



inform

ISSUE 72 March 2008

Newsletter of the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch

From the Bishop's Desk



Catechism of the Catholic Church. "Whether our prayer is communal or personal, vocal or interior, it has access to the Father only if we pray 'in the name' of Jesus. The sacred humanity of Jesus is therefore the way by which the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray to God the Father." To do something in the name of another implies that we have a genuine relationship with that other. To pray in the name of Jesus means that we know him and love him as the Son of Man over whom the angels ascend and descend (Jn 1, 51). He alone is the ladder between heaven and earth, the one mediator between God and all humanity. Our prayers may be personal and freely composed, enabling us to bring to the Lord the events of life, both interior and exterior to ourselves.

They may also be formulaic where we draw upon Church tradition and pray in the words of the holy ones who have gone before us. The words of the 'Hail Mary', the 'Memorare', the "We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother," and the 'Te Deum', for instance, prayed carefully and reflectively, are able to provide substance and structure to our own freely composed prayers. Pope Benedict teaches us masterfully about these two kinds of prayer.

Prayer "... must be on the one hand something very personal, an encounter between my intimate self and God, the living God. On the other hand it must be constantly guided and enlightened by the great prayers of the Church and of the saints, by liturgical prayer, in which the Lord teaches us again and again how to pray properly." (Spe Salvi No. 34)

When We Pray

The apostles and disciples wanted the Lord Jesus to give them some guidance in the matter of prayer. He didn't talk to them about the necessity of praying, or its importance. He just took those things for granted. He began by saying, "When you pray..." taking it for granted that praying is a matter of fact part of life. The Church has never forgotten this. The Holy Spirit keeps alive in the Church the memory of all that Jesus has said, and all that he has done, and helps us all to grasp more and more clearly their meaning and truth. The Church alerts us to the importance of praying each day, and offers us ways of praying, and puts before us teachers of prayer. A wonderful teaching is given to us in No. 2664 of the



Pastoral Planning Office

The Pastoral Plan offers some wonderful reflection material about the Church and how we live out our Faith in the local Church here in the Diocese of Christchurch. For example under the Pastoral Principle of Collaboration we read,

“All Catholics, both lay and ordained, are responsible for the mission of the Church. Since the Second Vatican Council, we have become increasingly aware that the question has changed from the priest himself saying “How am I going to manage?” to the parish saying “How are we going to respond?” Christ’s work belongs to us all! This collaboration of ministries in the Church brings into partnership people who through Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders have

different vocations, gifts and offices within the Church. Collaboration does not blur the distinctiveness of each, but enables the identity of each to be expressed more fully. Collaboration embraces a wide range of possibilities in our parishes, including leadership in such areas as prayer, outreach to those in need, evangelisation, and education-in-faith. We see this happening increasingly in our parishes and yet there is so much more to do.

- Diocesan Pastoral Plan p13

I invite you to read and reflect on the Pastoral Plan and consider what it might mean for your parish, school or community. How might this pastoral principle be implemented?

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TIMETABLE FOR PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE

The Diocesan website has a timetable of Holy Week and Easter ceremonies for most parishes in the Diocese.

View these on:

www.chch.catholic.org.nz



Diocese has first Catholic Volunteer Hospital Chaplaincy Assistants

Since the passing of Father Kevin O’Grady, the pastoral care of Catholics in hospital has undergone significant change. Sister Mary Hanrahan RSM is the Pastoral Chaplain at Christchurch Hospital and visits patients and brings Holy Communion to patients with the Voluntary Chaplaincy Assistants. 12 months ago a process began to identify and provide formation for Catholic men and women to work as part of our Catholic Chaplaincy in hospitals. Four people have been through this process and are now probationary Chaplaincy Assistants. There are three who are part of the Catholic Chaplaincy Team at Christchurch Hospital:

- Anne Fogarty (from Sockburn Parish)
 - Br Pat Hill FMS (from St Albans Parish)
 - Stuart Thow (from Rangiora Parish).
- The fourth person is at Princess Margaret Hospital:
- Sharon Henshaw (from Beckenham Parish).

