



The Way of Peace
with the
Wellington Catholic Peacemakers

“Not everyone is called to do a Ploughshares action. Not everyone is called to commit civil disobedience. But everyone is called to do something for the disarmament of the world. Everyone is called to work for the liberation of the oppressed, justice for the poor, non-violence in place in this disastrous world of violence.”

Fr John Dear SJ *On the Road to Peace* Nov 2009

On this peace walk, the Wellington Catholic Peacemakers want to fully acknowledge the pain, the loss and the devastation caused by warfare and to pledge solidarity with groups that promote a culture of peace and justice.

In 1963, Pope John XXIII issued an encyclical on peace entitled *Pacem In Terris: On Establishing Universal Peace in Truth, Justice and Charity*.

The Wellington Catholic Peacemakers was formed in 2003 following a conference on the 40th anniversary of *Pacem In Terris*. This encyclical prompted Catholics to shift their thinking from the justification for war to building a culture of peace and promote alternatives to violence.

In the tradition of the Stations of the Cross processions and religious pilgrimages, during the Way of Peace, the Catholic Peacemakers will pause for reflection at several Wellington locations. Following a brief introduction at each memorial, participants will observe a short moment of silence, song and prayer.

The stops include one at the Parihaka memorial to acknowledge the tradition of active non-violence resistance in Aotearoa, led by the prophets Te Whiti-o-Rongomai and Tohu Kakahi over the confiscation of large areas of Maori land in the 1860s. Our pathway of peace will also include sites closely connected to the traditions of Catholic peacemaking such as those of the Catholic worker and the Ploughshares movements. The Catholic Worker movement links labour activism, solidarity with the poor and antiwar protest. The Ploughshares movement takes direct non-violent action to disrupt the machinery of war.

The Way of Peace will link peace-related memorials and historic sites from the Suzanne Aubert soup kitchen to eventually meeting with the supporters and members of the Waihopai Ploughshares. This walk is part of the wider events of solidarity with the Waihopai Ploughshares whose non-violent action at the Waihopai Spy Base in 2008 has led to a court trial in Wellington beginning on Monday 8 March.

As we walk and stop to pause at each memorial of Peace, we may reflect on “What steps am I willing to take for Peacemaking and Justice?”

For more detailed and updated information about events that will take place before and during the trial, please check at the website: <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/pltrial.htm>

We invite you to join our pilgrimage for peace.
We will gather at the
**Suzanne Aubert Compassion Centre, 132 Tory Street on
Sunday 7 March 1.30pm.**

The walk will take about 2 hours 30 minutes at an easy walking pace including a rest break along the route.

1. Suzanne Aubert Compassion Centre soup kitchen
2. Haining St memorial cnr Tory and Haining Streets
3. Parihaka Memorial, Buckle Street
4. Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, Buckle Street
5. Ernie Abbot Memorial tree/ Wellington Trades Hall, Vivian Street
6. Peace Capital Plaque, Cuba Mall
7. Te Aro Park, cnr Dixon and Manners Streets
8. War Refugees Plaques, Frank Kitts Park
9. Nuclear Free Wellington sign, Museum of Wellington City & Sea, Queens Wharf

Rest break: 20 minutes at Queens Wharf

10. Gandhi sculpture, Wellington Railway Station
11. Pou Whenua, Parliament grounds, Molesworth Street
12. Sonja Davies Memorial tree, Parliament grounds, Molesworth Street
13. Kate Sheppard women suffragette Garden, Parliament library garden, Molesworth Street
14. Nagasaki Bomb Figure, Parliament library garden, Molesworth Street
15. Finish with meeting the Waihopai Ploughshares supporters at the Katherine Mansfield Memorial Park camp site, Fitzherbert Street (near the top of Molesworth Street).

How to get there

Stagecoach Bus number 11 from Wellington Railway Station, departs 1.05pm on Sunday. Get off at Vivian Street and Taranaki Street intersection. Walk 50m south to the corner of Tory and Haining Street. Walk along Haining Street until you arrive at the Compassion Centre carpark on the corner of Haining and Tory Streets.

What to Wear

The Way of Peace will be held wet or fine. Dress for the conditions on the day. Please wear appropriate walking footwear, a hat, sunscreen, light snack and a water bottle. No dogs please.

Acknowledgement:

We give thanks to the ideas and information from the Wellington Peace Heritage Walk, which was developed by Peace Foundation Wellington Office. The walk was launched at the opening of the World Peace March in Wellington on 2 October 2009.

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