

OF
CATHOLIC DIOCESE
TE TAKIWĀ Ō TE PĪHOPA
CHRISTCHURCH



Annual Reports
for the year ended 30 June

2024

The Catholic Diocese of Christchurch



1887

Established



51,780km²

Geographical Area



18

Parishes



63,000

Catholic Population



10,853

2024 Mass Count

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Foreword

+ Michael Gielen DD, Bishop of Christchurch



Dear Friends in Christ,

Sometimes the busyness of our daily lives can mean we don't easily observe some of the achievements that are taking place around us. I know that can be true for me.

A document like this annual report allows us to stop, to reflect and to celebrate what has been. It also allows us to renew our commitment to those projects that are ongoing, and the new opportunities that lie ahead.

Before looking to that which lies ahead, it is worth that moment of contemplation of the year that was.

At this moment in the life of the Church, we should be grateful to Pope Francis for his recent renewal of the Church's focus on the idea of synodality. It is an invitation for us to "walk together", to listen to one another – really listen – and to share in the mission of God.

It has been my privilege to walk with the People of God in the Diocese over this past year in various ways. Two very prominent ways we have walked together have been in the decision to rebuild our cathedral at Barbadoes Street, and our work to choose the name for that new cathedral.

Supported by experts and trusted advisers, I was able to present to the faithful a vision for a new cathedral location that sought your feedback on what those advisers had offered to me. There was great passion for this project, and many of you shared what was on your heart and in your mind. It made for a meaningful and significant conversation and, ultimately, a decision. The warm reception of that decision was, to me, a sign of grace. It will be an honour and a privilege for us to build a new "mother church" for our Diocese and for the city of Christchurch.

We have also spent time discerning together the name for that cathedral. Again, this has been a graced moment. People have recounted stories of childhood devotions to particular saints, long-held love for aspects of our faith or growing admiration for examples of virtue from our rich tradition.

The decision has been reached that our new cathedral will bear the name of its predecessor – Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

This task of sharing, of speaking and of listening is important – but sometimes difficult – work. I am deeply grateful to those who work closely with me to allow these initiatives to be undertaken and to be brought to completion. I say that mindful that some projects, like building a cathedral, take years to reach that moment of completion.

In the pages of this report, you will find many more stories of a Church on mission, a Church reaching out to the peripheries, a Church of welcome, a Church with a hunger for knowledge and truth.

We are also called to be a Church of hope. May we take up the Holy Father's call to be pilgrims of hope, leading up to the Jubilee Year 2025, during the year and well beyond. Our hope, indeed, is in the Lord.

May that same Lord bless you and bless our Diocese of Christchurch.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ M Gielen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Manager's Introduction

Simon Thompson, Diocesan General Manager



I am pleased to present our annual report for 2024, a year marked by progress and achievements. Our efforts to respond to the needs of the people within our Diocese have borne fruit, and I am proud to share some of the key highlights with you.

Firstly, our financial performance has been encouraging. We have been able to increase revenue through a range of initiatives, while also managing our finite diocesan resources prudently.

One of our most notable accomplishments this year was the opening of Marian College. This innovative project, which gained national attention and awards, is a testament to our dedication to providing quality education and extending our impact on the community.

We have also expanded the geographical reach of the Catholic Development Fund (CDF), ensuring that more communities benefit from our services and support.

Catholic Social Services continues to provide free counselling and has implemented new or broader services such as school psychologists in our schools.

After significant consultation with our community and careful discernment, we have set a new course for the building of our cathedral. The return to Barbadoes Street will serve our community's needs and vision, as well as continue our long-standing relationship with the site.

In April, our diocesan offices moved from Washington Way to Moorhouse Avenue. This move is part of our broader strategy to make good use of our existing land and properties, and to create Catholic hubs in our city.

I am also pleased to report that staff engagement is at an impressive 85 per cent, as assessed in our annual staff survey. This high level of engagement is a clear indicator of our positive work environment and the dedication and vocation of our team.