Subject to assessment and the Bishop’s decision to appoint them, they will be

fully accredited mid year.

Fr Kevin Wei is Priest Chaplain to Christchurch Hospital three days per week, with the other days covered by priests of the Pastoral Area on a roster system. A priest is always available for urgent calls by asking hospital staff to contact the priest.

Pastoral Plan Snippets:

- Fr Stuart Sellar will be in all Pastoral Areas of the Diocese speaking about the Pastoral Principles (Holiness, Communion, Collaboration and Mission). This will be held from 14th to 18th September 2008. Fr Stuart is a Priest of the Dunedin Diocese and is currently teaching at Good Shepherd College, the national theologate. More information is on www.chch.catholic.org.nz/formation
- Mid Canterbury Pastoral Area has produced a Pastoral Area Newsletter called “Pastoral Plains” with a

second one being produced prior to Easter.

- There has been a good deal of interest from people in the *Certificate in Pastoral Ministry*. More information can be found on the website www.chch.catholic.org.nz/formation. One of the courses being offered is ‘Introduction to Catholicism’ which opens up and deepens our understanding of the Catholic Church. This is being held in May over two Friday evenings and Saturdays.
- The list of all rest homes in the Diocese, and the parish that has pastoral care over each one, has been updated.
- The priests of the North Canterbury Pastoral Area gathered recently for a very fruitful meeting.

**Mike Stopforth
Bishop’s Deputy for the
Pastoral Plan**

Around the Parishes

The Ashburton Parish



Catholic Women's League

Back row: Jenny Muschamp (Diocesan President), Pearl Wood, Florence Davidson, Patricia Davidson, Noeline King, Barbara Blacklow, Gwen Emery, June Cunneen, Barbara Smith.

Front row: Eileen Barrett, Margaret Reynolds, Pam Hurley, Sybil Callister, Patricia Macer and Joan Lawn (Branch President).

On December 13th 2007, the Ashburton Branch of CWL presented 10 members with their 50 Year Service badges and four members with 25 Year Service badges. Diocesan President, Jenny Muschamp, presented the awards saying that it represented 600 years of Faith and Service!! Well done Ashburton Catholic Women's League.

News from Geraldine

Two of the aims of our Lenten discipline, prayer and caring for our community, were evident in force this Ash Wednesday when about 50 parishioners, from small children to the oldest members gathered at the Geraldine Bowling Club rooms to mark Waitangi Day----- A new initiative and a very successful one. After Grace was said and the National Anthem sung, a delicious breakfast of fruit juice, fresh fruit salad, tomato

and cheese filled croissants, toast and muffins was much appreciated by all in a friendly atmosphere, when many got the opportunity to meet other parishioners previously unknown to them.

Father Brian officiated at Holy Mass and distribution of Ashes at midday, after which folk went home with a vision of what it means to be 'parish reinforced and refreshed'.

St Anne's Parish, Woolston



Woolston parishioners and St Anne's School representatives gathered after Mass at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes on the 150th Anniversary of her first apparition to St Bernadette. The Rosary Group then recited the rosary. Fr Chris Friel will lead a tour to the Holy Land in June this year. Contact him on 03 3841600 if you wish to join the pilgrimage.

St Mary's Parish



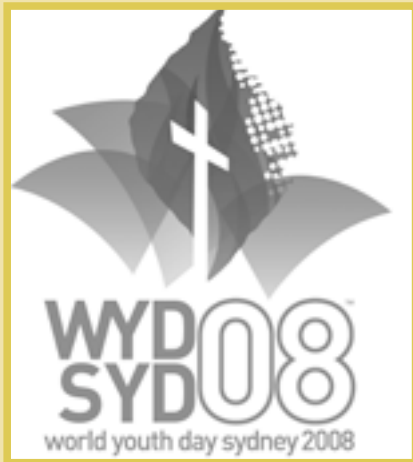
The Christmas Eve Mass saw the unveiling of a magnificent Altar Front measuring 3.2 metres long. It was handcrafted in pure silk which was made of many vibrant

colours. The scene depicted was the Resurrection as is in our stain glass window in the sanctuary. The parish is grateful to Mrs Jennifer Audrey who was the inspirer and creator of this beautiful hanging. The finished article took over 100 hours of loving work. Recently, it was shown on National Television as it televised some of the funeral for the young seminarian, Jeremy Gray. Jennifer has now completed a lectern cover based on the same design. We in the parish are so grateful to Jennifer.

