



# Archbishop of Wellington

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

20 July 2017

Dear Members of the Catholic Foundation

It is with real pleasure that I write a message to accompany the Annual Report to the Foundation for this year's Annual General Meeting. In the twelve years I have been the Archbishop of Wellington, I have become deeply aware of the fact that the Archdiocese could not do its work, if it were not for the support of the Foundation. The work of the Foundation and the financial support it provides to the Archdiocese is essential to its life. I could not offer the support I am obliged to offer to parishes, schools and organisations without the Foundation's financial support. Therefore I offer deep appreciation to you all.

Any diocese today is extremely complex and Wellington is no exception. We face many challenges, and financial sustainability is certainly one of them. So too, is the fact that we are having to manage with fewer priests than we had in the past and therefore the whole question of developing leaders is also a major challenge. It was partly for this reason that I called a Synod which will happen in September 2017. In my letter to people about the Synod, I reminded them that we all need to develop a renewed conviction that we are sent to proclaim the good news of the Gospel. We all have various roles and responsibilities, they are varied and diverse, but each one of us in the Archdiocese is a "living stone" in God's house. Therefore we all have a significant part to play.

We live in a privileged time with the leadership of Pope Francis. He has renewed the vision that comes from the early times of Christianity and told us that he wants the church to reach out to the peripheries, to the margins and has invited us "to be bold and creative" in rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelisation in our respective communities. *Evangelii Gaudium* (33).

In order to renew the vision of the Church that came from those early days of Christianity the Synod this year is important and I ask your prayers and continued support for the work that will be done over that weekend and once again thank you for your wonderful support for the work of the Archdiocese which enables us to be a church which has a mission to serve the community beyond itself.

I thank you and wish you every blessing.

Yours sincerely in the Lord

John A Cardinal Dew  
Archbishop of Wellington