

# Karanga Atawhai

## A Good Beginning: Reflections from Our First Hui Whānau.

What a wonderful gathering we shared at our first-ever Hui Whānau held in Te Whanganui-a-Tara on 13 and 14 October.

The Trustees were delighted that over sixty members of our Mercy whānau were able to participate in the gathering, each bringing their own experience of Mercy to date and their hopes for Mercy to come.

We wanted to create a shared moment of whānaungatanga, to understand our place in the emerging church and to encourage bold thinking about new opportunities for Mercy in Aotearoa New Zealand. The hui delivered on all three, and then some.

As Trustees, directors and staff met and mingled, the sense of being a family of Mercy grew notably stronger. Our coming together was considerably enhanced by the mihi whakatau, the dinner, karakia and waiata, Mercy moments, Mercy quiz and Manuel’s reflections on Mercy values through a te ao Māori lens.

From Susan, Archbishop Gabor and Manuel we heard about the impact of synodality and increasing lay governance on how the mission of the church is inspired and led, as reflected in the structure and role of organisations like Whānau Mercy Ministries. We are in the forefront of a new way of being church and bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to a world hungry for mercy and longing for hope.

Charlotte, James, Bill and Phil led us more deeply into our foundational commitments to honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and care for our common home.

Both shape our identity and sense of purpose and both need our careful, knowledgeable and sustained attention. Judy helped us open our minds and hearts to new horizons of mercy, envisaging new ways of bringing Catherine McAuley’s spirit of enterprising Christianity to the needs and challenges of our own time and place.

The Trustees are deeply grateful for all those who made our first Hui Whānau so successful and memorable. As Catherine would say: “A good beginning is of great importance” – so thank you to the organisers, presenters and all participants for ensuring a very good beginning indeed.

Gerald Scanlan  
Whānau Mercy Ministries Trust

Whanau Mercy Ministries is online. Check it out today by scanning the QR code, or visit: [whanaumercy.nz](http://whanaumercy.nz)



Image: Manuel Beazley, Vicar for Māori in the diocese of Auckland.

# Church and Finance: Towards an Economy that Serves the Human Person.

There has been a lot of engagement and excitement about the presentation of Archbishop Gábor Pintér, the Papal Nuncio from our Hui Whānau. We have reproduced some extracts below, but we encourage everyone to look at the Hui Whānau webpage where all the presentations are available. We encourage our boards to use the presentations on the website as reflections and formation during your board hui. Manuel Beazley's presentation has some questions that would also be valuable to engage with around your board tables. The care for the common home resource and Te Tiriti o Waitangi workshop resources are also encouraged.

*You, dear members of the Trust, know the complexity of managing assets, budgets, and institutions. You know the pressure to be efficient — and indeed, efficiency is not a sin. It is an expression of responsibility, of respect for the resources entrusted to us. But efficiency must always walk hand in hand with ethical sustainability. In our decisions, we are called to measure not only what is profitable, but what is just; not only what is effective, but what is humane. 2 Catholic social teaching offers a compass here. It reminds us that economy and ethics are not parallel lines that never meet. They converge in the human person — the true measure of value.*

*For Catholic social teaching to be more than beautiful words, we must, as Pope Francis has said, go beyond exhortations. We must learn to look at the workings of finance, to expose its weaknesses, and to imagine concrete corrections. This is not about moralizing markets. It is about infusing them with meaning — ensuring that every transaction, every investment, every budget line, contributes, in some way, to the common good. ... Holistic sustainability, inclusivity, and ethics are not accessories to financial effectiveness. They are its deepest foundation. Without them, even the most efficient system becomes fragile, unjust, and ultimately self-destructive.*

## SAVE THE DATE Upcoming 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

St Mary's College Wellington looks forward to celebrating their 175<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of St Mary's College Wellington on Saturday 6 December 11am - 5pm. The hope for their Jubilee is to bring the St Mary's community to the whenua/land of where Education, learning and friendships began 175 years ago. [To find out more and register please click the here.](#)



Image: Archbishop Gábor Pintér, the Papal Nuncio during his presentation at Hui Whānau.

*Lay governance in the Church is not mere management. It is a form of discipleship. To govern in a Christian sense is to serve — to hold authority not as domination, but as responsibility. 4 True leadership in the Church is never exercised from above, but from within. It is the art of translating vision into reality while remaining rooted in humility, communion, and prayer. You are leaders, yes — but above all, you are stewards of a charism. You hold in your hands not just property or policy, but a spiritual heritage that has touched countless lives. ... The Lord has entrusted it to you so that His mercy may continue to have human hands and wise hearts in our time. [Click here to visit Hui Whānau.](#)*

## LET'S STAY CONNECTED

# Launching Kākano Atawhai.

These packets of kōwhai seeds are being handed out to all the school leavers at Mercy Colleges, with an invitation to stay connected with Mercy in Aotearoa building a community focused on taking social justice and environmental action. Kōwhai seeds were chosen intentionally because they represent new beginnings, renewal, and personal growth with qualities of strength, courage and resilience, all qualities of Mercy women. Growing instructions for the seeds are also on the webpage.

You can find out more here including the registration form for interested people aged 18 and over [by clicking here.](#)

We are very excited about this initiative keeping our young school leavers engaged with Mercy and making a practical difference in a way that Catherine McAuley would approve.



## OTHER MERCY CELEBRATIONS

# Combined Mercy Schools Mass.

At the start of Term 4 Carmel College, McAuley High School and St. Mary's College came together to celebrate Mass in acknowledgement of 175 since the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in Tamaki Makaurau.

It was wonderful to be joined by many of the Sisters. Bringing close to 3000 students together for Mass was certainly an occasion – the singing was beautiful, each school had different roles to play in the Mass and Monsignor Kiely delivered a powerful homily about Mercy connections.



# He Puna Aroha – A Spring of Mercy & Love: Te Waipuna Puawai Celebration Event.

Te Waipuna Puawai recently hosted He Puna Aroha – A Spring of Mercy & Love, an afternoon tea event held to express gratitude to the many generous donors, parishes, and organisations who, over the years, have supported families across the Tāmaki community.

Whether through monetary contributions, beauty services, food parcels, clothing, or household goods, every act of giving has reached families who needed that extra measure of support and aroha.

The gathering brought together guests, staff, and local wāhine who engage with TWP's services and programmes. The event created a warm and safe space for connection — where people could meet one another,

share stories, and learn about the history and values that continue to shape Te Waipuna Puawai. It was also a special opportunity for local wāhine to share their experiences and for TWP to strengthen its relationships with the many generous givers who sustain its work.

“I'm very proud of our staff, but most importantly our local wāhine who gave a bit of their time on a Saturday to be with us all. Being able to come together, enjoy some kai, and connect with one another is important to TWP and to the ongoing building of whanaungatanga.”

Josie Ruawhare

**Operations Manager – Te Waipuna Puawai**



## Share your stories, they connect us all.

*We would like to share the stories from your Ministry so we can help build connections and act as a bridge between all our Ministries, please share your stories with any images to: [wmm@whanaumercy.nz](mailto:wmm@whanaumercy.nz).*

### **Please forward this newsletter on:**

*Please share this newsletter with members of your school boards and those involved in our Ministries. Others can subscribe directly by scanning the QR code.*



OTHER MERCY CELEBRATIONS

# 175 Weekend Celebrations.

Over Labour Weekend St. Mary's College Auckland celebrated the demisemiseptcentennial (175 years) of St. Mary's College. With six events over the weekend there was plenty of connection, conversation and reminiscing!

The weekend started with a mihi whakatau and High Afternoon Tea. The evening saw the sun set over the city with a cocktail event on the quad. Saturday saw tours of the school, Sisters of Mercy Chapel and Cemetery led by Sr Mary Nevan. The Past Pupils Association hosted the Jubilee dinner on Saturday evening. Sunday morning was Mass in the Sisters Convent Chapel followed by a "good" cup of tea in the Stella Maris Hall. Another highlight was the family fun day on Sunday with music and cultural groups performances, food trucks and more.

We look forward to keeping connection with all of those connected to the College in the last 175 years.



# 75 Weekend Celebrations.

Over Labour weekend St Catherine's College in Wellington celebrated 75 years. There were events and activities planned over the weekend.

Scan to access resources



## Download prayers & resources at [whanaumercy.nz/resources](http://whanaumercy.nz/resources)

We're regularly adding new karakia and will soon include downloadable formation resources for use in your hui and gatherings. Scan the QR code to access our resource section - so you'll always have a karakia on hand when you need one.

