



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

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A letter from Bishop Patrick Dunn to all Parishes, Schools, Ethnic Communities and Religious Orders in the Auckland Diocese

The New Zealand Police wish to provide reassurance and advice to all the numerous communities throughout the country. They are aware that after the tragic events of last Friday in Christchurch, people may have some concerns and questions which the police are happy to address.

Their primary concern is to keep all New Zealand communities safe, and they have sent the following information which they would like us to give and to promote to all our communities.

Therefore I ask that the following message from the New Zealand Police be made available immediately to all our parishioners, school communities and ethnic chaplaincies.

- **Police have been present outside all Mosques and Islamic Centres around the country as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of our communities.**
- **Some police on the streets are currently armed. Again, this is a precautionary measure in response to the events in Christchurch and you should not feel alarmed.**
- **We are not currently aware of any specific threats but we are doing this as a precaution to protect our people and ensure they can go about their customs and religious traditions in peace and without incident.**
- **Police will be visiting all religious centres and places of worship as a precaution to provide advice and reassurance.**
- **We want everyone in our community to remain vigilant. Our message to everyone is simple: if you see something suspicious, say something – call Police on 111 immediately.**
- **If you wish to talk to someone in Police, we have dedicated Police staff who are always available to talk to our ethnic communities and provide safety advice and reassurance.**
- **In the event that an emergency situation happens, stay calm and phone emergency services by calling 111 immediately.**
- **In this situation, our staff will do our best to respect the religious customs and traditions of places of worship, however in an emergency situation, our priority will always be first and foremost to protect the community and do everything we can to ensure the safety of members of the public.**
- **In an emergency event, please listen and abide by the directions of Police staff and emergency responders at all times.**

