



METHODIST MISSION AND ECUMENICAL NEWSLETTER – April 2023

The Methodist - Catholic Dialogue

The Methodist - Catholic Dialogue met 13-14 March 2023 at St Paul's Methodist Church, Orakei parish. This was the first gathering since the Covid lockdown and we spent some time relating how our churches had coped with that experience.

One discussion centred on the push for synodality within the Catholic Church - this is an initiative promoted by Pope Francis to set up processes for consulting the church, lay and ordained, across the Catholic world.

We also shared our memories and impressions of the Bi-centennial Methodist Conference held in Kerikeri at which all members of the gathering except one, both Methodist and Catholic, were in attendance.

After a further discussion about the general situation for ecumenism at the present time, we considered the recently published report from the Methodist - Catholic International Commission: *God in Christ Reconciling*. More study will be undertaken in future meetings, but we did note that the report ends with a suggested liturgy for use at a joint Methodist/Catholic service. We agreed to seek to arrange such a service in Auckland at a date adjacent to All Saints Day in November this year. Details will be circulated when time and location have been sorted out.

Members of the gathering agreed that ecumenism has slipped down the agenda of most churches, but we wish to state clearly that the blessings of ecumenism are only really experienced by those who are willing to engage in it and we encourage all Methodists and Catholics to "come on in - the water's fine".



Members of the Dialogue team in the photo are: Pat Lythe (Auckland Catholic Diocese - Co-convenor); Rev David Poultney (Convenor Faith & Order MCNZ); Rev Tony Franklin-Ross (Faith

& Order MCNZ); Fr Dr Merv Duffy (College of the Good Shepherd, Auckland); Sister Dr Sian Owens (leader of Pastoral Services, Auckland Catholic Diocese); Rev Dr Trevor Hoggard (Co-convenor Orakei Methodist Parish).

Absent members are: Bishop Steve (Auckland Catholic Diocese); Rev Tovia Aumua (Sinoti Samoa MCNZ) and Rev Setaita Veikune (Mission Resourcing MCNZ).

I'm Still alive –

Pope returns from hospital to lead Easter Services



Photo by Tiziana FABI / AFP)Pope Francis leaves the Gemelli hospital on April 1, 2023 in Rome, after being discharged following treatment for bronchitis. Photo: TIZIANA FABI / AFP

Pope Francis leaves the Gemelli hospital on April 1, 2023 in Rome, after being discharged following treatment for bronchitis. - The 86-year-old pontiff was admitted to Gemelli hospital on March 29 after suffering from breathing difficulties. Pope Francis attended a Palm Sunday service in St Peter's Square, a day after he was discharged from hospital following successful treatment for a severe bout of bronchitis.

He was driven into the huge esplanade, sitting in the back of an open-topped vehicle as it passed through the crowds, before descending and starting the service from his position beneath an ancient Egyptian obelisk.

He was admitted to Rome's Gemelli Hospital on Wednesday with breathing difficulties, and later diagnosed with bronchitis.

As the 86-year-old left hospital on Saturday local time, he confirmed he would oversee the Palm Sunday ceremony followed by the Angelus prayer.

He even joked he was "still alive". "I just felt a malaise, but I wasn't afraid," Italian news agency Ansa quoted him as saying.

After being discharged, the pontiff was seen smiling and waving from his car, before getting out to speak to a crowd.

Instead of heading home, his car drove past the Vatican and stopped at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. When he came out after praying, people on the street applauded and shouted: "Long live the Pope!" During another stop, he exited his vehicle to give chocolate Easter eggs to police officers in his motorcade, AP news agency reported. The pontiff's admission to hospital came ahead of the busiest week in the Christian calendar.

The Holy Week includes a busy schedule of events and services which can be physically demanding. Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said on Friday the Pope was expected to take part in this weekend's service for Palm Sunday.

"I can confirm that, since he is scheduled to leave the hospital tomorrow [Saturday], Pope Francis is expected to be present in St Peter's Square on Sunday for the Eucharistic celebration of Palm Sunday, the Passion of the Lord," Bruni said in a statement.

He will also preside over the hugely popular Easter Mass next Sunday, according to details released by the Vatican. The Argentine pontiff, who marked 10 years as head of the Catholic Church earlier this month, has suffered a number of health issues throughout his life, including having part of one of his lungs removed at age 21.

