



Te Tari Ā Motu Mō Ngā Ritenga  
THE NATIONAL LITURGY OFFICE  
New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference

**AN INVITATION to create a new work of art with the working theme:  
*Mary the Mother of God and Patroness of New Zealand.***

**Background information**

August 15 is the Solemnity of the Assumption, a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics and the day we celebrate Mary, the Mother of God as the Patroness of New Zealand. In 2021 this feast falls on a Sunday and the National Liturgy Office (NLO) working on behalf of the New Zealand Bishops Conference plans to use this feast in 2021 to celebrate Mary by commemorating the 1838 dedication of Aotearoa New Zealand to Mary Mother of God.

**Theology of Mary on the feast of her Assumption**

*"Precisely because she is with God and in God, she is very close to each one of us. While she lived on this earth, she could only be close to a few people. Being in God, who is close to us, actually, "within" all of us, Mary shares in this closeness of God. Being in God and with God, she is close to each one of us, knows our hearts, can hear our prayers, can help us with her motherly kindness and has been given to us, as the Lord said, precisely as a "mother" to whom we can turn at every moment. She always listens to us, she is always close to us, and being Mother of the Son, participates in the power of the Son and in his goodness. We can always entrust the whole of our lives to this Mother, who is not far from any one of us."* Pope Benedict XVI

**Expressions of Interest**

The NLO invites local artists to submit expressions of interest in a new artwork to be used to re-dedicate Aotearoa New Zealand on the Feast of the Assumption in 2021. This is not a competition, but an invitation to submit ideas for a work which you would create. An appropriate fee would be negotiated with the chosen artist.

Your completed work would be

- Faithful to the concept described below
- Suitable for reproduction in some form
- Completed by early May 2021

**Artistic Concept**

We are seeking an image that is new and speaks to the reality of life in Aotearoa New Zealand in the 21st century. The image will be respectful of scripture, theology and Catholic Tradition.

**Your Proposal** should include some or all of the following:

- Themes / ideas / subject matter
- Use of media / materials / techniques
- Decisions relating to composition (reasons for choices of colour, textures etc)
- Artists studied and/or referenced along with links to the artist website
- Examples of some of your own work

**Please include the following with your proposal**

Full name; Postal address; Email; Contact phone

**Submit your expression of interest by 15 October 2020**

Email to: [liturgy@nzcbc.org.nz](mailto:liturgy@nzcbc.org.nz)

**For more information contact:** Catherine Gibbs - Administrator  
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National Liturgy Office [liturgy@nzcbc.org.nz](mailto:liturgy@nzcbc.org.nz)