Beatitudes Community

Sr Deborah of the Beatitudes Community celebrated 25 years of consecrated life on 15th December. Bishop Barry Jones presided at the jubilee Mass at the Community's chapel in Leithfield, with six concelebrating priests and many friends of the Community gathered for the occasion. During the celebrations following the Mass, Sr Deborah shared a very beautiful testimony of how she received her call to consecrated life in the Beatitudes, and something of her wonderful journey with the Lord over the past 25 years and in many different cultural realities, that has brought her now from her native France to this part of the world to share in the mission of her Community in New Zealand.

WORLD YOUTH DAY



World Youth Day in July is approaching quickly!

Over 500 people (including 10 priests and two bishops), from Christchurch Diocese will be attending WYD in Sydney. They will be travelling to Sydney as part of 18 parish or college pilgrimage groups, and also some family groups.

Pastoral preparation sessions for our pilgrims have begun, and fundraising continues. The CDF must be acknowledged again for providing \$70,000 in grants for worthy applicants. Preparation for WYD includes a day of pilgrimage to Temuka. As well as those attending WYD, any parishioner is invited to join us on Sunday 6 April 'in the footsteps of Blessed Mary MacKillop'. Busses leave from the Cathedral at 8am. See your WYD Parish Contact Person for more information. Another aspect of WYD for the Church in NZ is taking part in the 'Days in the Diocese' programme. In mid July, 22 parishes in our Diocese will be hosting about 450 overseas pilgrims from 6 different countries in the week before Sydney's WYD Week.

Donations are being sought to help 10 needy young Catholics from New Caledonia attend WYD.

2008 will be a year like no other for the Church in NZ.

For more information about WYD, please contact the Diocesan Coordinator, Edmund le Grelle on 03-3669869 or elegrelle@chch.catholic.org.nz



Pope JP 11 Speaks to Youth

Speaking to the youth of Switzerland on 7th June 2004

"I say to you, do not be afraid to encounter Jesus. Seek him in the reading of Scripture and in prayer, seek him in the Eucharist; seek him in the sacrament of Reconciliation; seek him in the Church; seek him in the face of suffering, needy and a foreign brother or sister. This search characterises the life of so many young people throughout the world. Like you, I also once was 20 years old. I loved sports, skiing, and reading poetry. I studied and worked. I had hopes and worries. In those now distant days, when the land of my birth was wounded by war and then by a totalitarian regime, I searched for the meaning of life. I found it in the following of the Lord Jesus. Youth is also a time when you ask yourselves what to do with your lives, how to contribute to make the world better, how to promote justice and make peace. This is the invitation I give you; Listen! Listen to the

voice of the Lord who speaks to you through the events of your daily lives, through the joys and sufferings that accompany you, the persons who are next to you, the voice of conscience thirsty for truth, happiness, goodness and beauty. If you are able to open your hearts and minds willingly, you will discover 'your vocation', the plan that the everlasting God, in his love, has designed for you. You will be able to create a family, founded on marriage as a bond of love between men and women who are committed to a communion of stable and faithful life. Or you will be able to be, if this is your calling, a priest or religious, giving your life with an undivided heart to Christ and to the Church and thus become a sign of the loving presence of God in today's world. After almost 60 years of priesthood, I am happy to give here, before you all, my testimony. It is beautiful to be able to give one's all for the cause of the Kingdom of God. I also want to invite you to something else. The time has arrived for

action. You are called to proclaim the message of the Gospel with the testimony of your lives. The Church has need of your energies, of your enthusiasm, of your youthful ideals to make the Gospel permeate the fabric of society and bring about a civilization of real justice and love free of discrimination. It is time not to be ashamed of the Gospel. It is time to preach it from the housetops. Arise! It is Christ who is speaking to you. Listen to him

Come and Journey with Me:

A retreat day in preparation for World Youth Day pilgrimage to Sydney.

