

CTC NETWORK

A fortnightly newsletter of Te Kupenga
Catholic Theological College

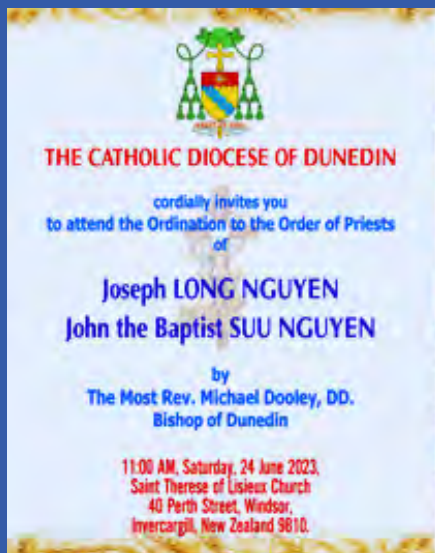


IMPORTANT DATES

- 26 May – Get together with Dr Rohan Curnow, CIS Deputy President
- 26 May – Thanksgiving Mass with Archbishop Paul Martin
- 26 May – Graduation Day
- 26 May – Governance Board Meeting
- 05 June – King's Birthday
- 07-16 June – Level 7 Study & Exam Week
- 09 June – Faculty Academic Seminar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SC502 Interpreting the New Testament
Friday 02 June, 5:30-8:30pm
Saturday 03, June 9am-4pm
Plus 3 online sessions
Mercy Centre Wellington
Lecturer: Dr Christopher Longhurst



Message from the Dean

Dr John Evangelista, Dean

Last week, I attended the Victoria University graduation ceremony in Wellington. The popular graduation song *Gaudeamus Igitur* (So, let us rejoice) was sung at the end which brought back memories of my own graduation many years back.

Indeed, let us rejoice today as Te Kupenga – Catholic Theological College graduates 40 of its students.

We wish the best to all our graduates. We thank their families and friends who have supported them in their academic journey. We applaud all our faculty and staff who accompanied our graduates at every step of the way. I dedicate this verse from the song *Gaudeamus Igitur* to all:

Vivat Academia,
Vivant Professores,
Vivat membrum quodlibet,
Vivant membra quaelibet,
Semper sint in flore!

Long live the academy!
Long live the professors!
Long live each student;
Long live the whole fraternity;
For ever may they flourish!

Congratulations to our 2023 Valedictorian

By Mark Bond



Kinh Nguyen is Valedictorian in this year's graduating class, and he attributes his success to God's grace and the "hard work of so many people." Indeed, both grace and people have abounded in Kinh's journey, which has spanned over the last fourteen years.

The youngest of a "big Catholic family with seven siblings," Kinh lived out his early years in the city of Vinh, Vietnam. After leaving high school in 2009, he spent two years working as a bricklayer before joining the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). From 2011 to 2015, he studied Sociology at a university in Saigon, and after "a long time of discernment," he left the SVD novitiate community in 2016. He thought it was the end of his priestly vocational journey, but just two years later, God called him to New Zealand, and he became a diocesan seminarian for the Archdiocese of Wellington in 2019. "God's work is always a surprise," he said, reflecting on the challenges and blessings of his calling. "[Being far from home], I often felt homesick, especially during my first year. But I have also experienced many blessings, the biggest one [being] that I am a member of the Archdiocese of Wellington. Whenever I'm back in my diocese, I always feel loved by the people."

Kinh is currently in his fifth year of formation at Holy Cross Seminary, and as such, he is in his "pastoral year," a period

in which a seminarian stays in a parish and immerses himself in the day-to-day life of its community. Kinh relayed that the experience has been "dynamic," and that his CTC education has been a "big help" in his ministry. "Having a strong theological background is helpful when you're asked to give a talk to children or adults, or when you're asked questions about liturgy," he said. Having had a taste of the administrative, liturgical, and pastoral demands of parish life, Kinh expressed gratitude for the joint support of Te Kupenga and Holy Cross Seminary, and encouraged other students to seek this support if and when they need it. "If you don't understand something, just be brave and ask your lecturers for help, as I did frequently. Sometimes I was afraid to bother them too much, but out of my love for knowledge, I always overcame that fear. And whenever I did, I always received wonderful assistance from my lecturers. After a while, I realised that they like students coming to them for help!"

Kinh's reflections come from a place of humility and thankfulness, and out of a desire to grow. His goal is to conform himself to Christ as he continues his pastoral placement, and as such, when I asked him which saint he would like to be trapped in an elevator with, he said he'd like to be stuck with the Blessed Mother. "I admire all the Saints, especially John the Baptist, my patron," he said. "But I think Mother Mary knows Jesus better than anyone else, so having time with her would lead me closer to Jesus."

Liturgy Seminar



A Liturgy seminar on Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, *Desiderio Desideravi* was held last 11 May at the CTC Campus. National Liturgy Office Director Fr John O'Connor and Co-director Catherine Gibbs facilitated the seminar to CTC faculty and staff.

Pope Francis encourages us all to rediscover daily the beauty of the truth of the Christian celebration. He shares with us his amazement before the Paschal mystery: "(we marvel) at the fact that the salvific plan of God has been revealed in the paschal deed of Jesus, and the power of this paschal deed continues to reach us in the celebration of the 'mysteries' of the sacraments."

Those who wish to get a free copy of *Desiderio Desideravi* can obtain one from the Dean's office.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Sr Thien SLC who achieved a Licentiate in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America. Sr Thien is a former Good Shepherd College (now CTC) student.