



# inform

ISSUE 70 September 2007

Newsletter of the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch

## Thursday, A Day To Pray For Priests And Vocations To The Priesthood

### ...New Initiatives



On the feast of the Ascension, with the wholehearted approval of our Bishop, a major initiative was undertaken by the Diocese to re-emphasise **Thursdays**, as a day to pray for Priests and vocations to the Priesthood.

- 1 As there is a well-researched link between Eucharistic Adoration and vocations to the Priesthood, each Parish has been invited to instigate Eucharistic Adoration and fasting on the first Thursday of each month. Already, Priests of the Diocese meet for Adoration on Thursdays at Our Lady of Fatima, to pray for each other and for vocations.
- 2 Also, as part of the Thursday initiative for prayer, our Catholic primary and secondary school children, have been invited to special prayer on Thursdays and attendance at Eucharistic Adoration.
- 3 To remind people, and especially young families, to pray each Thursday, special prayer cards were made available. They have been extremely well received and have required several reprints.

The Diocesan Team for Vocations to the Priesthood asks those who have not thought to do so, to think seriously about joining the special Thursday prayer initiative.

### St Vincent de Paul Society

#### Alterations to Welfare Office and Foodbank

We are thrilled that the alterations to the Foodbank and Welfare Office at Stanmore Road have now been completed. The Foodbank is now twice the size it was – no more tripping over boxes and cans! These alterations have been timely as the onset of winter has those with limited income facing stress and hardship as the cost of basic necessities increases. There have been some recent changes for other foodbanks in the city and, as a result, more people are being referred to us for assistance. We thank all those who continue to bless

us with generous donations of food, furniture and clothing that enable us to assist those in need.

#### South Island Vinnie Camp

On a clear, sunny, -5° frosty morning in the July school holidays 75 Vinnies and Vincentians from Christchurch and Dunedin Diocese headed to mid-Canterbury to Vinnie Camp. They spent time building friendships with each other. Many of them were there as the only



*St Vincent de Paul Food Bank*

representative from their conference and by the end of camp they had made 75 new friends. Camp closed with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Bishop Barry Jones.

# Bishop's Pastoral Letter

NAZARETH HOUSE



August 7, 2007

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In recent weeks, Pope Benedict has authorised an extended use in the Catholic Church of the form of Mass found in the Roman Missal published in 1962 by Blessed Pope John XXIII before the beginning of the Second Vatican Council. It is in Latin and is the form of the Mass celebrated in the Roman Rite up to, and during the Council. One of the results of the Second Vatican Council was the reforming and renewal of the liturgical celebrations of the Roman Rite so that Pope Paul VI published a new edition of the Roman Missal in 1970. This new form of the Mass now in use included new features, such as new Eucharistic Prayers to be proclaimed audibly, a wider selection of the Sacred Scriptures, the possibility of the Priest facing the congregation, and the use of vernacular languages, even though Latin remained the official language of the Roman Rite.

The Holy Father has made it clear to us that the old Roman Missal of Blessed Pope John XXIII "was never officially abrogated" and "that it must be given due honour for its venerable and ancient usage." That is why, in 1988, Pope John Paul II was able to encourage the Bishops of the Church to make this traditional form of the Mass available to Catholics who wanted to use it in worship. In our Diocese, it has been celebrated in the Cathedral as a vigil Mass for Sundays for many years.

Why has Pope Benedict made this decision to widen the use of the old form of the Mass? It has been apparent, he says, that in some places, "a good number of people remained strongly attached to this usage of the Roman Rite." Also, "young persons too have discovered this liturgical form, felt its attraction and found in it a form of encounter with the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist particularly suited to them." He also makes it clear that there is no contradiction between the old form of the Mass and the new form which came into the Church after the Second Vatican Council. He wants everyone in the Church to be able

to benefit from the riches of both the old Roman Missal of Blessed Pope John XXIII and the new Roman Missal of Pope Paul VI. The Roman Rite now has, therefore, two authorised forms of its liturgy. The Pope calls the Roman Missal of Pope John XXIII "an extraordinary form of the Liturgy of the Church" while the Roman Missal of Pope Paul VI is the "normal form" and is to be seen as "the ordinary expression" of the Catholic Liturgy.

Pope Benedict hopes that "the two forms of the Roman Rite can be mutually enriching." Even as he calls our attention to the old form of the Mass, he reminds us of the "spiritual richness and theological depth" of the new Missal of Pope Paul VI. This ordinary form of the Mass will unite parish communities and be loved by them when it "is celebrated with great reverence in harmony with liturgical directives."

I am at present taking counsel on how we may together prepare to implement a wider use of the Missal of Pope John XXIII in our Diocese. The new instruction from the Holy Father takes effect from September 14<sup>th</sup> this year.

However, a problem which has existed in the Church over a number of years is now affecting our Diocese in a new way. In spite of the fact that the extraordinary form of the Mass has been celebrated every weekend in our Cathedral for many years, there have been unauthorised visits by Priests from outside our Diocese promoting it. They belong to two groups, namely, the Society of St. Pius X, and very recently, the Transalpine Redemptorists. Both of these groups have broken away from full communion with the Holy Father. The old form of the Mass is their external mark of identity but the reasons for their difficulties with the Holy See are at a deeper level.

The long established custom of the Church requires any Priest coming to a Diocese for priestly ministry to seek and obtain the authorisation of the Diocesan Bishop. The Priests of the Society of St. Pius X and the Transalpine Redemptorists have not been authorised to exercise priestly ministry in this Diocese. Pope Benedict wants us all to understand that, where the Eucharistic celebration and the other sacraments are concerned, we must, within the limits of the possible, seek Priests who are in full communion with the Pope. As the successor of St. Peter, he is the visible source and foundation of the unity of Christ's Catholic Church.

May God bless you all.

Yours sincerely

★Barry Jones

Bishop of Christchurch

## Sister Bernard's Golden Jubilee

Recently we were privileged to join with Sr Bernard Murray as she celebrated 50 years of Profession as a Religious of the Order of the Sisters of Nazareth. Sister Bernard, recently retired Mother General of the Order in Hammersmith, and now Mother Superior here at Nazareth House, was delightfully surprised by her nephew, Fr Eugene Ashkar, and her brother, Jim, both of whom flew from Australia unannounced but hugely welcomed. Fr Eugene celebrated Sister's Jubilee Mass, and she was also congratulated by Sr Clare, the Regional Superior, for her hard work and kindness over the many years. Soon Sister Bernard will be joining several other Sisters as they gather in Hammersmith to celebrate 150 years of the Order's beginnings.



## Golden Jubilees



Newly Ordained in 1957.  
Fr. Goulding, Fr. Harrington, Fr. Doyle

Three Priests celebrated their Golden Jubilee of Priesthood this year. Fr. Bernie Goulding on 17th July, Fr. Michael Doyle on 15th July and Monsignor James Harrington on the 14th July.

All three had Mass and a reception afterwards in their own area and also gathered in Auckland with the others of their Ordination class to pray and celebrate in thanksgiving.

Others of their Ordination year from the Christchurch Diocese who have died were:

Frs. Richard Hunter, Gerard Creagh, John Coleman and Bishop Hanrahan.

## Jubilee Cake

The cake given for the celebration of one of the Golden Jubilees. It was made entirely by Mrs Lucy Kong. Not only did it look outstanding but it had a unique chocolate mouse filling and was enjoyed by all.

Lucy may be contacted at Ph 341-8220 for more enquiries.



# Schools

## OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, SUMNER



Sumner Our Lady Star of the Sea students Jack Kearney, Max van Empel and Ruby Mills won first prize in a Youth Heritage Competition recently.

These three children won the first prize in an ICT competition. The youth Heritage Competition was entitled 'Remember When' and aimed at gathering memories of "places, spaces, icons and identities".

## ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL, WAIMATE

Celebration of Term 2 Learning

On the last day of Term 2 the students at St Patrick's School invited their parents, extended family and members of the community to a special celebration of the Term's work. The students had undertaken a study on 'What lies ahead for our town?' This took the form of an Inquiry Unit where each class took a different focus and each student worked on an aspect that interested them. Years 7 and 8 students focused on the proposed new Recreation Centre and the Waimate water supply. Years 4, 5 and 6 students took an in depth look at the buildings around town and Years 1, 2 and 3 did a study from a tourism perspective.

Students went out into the community to gain ideas and knowledge. Information was sought from the Information Centre. Students went to the Council Chambers to interview the Mayor. Parents, relations and neighbours were interviewed for opinions. The students appreciated the support they received from many people. The end product of all this work was most impressive and students were able to use their increasing ICT skills. At the Celebration of Learning, the audience

enjoyed PowerPoint presentations, models of buildings, feasibility studies for the proposed Recreation Centre, posters and suggestions for updating the billboards around town. Some of this information will be forwarded on to the Waimate District Council for their consideration.

## OUR LADY OF VICTORIES SCHOOL, SOCKBURN

"We are very proud and excited by the opening of our new administration office here at Our Lady of Victories School. We celebrated the opening with Bishop Barry Jones, Bishop of Christchurch, and invited guests on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

A beautiful farewell card, a contemporary version of the Sisters of Mercy cross, designed by an ex long serving and very talented staff member, Elisabeth den Hollander, has become the inspiration for a new stained glass art work (made by Dorothy Ratcliff from The Glass Room) at the school, taking pride of place in the new administration offices.



The colour scheme of the new office was carefully designed around the art piece ensuring that there would be no clashes and the art piece would be the focal point.

We are very grateful for all those who have taken part in the designing and building of our new offices."

## VILLA MARIA COLLEGE

The Villa Maria College 90th Anniversary Celebrations Organising Committee wishes to inform all past students and staff of Villa Maria College of the upcoming 90th Anniversary celebrations to be held on the College site on 23rd and 24th February 2008. To register your interest in receiving further information, please email

[villa@villa.school.nz](mailto:villa@villa.school.nz) or see [www.villa.school.nz](http://www.villa.school.nz)

# Youth Team

The **Journey of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon** through our Diocese touched the hearts of many. This event was an excellent start to our preparations for World Youth Day in Sydney next year. It is now less than a year until we travel to Sydney and air tickets are in the process of being booked. Please contact the Catholic Youth Team if you would like to join us for the journey of a life time. It is very important that people register soon.



## Arise Youth Adults Conference

110 young adults joined us at St Bede's for a day of inspiring talks on the scripture theme "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another". It was a fantastic day with many highlights such as great and informative workshops, a beautiful Mass celebrated by Bishop Barry, awesome music and much, much more. It was great to meet and greet so many new faces as well. Look out for Arise early in 2008.

## Revolution Camp

On the first weekend of July, 60 young people in Years 9 and 10 joined us for Revolution Camp. Keep your eyes open for these young people causing a positive revolution in our world by their love and action, following in the footsteps of Jesus. Keep your eyes open also for information about our next camp for Years 7 and 8, JAM Camp, 21-23 September.



# AROUND THE PARISHES

## West Coast Parishes

The West Coast Parishes of Greymouth, Runanga/Cobden and Ngahere Altar Servers had their annual three-day ski trip in mid July. It was a great success and a satisfying thank you to those young people and their parents who faithfully serve their parishes. There were 18 young people, along with parents, who attended what is now an annual expedition to the mountains. All our young people enjoyed the skiing and all of them progressed, with all but two advancing to the T-bar, which was exciting for them.

The Altar Servers wish to thank their Parishes and their Priests for their full support for the two nights' stay in the mountains at the Catholic Outdoor Club at Arthur's Pass and three days' skiing at Porter Heights Ski Field.

## St Peter and Paul Parish, Halswell

Halswell Parish has been blessed with a new Allen C6 organ donated by a Parishioner. The speakers have been concealed behind the Altar wall and the sound is double-bounced off the wall and then the ceiling.

A Dedication and Blessing Service was held on the 29 June - the Parish Feast Day of Ss Peter and Paul. The guest organist was Michael Zon from Papanui Parish who certainly tested all features and volumes of the organ, saying "It is an organist's dream!" The ceremony finished with Benediction and supper.

## St Mary's Parish, Hokitika

Born in Kumara in 1909, Sister Mary Eulalie Martini RSM celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday in Hokitika on 4<sup>th</sup> June with Fr Frank Kelly, Parish Priest and eight other Sisters, in Hokitika.

Sister Eulalie lived in Stafford all her life until

she entered the Sisters of Mercy at Villa Maria, Christchurch in 1928. During her boarding school days at St Columkille's Convent (St Mary's School) in Hokitika, Sister Eulalie knew Mother M. Clare, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy in the Diocese of Christchurch and four of the other pioneer Sisters who came from Ennis to Hokitika in 1876.

Having been a school teacher and then a teacher of music, with one of her pupils having been Michael Houstoun, Sister Eulalie is currently still actively ministering in a number of ways. A resident of Plymouth Court Rest Home, which receives high praise from her, Sister visits people in the Rest Home Hospital, tidies the linen cupboard and knits baby layettes for grandparents of new babies and the John Paul Centre for Life. She spends time listening to many people who need someone to talk to, receives innumerable requests for prayers and takes a lively interest in her extended family, the Parish, the Diocese, Sisters of Mercy New Zealand and local and national affairs. Sister reads the NZ Catholic, Welcome, Marist Messenger and enjoys the Parish Bulletin. She also attends all Church Services held at the Rest Home – Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, Christian Fellowship and Union Church – all praying to the same God to whom she committed her life.

When she went to Plymouth Court, Sister Eulalie found a little spot where she made a garden using cuttings, and continues to take care of it. The flowers are still in bloom these wintery days. Sister Eulalie expresses her most sincere gratitude to everyone who remembered her birthday and she remembers them all in prayer.

Sister Veronica Paget, who spent most of her lifetime in Hokitika and is known to most of the pupils who ever attended St Mary's High School, also celebrated her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday in Christchurch a fortnight before Sister Eulalie. God Bless them both.

## St. Paul's Parish, Dallington

A statue of Blessed Mary MacKillop was unveiled and blessed on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August in our Parish church. It was commissioned by Fr. Miles O'Malley and the work was undertaken by his cousin, Julian Southgate, a resident designer at the Court Theatre.



*Blessed Mary MacKillop*

The work depicts the act of Blessed Mary giving a book to a young boy. In her life she sought personal holiness, but also holiness for all the children she and her Sisters were to teach in the rural outback of Australia and New Zealand. The boy represents all those children.

Mary MacKillop's Congregation, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, taught for a time in St. Paul's school. Her charism is still alive in nearby Marian College which her Sisters founded as a juniorate for aspiring Sisters. During her visits to Christchurch she would have visited the pro-Cathedral as well as her brother's grave in the Barbadoes Street Cemetery.

## St Mary's Parish, New Brighton

*Our Parish of St Mary's New Brighton has just blessed and installed a Processional Cross created, designed and made by one of our own parishioners, Greg Donnelly.*

It was important to make a processional cross that was Aotearoa New Zealand in character, as distinct from European, and also to reflect the uniqueness of our Parish and its fittings and furnishings. This was achieved by using **recycled kauri** for the cross, a **found brass Jesus figure, paua** for decoration and a **quartz boulder** for a base.

I was keen to include the **four elements** in the cross because to me they are so intertwined with our celebration of the Mass.



*Sister Eulalia, Hokitika*

The paua fish symbol is linked to the beach at New Brighton, **water**, life and our baptism. **Earth** gives us rock, tree, bread and wine. A dove, besides the obvious symbol of the **Holy Spirit**, leads us to flight, **air**, breath and the Word of God. Lastly **fire** which is how brass is made, candles, incense and what I chose to add colouration to the wood of the cross. The expression “baptism of fire” comes to mind.

Having both **Jesus** and the **Holy Spirit** on the front of the cross in these days of inclusiveness far be it for me to leave out the third member of the Trinity - the **Father**. The three discs of paua that form a triangle on the back of the cross refer to their unique relationship – The Trinity.

So there you have it - St Mary's Processional Cross loaded with Catholic and local symbolism.

*Greg Donnelly June 2007*

### St. Joseph's Parish, Temuka



A restoration programme to the exterior of St Joseph's Church in Temuka was recently completed. The Parish recently celebrated the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Parish Church. St Joseph's Church has a Historic Places Trust B rating.

### Sacred Heart Parish, Timaru – St. Patrick's Parish, Waimate

In January/February Fr. Peter Costello from Hokitika and Fr. Kevin Wei from South Westland took up residence as our new Priests in the Parish.

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August, Bishop Barry Jones came to Timaru to formally install Fr. Peter as the Parish Priest and Fr. Kevin as the assistant for both Parishes. This ceremony took place in the Sacred Heart Basilica at a Mass celebrated by Fr. Peter, who was joined by Fr. Jim Nicholas and Fr. Bernard Goulding. Fr. Kevin was not able to be there due to ill health.

The parishioners from both Parishes attended. The Bishop was formally welcomed by Mrs Mary McCallum on behalf of the Parish Councils. As this was the Bishop Barry's first visit to this area, he met the parishioners over a cup of tea.

### Sacred Heart Church, Spencer Street, Addington

Taize Prayer around the Cross – Feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross  
Friday 14 September, 7pm

'Prayer around the Cross' is a way of expressing an invisible communion, not only with the crucified Jesus but with all who suffer. The cross is placed in a central position and during the Prayer those who wish may come forward and make a gesture, such as placing their forehead on the wood of the cross, as a sign that they are entrusting silently to Christ all that burdens them as well as the difficulties of other people.

**Everyone most welcome.**

### Christ the King Parish, Burnside

On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May, a new Johannus Sweelinck 27 organ made in Holland, was commissioned at Christ the King Church. Two eminent Christchurch organists upon trailing the instrument, described it as “amazing.” Thanks to a substantial bequest from the late Pat Collings, the Parish was able to save for a replacement organ, to the great joy of parishioners.



It is inspiring to see that other caring organisations who share the same goals and ideals for our community, especially so for the less privileged of its members, are increasingly partnering with Catholic Social Services to find meaningful answers to their clients' issues. It is at last a sign, a good one too, that the NGO sector has left behind the competition mode and entered a collaborative era that will no doubt be of much benefit to the community as a whole.

Recently our agency has had the privilege to be of service to the Nova Trust, Salvation Army, Oscar Network and Odyssey House. We are looking forward to entering more such arrangements in the near future where our agency's professional intervention can make a positive impact on people's lives.

Thank you to all who put their trust and support in our work.

*Jon Bryant. Manager*



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# St John of God Health and Disability Services Celebrates

St John of God Health and Disability Services in Christchurch have been awarded a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement and a further three years accreditation status by Quality Health New Zealand. The Certificate was awarded for the demonstration of resident focussed care shown by the lifestyle in the community homes, the involvement of residents in community activities and the part played by the multi-disciplinary team.

Minister for Disability Issues and MP for Banks Peninsula, Ruth Dyson, presented the Certificates at a celebration attended by Bishop Barry Jones, residents, families, staff and friends at St John of God Hospital, on 13 April. The accreditation report noted that "St John of God are commended for the way in which they deliver care and services to a unique and special client group"....."there is an awareness of the very special nature



*The presentation of the Certificate*

of the task of caring for the severely disabled." Catherine Roughan, Chief Executive, said: "We are proud of the facilities and service provided to people with physical disabilities at St John of God, and delighted to have this publicly acknowledged with such a positive and affirming accreditation result, and in particular through being awarded the Certificate of Outstanding Achievement. Following the presentation, Anne Pike was awarded a silver long service pin and certificate by Brother Stephen Coakley, marking 30 years' of service as a nurse aide at St John of God. Brother Stephen employed Anne

when she first started at St John of God in the old hospital.

## Background Information

St John of God Health and Disability Services specialises in the long term residential support of people with physical and neurological disabilities, aged 16 to 65 years.

## Faith and Life Movement

We believe that people with an intellectual disability have a unique and sacred value. They are loved by God and reveal, in a particular way, the values of the heart and of love, which are greatly lacking in our world. As we walk together with them in their triumphs and trials, we become bearers of hope and unity.

We started in a pilgrimage to Lourdes. Often living in situations of distress and pain, the pilgrims experienced deep joy and acceptance in Lourdes. On their return, they continued to meet on a regular basis in small communities, for a time of friendship, prayer and sharing. The communities multiplied throughout the world. Once you realize that you are not alone, your life is transformed.

Faith and Light reveals to the person with a disability, their call to share the riches of the heart, their tenderness and joy.

To the parents it gives support and helps them see the inner beauty of their child.

The siblings are able to discover that their lives can be transformed by their family member.

For the friends it opens pathways of friendship, where they truly discover Jesus in the other person.

We have three communities in Christchurch. Why don't you "come see" for yourself the treasure we have in Faith and Light. Please keep us in your prayers, as we plan for our Zone Gathering. For more information you can contact: Mary de Leijer.

E-mail: [FaithandLight.nz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:FaithandLight.nz@xtra.co.nz),  
Phone: (03) 323 8516

## MEN'S RETREAT, LIVING SPRINGS, CHRISTCHURCH



*The participants of the Retreat*

The 2006 Men's Retreat theme was 'God's Healing Awaits'. The Retreat was held at Living Springs, which boasts a very high standard of facilities and accommodation. There is no passing traffic to detract from the peaceful atmosphere. In fact, the only possible distraction is the spectacular view.

Christchurch Joshua Leader, Mark Milnes, welcomed everyone with the first of several poignant PowerPoint presentations shown over the course of the weekend. The first one on 'God's love' served to focus us in on what we were all there for.

Fr John Rea SM, the Retreat Leader, reminded us of our call to holiness

with the help of the Holy Spirit and that there are three main enemies to our personal salvation: the world, the devil and the flesh. Salvation, he said, is a process which is not complete until we are dead – a part of us still "unsaved" even after baptism. In the Post-modern world we live in, with its bent towards complete selfishness, no fixed rules and no objective truths, it is difficult to hold your ground as a Christian. The devil, while he **has** been vanquished, still attacks us using four main methods: temptation, oppression, obsession and occasionally but not often, possession.

A great feature of the Retreat was the availability of Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Eucharist, Reconciliation, quiet prayer and Fellowship. Father covered, amongst many others, the subject of the spiritual gifts, covering also the emergence of the charismatic (*means: spiritual gifts*) renewal movement over the last 100 years or so. The 2007 Retreat is 28-30 September.

# TIME BOMBS, BODIES, SEX, AND THEOLOGY?

Catholicism is a very physical faith. We believe in the 'Incarnation', that is, we believe that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Holy Trinity became fully human. We believe that He rose, bodily, from the dead and ascended to reign with God the Father in Heaven. We believe also that Mary, His mother, was assumed, bodily, into Heaven and participates in the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When we say the Creed and state our belief in the "resurrection of the body" we affirm that we believe that we, too, will participate physically in the wonderful communion of love that is the Holy Trinity. The Sacraments all have a physical dimension – water is poured, hands are laid, there is anointing with oil, bread and wine are transformed and eaten, and in marriage husband and wife become "one flesh".

The body is not something peripheral to our faith while we concentrate on developing the 'spiritual life'. Rather, it is the body that is central to our faith, and this is because our bodies are a 'sign' of something greater. They tell us something about God's plan for us, and the key to beginning to understand this 'something' is the fact that we are created male and female. As men and women we don't make sense on our own. We are made for each other and this 'being-made-for-each-other', which reaches its true earthly fulfilment in the Sacrament of Matrimony, is the means of making present in the world, to the extent possible for a human creature, God's "innermost secret: God Himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and He has destined us to share in that exchange" (CCC 221).

Marriage provides the 'bookends' of the Bible; the marriage of Adam and Eve in Genesis and the marriage of the Lamb (Jesus) and His bride, the Church, in Revelation. In between runs a constant theme of married love, both faithful and unfaithful, climaxing in St Paul's letter to the Ephesians when he describes marriage as a sign of the love of

Christ for the Church and calls this a "great mystery" (Ephesians 5).

But Marriage is a sacrament, a sign of a greater reality. It makes God's love present but it points beyond itself. The mutual love of husband and wife and the joy and pleasure of their "one flesh" union is only a 'foretaste' of the real thing. Jesus told us that "in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage" (Matthew 22:30). The ultimate aim of our existence is participation in the love of the Trinity. Jesus also told us of those who choose not to marry "for the sake of the Kingdom" (Matthew 19:12). These choose to unite themselves, not with a husband or wife, but with Jesus, the Heavenly Bridegroom, so as to show the reality of our ultimate destiny.

All of this comes from prayerful reflection on the meaning of having a body and being created male and female. The late Pope John Paul II, over a period of five years, devoted his first major series of teachings to what he called a "Theology of the Body". Understanding the true meaning of the body and sexuality "concerns the entire Bible" (January 13, 1982). It plunges us into "the perspective of the whole Gospel, of the whole teaching, even more, of the whole mission of Christ" (December 3, 1980). He continued to develop this teaching throughout his pontificate, "The Church cannot therefore be understood ... unless we keep in mind the 'great mystery' ... expressed in the 'one flesh' (union) of marriage and the family" (1994 - *Letter to Families*, n.19). His biographer, George Weigel, described this 'theology of the body' as "a kind of *theological time bomb* set to go off with dramatic consequences ... perhaps in the twenty-first century" (*Witness to Hope*, p.343).

*Celia & John Kennedy, John Paul II Centre for Life*

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## PASTORAL PLANNING OFFICE

"...It is in the local churches that the specific features of a detailed pastoral plan can be identified — goals and methods, formation and enrichment of the people involved, the search for the necessary resources — which will enable the proclamation of Christ to reach people, mould communities, and have a deep and incisive influence in bringing Gospel values to bear in society and culture."

- Pope John Paul II,

*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, no 29, 2001

As the Pastoral Plan continues to be implemented in the Diocese, change happens and growth evolves. One of the most visible changes that people will experience is a reshaped schedule for weekend Mass times in their local parish or community. Over recent weeks there have been a number of Mass time changes that have happened all

over the Diocese. One example is Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St Albans Parish, being reduced from two Masses on a Sunday to one Mass. More changes will continue to happen as we respond to the challenges ahead.

While the Mass and the Eucharist is obviously central to Church and the faith life of each of us, the Diocesan Pastoral Plan is much bigger than Mass times. The Plan provides a document with real depth for us to reflect on; the Pastoral Principles (Holiness, Communion, Collaboration and Mission), the baptismal call for each one of us and discerning where the Holy Spirit is leading us into the future.

With change there come new opportunities. One such example of this is the Hospital Chaplaincy. Over recent months a new programme has been implemented to train a small group as Catholic Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistants, who will support the Catholic Chaplains in our hospitals. >>



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## PASTORAL PLANNING OFFICE CONTINUED

### Princess Margaret Hospital



*"The faithful volunteers who have assisted at Princess Margaret Hospital: Emmett Conaglen, June Sheehan, Mary O'Neill, Trish Milne, Louise Bos, Maureen Sutherland, Tom Bos"*

The final Mass at Princess Margaret Hospital was held on Saturday 28th July, celebrated by Msgr Tom Power.

The Diocese is very grateful to the hospital volunteers who have assisted at Princess Margaret Hospital over the years. Some have given over 25 years of service assisting in the liturgy, bringing patients to Mass and taking Holy Communion to those in the hospital unable to attend the celebration of the Eucharist.

Similarly Geoff and Maureen Tippen have given similar service at the Christchurch Hospital, where the final Mass was held on 28th February 2007.

Pastoral care of the Princess Margaret Hospital will continue to be overseen by the Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Hoon Hay. This will include at least weekly visits to patients offering Holy Communion.

### **Christchurch East Pastoral Area Inaugurated**

The fifth Pastoral Area (Christchurch East) was inaugurated on Sunday 19th August at St Paul's Dallington by Bishop Barry. ■

### **Mike Stopforth**

### **Bishop's Deputy for the Pastoral Plan**

## THE VISIT OF HIS EMINENCE GAUDENCIO CARDINAL ROSALES

His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, the Archbishop of Manila, visited Christchurch on May 23-24, 2007.

Cardinal Rosales was the principal celebrant of the concelebrated Mass on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May held at St Teresa's, Riccarton, at 6:00pm. Present were Bishop Barry, four Filipino Priests and six Priests from the neighbouring parishes. Dinner followed at the hall organised by the Filipino Catholic community. A short programme was presented with two folk dances from the Philippine Society of Canterbury and there was a chance to hear Cardinal Rosales talk and for some to ask questions. The evening ended with lots of smiles, laughter and photo taking.

Cardinal Rosales was impressed talking to the three Bishops of Christchurch, Bishop John Cunneen, Bishop Barry Jones and Bishop Basil Meeking. It was a delight showing him around some of the



*Cardinal Rosales 4th from the left famous places in Christchurch. He called New Zealand a 'paradise'.*

Cardinal Rosales is an advocate of Filipino's Fund (Pondo ng Pinoy). This drive is to encourage Filipinos to save 25 cents and donate them in bottles or recycled softdrink cans. The money is given to the poor and the needy. Cardinal Rosales is also passionate about the environment.

Pope Benedict VI appointed Cardinal Rosales on 3 February 2007 as a member of the Roman Curia. The Filipino Catholic community was honoured and privileged to host Cardinal Rosales. We found him a truly humble Priest.

### **Carmelite Monastery**

The doorbell rang at 2.30pm on Saturday 29 July, piercing the silence of the Monastery on a lovely sunny afternoon. It heralded the arrival of Angel and her team - our Catholic Youth musicians! They set up their equipment in the Chapel to pray, practise and share a few hours before the Youth Mass at 6.30pm. The atmosphere throughout the Monastery was electric with the energy of their joyful music. This is an annual highlight we have delighted in for six years.

At 6.00pm a power point presentation on Carmel, prayer and vocation was appreciated by all, followed by 'praise and worship' in preparation for the Eucharist.

Fr John Adams celebrated the Mass, preaching memorably on prayer. The Hornby and Woolston Samoan Youth Groups sang with enthusiasm at the gifts procession at which a prayer petition box, filled by the young people, was presented to the Sisters.

Following the Mass a supper was enjoyed with much lively sharing with the Sisters. The only glitch happened when our guests prepared to leave around 10.00pm. Our electronic gates had conveniently closed. They had been warned about this unique method of netting vocations, but most people know that mysterious things happen at Carmel and were not surprised.

## **Inform**

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