



**BISHOP'S
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22 December 2021

Dear Fathers and Parish Leaders

DIOCESAN UPDATE - PRIESTLY APPOINTMENTS 2022

Over the past few months, I have met with the Diocesan Consultors (whose responsibility is to advise the diocesan bishop) to decide how to staff parishes in the diocese next year.

The situation we face is complex. This year, Fr Freddie Barte returned home to the Philippines, and Monsignor Brian Walsh retired from full-time ministry. Early next year, another priest will return home to the Philippines and another priest will retire. We expect another international priest to return home during the year and, at this time, a senior priest is on leave.

As you can imagine, we have had some difficult choices to make. Because the diocese is awaiting the appointment of a new bishop, we have limited clergy changes to a minimum.

As of January 2022:

Fr Adonis Rancho will return home to the Philippines

Fr Bernard O'Donnell will retire from Ohakune-Taihape parish

Fr Robin Kurian IC will be appointed Parish Priest of St Mary's in Palmerston North

Fr Peter Brockhill will serve Marton, Ohakune, Taihape parishes and Waiouru military base

Fr Joseph Saw Tha Khu will be based in Stratford and will serve collaboratively with

Fr Craig Butler (Hawera) across the South Taranaki region, including Stratford, Kaponga, Eltham, Hawera, Patea and Waverley

I have attached the parish responsibilities for each active priest in the diocese. I hope it will give you a clearer understanding of our staffing challenge. You will notice that all our priests care for multiple parishes and church communities and some have a lot of ground to cover. I hope this gives everyone the bigger picture. Changes will need to be made when it comes to local planning and sharing resources (including priests). We cannot provide all the Masses and pastoral care as we have known it.

These changes will impact all our parishes.



I know you will be understanding when it comes to change, and I encourage you to support your priests as they care for you. None of this is easy, and I cannot see it getting any easier in the immediate future.

Now, we are preparing to celebrate the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ at Christmas. As we wait in hope and expectation for Christ to come again, I encourage you to be hopeful and courageous in the face of uncertainty.

May our good God bless you and your families and your priests this Christmas,

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 "D".

Cardinal John A Dew

Apostolic Administrator

Diocese of Palmerston North



PRIESTLY APPOINTMENTS 2022

North Taranaki

Fr Brian Carmine

- a) St Joseph's Waitara
- b) Sacred Heart Inglewood
- c) Lady Wayside Mokau

New Plymouth

Fr's Simon Story, Vui Hoang and Tom Lawn

- a) St Joseph New Plymouth
- b) Lady Help Christians Fitzroy
- c) Catholic Centre Bell Block
- d) Nga Pekanga Waitara
- e) St Patrick Okato
- f) St Martin Pungarehu
- g) Star of the Sea Opunake

South Taranaki

Fr's Craig Butler and Joseph Saw Tha Khu

- a) Immaculate Conception Stratford
- b) St Patrick Kaponga
- c) St Joseph Eltham
- d) Hoani Papita Normanby
- e) Sacred Heart Manaia
- f) St Joseph Hawera
- g) St Patrick Patea
- h) St Francis De Sales Waverley

Whanganui

Fr's Vaughan Leslie and John Roberts

- a) St Mary Whanganui
- b) Holy Family Whanganui
- c) St Anne Whanganui
- d) Hato Hohepa Jerusalem
- e) Te Rongo o Te Poi Whanganui
- f) Ranana Whanganui River

Central North Island

Fr Peter Brockhill

- a) St Francis Xavier Marton
- b) St Mary Bulls
- c) St Joseph Ohakune
- d) Te Kingi I te Maungarongo Ohakune
- e) St Mary Taihape
- f) St Patrick Waiouru

Palmerston North

*Fr's Joseph Grayland, Dave Bell, Vijay Dungdung and
Mons Brian Walsh (semi retired)*



- a) Cathedral Holy Spirit PN
- b) Our Lady Lourdes PN
- c) St Mary Foxton
- d) St Joseph Shannon
- e) Sacred Heart Rongotea

Palmerston North II

Fr's Robin Kuian IC and Manoj Mathew IC

- a) St Mary Palmerston North
- b) St Brigid Feilding
- c) Hato Petera Paora Kauwhata
- d) Hato Hohepa Halcombe
- e) Hato Hohepa Rata

Tararua

Fr Vince Onesi

- a) St Brigid Pahiatua
- b) St Joseph Dannevirke
- c) St Columbkille Woodville
- d) Sacred Heart Eketahuna

Central Hawkes Bay

Fr Paul Kerridge

- a) St Joseph Waipukurau
- b) St Patrick Waipawa

Hastings

Fr's Anthony Htun and Trung Nguyen

- a) Sacred Heart Hastings
- b) St Peter Chanel Hastings
- c) Our Lady Lourdes Havelok Nth
- d) Immaculate Conception Paki Paki

Napier

*Fr's Barry Scannel SM, Chris Martin SM and
Damian Caccipolli SM*

- a) St Patrick Napier
- b) St Mary Taradale
- c) St Thomas More Napier

Wairoa

Fr's Dave Moore SM and Karaitiana Kingi SM

- a) St Peter Wairoa
- b) Hawhiti a Maru Wairoa
- c) Ngai te Rekato Mahia

Diocesan Consultors Mons Brian Walsh, Fr Vince Onesi, Simon Story, Craig Butler, Manoj Mathew IC, Barry Scannell SM, Brian Carmine, Joe Grayland and Dondon Rancho

