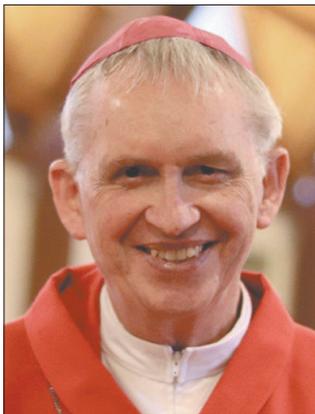


# YOUR VOTE COUNTS



## AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND GENERAL ELECTION 17 OCTOBER 2020



“The Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland has put together this leaflet to consider some election issues in the light of our faith. Elections are a time to reflect on what sort of society we want Aotearoa New Zealand to be in solidarity with the poorest and most marginalised in our midst – and then step out and vote.”  
– Bishop Patrick Dunn

# Euthanasia Referendum

You are being asked to vote on a specific law – The End of Life Choice Act 2019. This law lacks the safeguards which are contained in other assisted death laws overseas.

The Act cannot now be changed or made safer:

- It is not an Act of 'last resort' - it does not require a person to first use available treatments or try palliative care.
  - Unlike overseas laws, there is no mandatory cooling off period - a person could be dead within four days of diagnosis.
  - There is no effective process for detecting if people are being pressured, whether from their own feelings of being a burden or from uncaring or greedy family members.
  - The requirement that people only have six months to live is a guess by doctors not a science. Many people given less than six months to live go on to live full lives for many years.
  - The current law already allows people to say 'no' to treatments and to receive whatever level of pain relief they need, even to the point of being sedated if required.
  - There is no requirement for independent witnesses.
  - The Act risks making our terrible suicide problem worse.
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- More than 200 lawyers, some of whom who support euthanasia, oppose the Act because it's badly drafted and dangerous.
  - Key medical groups, including the New Zealand Medical Association, Hospice New Zealand, Palliative Care Nurses and Palliative Medicine Doctors all oppose the EOLC Act as unsafe.

For more detail of these see  
<http://www.nathaniel.org.nz/euthanasia>

# Housing

New Zealand has a continuing housing crisis. For too many families private housing is only a dream, not a reality. It is a government's responsibility to see that people are properly housed. Over 18,000 families are now on the waiting list for a state house.



**What commitment do the parties and candidates in your electorate show towards addressing the crisis? Whose policies are realistic and likely to result in more houses for those in most need?**

# Living Wage/Decent Incomes

Supporting those in greatest need is at the heart of Catholic social teaching. Since 1891 it has emphasised the importance of Just Wages and providing all with basic needs to live and thrive.



**Where do the parties and candidates in your electorate stand on lifting the basic level of benefits for the needy and supporting the Living Wage for all workers?**

# Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Any incoming Government needs to honour with goodwill the covenant entered into by the Crown and Māori, on which this nation is founded.<sup>1</sup>

**Where do the parties and candidates in your electorate stand on involving whānau, hapu and iwi Māori in decision-making processes?**

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.catholic.org.nz/about-us/bishops-statements/a-statement-on-the-treaty-of-waitangi-in-todays-perspective/>

## Support for Migrant Workers

Migrant workers are among the most affected by the pandemic and are often the last to receive any assistance.

Who is committed to extending full support to all migrant workers and overstayers and establishing an avenue to legally obtain residency?



“A virus that does not recognise barriers, borders, or cultural or political distinctions must be faced with a love without barriers, borders or distinctions.” – Pope Francis, General Audience, 9 September 2020

**Which parties and candidates in your electorate are committed to providing this support?**

## The Environment

Pope Francis calls on us to “hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor”. How will the parties care for our drinking water, ground water, rivers, sea, air, land, and wildlife?

Is there a strong commitment to work for effective climate protection here in Aotearoa New Zealand?

Is there a willingness to work for better international agreements concerning the climate crisis?



**What practical steps are the parties and candidates in your electorate proposing to protect the earth for present and future generations?**

Further Information see 2020 NZ Catholic Bishops Statement:  
<https://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Catholic-Bishops-Election-Statement-2020.pdf>



Authorised by P. Garrick, 30 New St, Ponsonby, Auckland