Raylene Dwyer rsm Saturday 7th June 9.30 - 3.30pm. This is an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the meaning of a pilgrimage, to spend quality time with the God who journeys with us and to prayerfully prepare for this journey of faith. For enquiries contact Rosary House Ph 379 1298

Jeremy Gray R.I.P



Jeremy was a young Marist Seminarian who died recently. He saved the young boy who was in the same difficulties as he in the water trap they had been unexpectedly caught in. By the time he had pushed the boy to safety he was exhausted and by then unable to save himself. He came from our Diocese but at the time was away on pastoral placement overseas. Please remember him in your prayers.

Villa Maria College



Monday 18 February marked the Foundation Day of Villa Maria College 90 years ago in 1918. Since this date the College has grown from a small Catholic primary school under the direction of the Sisters of Mercy to a very successful state integrated Catholic secondary school for around 770 girls.

To mark the occasion students and staff were welcomed to a ceremonial assembly which included special guests Isobel Childs; Villa Maria's 2008 Deputy Head Girl and great grand-daughter of first day pupil Colleen O'Malley and also Sister Mary Clement; now 95 years old and former principal of the Villa Maria primary school.

Speeches reflected a strong theme of the education and empowerment of women and this was reinforced

by the presentation of Excellence Awards to students for work in 2007. The ceremonial assembly was concluded by the cutting of the anniversary cake (by Isobel Childs, Sister Mary Clement and 90th Anniversary Committee Chair, Therese Lagan). This was shared by all present in celebration of 90 years of Catholic Mercy Education

The College's achievement of this 90 year milestone will also be celebrated by more than 480 past students during the weekend 23 and 24 February 2008 as they come together for the official 90th Celebrations culminating in the Sunday morning Mass taken by Bishop Barry Jones to celebrate all that the College has provided in the past and present and to pray for continued excellence in education for the future.



RETIREMENT VILLAGE

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The Catholic Chaplaincy at Canterbury University

2008 begins with a completely new team. Bishop Barry has appointed Fr John Adams as the Tertiary Chaplain and he is joined by a full time tertiary co-ordinator, Eddie Caudel, and two part time team members, Katie Malone and Ken Joblin.

Eddie hails from the United States but is married to a New Zealander and now lives in the Sumner Parish. He has Chaplaincy experience with the United States Army and has recently completed post graduate studies in New Zealand History at Canterbury University.

Katie Malone has recently shifted from Auckland with her husband, Brendan, who works for Family Life International. Katie is experienced in the university environment being a graduate herself in

Italian and Anthropology, and having worked at Auckland University as the International Programmes Manager at the Centre for Continuing Education.

Ken Joblin is also no stranger to the tertiary scene. He has worked as a lay assistant to the Catholic Chaplain at Victoria University before embarking on life as a seminarian at Good Shepherd Seminary. During his time in the seminary Ken completed

a Bachelor of Theology to add to his Honours Degree in Political Science from Victoria University.

Fr John is a graduate of Canterbury University himself having completed a Bachelor of Science degree back in the 1984 and has a teaching diploma from Christchurch Teachers College which is now part of the university structure. Assisting the team this year will be members of the Beatitudes Community, who will assist with the weekday liturgies and generally be a welcome religious presence on campus. The team will be resident this year at Kolbe House, 5 Rountree Street, which is just off Ilam Rd, and welcomes Catholic Students to drop in anytime between 9-5pm. Mass will be celebrated at the Rochester Rutherford Chapel Tuesday to Friday at 12.10pm and at 7pm on Sunday evening. There will be the opportunity for Adoration each day in the Chapel between 11am and 12pm.



The Mary Potter Community Centre



The new Centre is situated at 442 Durham St North, St Albans. It is owned and operated by the Little Company of Mary Sisters. It was blessed by Bishop Barry Jones, the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch and officially opened by the Hon. Lianne Dalziel, M.P. for Christchurch East, on Friday November 27th 2007. A large number of guests attended and enjoyed the evening in warm, beautiful Christchurch weather.

It is hoped when the Centre is fully functional it will provide activities and events for the Residents of Mary Potter Courts and seniors in the local area who may feel socially isolated and would benefit from some company and interaction. This venture is an extension

of the Sisters' Mission in Christchurch; previously involved with institutional care they were anxious to find a new way to serve others, especially seniors in the local community. After selling the Mary Potter Hospital in 2004 the Sisters decided to share their resources with the elderly so embarked on a building programme. Stage

one - the erection of 13 additional Villas for low income seniors was completed and occupied in October 2006. Stage two is the completion of the Mary Potter Community Centre. Mary Potter was an English woman who founded the Little Company of Mary Congregation in Nottingham, England, in 1877. Mary Potter's vision was to serve the needy, especially the suffering and the dying. The first Little Company of Mary Sisters came to Christchurch from Australia in 1914 and initially carried out district nursing before establishing Calvary Hospital - now Southern Cross Hospital in Bealey Avenue. Since then the Sisters have been involved

in various areas of care: medical, surgical, psychiatric, midwifery and long term care for the elderly and the terminally ill. As needs changed, Hospital facilities were sold and Sisters have been involved in home, Hospital and Rest Home visiting. With the erection of the new building, the Mary Potter Community Centre has become a new focus for the Little Company of Mary mission in Christchurch.

Help Needed

A sign writer of old was noticing the Christmas before last, a lack of Christian Christmas messages around the streets. Last Christmas he took it upon himself to try and correct the situation by making a few signs of his own for placement on busy sites around the city; these were 1200mm x 900mm with the words "Christmas - what a birthday" and the other design "Christmas - the greatest story ever told". You might have seen them. Next Christmas he hopes to do a few more, if anyone has a suitable fence, or wall near a busy intersection or main road, where he could place one to promote a Christian Christmas message over the Christmas period of 2008. For long term planning ring Ray now on 3583162 for details. Your help would be appreciated.

Salvation at Carmel

The white paint was cracked. Long tongues of dry paint had peeled, revealing deep fissures in the rust brown terra cotta beneath. Rain had seeped in and was leaking from the foot. The Lord was in a bad way. The crucifix stands in the centre of our enclosure garden, the white, life-sized figure against a large, grey concrete cross. It has been a precious focal point in our Monastery for over seventy years. Covering it to prevent damage in the winter proved too costly and unsightly. Terra cotta does not weather well or stand weighty repairs, so we called in our painters, Gerard Stribling and Brywn Williamson. They advised us that there was little hope of salvaging. Reluctantly we asked them to remove the figure, knowing there may be no hope of a replacement. That did it! The thought of removal triggered immediate action. Gerard consulted

experienced terra cotta experts. A large tarpaulin and scaffold were erected, allowing work to proceed



in all weathers. Layers of paint were carefully removed, poison was applied against mildew and mould, cracks were fibre glassed and repaired, an RTV sealant was applied and finally, four coats of white paint. The final effect was stunning.

Gerard and Brywn are well known for their painting expertise by many Catholics and venues around the city. Gerard has been a painter for twenty seven years, Brywn working with him for the last seven. Word has it that they were the best in Christchurch and were much in demand. Humorous tugs-of-war ensued when everyone needed them at once. Recently, Gerard and Brywn have taken different career paths and they will be sorely missed. We are indeed grateful to them and wish every blessing on them for the future. Carmelite Sisters .

“Formation of the Heart”



National Catholic Marriage Training Weekend

Christchurch 23rd to 25th May 2008

Top Australasian speakers are to headline the Catholic Network of Marriage Educators (CNME) training weekend to be held in Christchurch over the weekend of 23rd – 25th May 2008.

