



## Special points of interest:

- **Diocese celebrates the work of Fr Kevin Clark**
- **Sacramental Registers to come to the Archives**

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## Diocese thanks Fr Kevin

*On the 17th August a morning tea was held to thank Fr Kevin Clark for all of his hard work establishing and maintaining the Archives of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch.*

The Archives are an invaluable source of Diocesan history which would have been lost were it not for the tenacity and forward thinking of Fr Kevin.

Never one to seek attention, getting Fr Kevin to the morning tea was an exercise worthy of James Bond.



*Diocesan Archivist, Fr Kevin Clark*

However Michael Hanrahan and Mike Stopforth were up to the challenge and Fr Clark was lured to the Presbytery under false pretences.



*Fr Kevin with the Archives' Volunteers*

**Back:** Michael Hanrahan, Bernard Hempseed  
**Front:** Jean Clifton, Merle Conaghan, Fr Kevin Clark, Sr Theresa Galvin, Sheryn Harkess, Jenny Anderson.  
**Missing from the photo:** Deslie Field and Alice Flett.

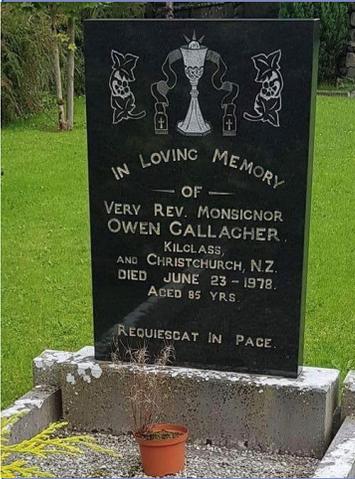
Mike Stopforth, Director of the Bishop's Pastoral Office, welcomed staff from all offices of the Diocese who wished to show their appreciation to Fr Kevin.

Fr Rick Loughan, on behalf of the Diocese, thanked Fr Kevin for his commitment to the Diocesan history over the years and his dedication and work on the Archives.

Michael Hanrahan recounted the challenges faced by Fr Kevin to ensure the records of the various Bishops would be preserved and accessible over time. Together, Michael and Fr Kevin have secured the future of the Diocesan Archives, with an archival repository located within the Diocesan offices, and a commitment to growing the archival services through research, outreach and support.

The morning tea for Fr Kevin also afforded everyone a chance to catch up with the volunteers who continue their painstaking work making the collection accessible.

# Priests Graves



*Grave of Monsignor Owen Gallagher (formerly Christchurch, NZ) buried at Kilglass Church, Co Roscommon, Ireland*

In the heart of Ireland, on a parishes of Akaroa, Lincoln, Fairlie, meandering back road, lies the Church of the Sacred Heart, Kilglass Parish, Co Roscommon. It is hard to imagine a connection spanning the hemispheres between Kilglass and New Zealand, yet nestled in the church cemetery lies the grave of Monsignor Owen Gallagher, formerly of Christchurch.

Monsignor Gallagher was born in Kilglass to John Gallagher and Mary Gallagher (nee Donnelly) in 1893. Having attended Summerhill College in Sligo, he went on to study at the seminaries in Maynooth and Kilkenny and was ordained in 1919. With no shortage of priests in the Irish dioceses, Fr Gallagher, like many at the time, was sent abroad to where clergy were needed. He arrived in Christchurch in 1920, returning home in 1949 for a few years, and in his time in the Christchurch Diocese worked in the

The Monsignor retired in 1970, returning to live in his home country where he died in 1978.

It is wonderful that we can add this photograph of his grave site to his file which we hold in the Archives. If you are aware of any Christchurch Diocese priests' graves overseas and are able to get a photograph of their grave, we will gladly add it to our archived priests files.



*The Church of the Sacred Heart, Kilglass*

## Older Sacramental Registers— to come to the Archives

Surveying the Diocesan Collection, it became increasingly evident that there is a risk to the collective Diocesan history if Sacramental Registers, throughout the parishes, are lost or damaged. Some of the main risk factors surrounding these registers in the parishes, which need to be mitigated, include the possible deterioration or loss of registers over time due to inappropriate storage and environmental conditions (such as deterioration from exposure to dust, dirt, sunlight, moisture, extremes of temperature and humidity while in inappropriate storage areas).

With this in mind, the Bishop's Office has asked parishes within the Diocese to send all Sacramental Registers, older than 60 years, to the Diocesan Archives to safeguard their long term preservation and survival. A project will begin late next year to digitize the registers most at risk, to reduce the need to handle the original sources.

## Grimes, the Cathedral cat

Grimes, a permanent feline fixture at Cathedral House, has up to now managed to evade the paparazzi. But our determined source managed to photograph the elusive cat meandering around the garden at the Presbytery. We are currently negotiating rights to have Grimes as our mascot!



*Grimes the cat is often seen sunning himself atop the containers that surround the Cathedral.*

**Hanrahan Street** in Riccarton was named in the early 1950s after Monsignor Thomas Hanrahan, first parish priest of the Riccarton parish, St Teresa's. He was initially, in 1923, based in a small cottage in Peer Street with the first parish church being there also. That church was later moved to become the first Sockburn church and a new Riccarton church was built in Puriri Street. His name was put forward for the street by his nephew, Paul Hanrahan who, as a builder, was responsible for developing the area.