Looking ahead, we have set ambitious goals to further our mission and impact. Our future goals include:



61
priests



20
Non-Clerical
Male Religious



99
Female
Religious



827
Baptisms



626
First Communion



448
Confirmations

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Over a three-month period, the Catholic community was asked to support Bishop Michael in his discernment of the location of our new cathedral. After the demolition of the former Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Barbadoes St, it was planned that a new cathedral would be built in the central city.

In December 2023, Bishop Michael proposed three potential sites for the cathedral, including the central city land, the former site on Barbadoes St and on Manchester St, with St Mary's Pro-Cathedral to be upgraded.

After overwhelming support was expressed for a return to Barbadoes St, Bishop Michael confirmed that would be the choice for a rebuilt cathedral.

The community was then encouraged to consider what would be a worthy name for the cathedral. Dozens of possible names emerged from an open nomination period, which were narrowed to seven and later three.

Bishop Michael, through prayer, discernment and with guidance from key advisers, chose the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament as the new name.

That means the historical connection to Barbadoes St and the historical connection to the name Blessed Sacrament would both carry on.

- Increasing the reach of the CDF to support even more Catholic projects, fostering growth and development across a wider area.
- Strengthening our new endowment fund to ensure long-term financial stability and the ability to support future initiatives.
- Developing new Catholic Social Services programs that address emerging needs and provide support to under-served populations.

As we embark on the exciting journey of building our new cathedral on Barbadoes Street, we are filled with anticipation. The hope that this project symbolises is also evident in the hope of our Catholic community.

However, we are also aware of the challenges that lie ahead, including funding and the need for continued support and collaboration. We are confident that, with our dedicated team and the support of the Catholic community, we will overcome these challenges and create a landmark that will serve as a beacon of faith for generations to come.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our mission and values. Thank you for your continued support and trust in our organisation.

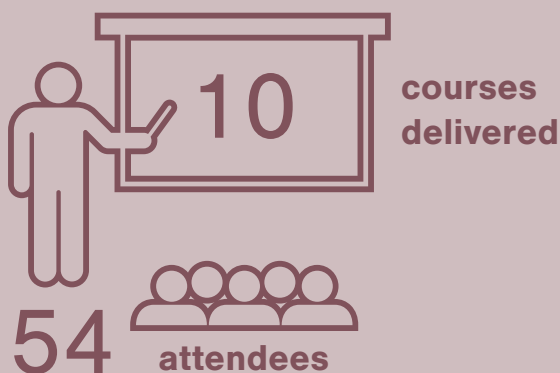
I commend to you this report and the highlights it offers.



Catholic Social Services



face-to-face counselling



Soup Kitchen

During autumn and winter, Catholic Social Services teams up with the St Vincent de Paul Society to provide people in need with a hot meal, warm clothes and a listening ear through a series of soup kitchen events.

Across various locations in and around central Christchurch, the CSS team provides hot soup and sausages, as well as free coffee. People are also able to access a free mobile barber service and take clothes and blankets offered for free. Dozens of people are helped across the events each year.



Saints in Coffee Jars

More than 1,300 people, including scores of school children, have learned more about the history of the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Christchurch through an exhibition of relics. From February 6-10, the "Saints in Coffee Jars" display at The Arts Centre fascinated people as they discovered more about the relics of saints and other historical Church objects, most of which were found under the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Some had been stored in coffee jars, which was the genesis of the exhibition's name.

"From a preservation perspective, the watertight containers served their purpose and have allowed us decades later to retrace some of our cathedral's and our diocese's history," said diocesan archivist Triona Doocey.

"It has been quite an educational experience, trying to identify the saints and learn a bit about their stories."

New Worshipping Community in Rolleston

Rolleston, one of the fastest-growing areas in the country, has seen the establishment of a new Catholic worshipping community at the local public school.

The first Mass was celebrated on February 4, with more than 300 people on hand to mark the occasion. The Diocese has plans to build a school and the parish to build a church in the area in coming years, but is pleased to have found an additional space in which the faithful can gather for Mass. Photos courtesy of Telly Power.

Parishes Choose New Names

Parishes with Christchurch city held individual processes to choose new patronal names and focus their attention on a particular saint or other patron within their community.

Christchurch North chose the name Christ the Redeemer, while Christchurch West chose Holy

CSS director Luis Arevalo said the support of Holy Family Parish Christchurch's coffee van, and corporate sponsors Funky Pumpkin, Party Warehouse and Gold Band Finance help ensure the viability of the soup kitchen events.

Family – and will be known as Holy Family Christchurch to distinguish it from Holy Family Timaru.

Christchurch South parish took on the name Our Lady Queen of Peace, while Christchurch East also chose a Marian name, Stella Maris, which means Star of the Sea. Our Lady of the Plains is the new name for the Selwyn parish.

Josephites Leave Temuka

An era that began with a French priest convalescing in Australia in the 1880s has come to an end, with the final Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart leaving Temuka.

In 1883, three Josephite Sisters arrived after a request from Fr Louis Fauvel SM to Mary MacKillop to support the local community, including through education. Fr Fauvel had been hoping five sisters would come.

In April, the Opihi parish said farewell to the last Josephite, Sr Lyndall Brown, ending 140 years of ministry for the order in Temuka. Sr Lyndall had been the principal of St Joseph’s School Temuka from

1982 to 1986. She returned to Temuka in 2020 and had been a large part of parishioners’ lives in those years.

Diocese Hosts Canon Law Conference

The 56th annual Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand conference was successfully held in Christchurch in September 2023. The event gathered approximately 80 canon lawyers and lay delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Oceania, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland and the United States, promoting the professional development of, and foster fellowship among, the members of the Society in their service of the Catholic Church.

Conference speakers addressed topics which were relevant to Church life today and presented papers on topics such as “Church Records and Privacy”, “Vulnerable persons, the Code and Vos Estis”, “Canon 1392: Clerics Abandoning the Sacred Ministry” and practical issues in Church Tribunal-related ministry.

Catholic Education Office

Schools

28 primary schools

7 secondary schools

School students

(1st March 2024)

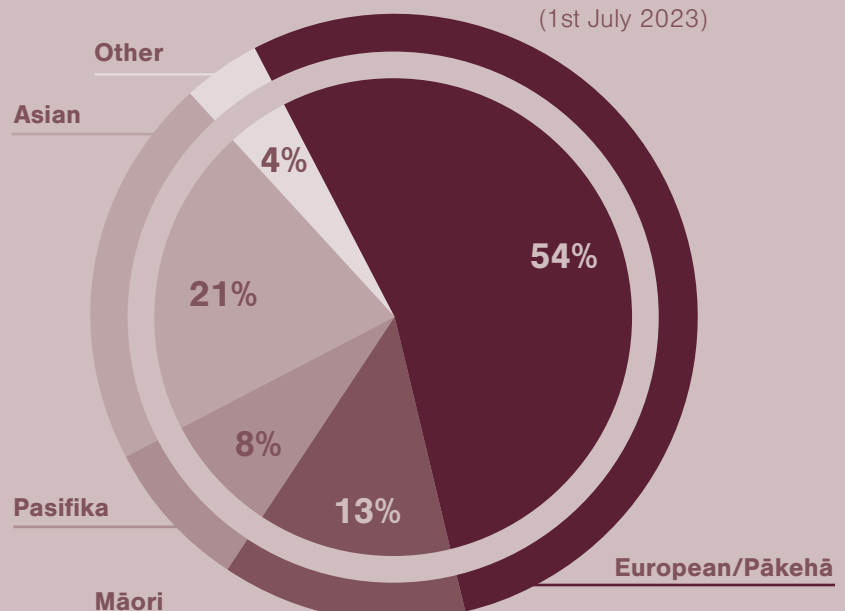
4,833 primary students

4,023 secondary students

8,856 total students

Ethnicity of School Students

(1st July 2023)





Marian College

The official opening of Marian College in February was a joyful celebration of the past, present and future of the College. The Diocese's decision to re-purpose an existing warehouse structure was innovative, and it was recognised with an award at the Canterbury Architecture Awards 2024.

