

PAX CHRISTI AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

KIA TAU TE RANGIMARIE KI A TAATOU KATO A / WORKING FOR PEACE FOR ALL EVERYWHERE



THIS MONTH'S NEWS....

Homeless counted in Auckland for the first time.

Food for thought: Eradicating Poverty and Ending Hunger

Haiku
Trees of Aotearoa New Zealand
by Helen Doherty

Rethinking New Zealand'd Foreign Policy.

Kia ora koutou everyone!

Apologies for the delay of the October newsletter...but I also wanted to squeeze in at least a mention of our VIP's that have come to our shores...and it is not the Duke and Duchess of Sussex! On Sunday morning (28th October), Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand welcomed Secretary General, Greet Vanaerschot and Johnny Zokovitch, Senior Communications Officer to Auckland, at the Peace Place, with a Mihi Whakatau. Present at this gathering were members of the Whangarei, Auckland and Mt Maunganui Pax Christi groups.

The Mihi Whakatau, which include speeches, waiata (songs), and introductions was followed by a shared meal of all attendees. After lunch there were reports from the three groups. This was followed by a presentation by Greet and Johnny about the current work of Pax Christi International; including a more in-depth explanation of the Catholic Non-violence Initiative as well as the Young Peace Journalist project (for more information of these projects go to www.paxchristi.net).

The day ended with Mass at St Paul's College, with more introductions and welcome from the community who worship at St Paul's. A very busy and very full day!

Greet and Johnny will continue their journey in Aotearoa New Zealand by visiting Palmerston North, Wellington and Christchurch. They will meet with members of the various Justice and Peace Commissions and Caritas ...just to name a few items on their agenda. More details of their trip will be in next month's newsletter.

Homeless counted in Auckland for the first time.

Auckland Mayor Phil Goff launched an initiative to count every homeless person in the Auckland region. The count took place in mid-September and had the support of at least 750 volunteers.

From 9.30 pm to midnight, volunteers scoured the streets, alleyways, bushes and graveyards to get an estimate of the rough sleeping population in Auckland. According to the count there were at least 800 people sleeping rough, that is without shelter and another 2874 people, including 1299 children in temporary and emergency housing.

With this in mind, the Auckland Council are now supporting the Housing First initiative aimed at providing homeless people with secure affordable and healthy homes.

Housing First Auckland operates on 5 principles:

1. Immediate access to housing with no housing readiness conditions.
2. Consumer choice and self determination
3. A harm reduction and recovery orientation approach
4. Individualised and person driven supports
5. Social and community integration

To understand what these principles mean in practice go to

www.housingfirst.co.nz/housing-first and read the more comprehensive outline.

The findings of the count carried out in Auckland will be made available in a report that will be released at the end of the year.

Source material NZ Herald (18 September & 9 October) and www.housingfirst.co.nz

Food for thought: Eradicating Poverty and Ending Hunger

Mid October has seen two issues highlighted; the 16th October was *World Food Day* and the 17th October was the *International Day for Eradication of Poverty*. Both these issues are number 1 and 2 in the Sustainable Development Goals: *Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere* and *Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*.

To end hunger, we need to have better food security and nutrition. The Western world, of which NZ is a part of, has a problem of wasting too much food and an increase in obesity within the population. Added to this, climate change is creating uncertainty in food crops and leading to more crop failures thus pushing the price of food up. From the 2018 Sustainable Development report (mentioned in worth reading section of the August Pax Christi newsletter), it states that in 2017, 151 million children worldwide, under the age of 5 suffered from stunting, 51 million from wasting and 38 million were overweight (p4). The report also states, under Sustainable Development Goal 1, that the 2016 estimate was of 45% of the world's population were effectively covered by at least one social protection cash benefit. In New Zealand the 2017 Child Monitor Technical report states that 290 000 New Zealand Children, 27% of all children in New Zealand are living in income poverty (www.unicef.or.nz).

New Zealand has a long way to address the fundamental issues affecting core facets of our society. I invite you to reflect on these numbers and perhaps pray for those who struggle to make ends meet and feed all their family healthy filling meals.

Trees of Aotearoa/New Zealand

Almighty Kauri

Rounded trunk so straight and tall
King of the forest

Rimu, weeping tree

Feathery green branches hang
In feminine mood

Kahikatea

Standing firm with buttressed feet
Tallest of all trees

Tow'ring Kanuka

Slim trunks etched in light and shade
Massed white bloom in spring

Ponga, fronds outstretched
Umbrella-like above me
Silhouettes beneath

Pohutukawa

Sheds red filament carpets
Bloom time is over

Helen Doherty

Rethinking New Zealand Foreign Policy

New Zealand Alternative was set up in May 2018 by a group of New Zealanders, in response to the challenge the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Winston Peters, lay down at the Otago Foreign Policy School earlier in the year. In that challenge, he asked listeners to think an alternative vision for foreign policy that was also bold and maybe riskier. *New Zealand Alternative* states their focus as having a commitment to an independent, values-driven policy for our South Pacific Nation. Through this commitment, they seek to re-frame and shape public debate about our role (NZ) in the world through hui, writing and connection with others.