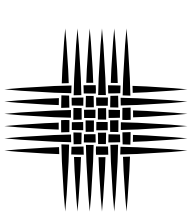
Ian and Mary Grant, media stars well known for their popular parenting seminars, will help present an innovative programme which offers a holistic model for marriage

educators. **Australians Byron and Francine Pirola**, directors of the internationally admired Catholic marriage enrichment seminar “*Celebrate Love*”, will also present sessions, along with **Father Stephen Lowe**, recently returned from Rome and appointed to Holy Cross Seminary, Auckland. The Conference theme is “*Formation of the Heart*”, taken from Pope Benedict’s first letter *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love). He said that people who work with others need a ‘formation of the heart’. They need to be led to an encounter with Jesus, which opens their spirit to others. The biennial training weekend will provide those who work with engaged couples an opportunity for learning, inspiration and some time out as couples together. Also, it will appeal to those involved in ministering to couples after the wedding celebration, for example in Marriage Encounter or Marriage Enrichment.

The ninth CNME event is expected to attract almost 200 attendees from

all over New Zealand. It will be run at the Chateau on the Park - beside Hagley Park - by Catholic National Marriage Educators with the blessing of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops’ Conference. “This is a wonderful opportunity for parishes and pastoral areas to strengthen the depth and quality of marriage preparation for their young engaged couples. Those who have attended this event in the past have found it to be very helpful in refreshing their skills as well as energising them for this ministry” said **Fr Simon Eccleton**, convenor of the Organising Team.

The weekend comprises talks from a top line of speakers, small group work, prayer, good food and relaxation. We would like to think that the experience will be refreshing and enjoyable for the marriage educators who attend. If you are interested in this weekend we invite you to discuss attending with your parish priest. More information and registration forms can be found on the website www.chch.catholic.org.nz/marriageweekend or contact Therese Roughan 03-351 8002 or email roughan@xtra.co.nz



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PASTORAL PLANNING OFFICE

A Priest Today

by Fr. Steve Lowe

The fourth Sunday after Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday, is a day we traditionally focus on vocations to the priesthood. This year Good Shepherd Sunday will have a greater significance for me given the recent taking up of my appointment as Formation Director at Holy Cross Seminary, the national seminary in Auckland.

The seminary programme currently takes six and a half years. The first year is a spiritual year enabling the students to grow in their appreciation of the nature of the priesthood and the call they are discerning. It is a year of growing in spiritual life and in oneself, as well as becoming more grounded in the basics of the Catholic faith. The main emphasis of the next three years is the student's academic formation. The student is expected to complete a Bachelor of Theology at Good Shepherd College which was established by the NZ Bishops Conference and the Society of Mary in 2001, bringing together the teaching resources of the previous Diocesan Seminary in Mosgiel and Marist Seminary at Greenmeadows. The student's fifth year is spent living and working in a parish in his own diocese. After this pastoral year the student returns to Auckland for

eighteen months to complete his academic studies and to prepare for ordination as a deacon at the end of the sixth year, and then as a priest the following year. Throughout his time in the seminary the student is also given a variety of pastoral experiences, as well as being exposed to on-going human and spiritual formation.

This year three new students have started their first year at Holy Cross making a total of eleven students resident at the seminary, with another three on their pastoral year. Of these, Rory Patterson is the only seminarian for our Diocese. (At the time of writing one new student has applied to enter Good Shepherd House in Christchurch for a pre-seminary year). The numbers could certainly be better. Often people glibly say "take away priestly celibacy and you will have more vocations". But I think this suggestion is too simple. Ultimately a more important question is how our young people view Jesus today. Is he recognised as the Son of God, who in becoming man, gave his life for us in order that we might share his life and ultimately his eternal life and love? Is he truly our Shepherd

who we are willing to trust, to follow? It is only when get the answer to these questions 'right', only when we recognise the life Christ gives us and are deeply grateful for that life, that the seeds of vocations can grow.

It's not only the young considering a vocation who need to ask these questions. I remember a New Zealand bishop saying, "Once parents used to pray for a vocation in their family. Now parents say 'over my dead body!'" Perhaps on Good Shepherd Sunday we need to remember that the first vocation of all Christ's disciples is to trust in his call and to trust that he will give us what we need to follow that call.

Jesus himself had a passionate love of the Father, a love that impelled him to give himself in the generous and selfless love of the cross. It was that generous and selfless love that brought resurrection and new life. Today, at Holy Cross, we still seek such generous and selfless men. Please pray for vocations and don't be afraid to talk to your family members about the possibility of a vocation to priesthood and religious life.

Inform

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