During the formal ceremony, Marian College principal Mary-Lou Davidson reflected on the 13-year journey to get to our new home. It included, after the devastating Christchurch earthquakes, a period of time sharing the St Bede's College site and at the former Xavier College on Barbadoes St.

"This has been a long journey for all involved and it is a delight to see the hard work and planning of so many come to fruition," Bishop Michael Gielen said.

"May our Mother Mary watch over and guide the students of Marian College as they settle into their new home."

The celebration and reunion of past staff, students and whānau afterwards, was a real highlight for attendees.

Former deputy principal Sr Colette Forde RSM flew from Auckland to join in the celebration and toured the school with her walker. She shared some of her favourite and funniest memories with current students.

Members of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart and the Ngā Whaea Atawhai Sisters of Mercy were also in attendance. They enjoyed seeing the Chapel of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and both congregations are among the first patrons of the chapel.

The new site on Lydia Street in Papanui allows Marian to be part of a Catholic hub of schools and Christ the Redeemer Parish – Christchurch North. Families can walk together to St Joseph's, St Bede's and Marian.



Fr John Adams Ordained Bishop of Palmerston North

In September, Christchurch priest Fr John Adams was ordained Bishop of Palmerston North, ending a four-year wait for that Diocese for a new shepherd.

Bishop John was ordained in 2003 and undertook parish ministry in Riccarton, Greymouth, Christchurch North and Waimakariri. He has also served as tertiary chaplain and episcopal vicar for education, as well as a member of the Clergy Trust Fund, Council of Priests and College of Consultors.



Dozens Enter Catholic Church at Easter

The Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion are important steps for those desiring Baptism and full communion in the Catholic Church. This celebration takes place each year and is at the heart of the Easter Vigil.

In the Rite of Election, those seeking Baptism publicly acknowledge the call they received from God by inscribing their names in the Book of the Elect, listing those who have been chosen for the sacraments of initiation. Those already baptised but wishing to be in full communion in the Catholic Church go through the Call to Continuing Conversion and renew their baptismal commitment to Christ and his Church. Dozens of people from across the Diocese gathered for the Rite of Election on the first Sunday of Lent at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

Workshop Assists with Bicultural Journey

A mix of priests, diocesan staff and parish staff have taken the opportunity to take part in the Tuahiwi education days held at the Ngāi Tūāhuriri Marae alongside other community organisations. The full-day sessions enabled each person to prepare and practise a mihi (welcome) and to learn more about the Ngāi Tahu story.

Adoration Chapel Marks 10th Anniversary

The adoration chapel is a continuing gift for the Diocese as people gather to pray before the Blessed Sacrament every hour of every day of the year. 2024 saw the 10-year anniversary of the Adoration Chapel. There were two events to mark this milestone with Mass celebrated with 175 people in attendance and a gala dinner with 73 people in attendance.

Helping Form the Formators

Thirty-two catechists from around the Diocese gathered for a day of retreat and formation in June. The catechists are involved with the running of parish First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes, the Order of Christian Initiation of Children (OCIC) and sacramental programmes in secondary schools.

Bishop Michael challenged the catechists to not be afraid to try new ways of reaching out to young people and their families. He also encouraged them to be catechists in their own families, inviting them to establish a prayer space in their own home and have regular family prayer time.



Fr Chris Ryan

In March 2024, the Bishop's Pastoral Office collaborated with Divine Renovation to bring Fr Chris Ryan to the Diocese. Fr Chris is a priest of the Missionaries of God's Love and parish priest of two parishes in Sydney Archdiocese.