**Chervier Street** in Leeston is named after Father, later Dean, Jean Claude Chervier, first priest of most of rural Canterbury. His territory initially stretched from the Conway River in the north to the Waitaki in the south. His base was the New Headford Mission on Shands Road (then

known as Shands Track) near Lincoln. As new parishes were established his area became smaller and his final posting was the Leeston parish. He died in 1901 and is buried in the Leeston Catholic cemetery.

**Duggan Close** in Rolleston's Catherine Fields subdivision is named after Catholic poet Eileen Duggan. Born in Marlborough in 1894 into a strongly Catholic Irish family she devoted much of her life to writing in support of religious congregations and charitable institutions. She wrote extensively to commemorate major events in the life of the Church in New Zealand. She died in Wellington in 1972.

## Sick Call Box

On a visit to Fairlie last month with Fr Fernandez, we met with Pauline Gallagher who had a complete *Sick Call Box* she wished to donate to the Archives. The box is quite special in that it has all of its component parts. It has now been accessioned to our collection—*Archives Reference* 2017.5.

A Sick Call Box was a common feature in houses last century so the Sacrament of the Sick could be given. Until recently most people died at home rather than in a medical facility, and Catholic families were urged to be prepared for the coming of a priest to give the "Last Rites" for a dying loved one. The easiest way to do this was to have a "sick call" set that contained objects useful in the administration of the sacrament and convenient for the priest, who would always have with him the Oleum Infirmorum (Oil of the Sick) and Communion, but not necessarily other things that were helpful and meaningful.

For a sick call set a family could simply have a box of supplies in a drawer, but businesses realized that

sets could be created to serve the practical purpose of storing items, and also be devotional items used and displayed when not being used. These include the shadow and ornate boxes that go back to the 1800s as well as the hidden-compartment crucifix models that have been the most common sick call sets since probably the 1930s.

This Sick Call box is made from wood and lined with purple velvet and it contains: silver candle holder with detachable crucifix; 2 pattens; 2 wax candles; a silver dipper bowl with handle and spoon; a silver brush (minus the horse hair); cotton wool in original envelope; glass bottle with silver filigree (parts broken) for holy water. This box was originally brought to New Zealand by a Scottish family around 1877.

For those interested in these beautiful pieces a Sick Call Box Museum is located at the parish of St Francis by the Sea, Laguna Beach, California.

<http://www.saintfrancisbythesea.com/national-sick-call-museum.html>



*Sick Call Box and contents*  
[Archives Reference: 2017.5]





## Archives of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch



Unit 2/9 Washington Way  
P O BOX 4544  
CHRISTCHURCH

**Phone:** 03 353 0752

**Fax:** 03 366 9451

**Email:** [archives@chch.catholic.org.nz](mailto:archives@chch.catholic.org.nz)

**The Archives of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch is the official repository for the documents and materials of any form, made or received by the Diocese of Christchurch.**

**The Diocesan Archives collection includes, but is not limited to, non-current records of archival value, photographs, objects and published material.**

**Records can be consulted by appointment with the Archivist, Tuesday—Friday 9.30am—1.30pm**

## From the Archivist

My first few months here at the Diocesan Archives have been wonderfully rewarding. Although I still have a lot to learn, I have been blessed to receive Fr Kevin's guidance on all matters concerning the Archives. Although Fr Kevin is retiring from the administrative side of the Archives' management, he is very much part of the Archives Team and we are working together on a number of projects aimed at ensuring the Diocesan history is being adequately represented in our holdings and filling any gaps that exist.

It has also been a pleasure getting to know the volunteers whose commitment to the Archives is an inspiration. Lately they have been working on the bishops' papers relating to clergy working in the Diocese and we are slowly building up a comprehensive catalogue of early correspondence. Next up is a collection of correspondence with parishes from some of the later Bishops that was found languishing in Cathedral House.

On Saturday 26 August I was invited to speak at the *Scottish and Irish Research Seminar* run by the Darfield Genealogical Society. My talk *'From the Shed to the Shelf'* discussed the work Fr Kevin did to ensure a Diocesan Archive would survive, in addition to giving an overview on the records and objects we hold. Michael Hanrahan and I attended a meeting of the *Central South Island Museum and Gallery Group* in

early October where we talked with small museums and volunteer groups about our facilities and experiences.

With the Bishop's Office request that older parish Sacramental Registers be deposited at the Archives for storage, we accepted registers from the former Addington Parish in addition to registers from Fairlie and Twizel. While in Fairlie with Fr Francis I had the pleasure of meeting Pauline Gallagher who donated a complete *Sick Call Box* to the Diocesan Archives.

We are going to hold an Archives Open Day in late February 2018, so you can come and have a behind the scenes tour of our office and storage area. We will email out more information closer to the time, but feel free to register your interest in the meantime.

As always, please feel free to forward this publication to anyone with an interest in local or Diocesan History, and let us know so we can add them to our mailing list.

Take care,

Triona