Their first report, titled *Aotearoa New Zealand and Conflict Prevention: Building a Truly Independent Foreign Policy*, was released this month (October). From the executive summary, the *New Zealand Alternative* recommend that the Government establish an independent unit focusing on peace mediation and mediation support. The name of the unit should be as broad as possible and so they recommend calling this unit the Conflict Prevention Unit.

Source: Dominion Post Opinion Piece by Nina Hall (25 Oct 2018)

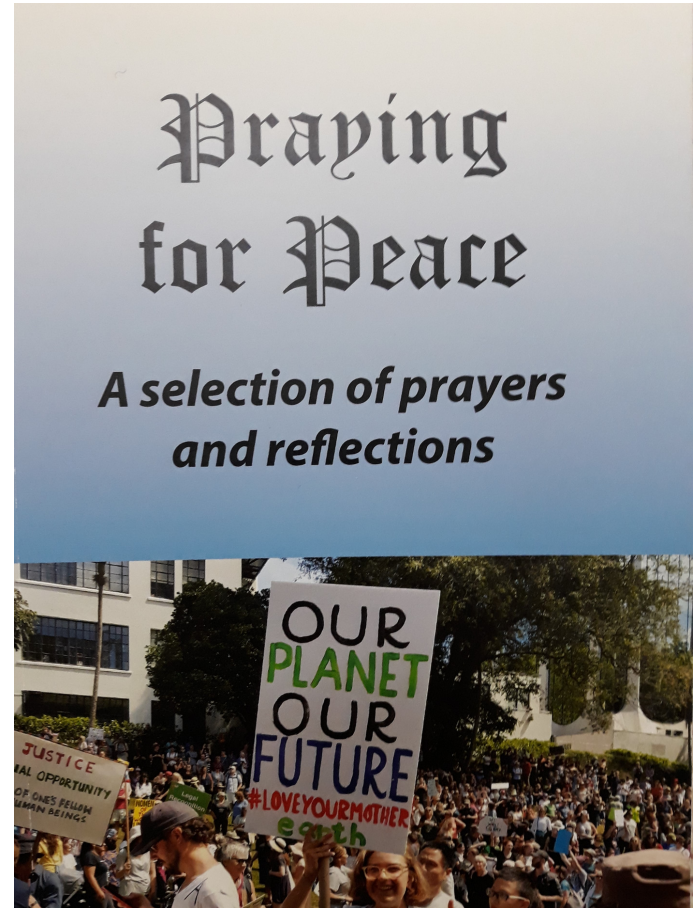
Worth Reading...

Alternative New Zealand, a think-tank set up by a group of New Zealanders have launched their first report *Aotearoa New Zealand and Conflict Prevention: Building a Truly Independent Foreign Policy*. This report proposes a foreign policy that is more values based and has peace making and conflict resolution at it's heart... a copy of the report can be download from: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bbbade20b77bd44e47a61b4/t/5bccc7607817f7df509e4c78/1540147042623/nza+conflict+prevention+report_web.pdf



Book Launch:

Praying for Peace: A Selection of Prayers and Reflections.



Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand are pleased to announce the book launch of the much anticipated '*Praying for Peace: A selection of Prayers and Reflections*'. Please join us on the **26th November** at **St Columba Centre, Ponsonby, Auckland** at **7pm**.

The cost of the book for those desiring to purchase a copy will be \$20.

Pax Christi

Aotearoa New Zealand

Pax Christi is an independent Catholic social justice organisation. We work hard to address issues of peace and justice at a local, regional and global level.

If you want to know more about Pax Christi, to join meetings, or to set up group meetings in your area, please contact paxnz@xtra.co.nz or ring 09 377 5541.

Pax Christi relies on volunteers & donations to enable the work to continue.

To make an online donation our a/c name and number is:
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Editor: B Crisp rsm

Promoter/Manager Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand

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DIARY DATES

- 28th Oct Visit of Secretary General & Communications Officer of Pax Christi International, Peace Place, Auckland Central 11am.
- Nov 2nd - 4th Peace Movement Aotearoa 2018 National Peace Workshops, Wellington.
- Nov 5th Parihaka Day
- Nov 25th Elimination of Violence towards Women.
- Nov 29th International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People.



Greet Vanerschot, Judith Crimmins, Kingi Davis and Johnny Zokovitch during the Mihi Whakatau on Sunday 28th October. Image B Crisp