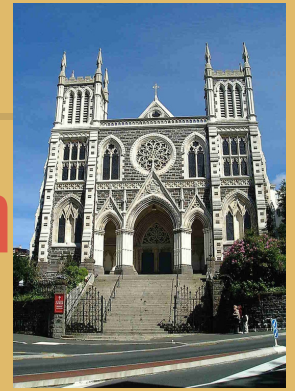




FEBRUARY 2021
PEPUERE 2021



Catholic Diocese of Dunedin Te Hahi Katorika o Otepoti

Tena Koutou Katoa and blessings for this Ash Wednesday

ASH WEDNESDAY



FEBRUARY 17, 2021

As the first letter for 2021 is being completed, we have once more returned to Level 2 restrictions. The challenges of Covid-19 continue for us all, thank you for your patience and your flexibility in adapting as we seek to safeguard the sanctity of human life. Lent is a time of penance and reflection and while the pandemic is disrupting it can lead us closer to God as we act together for the common good.

May God's blessings be on us all as we begin this season of Lent of Lent.

+Michael

Seminarians on Pastoral Placement

Kia ora! My name is Suu Nguyen. I am a fifth-year seminarian at the National Holy Cross Seminary. This year, I am appointed on my pastoral placement to the Invercargill North Pastoral Area. I reside in the Waikiwi presbytery with Father Tony Harrison.

I was born and grew up in a small village in the North of Vietnam, a countryside which is surrounded by rice fields and two rivers. I have two brothers, three sisters and they have already married and have children. I have been in Dunedin for over six years, for my vocation to the priesthood. I have received a great support from bishops, priests and all of you.

Thank you very much for your constant prayers and support.



Kia Ora,



My name is Joseph Long Van Nguyen, I am 32 years old, I was born in a little village in North of Vietnam. I come from quite a big family with 9 of us: my parents, 3 brothers and three sisters, I am the youngest. I am a fifth-year seminarian and entered Holy Cross Seminary in 2017. Being in my fifth year I am on pastoral placement in Gore pastoral area. I am delighted to be back to the Diocese to learn and obtain more practical experience of the parish life. So please continue to pray for me.

Joseph Nguyen

Privacy Policy

On December 1, 2020 a new Privacy Act came into law. The law is much the same as the 1993 Privacy Act, but with an increased emphasis on breaches of privacy. Please see <https://www.cdd.org.nz/policies> for a copy of the Diocese's Privacy Policy.

1. The diocese is in the process of appointing a Privacy Officer who will be able to provide advice on privacy concerns and will also be the point of contact if there are any breaches of privacy. In the interim, Pauline Lee, the Bishop's secretary will be acting Privacy Officer.
2. Once a Privacy Officer is appointed we will look to have some training, particularly for parish secretaries and parish priests.
3. Diocesan database. Some parishioners have been hesitant about signing up to the diocesan database because they are concerned about how their personal information will be used. The Privacy Policy will hopefully provide some reassurance that all information collected by the diocese can only be used for the purpose it was originally collected for. The diocesan database is only accessible to diocesan management and exists to assist the Education and Property Office, the Pastoral Team and the Bishop's office to keep in touch. This occurs primarily through the monthly diocesan newsletter. Also, those who have indicated that they have areas of expertise that they are willing to offer if needed may be contacted for assistance on a committee or with a particular project. The database is stored on an excel spreadsheet and on google docs.

Education Collection

In August we traditionally take up a Diocesan Needs collection. In the past, the proceeds of this collection have supported the general works of the diocese. This collection will be replaced by an Education Collection that will be taken up on February 27th. Please use your Diocesan Needs envelop if you have one, otherwise for those who give via automatic payments please use the code '129' when you make a contribution.



Our 2019 Annual Accounts indicate that our schools are valued at over \$150Million. The government funds the upkeep of our schools as part of the Integration agreement and parents pay Attendance dues to cover the mortgage payments and to pay the insurance. A more important and crucial asset, however, are our teachers. We are very fortunate to have excellent and committed leaders in our Catholic schools. The proceeds of this collection will be used to support the development of faith-filled teachers for our Catholic schools, including to offer scholarships to our current senior school students to encourage them to pursue teaching in our Catholic schools as a vocation.



A common scam is for someone to create an email or WhatsApp account under the bishop's name or the name of one of the priests and then contact people asking for assistance. If you reply you are asked to purchase iTunes or google vouchers for someone the bishop is helping. If you get one of these messages please delete it. The bishop will never ask for money via email, text etc.

