

New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Committee for Interfaith Relations



July 13, 2023

RE: Matariki

Tēnā koutou katoa,

As Matariki appears in our skies, the people of Aotearoa take the opportunity to pause and reflect together on our present, the year behind us, and the year ahead.

Our interfaith committee recognises the worldviews and faith traditions amongst us in our work for peace and unity. We are particularly encouraged through the words of *Nostra Aetate*, as we consider the prompting of the night sky and the ancient Māori understandings of Matariki, that other spiritual traditions often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all.

This national time of reflection, rest, and aroha resonates with our own Catholic tradition that it is good to pause, bring to mind, and plant in our lives, what we hope will grow to bring life and light to our communities.

Together we gather, as the diverse people of Aotearoa, to connect with tangata whenua of this land, and reflect on the gifts and challenges of our lives, praying for ourselves, our whānau and wider communities, and our world.

Mānawatia a Matariki 2023 — Happy Māori New Year 2023!

The NZ Catholic Bishops' Committee for Interfaith Relations

On behalf of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Committee for Interfaith Relations:

+Michael Dooley, Adele Churchman, Teresa Fernandez, Matthew Gardner, Christopher Longhurst, Beate Matthies, Colin MacLeod (chair), and Nick Wilson.