

# INFORM

PUBLICATION OF THE CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

Issue 121 - Lent 2020

"Mother of the Light" - The new Shrine to Our Lady Mater Lucis at Fourvière House of Prayer and Retreat".  
Photo credit: Sarah Blair

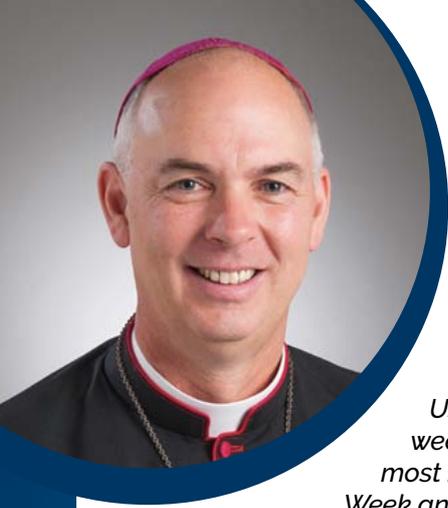


**OUR NEW VOCATIONS DIRECTOR** shares his journey to priesthood (page 8)

**"MOTHER OF THE LIGHT"** - our new Marian shrine (page 16)

**FR KEVIN MANNING SM RIP** (page 26)

**THE GIFT OF CLEAN WATER** (page 31)



# From the Bishop



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

*Usually this edition of Inform comes out on Palm Sunday and I write this piece several weeks beforehand. I had done this and began by acknowledging that we are beginning the most important week of the Church's year and just what it means for us to participate in Holy Week and share in the great paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour.*

How things can change! Now Inform is not being printed and is only available electronically. I am writing this on the day before we all go into lockdown for at least four weeks. We are all wondering what this is going to be like and what it will mean for us. It is a time of uncertainty.

But today (25 March) is the feast of the Annunciation and in the Gospel the angel says to Mary "do not be afraid". God was asking a lot from Mary, and inviting her to trust in his plan for her and not to allow fear to overwhelm her. We in our own way are entering a phase of our lives together where we are invited to do the same. We are so blessed to live in a great country, to be free to worship, cared for by a government who generally wants the best for its people and where we have good facilities and support when we are in need. The Covid-19 virus threat is real and we are playing our part by staying in isolation, but our lives continue and in fact we are being presented with a chance to actually stop and look at how we live, what we do, the quality of our relationships and also the quality and depth of our relationship with God.

Many of us have experienced in our lives moments of real difficulty and challenge. They were trying, but upon reflection how often have other graces and blessings emerged. God does not abandon us in these moments, instead he gives us grace and strength to be able to work through them, if we are open to receiving them. My prayer is that for each of us these coming weeks will be a time of this grace and that we will emerge from this as more committed to living a life that is in keeping with what God asks of us.

Part of the challenge of this time is the fact that we are not able to attend Mass together. It reflects just how central the Eucharist is in our lives. Yet it also highlights the fact that we have probably lost sight of much of what the Mass means. It is not just about a homily and going to Holy Communion. The whole of the Mass is a prayer to the Father, we are joined together in spiritual communion, every time Mass is offered by the priest we participate. We are united in prayer with all people. These are things that are worth reflecting upon over these days. It is why we live broadcast the Mass and when you are viewing it

you are really participating in this Mass. It is not like watching a show or being in a Skype meeting. It is real prayer, it makes present the sacrifice of Christ. Our Catholic understanding of the Mass is very multi-layered and I encourage you to take some time to learn more about this.

On the diocesan website we will continue to put resources that help you in your prayer life over these coming weeks. It is important that we keep nurturing our faith life, both individually and as a household over this time. It is in fact one of the hopes of our new pastoral plan that we will find ways of growing in our faith Monday to Saturday, for I have always said that just going to Mass on Sunday won't be enough to sustain us in a meaningful faith relationship with God. We are being given this opportunity now, in these most unusual of circumstances, to continue this journey. Hopefully at the end of it we will have learnt and experienced something of what it is to pray more deeply, to allow the scriptures to shape our lives, to use our traditional forms of Catholic prayer to mark the points in our day.

“Hopefully at the end of it we will have learnt and experienced something of what it is to **pray more deeply** to allow the scriptures to shape our lives”



After morning Mass at the convent in the village of Frs Tien & Tang



(L to R) Fr Do and his parents; Keen drummers from the celebration of the Mass for Fr Vui of the diocese of Palmerston North; Fine foods - Peter and Margaret Mary Comesky from Christchurch were with us also; Family of Deacon Tang Phan (below)

I know that you will be looking out for one another in this time. It is where the call to love our neighbour takes real effect. Keep in contact with one another, seek help if you are struggling. Don't be shy to ring your parish priests or pastoral workers if you need some help or just someone to talk to.

In January I had the opportunity to visit the families of our Vietnamese priests and seminarians. I wanted to go there to thank them for the gift of their sons and to let them know how much we value and are grateful for these men and their work for the Church and our diocese. It was a very privileged time to experience the depth of faith of these people, and to see how much their faith shapes their daily lives. There are around 8 million Catholic people in Vietnam, less than 10% of the population. Our Vietnamese priests come from the central part of Vietnam and most of them come from what they describe as villages, each with 3-4,000 people living there. The people living in these villages tend to be predominately Catholic. Each morning at 4.00am the Church plays religious music to wake up the people and at daily Mass at 4.45am the church would be full, at least 600 people. On the morning of the Lunar New Year celebrations (the equivalent of our New Year's Day) there were over 2000 people at the 6am Mass! It was very moving to be with people whose faith practice and belief was so strong. And it was a real mix of all ages as well. These people understood the power of the Eucharist and of gathering together to pray. The singing was on another level as well. To be in a church where everyone sang was quite an experience.

This made me think about our experience here of faith and Church life. It is true that in Vietnam the communist government has been hard on Christian people and as is so often the case people's faith is



strengthened because they have to make a decision about what they hold onto. But they structured their lives around their beliefs and they expressed that in their faith practice. It struck me that being together in this way supports the faith of each other and that when we make choices to enhance our faith practice our sense of God and his presence and power in our life deepens. It is like the person who trains for a marathon who grows to enjoy running and becomes fitter and more in tune with their body. So too when we deepen our experience of prayer, the Sacraments, spiritual reading, the rosary, our sense of God's presence and grace in our lives shapes and forms us to a much greater extent.

I am aware that as a country we are facing a real challenge to the dignity of human life with the change in the

abortion laws and also the euthanasia referendum. The Church teaches that life is sacred from conception to natural death and it is important that we uphold this. We understand that people get themselves into difficult situations and we want to support them in this, but this does not justify the taking of a life. We need to keep praying for a deep respect for the sanctity of life and also to continue to promote this in our society, even though it would seem many do not hold these same values.

Blessings and prayers for you and your families at this time.

Yours in Christ,

+ P. B. Martin SM

+ Paul Martin SM

The diocesan website:

[www.chchcatholic.nz](http://www.chchcatholic.nz)

lists information about parishes, Mass times, diocesan news and events. Parishes, schools and church groups are welcome to advertise events.

Please email [mstopforth@chch.catholic.org.nz](mailto:mstopforth@chch.catholic.org.nz).

“Every Catholic organisation, diocese and religious congregation is subject to an external review, carried out by NOPS.”



## National Office for Professional Standards

The Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand

*The National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) is the agency of the Catholic bishops and congregational leaders in New Zealand. Its role is principally two-fold: to coordinate the responses to complaints according to the Church's document "Te Houhanga Rongo A Path to Healing" and to direct and review safeguarding practices within the Catholic Church in this country.*

Safeguarding training for volunteers, clergy, religious and paid staff in all dioceses comes under the NOPS umbrella too and, in the main, is delivered by the person with safeguarding responsibilities in each diocese. You may have already attended a workshop session with your diocesan safeguarding person or have seen them advertised. If not, get in touch with your diocesan office to find out when the next workshops are scheduled. They are open to everyone.

Every Catholic organisation, diocese and religious congregation is subject to an external review, carried out by NOPS. This programme is just being launched and pilot reviews are to take place over the next few months.

In addition to the external review, one document published last year provides every entity with a vehicle

for self-review. In-house examination allows an entity to look in detail at the practices that are in place and identify areas to develop. It is a really useful tool for each parish, for instance, to consider on a yearly basis as a prompt to avoid potential problems and ensure everyone's safety.

The self-review tool and many other documents are available on our website:

[www.safeguarding.catholic.org.nz](http://www.safeguarding.catholic.org.nz)

**If you have any questions about safeguarding matters or a complaint, please contact us on 0800 114 622.**



Issue 121 - Lent 2020

### Nga mihi nui from the editorial desk

Welcome to Inform Issue 121 our Lenten edition. We celebrate the new shrine to Our Lady: Mater Lucis - Mother of the Light at Fourvière in Leithfield. Our new Vocations Director Fr Tien Cao writes beautifully about his journey to priesthood. We reflect on the life of Fr Kevin Manning SM and we celebrate the ingenuity of Mid Canterbury priest, Fr Huynh Tran, who is building water filtration plants in Vietnam. Along with our regular features, we continue our tradition of featuring school leaders from among our Catholic colleges.

Inform is a great way we can inspire and encourage each other in our faith. I invite you to send in a personal reflection of around 400 words, offering us insight about how you have been able to deepen your relationship with Our Lord. Do not wait for the next deadline, share now!

In Christ,

Ken Joblin, Editor  
Caitlin Godfrey, Assistant Editor

## FROM OUR DIOCESAN GENERAL MANAGER - Andy Doherty

*With gratitude, I have been thinking recently about the significant contribution being made by women in the Christchurch Diocese.*

I think back to my late mother, Irene. I took up my role in the diocese partly to pay my respects to my devoted Mother. My Mum had four boys and hoped at least one of them would be a priest. I was number three, so her expectations were high. Now I get to work with Bishop Paul Martin and all of the priests of our diocese. I am sure others are here at our Diocesan centre for similar reasons: because of our relationship with our devout mothers.

In the diocese, we have such talented and strong women who

are leaders in their field. I have met some great women in the parishes and especially when working on the parish fundraising projects. In the boardroom we have some real stars: sadly not as many of them as I would like, but that is changing over time. Our diocese is very fortunate to have such strong women setting the example for others.



# Valentine's Day Mass

*A Homily of Bishop Paul given at the Valentine's Day Mass in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.*

"I don't know if you have much idea about who St Valentine was? I must confess that I didn't, so a bit of research revealed that it could be a number of saints who bear the name Valentine, two of whom were from the early Church and were martyred for their faith. One of them was a priest who continued to marry people even after the Emperor Claudius decided that young men made better soldiers if they were not married and so outlawed it. He was eventually caught and was killed for doing this. Another Valentine was a bishop of the same period who was martyred by the same Emperor. Others say that the Church took over the pagan festival of Lupercalia and gave it a Christian emphasis. In the end it doesn't really matter. What is important is that it is an opportunity for us to reflect on the nature of love, relationship and vocation, both among people and also with the God who is the source of all life.

I have been thinking a lot lately about what lies at the heart of who we are, what we do and why we do it. It strikes me that when we get the right sense of our purpose and place in the world, our true destiny as God's creation and people, then it helps us to put all other things into their right perspective. It allows us to make choices that are good for our very being and for our relationships, both within this world and also with God. I have a strong sense that the unease so many people are feeling in our world today has something to do with this lack of meaning and a sense of their true purpose and reason for being here. We want to keep all our options open, but the irony is that this doesn't bring us the freedom we really crave in the heart of who we are. It is when we make a choice, which limits our other options, that in fact true freedom comes.

