



Archbishop of Wellington

PO Box 1937, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

15 January 2020

Dear Priests and Lay Pastoral Leaders,

During Lent 2020 the sixth *40 Days for Life* campaign will take place in Wellington.

In Wellington and Auckland, Family Life International NZ is facilitating the 40 Days for Life campaign. The same campaign is also occurring in Christchurch over Lent.

40 Days for Life is a worldwide simultaneous prayer campaign which takes place outside local abortion centres with the intention of saving lives and helping to bring about the end of abortion through prayerful, peaceful witness.

The prayer vigil has a three-pronged approach:

- **Prayer and fasting** for an end to abortion and for all those involved and impacted - babies, mothers, fathers, workers, etc.
- **Peaceful vigil** outside a local abortion centre
- **Community outreach** through a visible presence and providing information about foetal development, abortion, alternatives, and after abortion healing support programmes.

Six babies are known to have been saved during *40 Days for Life* campaigns in New Zealand.

Those who take part in the vigils share how they have grown in compassion and faith by participating. They recognise for some women they could be her last sign of hope and, for others, her first sign of mercy: They discover it is good to be at this place of great tragedy and a time of anguish and turmoil for many.

40 Days for Life 2020 will run from Ash Wednesday 26th February to Palm Sunday 5th April.

I ask that you encourage parishioners to participate where possible, and also pray for the success of the campaign by including this Prayer of the Faithful at Masses on Sundays throughout Lent.

We pray for the success of the 40 Days for Life campaign this Lent. May we receive the grace to participate wholeheartedly in God's plan for the end of abortion in New Zealand. Help us, Lord, to pray and make small sacrifices frequently in whatever ways we can this Lent that all preborn babies and their parents may be kept safe from the violence and harm of abortion. Lord hear us"

I give my endorsement to this *40 Days for Life* campaign.

Yours sincerely in the Lord

John A Cardinal Dew
Archbishop of Wellington

Archdiocese of Wellington, 22-30 Hill Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

T: 04 496 1766 E: j.dew@wn.catholic.org.nz