He has also used a wheelchair in recent months because of problems related to his knee.

Wednesday's hospitalisation was his second since 2021, when he underwent colon surgery, also at Gemelli.

But the Pope has remained active, visiting the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan in February. The previous month, he led the funeral of his predecessor Pope Benedict XVI.

The pontiff, who has pushed for reforms in the Catholic Church, marked 10 years as its head earlier this month.

Although he has previously said he would consider stepping down if his health failed him, he recently confirmed he had no plans to quit.

[BBC/Reuters](#)

Council for World Mission in Singapore

Warm greetings from the Council for World Mission in Singapore. We hope that you are keeping well. We are happy to inform you that we are now accepting applications for the Training in Mission - Diploma in Mission Studies 2023 Programme [TIM].

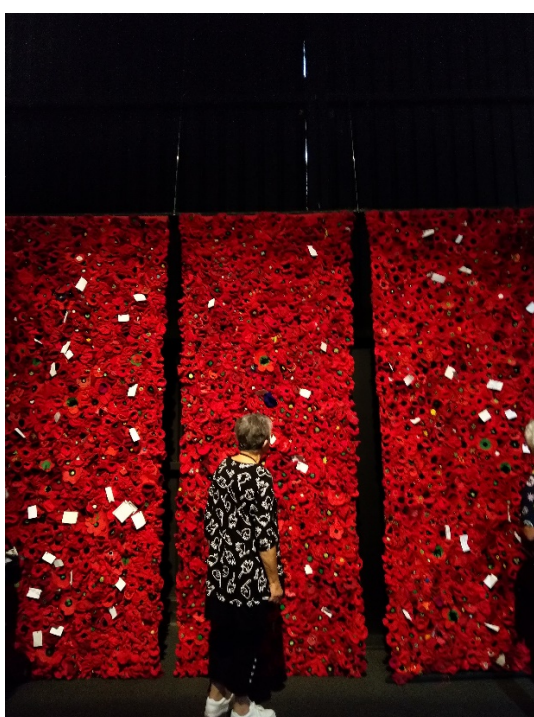
TIM will be held from June 15 to November 30, commencing in Fiji and concluding in Jamaica. As you would be aware, TIM 2021/2022 were postponed due to COVID. Therefore, we are prioritising those whose applications were previously accepted, if they are able to demonstrate ongoing connection and endorsement with their Member Church. We are in the process of communicating with those previously accepted into the programme. Should they not be available, the deadline of submission of any new applications is on April 26, 2023.

CWM will select only 12 participants for the Programme. This will be on the basis of completed application form particularly the essay part, taking in consideration balance in gender and regional representation in the Programme.

Please note that CWM will not cover the cost of the passport nor processing of the participant's visa requirements. Please find enclosed the Programme Brief and the application form. The application documents will also be made available at (CWM website) www.cwmission.org.



CWM Education and Empowerment at Council for World Mission



**Omaka Heritage
Aviation Centre,
near Blenheim.**

The walls of hand
knitted poppies.

**“We will remember
them.”**

Observed annually on 25 April, ANZAC Day is Aotearoa New Zealand's most important day of national commemoration.

It marks the anniversary of the first major action by New Zealand and Australian forces during the First World War, landing on the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey. ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

ANZAC Day commemorates those we've lost to war and honours returned servicemen and women. Join us in remembering them during ANZAC ceremonies. Lest we forget.

We will remember them

**ANZAC Day Observances
Tuesday 25 April 2023**

Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle takes us through every region of the world over the course of a year. Praying for each place on earth and its people at least once a year, we affirm our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts. Pray with us!

WCC Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

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Prayer is at the very heart of the ecumenical movement. Jesus prayed that we – his followers – may all be one. When we pray with and for one another, we can feel God’s gift of unity. Prayer sustains us on our way towards a unity that all can see, “so that the world may believe”. (John 17:21)

The suggested prayer texts are based on the publication "Pilgrim Prayer – an Ecumenical Prayer Cycle". The book and the website offer valuable aids for intercessory prayers, prayer on behalf of and in solidarity with others.

[World Council of Churches](#)



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