And we see this very clearly in good and holy relationships, especially in Christian marriage. For when a couple stand before the altar of God and make that covenantal bond with each other they are also placing that relationship within the relationship they have with God. Christian marriage involves the couple and God. And that is hugely significant if we allow that to shape who we are and what we do. For a Christian marriage to be true to its inner reality it must continue to be a union in which God is intimately present. Because you all know that on a purely human level, married life

will have all sorts of challenges and difficulties, moments of great joy and also great suffering. We know that many marriages do not last through these challenges, they sadly come to an end. But if we continually draw on the reality that Christ is a part of this marriage, that the Holy Spirit is at work in each other, then that allows us to place the relationship in that sphere. I wonder how often couples pray together for the graces they need for their relationship? Now the fact you are here tonight would suggest that you do have an understanding of the spiritual nature of your relationship and your desire to continue to honour the commitment you made to each other and with God in your marriage. But it is worth reflecting on again about what is done during a marriage to strengthen and deepen the spiritual dimension of this bond and union. I wonder how often we pray for each other in terms of the strengthening of a relationship, a healing of wounds, calling on God's grace to be poured out on those who might be struggling.

It is what St Paul was encouraging the Colossians to do in the first reading - to sing songs and psalms of praise to God, to allow the peace of God to reign in our hearts so that we become one body. For in marriage two become one and in this it mirrors the love of God within his very being. A healthy Christian marriage shows forth the love of God and the fruitfulness that comes from that in terms of new life and also a generosity of spirit and a desire to share that with others.

And that is why I really like the wedding feast of Canaan. Because it was in the context of a wedding that the ministry of Jesus began. And it is about the role of others as well, it all only happened because Mary became aware of the need and she really pushed her son into getting on with it. I am sure that the bride and groom probably weren't aware that the wine was running out, but it was the context of their marriage that saw the ministry of Jesus begin and there are all sorts of people running around in the background doing all sorts of things to ensure that it goes smoothly. I think that a good marriage can be

like this too. The relationship provides the environment in which people are given a chance to take responsibility, to grow, to worry about others, to form good habits, to celebrate, to be hospitable, to encourage others to get on with their lives. How many of you will have done that very thing for your own children as they have grown and moved on from the family home and from under your direct care.

And that is why we take this reality of marriage so seriously. It isn't just a legal contract for us, it is so much more. At the heart of it all lies the calling of two people to come together, to become one in union with God who made them and loves them. From this will hopefully come new life and also the environment in which the couple and their family grow in their own holiness and wholeness. They show forth the reality of who they are as people who understand their calling, who know what they are on about and why they are doing what they do, but most importantly that they help each other to become saints so that they may be ready to be with God when the time comes to go to our heavenly home. What a wonderful thing that is and what an incredible privilege to be able to do that for another person in cooperation with God.

Today is a day when we celebrate the love of people for each other in marriage, when we recognise the vocation of married life and we ask God to continue to pour out his graces on married couples, that through their example they may witness to the God who lies at the heart of their marriage."

**"when a couple stand before the altar of God and make that covenantal bond with each other they are also placing that relationship within the relationship they have with God"**



## The Rite of Election and the Call to

# Continuing Conversion

1 March 2020, St Mary's Pro-Cathedral

*On the first Sunday of Lent throughout the Catholic world, bishops gather with those seeking to join and share in the mission of the Church. There are two groups of people on the journey into full communion. The first group is known as the Catechumenate, enquirers into the faith who are not yet baptised. At the appropriate time in the Rite of Election, each inscribes their name in the Book of the Elect and pledges their desire to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.*

This year, Fr Rick Loughnan represented our bishop who was convalescing after an eye operation. What follows are testimonies offered by Parish Education Advisor Alex Chia, outlining the journeys being taken by those seeking full communion in the Catholic Church at Easter.

"In one parish, a catechumen has been showing clear signs of the Lord working in her life. Not long after moving to Canterbury, she felt a deep spiritual hunger. She decided to visit a Catholic Church despite not having any Catholic background. Unknowingly, or rather by God's grace, she visited the Catholic Church on what happened to be the first day of Lent. Since then she has been welcomed by the parish community. After joining the OCIA process, she has often expressed her delight with the beauty of Catholic life and faith. She attends Mass during the weekdays. She joins in with the parish's corporal works of mercy, delivering meals to families in need through the parish connection with 0800 HUNGRY. She has worked to bring her own life and family into conformity with God's plan. She has helped prepare her two young sons for their First Holy Communion, and is longing to join them in receiving our Lord in the Eucharist.

We give thanks to God for the work that he has done, and also to the catechumens, for by the witness of their faith

they have also strengthened the faith of all baptised.

In one parish, a candidate was baptised in the Anglican tradition as a child. Surrounded by friends who are Catholic, she began to investigate the Catholic Church. Since joining the OCIA process, she was moved by the Christian witness of her parish priests and catechist. She attends Mass with her children. She practiced Christian charity among her friends, supporting and caring for them in their times of distress. She consistently sought God in her daily life, asking him for guidance, help and protection. She educated her children in the Christian faith, and taught them to pray every night. Often, she has expressed a deep desire to be united to Jesus through the Eucharist.

The candidates are eager to be united to Christ in the Eucharist and to have full communion with his Body, the Church."

When we come upon someone interested in the Church, our call is to encourage them to seek further. This could be with your parish priest, pastoral worker or by contacting OCIA Advisor Marianne Daly on (03) 353 0758 or a [mdaly@chch.catholic.org.nz](mailto:mdaly@chch.catholic.org.nz).



Jun Diep and his God parent  
Sheila Junsay from Addington

## For the Common Good

*A response to the harm done the Muslim community on March 15, 2019. Following consultation, we release this statement:*

As people of various faith traditions, we recognise that we share common space; the common space of this planet and city we all call home.

For those of us committed to the Christian faith, our Muslim neighbours are our friends. (as are those of other faith traditions, and those of a secular faith.)

We, like our Muslim friends, follow our religion faithfully. Although we recognise the reality of our religious differences, we do not see these differences as things that must divide us. We are devout in our faith, and respectful of our friendship. Our faith and friendship need not be mutually exclusive.

For our sake, that of our children, and generations to come in Aotearoa New Zealand, we seek common ground.

We may not share a common faith, but we share a common humanity.

Our differences can be seen in our rituals and our prayers, but now, as humanity, we hold to a common dream: Salaam, Shalom, Peace, Rangimarie. We hold to the dream that our children may play in peace without fear of violence.

We acknowledge that our religions share a complex and intertwined history - a history that has been too often tumultuous and bloody.

We believe there is a better way, and we seek that better way.

The way of peace.

And so:

*We pledge not to hate.*

*We pledge not to dehumanise others.*

*We pledge to do no harm in the name of God.*

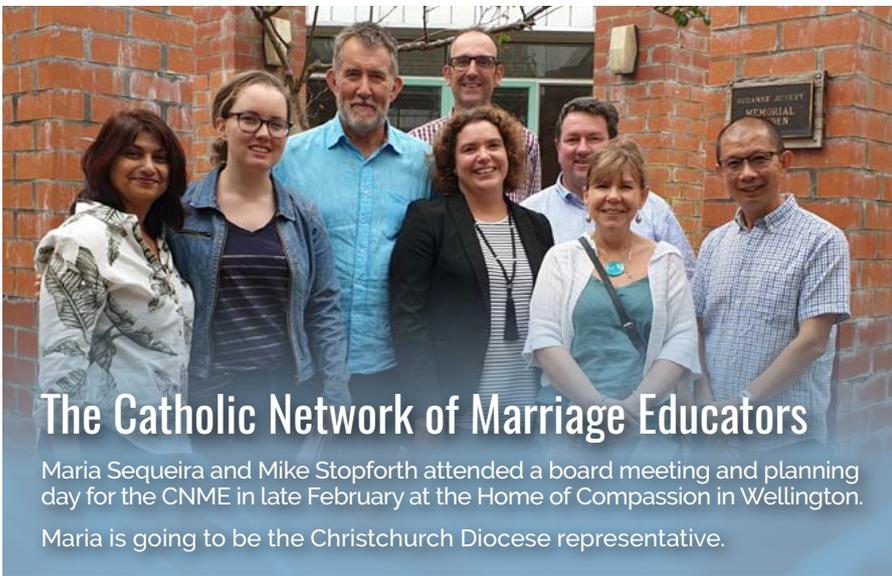
We acknowledge that we hold to differing claims of truth in our respective religions, but we will not use truth claims to fuel hate or justify violence.

We will practise our faith in a manner that fosters peace, upholding the call of Jesus to love our neighbour as ourselves.

We are Christians, and our neighbours are our friends.

*Te Raranga*

*Network of Christian Churches, serving Otautahi, Christchurch and regions. (adapted with permission from a statement signed by Ahmed El-Sherif, Samuel Nachum and Brian Zahnd.)*



### The Catholic Network of Marriage Educators

Maria Sequeira and Mike Stopforth attended a board meeting and planning day for the CNME in late February at the Home of Compassion in Wellington. Maria is going to be the Christchurch Diocese representative.



### Clergy Gathering held in Hanmer Springs

In a unique gathering over two days in March, Bishop Paul called his parish priests and assistant priests to gather with him in Hanmer Springs.

The purpose of the gathering was to provide an opportunity for priests to be away from their ministry settings to reflect on the Bishop's plan and future direction of parishes. The discussion was focussed around 'Our Faith - Our Future' with opportunities for input and discussion. Input included a discussion on the identity of priesthood, the role of leadership and tools for effective leadership in parishes and exploring further the vision for the diocese. In addition there has been some discussion about future parish priorities.

The gathering certainly expressed a strong solidarity amongst our priests.

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## THE NEW DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS FOR THE DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

*My mother was the first director of my vocation to the priesthood. It was God who chose me from eternity to be the priest of Christ, but it was the faith and the life witness of my mother, at home and at the local church, that made me realise the call.*

As God told the prophet Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I set you apart and appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). From this verse, I realise that my mother did not call me to the priesthood, but she certainly played a key role in this call. Together with my wonderful father, my mother gave me the first gift of life. I am forever grateful to them for bringing me into the world. I love my life.

My mother was the first teacher who taught me and my brothers to make the Sign of the Cross. I remember being very excited when I was able to

make the Sign of the Cross for the first time. I kept repeating it many times during the day, because I believed that I had achieved something important and special in my life. As my father died when he was 37 years old, my mother also became the sole spiritual director who taught my brothers and me to communicate with God. She was the first person to teach us the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be, and she did not give up on us until we had learnt them by heart and could pray them well out loud.

As I have recently been appointed by Bishop Paul to be the Director

of Vocations in the Diocese of Christchurch, I can't help but acknowledge the essential role of parents in the lives of priests. Parents are the first faithful and moral formators, who work hard and sometimes become weary, in order to provide a good solid foundation for healthy young men and women whom the Church receives and leads to Christ, in order that they become His intimate friends and servant leaders in the faith community. Pope Pius X said that the family is the first seminary. Similarly, the family is the first convent and the first monastery for priests, nuns, religious brothers and sisters, and other forms of vocation in the Church as well. In this way, the Catholic Church never fails to emphasise and to acknowledge that parents are the natural role models for their children in their expression of the identity, life and mission of the Church.

**“Parents are the first faithful and moral formators, who work hard and sometimes become weary, in order to provide a good solid foundation for healthy young men and women whom the Church receives and leads to Christ”**

Here, we recognise, that to strengthen the values of the family, is to strengthen the foundation of vocations to the priesthood as well. Indeed, parents don't call their sons to the priesthood, but without their support and constant encouragement, young men may be incapable of realising their holy call to the priesthood.

Unfortunately, many young men in New Zealand today, grow up without having much support at home of their faith and the witness of their parents. These men are also worthy of being loved, encouraged and invited to the priesthood. If we remember how Jesus called his Apostles: Peter,

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“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I set you apart and appointed you a prophet of the nations”

(Jeremiah 1:5)

James and John, Matthew and Thomas..., we can be confident that he is not very concerned about our profession or qualifications. Rather, Jesus needs our continual 'Yes!' so that he can equip us with everything else we need for formation and mission.

As the new Director of Vocations in the Diocese, I am looking forward to journeying with men who have received even the slightest call from God to the priesthood. I thank my parents, my grandparents and every parent who has been generously encouraging their sons and grandsons to become priests of God. Also, I want to encourage and to thank every parish group and individuals, especially Fr John O'Connor who was the former Vocations Director of the diocese, who has been praying for vocations to the priesthood. Finally, please allow me to share some quotes on the priesthood, from St John Vianney (1786-1859), who is the Patron Saint of diocesan priests:

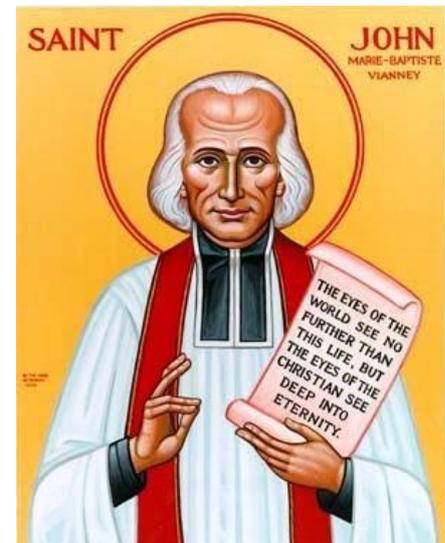
“The Sacrament of Holy Orders is a Sacrament which seems to relate to no one among you, and which yet relates to everyone. This Sacrament raises a man up to God. What is a priest? A man who holds the place of God - a man who is invested with all the powers of God. “Go,” said Our Lord to the priest; “as my Father sent me, I send you. All power has been given me in Heaven and on earth. Go then, teach all nations... They who listen to you, listen to me; they who despise you despise me.” When the priest forgives sins, he does not

say, “God absolves you”; he says, “I absolve you.” At the consecration, he does not say, “This is the Body of Our Lord;” he says, “This is My Body.” “... Go to confession to the Blessed Virgin, or to an angel; will they absolve you? No. Will they give you the Body and Blood of Our Lord? No. The Holy Virgin cannot make her divine son descend into the host. You might have two hundred angels there, but they could not absolve you. A priest, however simple he may be, can do it; he can say to you, “Go in peace; I pardon you.” Oh, how great is a priest! The priest will not understand the greatness of his office till he is in Heaven. If he understood it on earth, he would die, not of fear, but of love.”

Fr Tien Cao  
Vocations Director  
Catholic Diocese of Christchurch

Email: [vocations.chch@gmail.com](mailto:vocations.chch@gmail.com)

Above: We include in our prayers Monty Bamford, a fifth year seminarian who has recently joined the team of priests in the new North Parish.



St John Vianney,  
Patron Saint of diocesan priests



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[www.naylorlove.co.nz](http://www.naylorlove.co.nz)





# Silverion Summer Camp

## Filled With the Spirit

*A group of 17 young people from the Christ and Our Lady at Silverion Summer Camp 2019 Bay of Plenty. This annual Catholic medieval festival featured 47 children and 35 adults in the "Kingdom of the Knights"*

The mission of Silverion is to form young boys and girls into men and women of God and provides a "rite of passage" into a personal adult faith which has the courage and daring to last a life-time with all its challenges. Among those priests serving the mission of Silverion this year were Fr Michael Therese of the Community of St John and Fr Gregoire of the Beatitudes. Srs Clare and Therese of the Community of the Beatitudes joined the leadership team. Camp director Daniel Côté Davis is Director of Religious Studies at John Paul II High School in Greymouth. He plays the



## Supporting our young leaders on the "FRONTLINE"

*In early March the Catholic Youth Team (CYT) held its Frontline Camp to launch its annual youth discipleship and leadership programme.*

Our frontline programme aims to support older youth to grow in their personal relationship with Christ and his church, and develop some of the skills to be more confident members and young leaders in their parish community and the diocese.

Previous participants in our Frontline programme have gone on to become key young leaders in our Catholic communities, both parishes and schools. This year's programme has over a dozen enthusiastic young

people who participated in our weekend camp out at Wainui and will go on to do a monthly follow-up formation programme over the year. The camp was run by CYT staff and other young adult leaders from the Catholic community, who will journey with them and support them throughout the year's programme.

One of the highlights of the weekend was a team building activity, which required the young people to build a raft that could hold their team afloat

once they launched it into the bay. We won't say they are the best raft builders around, but there were certainly plenty of laughs to be had by everyone.

This year's programme has been split into two streams, a Discipleship stream for the First Year participants and a more in-depth Leadership stream for those who are back for their second year. We look forward to supporting these wonderful young leaders as they journey together in the years ahead.



Church Diocese recently had a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ in 2020. This camp was held in January at Ngakuru Tyburn Monastery in the form of a medieval fantasy summer camp for students aged between 8-16, brought together by the "Gift of the Holy Spirit" (Silverion).

character Ranger Earendel in Silverion.

"Silverion Camp is held on a site of perpetual adoration and is underpinned by a foundation of a year of prayer from the Tyburn sisters for our Children of Light. In this way it draws its strength directly from the testimony of the Tyburn martyrs who preferred death than to renounce their Faith in the face of tyranny," said Mr Côté Davis. "Our young people attending this camp learn through the Tolkien-inspired story-line in which they are immersed. They also benefit from catechesis, rosary, Mass,

Adoration, good role models and fellowship, how to train and fight for the Lord through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and through the complementarity of authentic masculinity and femininity." He went on to say. "It's also a lot of fun!" One young person said "at the camp we learnt of the importance of Jesus and the Holy Spirit being in our lives. A part of the fun was dressing up and learning how to either wield a sword or a bow and arrow."

It is safe to say that the young people are already looking forward to Silverion 2021. One said, "Everyone had a blast,



can't wait for next year." Next year's camp will be held on 15-17 January 2021 at Ngakuru Tyburn Monastery. "Joy in the White Stag (Jesus Christ) and the Lady of Light! (The Virgin Mary)."

For more, google Silverion Camps.

## A SPORTY START TO THE YEAR

### for Mission Team & CYT

The Catholic Youth Team (CYT) and their Mission Team got their ministry year under way in late February, with the combined commissioning Mass for our 2020 Mission Team and CYT Sports Day.

Around 200 young people and their families joined us for a Youth Mass in the Marian Hall, and then joined us for the sports day out on the Catholic Cathedral College sports field. It was wonderful to have groups of youth representing all areas of the city, as well as Rangiora, Mid Canterbury and Ashburton.

This year we have four young women on our Mission Team; Melevesi, Flygia

(Gia), Sophia and Soana. Fr Alister Castillo commissioned the team on behalf of the bishop, who unfortunately could not be present this year. The team, who have completed their training, are now heading out to our schools and parish communities to run wonderful events and programmes with our young people. But their first stop was sports day; what a way to get started for the year!

Sports day was filled with the usual bucket loads of antics, fun, and laughter as teams competed for the much coveted Sports Day Cup. When we say bucket loads, we are being quite literal. In the tradition of sports

day there are very few traditional sports and lots of crazy made-up activities that involve people getting quite messy and wet.

Although sports day is, first and foremost, about getting our youth from different communities together for fellowship and fun, that does not stop the competitive spirit coming out in everyone. At the end of a hard fought day the winners trophy was taken home by new champions St Peter Chanel, Rangiora. Well done team and a huge "thank you" to our many parents and young adult volunteers, without whom these types of events would not be possible.



# Head Students 2020

*In the first issue of Inform for the year, we enjoy profiling the head students of our Catholic colleges, all of whom were invited to submit student profiles. Here is a selection from most of our secondary schools.*



## Raziel Manuel

Catholic Cathedral College  
Head Girl

I am Raziel Manuel. I have attended Catholic Schools since my arrival in New Zealand from the Philippines and this greatly helped me out with my faith, because it allowed me to become more open-minded and understanding towards other people's beliefs and cultural differences. I attend a youth group outside of school, and am quite involved with the cultural and spiritual aspects of our school through Kapa Haka and Remar. I intend to influence the school to also become more understanding and accepting of one another; further emphasising the family spirit of our kura. We want to help to establish a place that students can call a second home.



## Thomas Munro

Catholic Cathedral College  
Head Boy

I am Thomas Munro. I have been a Catholic for as long as I can remember and have been at Catholic Schools since I was five years old. It has affected me, not only in more spiritual ways than I can possibly explain, but in a social and personal way too. I believe that going to Catholic Cathedral College has dramatically changed my values in life. Our school has such a dynamic and detailed history, beliefs and culture, meaning that everyone has a place at our school. As I was strongly impacted by this, one of my goals this year is to help continue the Catholic mission at our school and embrace our historical, religious and cultural roots even more.



## Anna Donaldson & Jacob Smith

John Paul II High School,  
Greymouth  
Head Students

Head girl Anna Donaldson and head boy Jacob Smith put their hands up for the roles in 2020 because they wanted to support their peers and "be the faces for the school". Both 17, they said they want to see the school become more involved in the community and give students more opportunities outside of the school gate.

Jacob is hopeful of heading to the University of Canterbury next year to study commerce, which could eventually see him take over from his father Dave, who owns Mitre 10 Mega in Greymouth. He enjoys basketball in the winter and tennis in the summer.

Anna, who hails from Ngahere just outside of Greymouth, is keen to make medicine her career and is looking at undertaking the health science course at Otago University next year. She is an all-round sportswoman who swims, runs, plays hockey and helps coach junior athletes.

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“students are encouraged to incorporate the core values of Whakaute (Respect), Tika (Justice) and Manaakitanga (Hospitality) into our everyday lives and to use them as much as we can.” - Isabella Grant - Villa Maria College Head Student



### Lasela Sumner

Marian College  
Head Student

Talofa lava, my name is Lasela Sumner and I am of Samoan and New Zealand European heritage. I'm part of the Tafesilafa'i Samoan Catholic Community and my church community has always encouraged me to grow in my faith.

My family is really important to me and faith has always been an important part of my family. My grandparents are very grounded in their faith and Samoan values, and have always modelled their Christian faith through their actions and service to others.

Throughout my years at Marian, I have grown in confidence and learned many things that have helped me become the person I am today. My passions include music, reading and helping others. This year, the senior leaders and I are all about ensuring that every girl at Marian College is able to bring their whole self to school, and that they experience a journey where they embrace the values of Marian College, which are Courage, Commitment, Perseverance and Respect.

After recently returning from JJAMM - the Joseph, Julian Tennison-Woods and Mary McKillop 2020 Conference - I am excited to work collaboratively with Marian's senior leaders and students to strengthen our knowledge of what a hard-working woman Mary MacKillop was. We hope to encourage all students to try new things and to make the most of all the opportunities we are given.



### Kole Harmer

St Thomas of Canterbury College  
College Captain

Kia ora. My name is Kole Harmer and I am the College Captain at St Thomas of Canterbury College. I feel blessed, because my fellow leadership team and I have a large vision for the year ahead. As we look to build on the current culture and "brotherhood" at St Thomas', we have crafted our mission statement "Brothers Together, Brothers Forever". We will demonstrate this by forming strong relationships with younger students through various events and functions. We are servant leaders; volunteering in junior classes, leading fun activities, and enabling the younger students to participate and feel included in our school family and community.

I am also extremely grateful to have such a strong support group around myself. The leaders and fellow year 13 students are always willing and open-minded to give their time and energy to help in any way possible. I am grateful for my family, coming from a diverse background with a very large family. I am also grateful for the staff and my school: for all the opportunities they have gifted me with, inside and outside the classroom. Always going above and beyond, guiding boys to be strong young men, rounding off their knowledge with wisdom: Virtue Scientiam Complete.



### Isabella Grant

Villa Maria College  
Head Student

Kia ora. My name is Isabella Grant and I have the privilege of being Head Girl at Villa Maria College for 2020. I have been at Villa since Year 7 and I have always been very proud to be a Villa girl. I love to play sports and I represent the school in netball and waterpolo. Villa and its strong values have helped to shape me into the young woman that I am today and I count myself very blessed to be able to attend such a fantastic school.

A focus for me this year is to try and get girls involved in as much as they can throughout the school, whether it be academic, sporting or cultural. I think that it is very important to immerse yourself in as many different experiences as you can, especially because Villa has so much to offer. In doing this, I hope that girls may find something that they really love, which makes school not just a place to learn, but a place to pursue passions and interests.

As a Mercy school, Villa students are encouraged to incorporate the core values of Whakaute (Respect), Tika (Justice) and Manaakitanga (Hospitality) into our everyday lives and to use them as much as we can. Faith has always been a big part of my life. With my family being Catholic as well, I was brought up going to Church and being taught how to live my life in the best way possible for myself and others. I have always loved how much Villa incorporates the history of the Mercy Sisters into classes, Masses, liturgies and activities throughout the school, because I believe it is important to know how the school has evolved over the years, and how the Sisters have contributed to our community.

I am honoured to have been selected for this role at Villa Maria and I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and what it has to offer.

Recipients of the certificates with Bishop Paul in front of the Altar (Christchurch)



# Teachers' Commissioning Masses 2020



Diocesan Sacred Music Advisor Ken Joblin at the organ in Greymouth



Roncalli College Special Character students Rosa Heenan and Kathryn Cody



The mass in Timaru was beautifully supported by both student and staff musicians



## Becoming Catholic Leaders

At St Peter's School in Beckenham, we have 14 Year 7 and 8 students. We are the leaders of our school with roles as Whanau leaders and Young Vinnies and Faith leaders.

With our public service projects, we are able to demonstrate our Catholic faith with the wider community. To begin our public service we have started visiting and working with the children at Beckenham Kidsfirst kindergarten. This will happen once or twice a month for the rest of the year.

In March we are beginning planning for a significant public service event with the support of the Catholic Youth / Mission Team, and we are excited about what this might be. We look forward to learning about creating an event from scratch.

As a team of 14, we are looking forward to a wonderful year of enjoying our learning through a variety of experiences as we become Catholic leaders.

# Congratulating our Cathedral Cantor Wally Enright

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cathedral Administrator Fr Chris Friel called forth Cathedral Cantor Wally Enright from the choir gallery. This came as a complete surprise to Mr Enright, who shyly made his way to the sanctuary steps. Fr Friel spoke the following words:

"Julian Enright (or Wally) as he is known, joined our Cathedral Choir as a student of Xavier College in 1977. He has been a faithful singing servant of our Cathedral now for more than 40 years.

While Wally learnt his craft from singing alongside more experienced tenors, he is innately musical (inheriting his mother's musicality), has a phenomenal ear, an excellent musical memory, a great understanding of how pieces fit together and an acute sense of detail. He is what is commonly known as a safe pair of hands and has done much of the musical heavy lifting over the years.

It is the voice of Wally we often hear from the choir gallery: navigating some quite tortuous Psalm settings, carefully walking the high wire of Gregorian Chant in our Plainsong Masses, as tenor soloist in our orchestral Masses, providing leadership to his own line and vocally parachuting onto other lines when needed. Wally has a broad musical knowledge and enjoys less formal music such as pop and rock and is known for his karaoke performances. He has sung with Canterbury Opera and in Tower Voices New Zealand. He has been on tour with our choir and sung in many of the principal Catholic churches around the world.

Wally has been deeply committed to Don Whelan, our Musical Director, and his wife Beris and to the choir, and regards choir members as family. Over the years, Wally has shown great care for others as they meet challenges in their own lives. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of choir birthdays and takes great pleasure in announcing them. Wally enjoys mixing with parishioners after

Mass, and his knowledge of sport is very helpful when talking to those who may not share his knowledge of music.

In making a presentation to you today Wally, we are not farewelling you. This year we honoured Don for his fifty years of fidelity to the music of our Cathedral. You Wally are very much part of that story. In October, the Choir presented Don with some sketches drawn by parishioner Robyn Bascand when they were on their first big international tour in 1990. Robyn also sketched Wally and it is this picture we would like to present to you today. A Church music commitment of more than 40 years needs to be honoured and on your behalf, I would like to do so now since I am concluding my own time here in the next few weeks. Wally, thank you for your talent and dedication which you have used in the service of our Lord and of our Cathedral church. May God continue to give you every grace and blessing."



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## The New Shrine to Our Lady Mater Lucis -

# Mother of the Light is opened at Fourvière, Leithfield

*On the eve of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 500 people gathered in the small north Canterbury village of Leithfield at the Fourvière House of Prayer and Retreat for the opening of the new Shrine of Our Lady, Mother of the Light - 'Mater Lucis'.*

The new Shrine, opened on the 25th Jubilee of the presence of the Community of the Beatitudes in New Zealand, features a replica statue of Our Lady fashioned to resemble the golden statue that sits at the top of the Basilica at Fourvière in Lyon - a place of special significance to the mission of the Church in Aotearoa and the Pacific. The statue was made in Lyon and arrived at the site of the Shrine just in time for the 7 December Jubilee celebration.

The opening coincided with the anniversary of final vows for Sr Thérèse Assémat who leads the Beatitudes Community in New Zealand. Sr Thérèse told the people gathered that the Shrine is a place for families and individuals to come, to rest, to bring their picnics, to make retreat, to pray and to come closer to Jesus.

The ceremony was honoured by the presence of Monsignor Patrick Le Gal, Auxiliary Bishop of Lyon and Father Pierre Marie from the community house in Sables-d'Olonne, both of whom had travelled all the way from France. They were joined by several Beatitude friends from New Caledonia and Sr Agnes from Australia. Local Maori leaders opened the ceremony with karakia and waiata and led the visitors into the sanctuary.

Matua Bob Te Miha of Te Rangimarie, who was part of the first group of Maori who welcomed the Beatitude missionaries twenty-five years ago when they arrived in New Zealand,

was there on 7 December to give the opening mihi at the sanctuary.

The congregation was then moved to hear Bishop Le Gal speak to them in English, explaining about the Lyon Basilica of Notre Dame de Fourvière and the journeys of blessed Suzanne Aubert, Bishop Pompallier, St Peter Chanel, and the many other missionary saints who consecrated themselves to Mary at Fourvière in Lyon before setting out to evangelise Oceania.

Bishop Le Gal then unveiled the new statue of Our Lady, Mother of the Light 'Mater Lucis'. The large crowd watched expectantly as he reached high towards the top of Our Lady, who stood on a plinth, to remove the blue silk veil that covered her. There was an audible and spontaneous sigh of appreciation as the statue was revealed. The French bishop, who was also that very day celebrating both his anniversary of priestly ordination and consecration as a bishop, said to the people, "Even though the statue in Leithfield is a lot smaller than the one in Lyon, I have noticed here in New Zealand your hearts are at least as large".

Bishop Le Gal then presented a very special gift he had brought from Lyon - a beautiful nineteenth century painting of a young girl praying to Our Lady of Fourvière. He explained that this girl, and others who had prayed at the shrine and received graces or miracles, were inspired

to commission 'ex voto' paintings of themselves praying there and then donated them in gratitude. This particular painting, created in 1836, was gifted to the shrine at Lyon around the same time as Bishop Pompallier was visiting Fourvière in preparation for his New Zealand mission.

During the Mass, Bishop Paul Martin blessed the new statue, which was made in France and shipped





(L-R) After being moulded, Sr Clare stands in the spot where Our Lady is to go. Students from CCC deliver the statue with members of the Loretz and Light families

to Leithfield. In his homily, Bishop Paul emphasised the importance of spreading the Good News "even to the ends of the earth". He then turned to Bishop Le Gal and with a smile said, "I know you now will have a new appreciation of what that means".

He then challenged the people to be missionaries to their families and communities just as the first missionaries had brought the light of Christ to our shores.

Once night had fallen, the faithful were invited to light a candle in preparation for the opening of the Fourvière 'Festival of Lights'. In procession the Blessed Sacrament was accompanied from the Chapel to the Shrine.

Christ was then adored until dawn under the starry sky of the Southern Cross. The people entrusted the New Evangelisation of Aotearoa into the hands of Mary in the hope that she will draw more and more

pilgrims to Jesus each year for the 'Festival of Lights'.

This 'Festival of Lights' is a long-held tradition at Fourvière in Lyon on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The event in Leithfield was the first of what will now become an annual 'Festival of Lights' at the new Shrine.

It was an evening of great beauty and devotion for all those brought together under the motherly gaze of Mary, radiant beneath the southern summer sun. They sang the glory of God in English, Maori and Latin as they celebrated the Eucharist. The wind blew strongly, the Holy Spirit manifesting His presence.

### The Journey of Our Lady to Fourvière

The establishment of the new Shrine was months in the planning, and despite the best efforts of the Community of the Beatitudes and their friends both in New Zealand and in France, the job of creating the replica statue in Lyon and transporting it to the newly built shrine structure in Leithfield went right down to the wire.

A "crowd funder" effort online in France had taken time to raise the money needed to commission the piece, and so the craftsman who cast the statue could not wait to watch the paint dry before packaging it and sending it via air courier. This having been done, however, just a week out from the Shrine's opening, the

statue had not arrived in Leithfield despite being due several days earlier. Upon contacting people in France and tracking down the large package, organiser Michael Loretz was dismayed to learn that the statue had been delayed and was still in Orleans, France, where there were looming strikes and some uncertainty about the volume of the package, which meant it had not been picked up.

Much prayer and many phone calls followed, even to the CEO of the Courier company, to get the precious package moving.

A special "plan B" was ready to go ahead. Organiser Michael Loretz had noticed that there was a statue of our Lady located in the Kaiapoi Church which had a similar posture and size. It was decided that, if the statue from Lyon did not arrive in time, Fr John Adams would be approached and permission sought to borrow the statue from Kaiapoi and paint her gold for the opening.

Then just three days before the opening event, Mr Loretz, a school teacher at Catholic Cathedral College, got a call from the courier company. He was just about to head off with eight students from the school on their "service day" to Fourvière to help get the grounds ready for the event. The call was to say that the statue of Our Lady, Mother of the Light had arrived at Christchurch Airport. So, instead of heading straight to Fourvière, the two car loads of teenagers took a

“Even though the statue in Leithfield is a lot smaller than the one in Lyon, I have noticed here in New Zealand your hearts are at least as large”



diversion to the Airport and picked up the package in person. Squeezing it into the boot of one of the cars, the group made their way to Mr Loretz's Leithfield home where they lovingly unwrapped Mary whilst singing "Mo Maria" and "Ka Waiata". Mr Loretz wanted the first language prayed to Mary in front of the statue to be in Te Reo Māori.

With rain threatening, a gazebo was erected and the teenagers and some local families carried Our Lady, "Mater Lucis" through the streets of Leithfield Village, singing Marian Hymns and the Catholic Cathedral College School Song.

When they finally got to the Monastery (a hikoi of about 1km), the Community of the Beatitudes were waiting at the top of the driveway in front of Fourvière House to welcome Mary.

Sr Thérèse welcomed the students and their special guest with tears in her eyes. There were hugs of joy, and hymns in Maori and French, before the statue was taken to the Chapel for Mass, after which she was taken to her place at the new Shrine for the first time.

The story of the arrival of Our Lady to Fourvière Leithfield is one of providence, and shows how the timing of Our Lady and her Beloved Son is always so perfect.



Clockwise: Priests and Bishops from France and New Zealand process in for the Jubilee Mass, Dominic leads the Eucharistic Procession at the Festival of Lights, local Maori leaders hongi Bishop Le Gal from France.



## A special invitation

You are welcome to come and join with the Community of the Beatitudes at the Shrine of Our Lady, Mater Lucis. The community prays Lauds.

The Shrine is open daily (apart from Mondays). There is daily Mass at the Shrine at 12.00pm (Tuesdays to Sundays) with morning adoration from 8.00am to 12.00pm.

You are warmly invited to come to the Shrine for a Sunday pilgrimage. The Lord's Day at Fourvière starts with adoration at 11.00am, Mass at 12.00pm, a "bring your own" picnic lunch at 1.00pm followed by a special

catechesis at 2:30pm and prolife Rosary at 3.00pm to finish a very special day out.

Retreats of various kinds can be booked at the shrine too, and Fourvière is the perfect place to escape a world lost in artificial connections and to rest in the heart of Mary and Jesus. Email [beatitudesNZ@gmail.com](mailto:beatitudesNZ@gmail.com) or phone Michael Loretz on 021 825 955 for more information.

Retreats and visits to Fourvière can be arranged by contacting the Fourvière House of Prayer and Retreat at [retreats@fourviere.nz](mailto:retreats@fourviere.nz) and details of events and celebrations can be found online at [fourviere.nz](http://fourviere.nz).

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10.30 am Board Games	10.00 am Morning Tea
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# “Today our prayer is of gratitude to God that we are not alone”

*On 7 December 2019, (the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception), Bishop Paul presided at an open-air Mass at the Fourviere Retreat Centre, Leithfield. Here is the text of his homily.*

“It’s a wonderful feast: the Immaculate Conception of Mary, on which to gather in this place to dedicate this new shrine of Our Lady of Fourviere. Fourviere in France is a significant place in the history of our Catholic faith in New Zealand, since some of the first missionaries to our land including Suzanne Aubert and Bishop Pompallier began their journey on the hill of Fourviere.

On this feast we celebrate the fact that from the beginning of time God has had a plan, and just as each one of us is a part of this plan, so too, Mary who gave birth to Jesus the Son of God, has a central role in this great plan. It reminds me of that wonderful reflection of Pope Benedict at the start of his pontificate: “Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed. Each of us is loved. Each of us is necessary.”

We also need to recall that God does not impose his plan, but created the human race to co-operate in the plan, gifting us with freedom so that our co-operation is not enforced or manipulated but a free response to the thought, the will, the loving of God. This takes us back to the opening chapters of the bible. God and Satan at war, and tragically in that first battle God appeared to lose and paradise seemed to be lost to humans. But God put a new plan into action that involved prophets and preachers and powerful leaders, with journeys to new earthly promised lands. However, Original Sin had planted in us a vulnerability to sin and an inclination to grasp at signs instead of staying with our inbuilt longing for present and permanent intimacy with

God. Our freedom was now flawed and all the great witnesses of the Old Testament struggled to give hope.

Yet God’s plan continued to develop and grow appreciating that men and women were clearly in need of a flesh and blood saviour, speaking with the clarity of human voice and acting in the world with human actions. In this plan God chose Mary to be the worthy dwelling for his Son, preserving her from every stain of sin from the moment of her conception. Mary lived in this God-centred and free response preserved through earthly life into heaven.

But we might say surely this is an unfair advantage? We know that unlike Mary, we are conceived already burdened by the effects of sin? But no! The plan of God used Mary to bring us the one who would save us through baptism, not only from the Original Sin but from the sin we fall into throughout life. Because of Christ, brought into the world through the “yes” of Mary, our “yes” to God can be restored and refreshed and restored again through the sacramental life of the Church.

While we participate in the liturgy of the Church every Sunday, we know that every moment of every day, our hearts desire is to co-operate with God’s plan. We forget this. We often struggle and fail. We resist and we get distracted. But this is where the plan of God is able to touch us even more deeply.

The Gospels are filled with accounts of sinners becoming the most intimate friends of Jesus. This is the life we are offered today, in companionship with

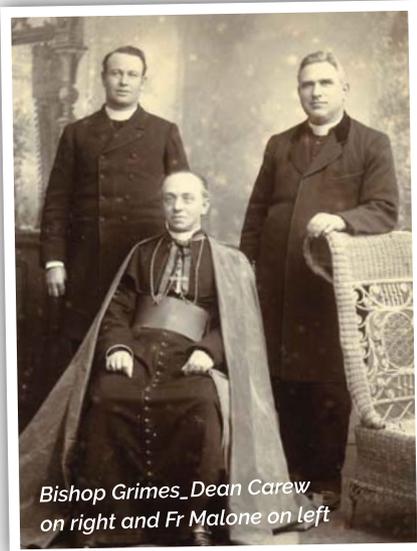
the Virgin Mary, who used her freedom only to grow in closer relationship and co-operation with her son.

It is helpful for us to look at the words of Mary in the Gospels, but we might be surprised to see that Mary speaks only four times. Luke gives an account of her dialogue with the angel at the Annunciation, a brief dialogue concluding with Mary’s “yes, let it be done to me according to your word.” We pray this in the Angelus. A few weeks later, on her visit to her cousin Elizabeth, Mary proclaims the great Magnificat hymn of praise which is prayed daily in the Evening Prayer of the Church. Twelve years later, Mary, on finding her son Jesus, reminds him: “Your father and I have been searching for you.” There’s an unexpected prayer: to hear Mary say to you “Your father and I have been searching for you.” Finally at the beginning of his public ministry at the Cana wedding feast, Mary invites those present to “do whatever he tells you.”, a moment we remember in the second Luminous Mystery of the Rosary. These words of Mary are significant, and every one of them worthy of prayer and personal response.

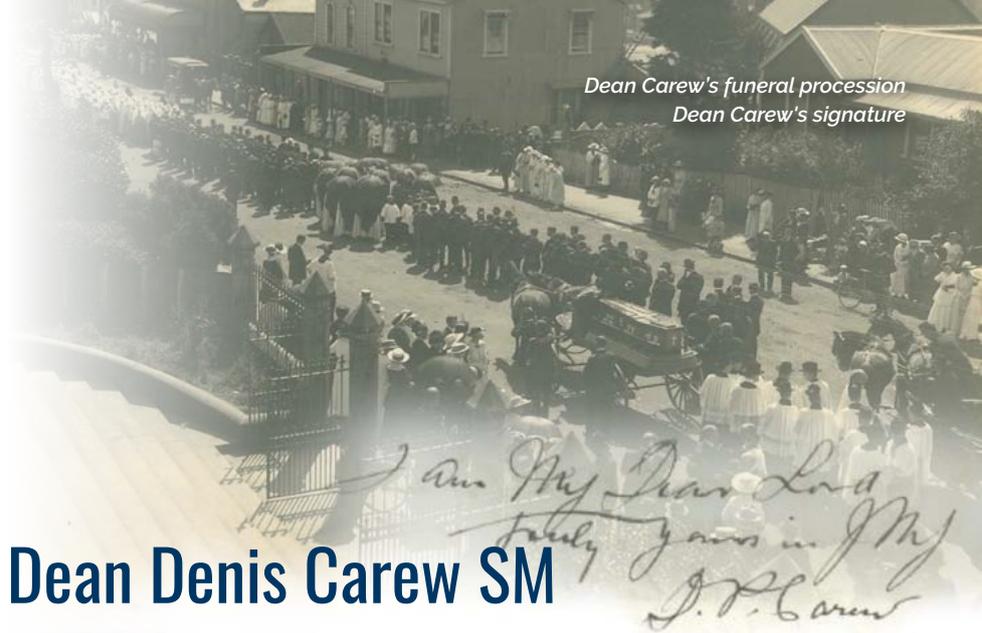
But it is also significant that Mary was often named as present, at many other moments recorded in the Gospels and in the prayer of many people of faith in the centuries since. Here Mary is silent, but totally present, reminding us too to ponder reality in our heart. Today our prayer is of gratitude to God that we are not alone. Jesus is God-with-us, enabled by the co-operation of the Blessed Virgin.”



*People gathering for the Jubilee Mass*



Bishop Grimes, Dean Carew on right and Fr Malone on left



Dean Carew's funeral procession  
Dean Carew's signature

## Dean Denis Carew SM

*Dozens of Irish priests left their homes in the Emerald Isle to serve in New Zealand. Many suffered from loneliness and bouts of homesickness. Tipperary man Fr Denis Carew SM spent nearly all his years as a priest in New Zealand. His loneliness, though, was relieved when two nieces followed him. Both became Sisters of Mercy in this southern outpost of Catholicism. Their proud uncle delighted in opportunities to share their company.*

A poignant story appears in a set of reminiscences of former pupils of St Mary's Primary School in Greymouth, where Fr Carew was Parish Priest. The ship Wainui was due to berth in Greymouth with Mary Carew on board. The children of the school marched to the wharf to greet her. Waiting on the wharf was Fr Carew. When the gangplank was in place the priest rushed up to embrace the petite niece he had not seen for 25 years. "Mary, you haven't grown an inch since I last saw you in Ireland," he exclaimed. Fr Carew's second niece arrived in Greymouth in 1915. She was professed as Sister Mary Patricia in the Order of Mercy in 1918. The ceremony was led by her uncle, Fr Carew. Only two weeks later, the good priest died. A nephew, Fr Hyland, served in parishes around the Christchurch Diocese and became Dean of Rangiora.

A popular figure in the wider community, Fr Carew was a robust and

straightforward character, a man of principle who never shrank from his duty or minced his words. In a letter to Bishop Grimes in 1888 he writes: "I am very much in need of a priest to assist me in Greymouth. The aid rendered by Fr Pertius is almost nil, whilst his strange personal habits render it almost impossible for him to reside with anyone". (Less than a year later Fr Pertius was gone.)

Several times Fr Carew reprimanded fellow Irish priests for excessive revelries in local pubs. He asked the bishop to rid him of Fr Finerty for persistent drunkenness. Not that Carew was a wowser. He was seen visiting his friendly counterpart, Greymouth's Anglican Vicar, with a bottle of whisky bulging from his pocket. He was, as The Grey River Argus newspaper said, "one who merited and enjoyed the respect and esteem of everybody, the gratitude of very many, and the enmity of none".

In his 34 years as Parish Priest of Greymouth, 19 of them as Dean of Westland, Fr Carew helped steer the West Coast community through an era of growth, from the latter years of the goldrush almost to the end of World War I. As fellow Marist priest Fr Cecil Knight said of him: "He was loved by the people and known from end to end of the Coast".

Denis Patrick Carew was born in Tipperary on the 20th of December, 1849. He attended primary school at Ballingarry and proceeded to the Monastery School at Mount Melleray. He studied for the priesthood at St Mary's College, Dundalk, and at the Catholic University School, Dublin. He was professed in the Society of Mary (Marists) in 1872. Two years later he was ordained a priest. New Zealand Bishop Francis Redwood led the ordination service in Ireland, a sign that Carew was already chosen to serve in the New Zealand mission.

Arriving at Wellington in 1875, Fr Carew was posted to Napier. There he received a plaudit from the notable French nun Mother Suzanne Aubert, who declared herself "very much impressed by the new curate". "I have never seen a native of the Isle of Saints less a 'paddy' than he is. He is as well turned out as a Frenchman and has the manner of one.... (and) he is as strong as iron," Mother Suzanne said. Fr Knight would have agreed with her. He recalled Fr Carew as "a big tall man, broad of build.... very matter of fact".

Michael Crean

To read more, please visit:  
<https://archives.chchcatholic.nz/2019/12/dean-denis-patrick-carew/>



WSP

150 YEARS IN AOTEAROA

Shaping the future of Aotearoa since 1870

### Timaru Basilica

#### Structural Strengthening Project

"The strengthening of the Sacred Heart Basilica has involved collaboration between Architects, Engineers and Contractors to ensure this historic building is resilient for future generations"

Nick Kerrigan  
WSP Senior Structural Engineer

CONTACT  
Vanessa Anderson  
+64 27 229 7649

[wsp.com/nz](http://wsp.com/nz)

## From the Archives

# The Way of the Cross

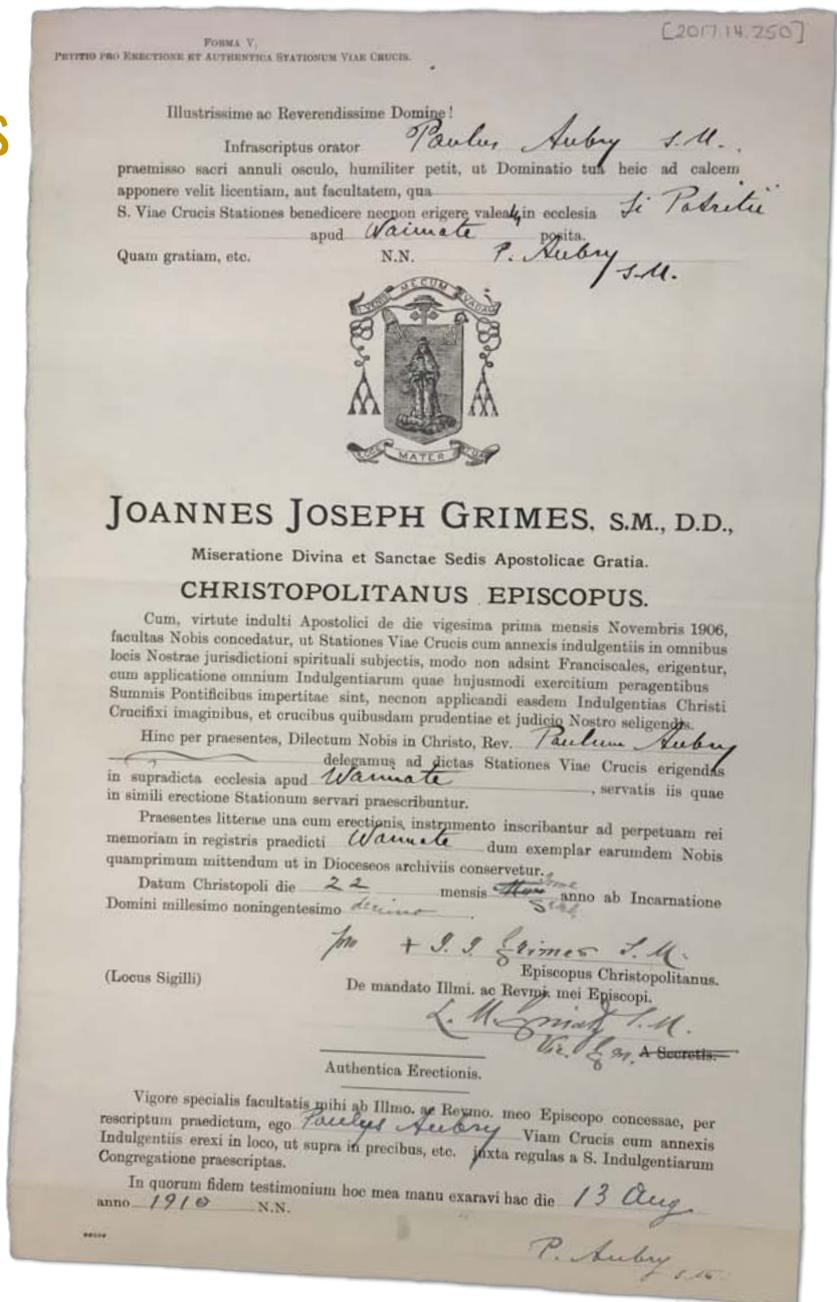
The devotion of praying in front of each of the 14 stations and meditating on the Passion of Christ stems from the practice of early Christian pilgrims who visited the scenes of the events in Jerusalem and walked the traditional route from the supposed location of Pilate's house to Calvary.

During the 15th and 16th centuries the Franciscans began to build a series of outdoor shrines in Europe to duplicate their counterparts in the Holy Land. In 1686, in answer to their petition, Pope Innocent XI granted to the Franciscans the right to erect stations within their churches.

In 1731, Pope Clement XII extended to all churches the right to have the stations, provided that a Franciscan father erected them, with the consent of the local bishop.

In 1857, the bishops of England were allowed to erect the stations by themselves, without the intervention of a Franciscan priest, and in 1862 this right was extended to bishops throughout the Church.

*Pictured is a formal request or petition to erect the Stations of the Cross at St Patrick's in Waimate, requested by the then parish priest Fr Aubry SM in 1910, and authorised by the Bishop of Christchurch, Bishop Grimes SM [Archives Reference: 2017.14.250]*



*L to R: Deslie Field, Jean Clifton, Jenny Anderson and Merle Conaghan*

## Saying "Goodbye"

In 1998, a team of eager genealogists began work transcribing all Baptismal records for the Christchurch Diocese. This work included the records of the Military Ordinariate. For the next 20 years, Jenny Anderson, Merle Conaghan, Deslie Field and later Jean Clifton continued their weekly visits to the Diocesan Archives. They have been at the heart of the volunteer team working there. Sadly, Mrs Anderson died on 29 February.

During her time there, Jenny Anderson worked on a number of projects: transcribing baptismal records, helping to identify and then list a collection of over 3,000 photographs and sorting and listing early correspondence to the bishops of the diocese. Her enthusiasm, support, friendship, humour and stories made for a vibrant Thursday afternoon. We extend our deepest sympathies to her family, but especially to Merle Conaghan and Deslie Field, both of whom have lost a good friend of long standing.

**"The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."** Numbers: 6:24-26

*"We will all miss you Jenny."*

# PARISH UPDATES

## Akaroa



St Patrick's Church continues to be a special feature of Akaroa, enjoyed by parishioners, locals and tourists alike. The summer months see an influx of tourists and cruise ship passengers in great numbers. With the amount of foot traffic in town, the church, too, becomes busy with groups of people stopping by each day to visit, light a candle, and offer a prayer.

In order to accommodate the locals as well as those passing through, regular Masses are held, including a special noontime schedule for the ships arriving with passengers who want to hear Mass. Groups from parishes and schools also come on pilgrimage to this beautiful and important part of the history of the Catholic Church in the South Island.

**“Groups from parishes and schools also come on pilgrimage to this beautiful and important part of the history of the Catholic Church in the South Island.”**

## Lincoln



St Patrick's Church has just celebrated its first Christmas since it officially re-opened in March of 2019. The Christmas Eve Mass saw the number of attendees surpass the church's capacity. Doors had to be kept open to accommodate everyone. According to Fr Job Thyikalamuriyil, there had been an increase in weekly Mass numbers. He believes that this beautiful new church has played a significant role in revitalising the Church life of Lincoln parishioners.

It is unsurprising that locals are very proud of their new church. Lincoln township lost a heritage building and parishioners were without a place of worship in the aftermath of the Canterbury earthquakes of 2010 and 2011. Since then, the parish has gathered at the Anglican churches in Lincoln, Springston and Rolleston to celebrate Mass. There has been a strong Catholic presence in Lincoln since 1871 and the Selwyn District has become the fastest growing district in New Zealand.

This development was made possible by the generosity of Lincoln parishioners, who willingly gave their time and support to the fundraising campaign done in 2018.

## Thinking about drafting your will or wanting to update an existing will?

*Being made in the image of God, our lives are full of faith and meaning not only now but eternally.*

*By leaving a gift in your will to the diocese, you contribute to a future for our diocese where everyone thrives in discovering their faith.*

*The legacy you leave has the power to bless future generations, contributing to strengthening our diocese and ensuring the ongoing maintenance and services of our diocese and parishes.*

*Pass on what you have received through your faith by considering a gift in your will.*

*For more information about making a gift in your will, please contact Marie-Louise: 03 366 9869 or [legacies@chch.catholic.org.nz](mailto:legacies@chch.catholic.org.nz).*

**“Rejoice in the Lord Always.”** *Philippians 4:4.*



“St John the Evangelist is one of the first Catholic heritage buildings in Canterbury, making it a significant landmark not only to the Catholic community but also to the Leeston township.”

## Leeston



On Sunday 8 December 2019, the Leeston parish of St John the Evangelist celebrated its 150th anniversary, three years since it was reopened to the public. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Paul, together with Fr Job Thykalamuriyil, Fr Pat Crawford and past parish priests, Fr Denis Nolan and Fr Ray Schmack. The Mass was followed by a luncheon at the Leeston Bowling Club, where old photos of the church, the community and historic vestments were displayed.

Familiar faces were seen among those who attended, many of whom went to St Joseph's Primary School. Other attendees included people from Ashburton and Christchurch as well as further afield. The day was capped off by a speech from the Parish Pastoral Chairperson, who spoke of the church as a beautiful tribute to their faith and parish, made even more special by having representatives of the founding families there.

This celebration was made possible by the generosity of those whose contribution allowed for the first stage of strengthening works needed to reopen the church. St John the Evangelist is one of the first Catholic heritage buildings in Canterbury, making it a significant landmark not only to the Catholic community but also to the Leeston township.

## Sacred Heart Basilica: Timaru



This year will see the restoration of the Sacred Heart Basilica. Timaru's spiritual home will once again be open to the community served for more than 100 years.

Recent developments include the completion of the towers and strengthening work on the nave and transepts, the return of the church bells to the tower and the installation of a fully wireless fire alarm system. All of these are significant in ensuring that this heritage building is resilient against further damages from natural disasters, and that it is finished without the need for unsightly cabling and tubes for fire services.

In terms of fundraising, local parishioners have recently put a lot of hard work into organising a variety of activities to raise more funds for the earthquake strengthening of the basilica. The money raised will be supplementary to what has already been donated during the official fundraising campaign in 2018. Some of the initiatives included film nights, selling cheese rolls, an open day of the Basilica and other initiatives set up for the earthquake strengthening appeal. From these, approximately \$86,000 was raised in total, bringing the parish fundraising to \$1,523,000 of its \$1,600,000 goal.

# HannConstruction

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# Nurturing Souls in the Centre of Town

*St Mary's Primary School on Manchester Street is a hidden gem within the four avenues which surround Christchurch's CBD. One of only four inner-city primary schools, St Mary's remains a beacon radiating the special character of Catholic education.*

"As part of our catholic family this wee school has an important role to play in student health and well-being. Growing resilient students is of high importance. Social media, home life, earthquake anxiety and education pressures are amongst the mix which can make life hard to navigate for some of our wee folk (and many of our big folk too!)."

When visiting St Mary's, the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) Team were reassured to find out about the great work taking place to nurture student hearts, minds and souls. With a vision to "Strive to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, walk in his footsteps and be his voice in the community" St Mary's principal David O'Neill is clear about his role and has systems in place to nurture and support student well-being. Mr O'Neill acknowledged

the job at hand stating, "As a principal, I have to undertake a pastoral role, a counselling role... for our students and their families. When we are called to help with grief, self-esteem and anger management, I am grateful to be working in a Catholic school environment as there are systems in place to support our students' well-being." These include:

## Morning prayer

This is a beautiful way to start each school day, class prayer offers a safe environment to share gratitude, concerns and dreams. Students learn to have hope, a stronger mindset, gain forgiveness and a better sense of self. Understanding one another's inner thoughts helps for classmates to deal constructively and sensitively with the challenges some may be facing.

## Student Health Team

Run by senior students who are committed to improving well-being and mindfulness, healthy eating and nutrition. Working together to identify and address the student voice and develop techniques to educate peers about leading a healthy and spiritual life. A 'Health Forum' is held each term where student health representatives from other schools meet to share initiatives.

## Reflecting Journals

Self-awareness gives one the ability to understand our emotions, strengths and weaknesses and most importantly, the impact we have on others. Writing personal thoughts in a journal is a practical way to reflect on one's behaviour, questioning if

Over the past 50 years the CDF has provided significant contributions towards the growth of our Catholic community. In 2019 a distribution of \$1 million was made available to the diocese to help fund the pastoral works of Bishop Paul Martin. The CDF is grateful to each of our 1,000 investors for their continued support of the fund.



## Great-grandchildren bene

Jim Mitchell believes in the greater good, helping where he can and supporting the work of his beloved Catholic Church. Rockfall from the 2011 earthquake forced Mr Mitchell to leave his home in Sumner. Moving in with his grandson created the unique opportunity for him to be active in his great grandchildren's lives. At the grand age of 91, this Scotsman exemplifies all that family should be: spending time with those we love and sharing what we have.

Several times a week, Mr Mitchell transports Eve (8) and Primo (5) from St Anne's Catholic School in Woolston to swimming lessons and Irish dancing classes. He smiles, saying "I'm fortunate to be able to spend so much time with my great grandchildren. There's always something happening around here...mostly it's fun."

A Scot at heart, Mr Mitchell understands the importance of saving. Opening Catholic Development Fund (CDF) accounts for four of his New Zealand based great-grandchildren gives him the opportunity to teach younger members of his family to save. Birthdays and success in sport or at school are an excuse for Mr Mitchell to gift a wee bonus throughout the year, stating "as teenagers they will

"I'm fortunate to be able to spend so much time with  
There's always s

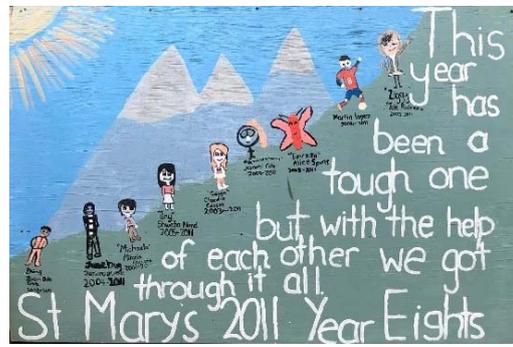


they are damaging relationships with others and God. Reflecting Journals are an initial stage of the sacrament of reconciliation.

### Catholic Social Services (CSS)

Care for those in need is at the heart of the mission of every healthy diocesan community, inspiring every parishioner to live a strong commitment to social justice and to care for those in our community. CSS promotes a holistic approach by offering counselling, social work support, group courses for adults and children, budgeting, advocacy, practical needs advice and assistance.

When professional help is required to support students, David O'Neill contacts CSS. As he states, "Parents often have nowhere to go. It can be



hard to navigate the public health system and it is expensive, so when we realise that a student requires professional intervention such as a counselor, I do not hesitate to call Catholic Social Services. The staff there are professional, supportive and respectful of a family's privacy. They listen to the needs of the student and provide a free service, professional counselors within positive experience and surroundings. With 17 years experience as a principal behind me, I would not hesitate to contact Catholic Social Services for advice, guidance and student referral. After all, our faith is the thing that cements us all together: by working with parents, teachers and Catholic Social Services, we attempt to do what is best for our students."

**Catholic Social Services**  
 Matthew Brodie House  
 Counselling & Family Centre

Catholic Social Services support is available to us all. To find out more or make an appointment with a counsellor simply visit [www.cathsocservs.nzl.org](http://www.cathsocservs.nzl.org) or contact 03 379 0012.

Open a CDF account and create new opportunities for us to contribute in a significant way to services that are needed in our community.

The Catholic Development Fund (CDF) is proud to support the work undertaken by Catholic Social Services. Investing in the CDF will, in turn enable more opportunities to service the well-being of our catholic community.

## Benefit from kindness

each have a nest egg in case they want to buy their first car or to study."

Mr Mitchell's personal CDF Funeral Savings Account gives peace of mind, knowing money is set aside for funeral expenses, musing, "while waiting for that day, I know that my money is safely invested in the CDF which in turn helps the Church's mission. Bank interest rates are low anyway so I never really think about my personal interest returns. What I like about the CDF is that some of my interest is pooled and reinvested on my behalf... it's good knowing I'm helping Bishop Paul."

It is obvious that relationships are a major reason Mr Mitchell appreciates the CDF. He quite openly admits that CDF Administrator "Mel [Perry] is so welcoming... I couldn't speak more highly of her. She's very helpful and knowledgeable ... for me it's quite important to know the people who are dealing with my accounts."

If you would like to find out more about the CDF, contact Melanie Perry on 0800 40 FUND (0800 40 3863), e-mail [cdf@chch.catholic.org.nz](mailto:cdf@chch.catholic.org.nz) or visit [www.cdf.org.nz](http://www.cdf.org.nz).

with my great grandchildren.  
 something happening around here...mostly it's fun."



Jim Mitchell with great-grandchildren Eve (8), Primo (5) and CDF Administrator Melanie Perry at the St Anne's Catholic School playground



# Father Kevin Anthony Manning

*Fr Manning's requiem Mass was offered at Sacred Heart Church, Addington on Friday from a tribute offered at the requiem by Marist Provincial Fr Tim Duckworth SM, and a Mind Mass in the chapel of St Bede's College on 4 February.*

In his tribute to Fr Manning, Fr Duckworth outlined aspects of his life: "Kevin was born in Gisborne where his family were living at the time. Both his parents were mainlanders but had moved to Gisborne and later the family transferred to Napier after the 1931 earthquake because his dad was a carpenter and Napier offered so many new opportunities to a man with those skills.

Kevin was the son of William and Marie Manning. He was one of five children.

Growing up in Meeanee parish or Taradale as we might call it now, Kevin was always part of a large Marist enclave nearby. He was in St Mary's Parish, but the Napier Parishes were all Marist territory as was Hastings. Kevin had his primary schooling there with the Sisters of the Missions. In 1942 he went to St John's College in Hastings - and after only a year there he was offered a scholarship to Silverstream where he went the following few years. Kevin told me with such a Marist influence in his life it was a natural progression to travel the very short distance in 1946 to Mt St Mary's, which you might call Greenmeadows, those of us who studied there called the Mount and the local Napier people call the Mission.

The following year he was in the Manawatu at novitiate and was professed a Marist at the beginning of 1948. He was ordained with five others in 1952.

Kevin's first appointment as a priest was to his old college, Silverstream. There he began extramural studies in Latin and French. In '59 he transferred

to St Bede's which was an easier commute to University where he again studied languages (in between teaching, looking after a dormitory and coaching sport). Kevin completed his MA. He travelled to New Caledonia at the end of the year to live with Marists and that school holiday placement gave him the confidence to speak French fluently.

In 1970, he transferred to what was then called St Patrick's High School in Timaru where he was the Rector for a number of years. But soon enough he was back at St Bede's, which was to become the great love of his life. He basically remained there for the rest of his life - and would still make a trip out there to see staff, to celebrate Mass or to preside at benediction. Generations of Bedeans knew Kevin. His blood flowed red and black: red with love of God and neighbour and black with selflessness.

Exactly how Kevin came to know printing I don't know. But it became a useful and lucrative pastime for him. St Bede's Press, as it was called, or simply "the printery", was under the science labs and there he would spend any free time he had. He was not a desktop publisher and printer. He set type in molten lead. He printed with the old platen method as well as later with an offset machine. He printed, among other things, everything the school needed and even Parish planned giving envelopes.

Judge had a good sense of humour. I remember telling him that the boys thought he was losing it when his

hearing started to fail. They'd asked what was for homework and he looked at his watch and said: About quarter past two. But when I told him he needed hearing aids - he listened and got them. When I told him he had to leave St Bede's, he listened and did. When I told him he needed to go to Nazareth he just listened and said - Well if that's what I need to do then that's what I will do. Oh doesn't the provincial wish that all Marists were as compliant with their superior?"

In accordance with Catholic tradition, a Mass was offered for Fr Manning in the new chapel at St Bede's College. In his homily, Bishop Paul outlined Fr Manning's priesthood and spirituality: "He was a creature of habit, and these were good habits - regular and faithful in his prayer, willing to help others when asked, connecting people to one another, being present when those who were connected to the College suffered bereavements, letting people know when members of the community were in need, especially at times of death. He was reliable in his nature, and in his expression of his belief in Christ and his role as a member of the Church.

As a priest he celebrated the Eucharist faithfully. In latter years he was available to help supply in the parishes and he enjoyed the contacts he made with people, and strengthening the links he already had through St Bede's. He was a man who aged well. He did not allow things to overwhelm him, and he took in his stride the tests and difficulties that old age presented. When his eye-sight deteriorated to the point that he could not drive he learnt how to use the buses and taxis. He used the big magnifying machine to read, he used talking books to stay up to date, he allowed others to help him - many of whom spotted for him on the golf course for many years. He continued to show interest in others and what they were doing, and he continued to communicate with people through texting and emails, all of which

**“What is done by a Marist  
is not for their own self-glory or aggrandizement,  
but for the sake of the Gospel and of Christ”**

# SM RIP

Monday 3 January. What follows are extracts from a homily given by Bishop Paul at Fr Manning's Month



never seemed to have any typos or errors. He was a man who, it seemed, would go on for a long time, just as his father did.

But suddenly his eyesight failed him completely, and it turned out that he had growths on his brain. He was hospitalized and died very quickly. He had those few weeks to get his head around the fact that he was going to go to God, and anyone who visited him would have heard him talk this way. Many received a moving text from him at Christmas in which he expressed his thanks and his hope in what lay ahead, and a request to pray for him as he would for us. He had this time to prepare for his final destination.

It was both fitting and ironic that Judge died when he did. Firstly he died in the holidays - his life, like that of so many teachers was of toil and then holidays. Here he was going to his eternal rest in this time of rest. Yet in dying over Christmas so many were not able to be there to farewell him. His beloved St Bede's students were not around, and neither were many old boys and staff members who would have wanted to honour him. But one of the characteristics of a Marist is what the Founder Fr Colin said that a Marist should be 'as if hidden and unknown in the world'. What is done by a Marist is not for their own self-glory or aggrandizement, but for the sake of the Gospel and of Christ. And I think that Judge's life and death reflected this perfectly. He lived a life which reflected the call to follow Christ as a Marist and a priest, to share that Good News with the students, staff and families, with whom he came into contact, and to prepare himself for the banquet of heaven, to a place that is even better than what he experienced here. He believed this, he lived this and he witnessed to the hope that lies for each of us who hold onto this as well. That is why our being here to pray for him is part of the life of the Christian community - we do for our brother what he did for so many as well.

So Judge, we pray that anything that needs forgiving in your life will be done so by our loving and merciful God. We pray that you will be ready to enjoy the banquet of heaven that you believed in and worked to prepare yourself for. We thank you for your faithful witness to the Good News and all the work you did to help others to come to know this. We hope that we, too, will join you one day in the kingdom of heaven, where together we will dwell in the presence of the God who loves us so completely."



# KidsCan Helping Vulnerable Preschoolers In First National Programme For Under 5s

Little Owls Preschool at 349 Woodham Road in Avonside is one of five education centres now included in the KidsCan Early Childhood Education (ECE) Programme.

KidsCan has created the first national programme supporting children under 5, with the aim of helping the country's most vulnerable kids attend early childhood education. The move comes in response to increasing requests for help from centres, as parents struggle to provide enough food or warm clothing for their children.

KidsCan is providing five fresh meals a week, with a menu designed by internationally renowned chef Anthony Hoy Fong and endorsed by the Heart Foundation. It includes Subway sandwiches, EasiYo yoghurt, fresh fruit and nutritious ingredients for three hot lunch meals from Countdown.

Little Owls Preschool Centre Manager is Avadene Broeren. She said the addition of the KidsCan partnership is a welcome support for families at Little Owls Preschool.



"Families are facing increasing pressures on their weekly budget, having the support of the KidsCan ECE Programme has been great in taking away the most fundamental worry of ensuring their children have a healthy and balanced diet at preschool. In the first month we have seen a positive jump in the enthusiasm and engagement of our tamariki in their learning environment, and we are looking forward to being part of the research and evaluation of the programme with KidsCan. In the coming months KidsCan will also be providing our children with polar fleece lined jackets and shoes for the

winter months, which we are excited to distribute to our families."

Researchers from Waikato University are evaluating the impact of KidsCan's programme on a child's participation, well-being, health, education and school readiness, in a study lasting until September 2020.

For more information about enrolment at Little Owls Preschool, visit [www.littleowls.org.nz](http://www.littleowls.org.nz) or KidsCan ECE Programme at [www.kidscan.org.nz](http://www.kidscan.org.nz).

*George Anderson - National Manager Fundraising and Marketing St John of God Hauora Trust*

## ROSARY HOUSE Spiritual Life Centre Programmes

*Venue: Te Manawa Atawhai Catherine McAuley Centre at Villa Maria College, Peer Street, Upper Riccarton*

*Indication of attendance or further information:  
(03) 379 1298 or roho@xtra.co.nz*

### Mercy Global Presence Series

**Tuesdays 28 April, 19 & 26 May, 23 & 30 June**

Select either 10.30am, 1.30pm or 7.30pm  
(One hour session)

Facilitators: Sisters of Mercy

### Reflection Day

**Tuesday 12 May 10.30am - 2.30pm**

Bring own lunch. Tea and coffee provided. Koha/  
donation.

Facilitator: Sr Mary Catherwood

### The Spiritual Power of Matter Finding God in all things Teilhard's The Divine Milieu and St Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises

**Friday 22 May, 7-9pm & Sat 23 May 9.30am - 4.00pm**

Bring own lunch; tea/coffee provided. Suggested  
contribution \$60 or donation according to means.

Facilitator: Kevin Gallagher

### Sunday Scripture Series

**Gospel according to Matthew Year A**

**Wed 3 June, 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

Koha/donation.

Presenter: Dr Kathleen Rushton RSM

### Prayer Series - Noticing God's Presence

**Tuesdays 9 & 16 June, 10.30 - 11.30am**

Facilitator: Sr Mary Catherwood



# JOHN PAUL II CENTRE FOR LIFE

BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

## WHAT'S NEW AT JP2

Pope Francis calls us to evangelise through personal encounters with people who might never find a reason to walk through the doors of a church. At the John Paul II Centre for Life we are gifted with unique opportunities to show Christ's love and to draw people into his healing light.

Last week a woman visited our Pregnancy Centre to obtain free clothing for her infant daughter, who is wearing out her clothes due to crawling. During our conversation, she opened up to reveal deep wounds from past miscarriages, an abortion forced by a coercive partner and a long, abusive marriage. Thanks be to God she was open to sharing her story and keen for us to journey further with her. She will no longer feel alone and friendless.

Our Pregnancy Centre Support Workers: Lisa, Lara, and Jay, feel privileged to accompany women through the trials and joys of pregnancy and baby loss. Believing that the Lord will always provide, they go the extra mile to build trust, to befriend, to help women overcome their challenges, and to find hope and healing after loss.

We give thanks to all of you throughout the diocese who support this work through your offerings of prayer and suffering, through practical goods, monetary donations and voluntary service. We could not do this without you! We invite you to check out our new website: [www.pregnancycentre.org.nz](http://www.pregnancycentre.org.nz).

God bless

*Maria Schmetzer, Director*



*John Paul II Centre for Life Team: From left: Maria Schmetzer (Director), Aiber Castillo (Media Coordinator), Joseph Thomas (Administration), Lara Paterson, Jay Reforial and Lisa Morton-Jones (Pregnancy Support Workers)*

## Whakakōingo o te Ngākau: The Yearning Heart

Some members of the diocesan spiritual directors group, Yearning Heart, attended two days for professional development last October. Our presenter was spiritual director and professor of Ignatian Spirituality Geoffrey (Monty) Williams SJ from the Regis College in Canada.

Some of his rich material was shared with other members at a recent meeting of the group here in Christchurch. The topic he explored with us was 'Emptiness: the Hospitality of God.'

Finding God in all things is an important theme in the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius. 'It's like every moment of time is a moment of encounter,' said Monty Williams, 'and it only happens in this world, and that's why Ignatian mysticism is the mysticism of the commonplace.' He explored the spiritual journey as a journey into love experienced as emptiness. It is common in spiritual direction to hear someone express that 'nothing happened' when they spent time in prayer. However, Fr Williams suggested, if we are attentive to 'nothing' and our spiritual director helps us remain in this experience we may discover it is not 'nothing' but a great gift. 'What happens in our prayer is a space is being created, a kind of emptiness and we don't like that emptiness, we want to fill the emptiness with things.' Spiritual

direction can help us attend to the movements of our hearts as we journey ever more deeply into this relationship with God.

'When you're in love you share your deepest secrets, Jesus's deepest secret is his relationship with the Father. And that's what he shares with us in our prayer.' Fr Williams suggests that our journey with Jesus in Holy Week is an invitation to be with him as he empties himself out of love for the Father, creating for each one of us hospitality and a path to follow.

*Spiritual Director and professor of Ignatian Spirituality at the Regis College in Canada; Geoffrey (Monty) Williams SJ.*

In Christchurch Yearning Heart Spiritual Directors are listed on the Diocesan website and are available to accompany people in their spiritual journey. Retreats in daily life are offered in parishes upon request to Yearning Heart, email: [kprushton@gmail.com](mailto:kprushton@gmail.com)

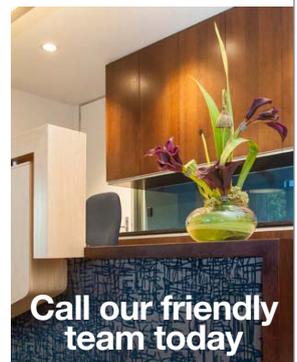
*Kevin & Lyn Gallagher  
Mary Catherwood rsm*



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# Reverse Osmosis Plants

*Until the end of January, Fr Huynh Tran served in Timaru's Holy Family Parish. A year earlier, while on holiday to his home Quang Binh Province, Fr Huynh found himself thinking about how to improve the water quality of his countrymen and women with him some money, raised by children at Waimate's St Patrick's School, to help children and their families who are living in poverty. However, he realised there was another need he could directly help to meet.*



Vietnam has a population of 100 million in an area the size of New Zealand. The country is afflicted by governmental corruption and there is little regulation of the disposal of waste water or industrial waste. This is causing many wells and rivers to be heavily polluted. As a result, many young people in the remote and poorer regions suffer from poor health.

Fr Huynh has a family background in engineering. His grandfathers, father and cousin are all mechanics and he himself had studied engineering in Vietnam before coming to New Zealand. Fr Huynh realised that he could build filtration plants which would supply a large number of people with clean water.

Returning to New Zealand, he began fundraising in his Timaru parish and further afield. During September last year, Fr Huynh returned to Vietnam to visit his sick grandfather. While in Vietnam, he was able to commence constructing and installing the first filtration plant. In recognition of the support he received from his parish, the project is called the Holy Family Clean Water Project. Fr Huynh and his family were present for the opening of the first filtration plant. Bishop Paul Martin was able to visit the filtration plant in February this year. The bishop was the first New Zealander to see the plant and was impressed by it.

Only a year after fundraising began, there are seven plants with 10 more planned and the possibility of several others. As Fr Huynh designs each plant, orders the parts and arranges for the assembling of the filtration plants, the construction costs are reduced to about \$5,000. To buy the parts from a factory in Vietnam would cost about \$12,000.

The reverse osmosis plants can deliver up to 1,000 litres of pure water an hour. The water is filtered nine times before undergoing ultraviolet treatment to kill bacteria. Each plant consists of filters, a pump, three 2,000 litre tanks and associated electrical equipment and pipework. They are housed in sheds supplied by the local parishes. The



## Catholic Rock Group Visits Al Noor Mosque

The Rock Group is a Passionist Family Group from St Peter's, Beckenham. Recently the Rock Group visited the Al Noor Mosque in Dean's Avenue to further our understanding of the Muslim tradition and to promote inter-faith solidarity. The group was hosted by Intercultural Facilitator, Sarah Quadir, who explained the symbolism evident in the mosque and answered our questions concerning the Muslim way of life. She was then joined by Farid Ahmed who also addressed our group.

Farid Ahmed was in the mosque at the time of the March atrocity. On that day his wife, Husna, went back into the mosque to find her husband who uses a wheelchair and she was tragically shot dead by the gunman.

Prior to our visit, Farid Ahmed had travelled to the USA to attend a conference on religious freedoms. He was invited to the Whitehouse to meet President Donald Trump and this gracious man's greeting to the President was seen on worldwide television.



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parishes are also responsible for any additional equipment and for maintenance.

People come from surrounding areas to fill 20-litre plastic bottles with the filtered water, which is then used for drinking and cooking. The filtration plants are receiving a positive response from the people. Water is available to all and has brought people of different religions together.

Caritas identifies places where filtration plants are needed and has also provided some finance. A mechanic is now trained to construct and install the plants and Fr Huynh is responsible for supervising the mechanic and raising funding for the building of more plants. A plant can be installed in a week: one day for travel, three for construction and one for commissioning.

"To date, approximately \$25,000 has been donated by parishioners and well-wishers. It is an ongoing project and contributions towards it are always welcome." Fr Huynh said. Further donations would be greatly appreciated.



**“there is little regulation of the disposal of waste water or industrial waste. This is causing many wells and rivers to be heavily polluted. As a result, many young people in the remote and poorer regions suffer from poor health.”**

**Donations can be made to the Holy Family Clean Water Project as follows:**

Account Name: Catholic Diocese of Christchurch  
Account Number: 03 0802 0948733 00  
Reference: Clean water project

If a donor would like a receipt please email [accounts@chch.catholic.org.nz](mailto:accounts@chch.catholic.org.nz) or phone 366 9869 and provide your name, address and contact details.

A video about the system is available at <https://youtu.be/zXksTR5kTT4>

**For further information, please contact Fr Huynh Tran**

Mid Canterbury Parish of St Augustine  
58 Sealy Street, Ashburton 7700  
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Email: [Anthonyhuynhtran@gmail.com](mailto:Anthonyhuynhtran@gmail.com)



Fr Peter Head and the St Peter's Passionist Family Group at Al Noor Mosque

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