

# CTC Net work


A fortnightly newsletter of Te Kupenga Catholic Theological College

## IMPORTANT DATE

06 December - Marks for BTh and  
Grad Dip Th

## ANNOUNCEMENT / PANUI

Enrolment and re-enrolment for 2022 is now open



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- NZ Certificate in Christian Studies
- Christian Ministry Religious Education
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Registered as  
Good Shepherd College - Te Heparā Pai

## Message from the Dean

Dr John Evangelista

For the past 12 months, there were more than 500 enrolments in CTC's Certificate and Diploma in Christian Studies and other certificate courses of Personal Interest. Majority of these students are RE teachers in primary and secondary schools as well as hospital and prison chaplains and others involved in the different ministries. We are proud of all our students who continue to do a wonderful apostolate in all areas of Aotearoa New Zealand.



We echo the words of Pope Francis: "If we put the Gospel at the centre and bear witness to it with fraternal love, we will be able to look to the future with hope, whatever the tempests, great or small, we may experience today."

As we come close to the end of the Year of St. Joseph, we entrust all the work we are doing to the Holy Patriarch "who had never a thought for himself, everything revolved around the Child and Our Lady, whom God has entrusted to his care."

## 'The reign of God will not come with observable signs' A journey with teachers enrolled in the NZ Certificate in Christian Studies – Religious Education (NZCCS-RE) during 2021.

Brendan Bergin

The title above may not be conducive to the hard evidence of student achievement required at the end of an academic year that has been a Covid-fuelled antidote against self-improvement. My intention is to offer a reminder that the journey our students are on is often not apparent. This observation may prompt a teacher to cast lofty achievement aims and objectives against a broader tableau that can be difficult to paint.

I collaborate with a team of talented lecturers providing professional development support and education via the Level 5 courses at Te Kupenga - Catholic Theological College. Two courses I have particularly enjoyed teaching to the miracle workers in Auckland Catholic schools during this

discombobulating year have been RE502 Spirituality for Teachers and TH501 What Catholics Believe. Both units provide teaching professionals (many of whom are part of traditions beyond the Catholic realm) with rich material and the opportunity to consider the origins of their own spiritual inspiration, connecting this to the legacy of Catholic thought and contemplation on topics as varied as Grace, Free Will and Mary's prophetic role as the Mother of the Saviour. The *de auxilium* controversy between Jesuits and Dominicans offering slight relief along the way.

As I wonder through the battlefield of responses in student assignments it is not difficult to recall theological moments in class – light created from complex Church positions restored to

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### SCHOLARSHIP for STUDY at

### TE KUPENGA CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Bishop Patrick Dunn, the Catholic Bishop of Auckland, is pleased to call for applications for the

#### Ruth Miller Scholarship

for study at

#### Te Kupenga-Catholic Theological College

This scholarship will be available for a selected number of people who intent to do one or more Theology papers at Te Kupenga-Catholic Theological College towards a Bachelor of Theology degree in 2022.

**The closing date for applications is  
3 December 2021**

Please contact Catherine Ryan  
[catheriner@cda.org.nz](mailto:catheriner@cda.org.nz) for further  
information



## Top Essays for Semester 2 (2021)

At the end of each semester, we acknowledge the three "top" essays submitted by our students as part of their Bachelor of Theology and Graduate Diploma in Theology requirements. In this way, we affirm the student authors who also act as exemplars for other students. Lecturers were asked to nominate one essay which have received high marks, and from which was selected three top essays for the semester.

The top essays for this semester are:



Title: "Interchurch Marriages"  
Author: Robyn Nash  
Course Unit: The Sacrament of Marriage  
Lecturer: Dr Rocio Figueroa  
Comment: "Robyn made an excellent presentation of the challenges as well as the hopeful significance of Interchurch Marriages."



Title: "The Exorcistic Exception: Distinguishing Jesus's Exorcisms from Those of His Contemporaries"  
Author: Mark Bond  
Course Unit: The Person and work of Christ  
Lecturer: Rev Fr Merv Duffy  
Comment: "Mark's essay on Jesus' Exorcisms is creatively written and intellectually fascinating."



Title: "The Healing Ministry of Mother Suzanne Aubert (Sister Mary Joseph)"  
Author: Rev. Alfred Tong  
Course Unit: New Zealand Catholics: Their Story  
Lecturer: Mayte Ramos  
Comment: "The essay on Mother Aubert was very informative and based on extensive research. It gives the reader a glimpse of the life in NZ during the times of Mother Aubert. Alfred offers Mother Aubert as a model of an apostle of Christ among the poor and sick of early NZ."

## 'The reign of God ...'

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significance by individuals yearning to understand the complexities of the Catholic curriculum aside from any ecclesial veneer. Our position as lecturers is an honour bestowing responsibility. Tears can be one's friend when navigating the grief-hewn terrain of student loss and grief or profound responses to spiritual questions mining their image of God and a burgeoning spirituality strewn on A4.

In the piece of Scripture quoted at my outset above (Luke 17:20) Jesus' reminds the Pharisaic teachers who ask him when God's reign will arrive...that this reign is among them. And so it is with our well-intentioned efforts to impart knowledge associated with qualifications offered at Te Kupenga -Catholic Theological College. Aside from the accreditation that ensues, monarchical flourishing occurs in the blessed conversations we are privileged to share in school staff rooms, halls and meeting rooms that are part of a catechetical journey across the Diocese of Auckland.

(Brendan Bergin is a Religious Education Advisor at the Diocese of Auckland and CTC Level 5/6 Lecturer. [BrendanB@cda.org.nz](mailto:BrendanB@cda.org.nz))

## New Appointments

Two former CTC NZCCS (Certificate of Christian Studies) graduates were recently appointed as follows:

- ◆ Bernie Hall from St Mary's Catholic School in Rotorua, has been appointed principal of Bishop Edward Gaines Catholic School in Tokoroa.
- ◆ Arama Pou (Ngāti Hāmoa, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kuki Airani, Ngāti Pākehā), has been appointed DRS at St Pius X Catholic School, Glen Innes.



Arama Pou together with CTC Lecturers Cynthia Piper and Paul Shannon

## Susan Wilson

Assistant Dean (Level 5/6)



Many students, mostly school-teachers, have graduated with the Certificate and Diploma degrees in Christian Studies from the Catholic Theological College. The person behind these successful programmes is Susan Wilson who is the CTC Assistant Dean for Levels 5 & 6. Susan has worked in tertiary education for fifteen years both as a lecturer and administrator.

Susan finished both her Bachelor and Master's degrees from the University of Otago. She is currently working on a doctorate degree in Theology with the central question being: *What do we mean when we reject Satan at Baptism?*

Her favourite holy scripture passage is **"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" Mt. 5:3.**

Her great "mahi" is well-appreciated by both students and faculty alike.

**Thank you Susan.**

## An Online Event

Join us as Dr John Kleinsman (Director of Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics and Acting CE of Te Kupenga) and Rev Dr Mervyn Duffy (CTC Head of Bachelor Programme) talk about our response to the EOLC Act. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**TE KUPENGA**  
CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE PRESENTS

### Catholic Responses to the End-of Life Choice Act

Wednesday, 01 December  
6:00-7:00pm  
Via Zoom

Presenters:



Rev Dr Mervyn Duffy  
Degree Programme Head  
Te Kupenga Catholic  
Theological College



Dr John Kleinsman  
Director of Nathaniel  
Centre for Bioethics

A discussion on the guidelines issued by the NZCBC for those working with and ministering to people contemplating assisted dying and the Vatican letter *Samaritanus Bonus* on the care of persons in the critical and terminal phases of life.

