



13 January 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

As many of you are aware, our Carmelite Sisters in Christchurch are in urgent need of replacing their nearly century-old chapel. I offer my full support and encouragement for this important project.

For generations, the Sisters have been a steady beacon of prayer and a wellspring of spiritual nourishment within our diocese. They are now actively fundraising to secure the resources needed to rebuild their chapel, which is essential for sustaining their life of contemplative prayer. I warmly invite all who are able to consider contributing to this effort.

Let us take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude for all the Sisters have offered - to our community, our diocese, and the Church - through their faithful, hidden life of prayer and sacrifice

I trust you will join with me in praying for our sisters as they take up this important project.

Yours in Christ,

+ Michael Gielen
Bishop of Christchurch