



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Bishop's Office – Te Taumata o te Pihopa Katorika

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3 March 2023

Dear Bishop Michael,

I write to you to offer my sincere thanks to you and to the people of the Diocese of Christchurch, for the significant generosity in light of the January flood event that impacted on Auckland and Northland.

As a Diocese, we were humbled by the generosity of so many in Christchurch Diocese that raised \$135,000. Your gift to us is just not just financial. It will bring relief, and wrap-around support for families overwhelmed with the enormity of trying to get their lives back to normal when they have lost everything.

I know for many of your parishioners this will resonate with them from the times when they too may have experienced similar devastation through the Christchurch earthquakes.

The partner agencies of the Caring Foundation, tell us that the enormity of the floods is hitting families and people hard. The days have dragged onto weeks, and the issues have compounded for some who are already overwhelmed with starting over.

Many families thought at first that they were able to manage on their own. Now is the time that they are reaching out for help. Their reserves have gone, there is barely any food in their homes, and they are at a crisis point.

With the generous funds from the Christchurch diocese, our agencies will still be able to be supported as we navigate through this second phase.

The Catholic agencies who have already received funds from the appeal are providing excellent care and support to those who need it the most. Their staff are exhausted but have not lost their commitment to being there for people in real need.

On behalf of the people of the Auckland diocese, thank you for being there for us in our time of need. With Christchurch Diocese and the nation as a whole, we now look to those impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Once again, may the Lord bless the Diocese of Christchurch for their generous response in our hour of need.

Yours sincerely in Christ the Good Shepherd

✠ Steve Lowe
Bishop of Auckland