

A Reflection on St Paul's Message –

# ***Everyone has a part to play***

**Social Justice Week 2018: Enabling Communities**

***Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini***

***My achievements and strengths are not those  
of the individual, but those of the many***

Most people with disabilities are living and participating in local communities. **Social Justice Week 2018** challenges the church to become more fully informed, inclusive in attitude and active in making our parishes, communities and society truly welcoming and accessible to people with a disability. Equally challenging is the invitation to people with disability and their families to acknowledge themselves as *tāngata whaikaha*, “people in search of or pursuing strength” to discover their authentic and visible place within the Body of Christ. Therefore, the theme, “Enabling Communities:

Everyone has a part to play,” reminds each one of us of our responsibility to change attitudes, remove barriers, make space for each other and mould relationships of respectful equality and interdependence in membership and ministry so we may come to rejoice in our God-given diversity and the uniqueness of each member.

This reflection booklet offers a way to meditate and reflect on St Paul's message to the Corinthians that we are different parts of one body using three selected parts of the passage (1 Cor 12:18-27 – New Jerusalem Version).

## **Guidelines**

This reflection can be used by groups or families or by one person with a journal and with the Holy Spirit as our guide. As you begin, choose to be present, set aside distractions, notice the environment and centre on God. Sit in silence for a few moments before beginning.

Read each quote, allow a time of silence or reflection, then read the questions slowly. When considering the questions, 'the community' could be any group you choose - your family, school, parish or neighbourhood. Quietly reflect on your answer after each question. Then share what stood out to you with the group, or write your response in a journal.

## **Guided reflection**

### **Opening prayer**

E Hēhu Karaiti, Lord Jesus, may we recognise the gifts in each other and in ourselves.

### **Many parts make up one body**

*“As it is, God has put all the separate parts into the body as he chose. If they were all the same part, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ and nor can the head say to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones.” (1 Cor 12:18-22)*

**What part do I play in my community? How is my community enabling all to play their part?**

**How well do I feel connected to my community?**

**What barriers are there to me belonging more fully? What barriers to belonging may exist for others?**

## **Sharing our pains and joys**

*“God has composed the body so that greater dignity is given to the parts which were without it. and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body but each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all the parts share its pain. And if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy.” (1 Cor 12:24-26)*

**How do I support others?**

**How are we honouring each other in our community?**

**Who is hurting in our community that we need to support better?**

## **Playing our part**

*“Now Christ’s body is yourselves, each of you with a part to play in the whole.” (1 Cor 12:27)*

**How can I play my part better in my community? How can I enable others to play their part more fully?**

## ***Concluding prayer***

E Hēhu Karaiti, Lord Jesus,

You learned, like us, that being human means  
experiencing times of weakness and times of strength.

But you tell us, that when we are weak, we are strong.

It is then that we know that we need you and one another.

Help us to stand alongside each other, in good times and in bad.

Amen.

This material was prepared by Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand for Social Justice Week 2018, with assistance from Kirsty Anderson, Ken Joblin and Vicki Terrell. If you would like to find other resources related to Social Justice Week and our work, please visit our website [www.caritas.org.nz](http://www.caritas.org.nz).



Tutū ana te puehu

Stirring up the dust