

## A PILGRIM PEOPLE

### FOCUS: The Stranger, The Pilgrim

This month we focus on welcoming the stranger. There are so many ways to make a stranger out of the other.

The readings of the Mass this month give us real clarity as to how we make strangers out of the other. It can be by judging their actions, calling them "sinners"; it can be by judging them with the law and not bringing the love of God in forgiveness; it can be by emphasising the ethnic, economic or gender differences between us so as to become strangers; or are can just plain be "staying comfortable at home in what I know!"

The readings are very clear that welcoming those we have made strangers is simply at the heart of the gospel! But they also tell us that in facing this challenge it will not be easy, we will share the way of Christ, those who put their hand to the plough, it will cost to break open our comfort so as to forgive, to welcome, and to live as one body in Christ!

This is a lifelong journey, it is a pilgrimage, made up of daily choices to welcome, to serve, to forgive and to love!



### Suggested May Focus:

**Corporal Works:**  
*Welcoming the Stranger*

**Spiritual Works:**  
*Admonish the sinners*

### Time is moving on: come be a pilgrim!

*The Cathedral has been seeing a growing stream of pilgrims and pilgrimages being organised for the year of Jubilee. Individuals, classes, parishes, ethnic groups and youth groups have been finding their way to the Cathedral, entering the holy door and praying and meditating.*

*It has been and is fantastic, is it time for you and your parish, your class, your school, your community to come and focus on the call to welcome the stranger?*

*Contact the Cathedral on 06 357 2891 or visit [www.pncathedral.org.nz](http://www.pncathedral.org.nz)*



**JUBILEE OF MERCY**  
Dec 2015 – Nov 2016



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Palmerston North**

## Major Events

- This month we focus at home. The major event is to ask all members of the diocese to welcome "the stranger" into our home. To learn a new name. To visit the widow. If we all did this it would be a major event!

## Links to Resources

[www.pndiocese.org.nz/mercy](http://www.pndiocese.org.nz/mercy)

The Diocesan site with many resources for prayer and ideas for action, dates and how to make a pilgrimage. There is also a link to the Jesuit website with ideas on the Spiritual works of Mercy

[www.catholic.org.nz](http://www.catholic.org.nz) [Click "Bishops' Statements" on Home Page]

Links to all the NZ Bishops' Statements including "Be Merciful".

## Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

Week ending June 05 : Welcoming the Stranger:

The widow, the bereaved, the person we do not know at all (starting from we do not know their name), the readings tell us that it is in reaching out to them that we will know resurrection life. One person, this week, let us reach out to one person, so that we will know "God has visited his people!"

Week ending June 12 : Welcoming the Stranger:

We are tempted to disown the "sinner". We are tempted to judge, to apply hard rules and the law, and turn the sinner into a stranger. The readings today tell us that we do not live by the law, we are one in Jesus Christ and our lives are characterised by forgiveness and love, particularly of those who have sinned. That is you and me.

Week ending June 19 : Welcoming the Stranger:

Today's readings place before us the great call to unity, ignoring our racial, economic, social and gender differences so that in Christ we may be one; it is not easy. In fact, the servant of God will suffer! We too will suffer when we walk past our easy options of forming others into strangers and work to becoming one body in Christ!!

Week ending June 26 : Welcoming the Stranger:

We who have put our hand to the plough, who follow Jesus, are called continually to go to places where our society says we shouldn't go! The Samaritans were strangers not to be associated with, Jesus enters their village. It is easy to go back to "bury the dead", to hang around in the easy options; the call of the gospel is to reach out, to break barriers, to bring in the kingdom!



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