The short but fruitful visit of Fr Chris included a clergy lunch to encourage priests in their ministry and an evening of prayer at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral with music and adoration. There was also a workshop for 70 leaders from 10 parishes in the diocese. The focus for the workshop was "Growing Missionary Parishes", during which Fr Chris shared his own experience of leading a parish that is on a journey of being intentional in its evangelisation. He also shared the positive impact that it had on his life as a priest.

"The best of leadership practices" is one of the three keys of parish renewal as articulated by Divine Renovation. Fr Chris shared a model for parish mission that defined the key areas for a parish if they wish to grow as missionary parishes. Fr Chris' visit is part of the diocese's ongoing support of parish renewal initiatives.

CSYMI

More than thirty educators, clergy and diocesan and parish staff attended “A Current of Grace” conference in Canberra from 19-21 May. All secondary colleges and parishes which include secondary colleges were represented, as well as Catholic Education Office and other diocesan staff. Bishop Michael Gielen led the Christchurch delegation to the conference and celebrated the Conference Mass on Tuesday 21 May in the Holy Rosary Church on the Australian Catholic University Canberra campus.

The conference was hosted by Catholic Schools Youth Ministry International (CSYMI) in conjunction with the La Salle Academy at the Australian Catholic University. Keynote presentations and breakout seminars centred on the new evangelisation in Catholic schools and dioceses in Australia, Fiji and The United Kingdom. Participants in the conference travelled from many dioceses in Australia, as well as New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, the Cook Islands and the United Kingdom.

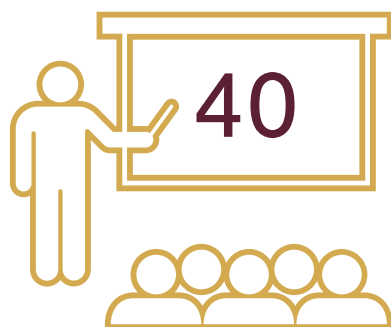
Archbishop Christopher Prowse, of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and chair of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference’s Commission for

Evangelisation set the scene for the conference in the first keynote presentation by challenging all school leaders to be evangelisers in their school communities, or “get off the stage”. He outlined the themes of “encounter, discipleship and mission” as the key steps in the process of evangelisation for schools and parishes. Breakout seminars ranged from topics such as “ecology and evangelisation” through to “cross-cultural encounter and evangelisation”.

Dioceses and schools from across the globe which have previously implemented the CSYMI programme including Aquinas College in Tauranga shared stories of their successes and challenges. Our hope was that the conference would serve as a first taste of the CSYMI programme which may grow to bear fruit in the Diocese of Christchurch. Our hope is beginning to bear fruit as three secondary schools – Catholic Cathedral College, John Paul II High School, and St Thomas of Canterbury College – have accepted the invitation to be CSYMI pilot schools in 2025.



Safeguarding



Safeguarding Workshops delivered *locations within the diocese*

645 people attended the workshops

Priests, religious, volunteers in ministries to attend every three years



40 attendees

Inaugural CDOC Safeguarding Conference

In Nov 2023 Priests, Sisters and religious attended with the local safeguarding contacts of their parish/ community. Some diocesan staff in attendance



10 schools visited to deliver Safeguarding Talk

Safeguarding Talks were conducted in catholic primary and secondary schools across the diocese to all staff to inform them of the Catholic Church Safeguarding Requirements and preventive practices implemented into church life with regards to safeguarding and safe recruitment of religious and volunteers in ministries.



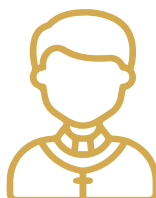
12 parish safeguarding reviews conducted

Safeguarding Internal Review of all safeguarding practices in a parish/catholic entity to evidence if the parish/entity is complying with requirements as per the National Church Safeguarding Policy. Safeguarding Report returned to the parish/catholic entity, listing commendations, recommendations, risks and actions to implement



451 people police vetted

Anyone in the diocese in a role that includes children and/or vulnerable adults is vetted every three years



32 priests

SCCANZ – Safeguarding Catholic Church Aotearoa New Zealand – The NZCBC requires all bishops, priests and religious in ministry to complete. Safeguarding in the Catholic Church in Aotearoa NZ - Te Kupenga. As of May 2024, 32 Christchurch Diocesan Priests have completed this course. There are a number of Church lay leaders and Diocesan staff who have also completed this course to support their parishes.