Creating a Safeguarding Culture



Throughout the world, 2020 was a year when the concept of keeping ourselves safe took a new perspective when as individuals, families, communities, and nations we faced an invisible virus, Covid 19, as part of our shared experience. For some the impact has been devastating with loss of livelihood or worse, family. During our lockdown, we could no longer worship together face to face and protocols are now in place to keep us safe in Aotearoa New Zealand.

2020 was also a challenging year for our Church Communities. Like Covid19, abuse can remain invisible, but in late November and early December, the impact of historical abuse was revealed during the hearings of the Royal Commission for those in faith-based care. What has been striking is the enormity of the abuse which has emerged. The interim report, *Tāwharautia: Pūrongo o Wā*, said “most of those abused came from the most disadvantaged or marginalised segments of the community.” – the very people Jesus calls us to be closest to. The report identifies lack of visibility as a common factor in abuse cases. The Commission identified a lack of oversight of those in positions of authority, naming a lack of vetting, training, and the absence of clear or safe procedures for making complaints of abuse, as well as failures to respond to disclosures of abuse adequately. These then, are essential elements to include in building a safeguarding culture where all are safe and free from the impact of abuse.

Progress to Date

As we continue to build a safeguarding culture in our Dunedin Diocese, it is good to know that all parishes in the diocese have posters in their churches and parish buildings which give the contact details of the National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) and the Diocesan safeguarding advisors. Anyone can contact NOPS, the police or Oranga Tamariki if they have experienced abuse in the church context. Parishes are police vetting volunteers and employees and all are signing the Code of Conduct. In some parishes people have done the initial training in safeguarding. This is a great start.

Creating a Safeguarding Diocese

This year the focus will be on the implementation of safeguarding standards in the parish communities. All parishes have a copy of *Leadership of a Safeguarding Parish Culture* which the Parish Council or Safeguarding working group can use to develop the vision for safeguarding and the practices and protocols which ensure the safeguarding standards are put into action. The standards cover communication of the safeguarding message, safe practice, responding to complaints and concerns, monitoring compliance and formation and training. Your parish has been sent a poster that can be used to show that you are a safeguarding parish. The implementation of these standards will also be required of other Catholic entities in the diocese and we are beginning to make contact with these groups.

Safeguarding Reviews

In the second half of the year, there will be diocesan parish reviews to identify the progress parishes have made to implement the standards within their parish communities. The National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) are also reviewing the safeguarding culture of the different dioceses this year.

Safeguarding Workshops

There will be several Introductory and Leadership safeguarding workshops between May and July.

These will be advertised through your parishes and the Pastoral newsletter. Later in the year we plan to develop the introductory workshop as online option as well. Any parishioner is welcome to join the introductory workshops as the more we know and work together as parishes the more likely we will have a healthy safeguarding culture in our parish communities.



**Maria and Mike Noonan,
Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors**

Financial Update

In November I provided a financial update in Dunedin, Invercargill and Cromwell. The purpose of these meetings was to provide Parish Finance Committees, Parish Councils and interested parishioners an update on where things are at with our diocesan finances. It was an opportunity to explain the key areas of income and expense in the diocese and to respond to any questions.

There were five main points to the presentation

- We continue to operate with a nil-deficit or even a slight profit. This means we have successfully brought to an end many years of the diocese operating at a loss. The changes over the past 3 years has also enabled us to reduce the diocesan debt to under \$10Million dollars. This level of debt will still sound very alarming, however we have a system in place to manage and reduce this debt.
- As mentioned in an earlier newsletter the diocesan overdraft has been transferred to a stand-alone account at the ANZ (which we refer to as our mortgage) and we have set up a mortgage repayment plan. The hope is that the debt ceases to loom so large in our thinking. Please be assured that no bequest will be used to pay down the mortgage. All bequests, unless otherwise stated, will be invested in our Caring or Education Funds or will be used for a specific work in our diocese.
- Parishes with investments in the CDF are reassured that their money still exists and can be made available when required as long as the Diocesan Finance Committee has sufficient notice.
- Parish Assets: In the November meeting I invited parishes to consider 'lazy assets', i.e. land or buildings that don't produce any income for the parish. It is possible that parishes may be able to enter into a partnership with the diocese to develop parish assets so that they provide a return.
- Planned Giving: We will aim to have a planned giving campaign after Easter in each of our parishes. Our giving reflects what we value. As such, it is suggested that our giving campaign be an occasion of giving thanks for the mission of the Church here in Dunedin Diocese.

Fr Gerard Aynsley

"Lent is a time to entrust ourselves to the Lord, to his goodness and to his project of love for each of us. Lent is a time of repentance, yes, but it is not a time of sorrow! It is a time of penance, but it is not a time of sorrow, or mourning. It is a joyous and serious commitment to strip ourselves of our selfishness and to renew ourselves according to the grace of our baptism. -Pope Francis