



Kia tau te rangimarie ki a koutou,

In these Covid days and these days and weeks of uncertainty, constant change and many challenges, many people are finding it very difficult due to the limitations imposed on our lives by the threat and pressures of Covid 19. We know that a lot of people are out of work and struggling financially, others are working in difficult and trying circumstances, our social life has been disrupted, and for some mental health and well-being are a growing concern.

For our Parish, School and College communities, for families and individuals our whole way of praying has been disrupted. Many are finding it very hard at the moment while there are no Masses on Sundays under Alert Level Two. I understand how trying, testing and tough it is with no Sunday Masses. The decision not to have Sunday Masses, where it is very difficult to ensure that there are no more than one hundred people present, was made solely in order to keep everyone safe and to prevent the spread of the virus.

As the Prime Minister said recently **“this is a tough year.”** This means that we look for ways to support and help one another more than we have ever done before. A few weeks ago in one of his Wednesday Audiences Pope Francis said **“the pandemic has highlighted how vulnerable and interconnected everyone is,”** and then went on to say **“the pandemic is a crisis, and we do not emerge from a crisis the same as before: either we come out of it better, or we come out of it worse.”**

This is not a time to complain, it is not a time to feel sorry for ourselves. This is a time to give hope to one another, and in our parishes in particular to look for ways to make a **“new start.”** Maybe the new start will come about when each of us looks for ways to sow seeds of love and compassion and inspire others to care for those who are suffering because of the virus.

Every blessing. Naku noa  
+ John

**NOTICES:**

**General Election** - we will vote to elect a new Government on 17 October. There will be two referenda voted for on that day:

- **The End of Live Choice Referendum.** Please read very carefully the document attached to this newsletter and visit the website [www.riskylaw.nz](http://www.riskylaw.nz)
- **Cannabis Legalisation and Control Referendum**

Do you fully understand the ramifications of each of these referenda? Make your vote count.

**Fr Don Morrison** as moved into full time care at Home of Compassion, Silverstream. Please keep Don in prayer as he transitions from Featherston to Silverstream.

Due to the strengthening work being carried out at the Cathedral, as of Monday 14 September **8am and 12.10pm Mass**, will be celebrated at Connolly Hall until work is complete.

An email regarding the renewal of marriage celebrants registration has been sent to clergy by DIA. The Catholic church is exempt from renewing priests registrations each year.

**And the people stayed home; And read books; and listened; and rested; and exercised; and made art; and played games; and learned new ways of being; and were still: And listened more deeply.**

**Some meditated; some prayed; some danced: Some met their shadows: And the people began to think differently; And the people healed: And in the absence of people living in ignorant; dangerous; mindless; and heartless ways; the earth began to heal.**

**And when the danger passes; and the people joined together again; they grieved their losses; and made new choices; and dreamed new images; and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully; as they had been healed.**

Kitty O’Meara,  
Retired teacher and chaplain

**Praying:**

It doesn’t have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention, then patch a few words together and don’t try to make them elaborate, this isn’t a contest but the doorway into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.

Mary Oliver

✓  
to the end of life act

### For immediate release

End of Life Choice Act is a risk not worth taking says action group.

Two thirds of New Zealanders are unaware there is a referendum on euthanasia at this year's election. Yet the risky and badly constructed End of Life Choice Act will become law with a simple majority on the 17th October.

Getting people to consider what is in the Act and the implications of making it law is the aim of Vote No to the End of Life Act, a group of medical, law and ethics professionals who have recently launched their campaign heading into October's election.

"We are 22 professionals covering a range of disciplines that have come together to oppose this Act," says Peter Thirkell, Chair of Vote No to the End of Life Act. "Put simply, the Act is flawed. It will put vulnerable people at risk and will have too many unintended, negative consequences. We are encouraging New Zealanders to Vote No to stop this badly conceived Act."

The group's campaign focuses on 6 reasons for people to Vote No. Of these, the primary reasons are that the Act is bad law, the focus needs to be on providing compassionate care, and the overwhelming opposition of New Zealand doctors with more than 1,500 signing an open letter to oppose the Act as part of the 'Doctors Say No' campaign, and the New Zealand Medical Association also being opposed. There is also the unprecedented aspect of this being the first time an Act has gone to a binding referendum in New Zealand.

"Whatever your views of death and dying, this Act is poor legislation because it does not fully protect people from a wrongful death," says Peter. "Any New Zealander with a terminal illness of six months or less is at risk of an early death through a wrong diagnosis, a wrong judgement about how long they have to live, and pressure from uncaring or abusive family members. The fact that 98% of palliative care professionals and most doctors are opposed reinforces how risky and flawed the Act is. We've never had a fully drafted Act go to referendum in New Zealand before and few are aware of the implications of this."

The group is encouraging people to visit the website [www.riskylaw.nz](http://www.riskylaw.nz) and follow their social media channels on Facebook and Instagram so they can make an informed decision ahead of the referendum. There are a number of experts in this area that are available to speak at community events and people can request a speaker through the website.

"New Zealanders need to take the time to look at what is exactly in this Act. Only 1 in 5 people know what is in it. There is the very real prospect that most New Zealanders will wake up on the morning after the referendum and not realise what they have voted to become law. There's no going back and we implore New Zealanders to do their research."

**ENDS**

For further enquiries, please contact:

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Kill the Act. Not the vulnerable.

**RiskyLaw.nz**

to the end of life act

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