Directory

Bishop

Most Reverend Michael Gielen DD

College of Consultors

Reverend Simon Eccleton

Reverend Peter Head SM

Reverend Monsignor Rick Loughnan

Reverend Chris Orr (*from 15 February 2024*)

Reverend Michael Therese Scheerger CSJ

Reverend Job Thyikalamuriyil

Diocesan Finance Council

Most Reverend Michael Gielen DD

Michael Wilkes - Chair

Geoff Bailey (*retired 26 June 2024*)

Jemma Brunton (*appointed 16 November 2023*)

Robert Farrell (*appointed 16 August 2023*)

Kristy O'Connor (*resigned 16 August 2023*)

Sara O'Connor (*resigned 1 October 2023*)

Chris Pemberton (*appointed 11 July 2024*)

Rebecca Sparrow (*appointed 6 October 2023*)

Cedreece Tamagushiku

Executive Directory

Senior Leadership Team

Diocesan General Manager

Catholic Education Office

Catholic Social Services

Finance & Support Services

Pastoral Office

Property Development

Communications

Fundraising

Transition Facilitator

Simon Thompson

Mike Nolan

Luis Arevalo

Janice Rennell

Mike Stopforth

Tony Sewell

Gavin Abraham

Damian Powick

Siobhan Bergin

Financial Information*

Income & Expenditure

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Income	Expenditure	Net Surplus / (Deficit)
	'000	'000	'000
Curia	7,251	7,641	(390)
Education **	13,765	9,632	4,133
Rebuild & Fundraising ***	4,452	6,752	(2,300)
Total	25,468	24,025	1,443

Balance Sheet

as at 30 June 2024

	'000
Total Assets	330,662
Total Liabilities	31,769
Total Equity	298,893
<i>Made up of</i>	
General Purpose Equity	274,804
Restricted or Special Purpose Reserves	22,788
Revaluation Reserves	1,301
	298,893

* This is summary information only. The full audited financial statements can be found on our website: <https://cdoc-craft.s3.amazonaws.com/pdf/2024-Annual-Report-with-Audit-Report.pdf>

** This is school property activity related to Attendance Dues, and Ministry of Education Policy One funding. Activity in relation to the delivery of Special Character resources and support is included in the Curia income and expenditure

*** This is fundraising income and expenditure related to the capital rebuild programme





Acknowledgements

The Bishop acknowledges, and is grateful for, the goodwill of his parishes and the wider community through their generosity in giving of legacies, grants, trusts and donations. These are an important part of the income he receives, and help to support and compliment his pastoral mission.

To those who share in his mission and continue to support the work of his priests, his most sincere thanks.

Donations and Grants

- Blackaby Charitable Trust
- Diocesan Foundation
- Donohue Charitable Trust
- Eliza White Foundation
- Hoatu Trust
- J Shanley Trust
- Jones Foundation Charitable Trust
- Kennedy Est
- Lion Foundation
- Little Company of Mary
- Maurice Carter Charitable Trust
- NZ Lotteries Grants Board
- Peter Kelly Trust
- Philip Brown Fund
- Rata Foundation
- Tindall Foundation
- Twigger Estate

- Parishes of the Diocese by way of the Parish Donation
- Those regular donors to the work of Catholic Social Services and the Catholic Youth Team
- Those donors who have contributed to the capital fundraising campaigns
- Those donors who have contributed to the Bishop's Appeal

Bequests

The Estates of:

- ZM Armstrong
- J Meehan
- J Morrison
- N Pawson
- MJ Dynan
- B Rowe

