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Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord

Bishop Michael Gielen

Today in Rome the Holy Father Pope Francis announced that he had appointed Bishop Michael Gielen as the new Bishop of Christchurch.

Just over two years ago I had to write a similar letter to you announcing his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of Auckland. Bishop Michael was Hamilton's taonga, Hamilton's gift to Auckland. Now, after two years of shaping and nurturing him as a bishop it is Auckland's turn to pass Bishop Michael on to the Diocese of Christchurch. Let us pray that as he was a taonga, a gift for us and the Diocese of Auckland, so he may also be to the Diocese of Christchurch.

Please join me in praying for Bishop Michael as he prepares for his move to Christchurch and installation as Bishop of Christchurch which will be in July. May the Lord he has faithfully followed continue to guide and grace him for his new ministry and mission in the Church.

Yours fraternally in Christ the Good Shepherd

+ Steve Lowe

✠ Steve Lowe
APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR