

Archivally Speaking

No. 10 — August 2013

An occasional newsletter for those interested in the history of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch.
Preserving the foundations of tomorrow's Diocese

FROM THE ARCHIVIST

New Diocesan Archives.

We have now ample space and excellently fitted-out accommodation for our diocesan archives. The main storage room is very large and fitted out with very many metres of steel shelving. The room is climate controlled and has somewhat subdued lighting. A very large glass display cabinet occupies one wall. Another two rooms allow for further storage and are intended as work spaces.

Finally, the entrance room, while used for general purposes, is established as a space where a researcher can work. It is a very

pleasant room with heating and all facilities available. It is all a great relief, especially after the turmoil and catastrophe of the earthquakes, - but more than that; it is a relief that after fifty three years since it began, our archives has at last a proper home where records can be properly stored and used appropriately to further our knowledge and appreciation of the history of our Church in this diocese, and its place in the wide history of our country.

Kevin Clark
Archivist

From this . . .



A new home for the Diocesan Archives! Since the first archival material was gathered together in the 1960s a proper home for the archives must have seemed like a dream to archivist Father Kevin Clark.

Out of the destruction and death caused by the earthquakes one little advancement has come—there is now a home for the collection built to a professional standard.

The photo above shows some of the many boxes the collection was moved from the Cathedral in between the September and February quakes.

The photo below shows some of the material shelved. There is still some way to go— a computer is needed and a catalogue needs to be created to ensure individual items can be easily found.

The archives are not yet fully available to the public but we will soon be in a position to have an official opening and set definite hours of operation.

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Book reprinted

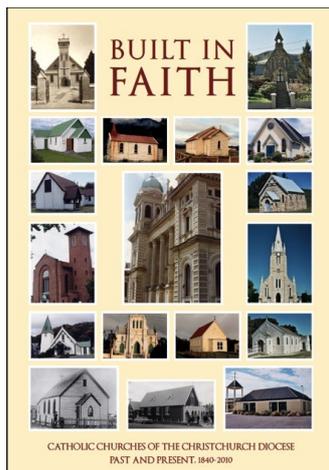
A limited reprint of the book *Built in Faith* has been done and copies are now available.

The book brings together in one place existing information about churches in the Diocese from 1840 to 2010.

It contains photos and text from many sources.

Copies may be ordered from Michael Hanrahan, P O Box 483, Ashburton 7740. Price \$60 plus \$6 p&p.

Number available is limited and there will be no further reprints.



Diocesan headquarters Cathedral House in Washington Way, off Moorhouse Avenue. The Diocesan archives are housed in the upstairs rooms to the right of the photo.



Clockwise from bottom left: The glass display cases house a number of objects related in various ways to the history of the Diocese. Above them are shelves for reference books.



The storage room contains three double-sided banks of shelving like this.

Map cabinets were donated by Opus from their quake damaged headquarters in Peterborough Street. They hold maps and plans of a number of buildings.

Work in the archives has been carried out by a small team of people, working on Thursday afternoons, for many years.

They are currently reaching the end of a project to catalogue photos, and before that they were involved with the preparation of the index to the baptismal registers.

If anyone would like to carry out volunteer work in the archives, in the first instance they should contact Merle Conaghan—number below.

Thanks to Merle Conaghan and Jean Clifton for the photos used in this newsletter

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