

Kia ora dear friends in Christ,

Before I “sign off” as bishop and head south to Christchurch, let me update you on a few things since my last brief eNews last month.

- On Sunday 27th August, I formally closed **St Francis Mauriceville West** during worship at St Andrews Union Church in Greytown. A congregation of around 20 people gathered for a wonderful time of worship and thanksgiving to God.
- During its recent meeting, the Council of Synod agreed to sign a **Memorandum of Understanding between the LCNZ and the NSW-ACT** (New South Wales – Australian Capital Territories) District of the LCNZ. This will enable the LCNZ to receive episcopal oversight (i.e., from the bishop) from NSW-ACT during the next two years while we discern God’s will for how that oversight might happen beyond that time. Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus will be visiting the LCNZ over the next two weeks. We thank God for the way he has provided oversight and care for us through our sisters and brothers in NSW-ACT.
- We are delighted to announce that **Debbie Venz is the new Administrator of the LCNZ**. Debbie and her husband Andrew are returning to Christchurch after a number of years living in Adelaide. Debbie will begin this role in early October. Welcome home, Debbie and Andrew!
- Following on from that delightful announcement, let me express my thanks on your behalf to **Wivian Buckrell** who has been the temporary Administrator for the last few weeks. Wivian has overseen the packing up of the LCNZ office, including removal of LCNZ material for storage in Marton, sorting of other stuff for the Salvation Army, the dumping of rubbish, and all sorts of other things associated with us moving out. As well as this, she has attended and taken minutes for the last COS meeting. Thanks Wivian. You have been and are an amazing blessing to us.
- During the recent COS meeting, **Pastor Andy Marr** was appointed chair of COS and **Dennis Mollet** as facilitator of the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC). Thanks for your willingness to step into these important roles.
- Last Sunday, St Pauls Wellington welcomed **Pastor Detlev and Phyllis Voskerau** who have come to provide 8-9 weeks of locum ministry. Again, thanks be to God, that Detlev and Phyllis heard the call to come and be a blessing in our midst. Nau mai haere mai (welcome) Detlev and Phyllis!
- In coming weeks, we are also set to welcome two more pastors to serve brief locum / interim ministries in the LCNZ ... **Pastor Richard Vonesh** is coming to St Matthew Hamilton, and **Pastor Ken Schmidt** is coming to the Manawatū Lutheran Parish.
- The **Church Workers** will meet in conference at St Lukes Palmerston North from Sunday 17th to Tuesday 19th September.
- Each year the Local Mission department of the LCNZ facilitates a **Season of Prayer**, inviting and calling on congregations of the LCNZ to pray. This year the Season of Prayer is scheduled for 10 to 24 September, and the theme is ‘Lord, renew your church’. You are invited to intentional prayer – individually and with others in your congregation for ...
 - spiritual revival, hope, and joy in your church
 - the mission of your local congregation
 - people to come to know Jesus through our congregations’ mission and ministry.

For more information, check out: <https://www.lca.org.au/departments/local-mission/season-of-prayer/>

- **Calling all Epaphras!** Do you know someone in your congregation who has a calling from God to get on their knees and beg God for the spiritual maturity, Christlikeness and mission of the people of the local church? Or perhaps, does the description of Epaphras stir and excite something in your own heart?

In every church, God graciously puts at least one person like Epaphras. In every place, God provides people whose gifting and calling is simply to pray, intercede and be persistent with him for the growth and maturity of the congregation. Spirit-empowered, persistent prayer is the foundation of each ministry and mission opportunity of every congregation.

That's why LCA NZ Local Mission is launching the Epaphras Project. The project aims to identify, equip, affirm and network the intercessors – the Epaphras-type people – in every congregation across the church.

Who on earth are the Epaphrases in your congregation? They just may be among the quietest, least famous, but most vital people in your church! Will you join the Epaphras Project? For more information, check out: <https://www.lca.org.au/departments/local-mission/the-epaphras-project/>

- **If you're in Wellington** on Sunday 17th, come along to a concert I am performing in to raise funds for the Wellington City Mission ...

Fundraising Concert

wellingtoncitymission 

Organ And Harpsichord Recital For Two to Play

**SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER
FROM 2PM-3.15PM**

**ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
12-14 KING STREET, MT COOK**

*You are warmly invited to
an unforgettable afternoon of music*

Featuring



Roy Tankersley



Mark Whitfield

\$20

Suggested Entry Koha

- Funds raised will go towards Wellington City Mission's new transformative facility "Whakamaru".
- A Beacon of Hope and Support for Wellington's Vulnerable Community opening in 2024.
- Light refreshment will be served after the concert.

For More Information mark.whitfield@lutheran.org.nz

- **And if you're in Christchurch** on Sunday 8th October, you're most welcome to come to my installation as pastor of St Pauls Christchurch ...
 - 2.00pm at St Pauls Lutheran Church, 130 Burwood Road, Burwood
 - Pastor Andy Marr is leading worship and conducting the rite of installation

What a joy to be able to write to you each month over the last 12 years through this eNews ... to provide you with snippets of information and news (**pitopito kōrero**) and to share the story of what God has and continues to be up to in and through his Church, and maybe just to offer you some encouragement in your own journey of life and faith. It's time for me to sign off now.

With arohanui in Christ ...

