



Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou

This Newsletter comes to you a bit out of sync from the normal fortnightly message I send you. There was a Newsletter last week, but I write to let you know that it will be the last one for a while.

I have had some difficulty since I contracted Covid in May last year. At first I thought it was Covid related, but then discovered after a number of tests that it was something totally different.

For many years I have walked early every morning, it has been a time of prayer and reflection for me and a good way to exercise. I have not been able to walk very far for many months now due to severe nerve pain in my legs. Therefore, to help overcome this I will be going into hospital for spinal surgery next Tuesday 21st March. There will then be a recovery time of 6 – 8 weeks.

As I will be out of action for a few weeks Archbishop Paul will deal with the day to day running of the diocese, with the help of Msgr Gerard Burns as Vicar General. Archbishop Paul will celebrate the Chrism Masses this year, and the Easter Triduum at St Teresa's Pro Cathedral.

Please keep me in your prayers as I face this surgery on 21st March.

Nāku noa. Nā

+ John

Reflection on Sunday 19th March Gospel

The Gospel of John, which includes the healing of a blind beggar, is not just about a miracle Jesus did many years ago.

It is about seeing reality and seeing Jesus more clearly today .

Do we want our eyes opened to the truth?

So often we do not want to look at the truth of our world as it is, with its injustices, violence and hatred, the oppression of the weak and of minorities, the divisions between rich and poor.

We do not want to see our own inner reality, our brokenness and fear.

We pretend that everything is all right and that we are all right.

Why are we frightened of the truth?

Is it because everything seems so terrible, that if we see reality too clearly we will fall into despair?

Yet if we seek deeper, we will find underneath our brokenness the beauty in our own hearts and in the heart of each person:

our capacity to love, to give life and -to take our place in the world - with others - to become a source of life and hope.

If we saw more clearly, if our eyes of faith were opened, we would discover an immense hope coming from Jesus.

This hope would imply change