**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
2-9 June 2019**

***Message for parish bulletins for Ascension Sunday***

Dear friends

This week we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The unity of Christian churches is not usually something that is top in our minds in our daily lives. We tend to focus our time and energy within our own faith community.

Over the last 100 years there have been startling developments in the movement of the Christian churches towards one another. There are doctrinal differences, and differences in styles of worship and prayer. But compared to the animosity of previous centuries, we have made huge strides in learning to work together, especially in assisting the disadvantaged and in joint worship.

The Week of Prayer extends until Pentecost Sunday next weekend. You may have the opportunity to take part in an ecumenical service in your area - don’t miss that opportunity. You can use the Eight Days of Prayer for Christian Unity leaflet ([www.catholic.org.nz](http://www.catholic.org.nz)) for personal prayer or in a group, or simply pray in your own way for unity. Consider a practical action, for example, making contact with someone from another denomination, maybe just for a cup of coffee. Other Christians are just like us, followers of Jesus Christ, committed to his way, his truth and his life.

No action is too small in the work of promoting Christian unity. Our small actions are often multiplied by the Holy Spirit in amazing ways.

✠ John A Cardinal Dew

Archbishop of Wellington

Catholic Bishops Committee for Ecumenism