



Archbishop of Wellington

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

26TH August 2021

Dear Fathers, Lay Pastoral Leaders, Principals of Schools and Colleges, Directors and Staff of A D W

Greetings to you all and best wishes for staying safe and keeping well in these challenging times.

Thank you for all you are doing to keep your work up to date. I know that it is not easy, and even more challenging when we do not know how long this will continue for. It is difficult to work when you do not necessarily have all the things around you that you would normally have in the office. So, thank you.

Last week I read an article by an Australian Jesuit, Fr Michael Kelly SJ, the article was entitled "**Praying in the midst of the oppression of tedium.**" He spoke about the tedious life inflicted on us by trying to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, and then went on to say that this can also be an opportunity for many other things than just being bored. I don't know whether you are bored or not, I'm not really bored but it is very different without the companionship of Tania, Anne and Lisa in the office and with out the rest of the colleagues here in the Catholic Centre.

In his article Michael Kelly wrote about how we can spend a lot of time just waiting for a change and lamenting the containment, restriction and boredom that come with trying to prevent the spread of the virus to us and through us. However, he also went on to say that there are also benefits coming our way if we choose to look for them. Those benefits "**include increased time for being with those we are closest to (even if virtually), reading, exercising, losing weight and also something not often considered – renewing a prayer life as a contemplative person.**"

It may be that Contemplation is not something we've considered much in the time poor lives we've led at a frenetic pace in our pre-pandemic lives. This may be a great opportunity for us. These days just might be the chance to discover that "**Being in God's presence is not really difficult to discover. The aim of all prayer is to be and live ever more deeply in God's presence.**" (Michael Kelly)

These are difficult times, there is much anxiety around us, but it may be our chance to deepen our awareness and to live more consciously in God's presence.

I thank you again for everything you are all doing, in parishes, schools and colleges and on working for the Archdiocese.

Attached to this is reminder information about Level Two and Three. I am sure we will need this in the near future. Please remember to keep yourselves safe and do all you can to help others to be safe too.

Please also remember to encourage those who are afraid of being vaccinated of what Pope Francis has recently said.

"Thanks to God's grace and to the work of many, we now have vaccines to protect us from COVID-19, Getting the vaccines that are authorized by the respective authorities is an act of love. I pray to God that each one of us can make his or her own small gesture of love, no matter how small, love is always grand." (Pope Francis, August 18, 2021)

Once again, thank you, all good wishes and blessing to you all.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cardinal Dew". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Cardinal Dew

Archbishop of Wellington

Alert Level 3

If you are unwell

- If you are sick, stay home. Do not go to work or school. Do not socialise.
- If you have cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms call your doctor or Healthline on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) and get advice about being tested.
- If you have been told to self-isolate you legally must do so immediately.

When to wear a face covering

At Alert Level 3, the risk of COVID-19 being present in the community is higher. You legally must wear a face covering:

- on public transport
- on domestic flights
- if you are a taxi or ride-share driver. While it is not compulsory for passengers to wear them, we strongly encourage you to.

You're strongly encouraged to wear a face covering when you are outside your home and in a place where it is hard to keep your distance from other people.

Keep track of where you have been

Use the NZ COVID Tracer app. This helps with rapid contact tracing if it is required. Businesses **AND NOW CHURCHES** legally must display the NZ COVID Tracer QR code poster.

Physical distancing Keep your distance when outside your home. You should keep a distance of at least:

- 2 metres in public and retail stores, like supermarkets
- 1 metre in controlled environments, like workplaces and schools.

Travel between regions is heavily restricted at Alert Level 3

Gatherings and events at Alert Level 3

Gatherings of up to **10** people can go ahead, but only for:

- Weddings, funerals and tangihanga.

Physical distancing and public health measures legally must be maintained at such events and the Covid Tracer App must be used.

Public venues Public venues legally must close at Alert Level 3. This includes libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, playgrounds and markets **and Churches**