



INFORM

ISSUE 57

A Newsletter published by the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch

June 2004

“Well, what’s going on at the Cathedral now?”

That question was asked and answered thirty-four years ago in a large black and white leaflet distributed throughout the Diocese. It introduced the Cathedral Conservation Project (1970–75). With the same vision and courage that brought the building into being, Bishop Brian Ashby had taken the decision to clean and repair the external fabric of the Cathedral and to re-order and refurbish the interior to meet the needs of liturgical change.

Strangely, history has a way of repeating itself, and the time has come to answer that same question again: “Well, what’s going on at the Cathedral now?”

For some time, scientists and engineers have been predicting a major earthquake for Christchurch City within the next fifty years. It seems it is not a matter of if but when, and in the light of this warning many older buildings in the City have been strengthened, including the Cathedral in the Square.

In 2000, at the request of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Trust, a soil survey was undertaken in and about our Cathedral to determine the danger from earthquake-induced liquefaction of the site on which it stands. It was found that the risk was high—a judgement confirmed earlier during construction work at the nearby Christchurch Polytechnic and Jade Stadium.

In consultation with Sir Miles Warren, Consultant Architect for the Cathedral, the Holmes Consulting Group was asked to propose a programme for

strengthening the building without detriment to its intrinsic beauty. They recommended the interior bracing of both the dome and twin towers, a horizontal reinforced concrete overlay of the mezzanine floor and the pediment across the portico, the reinforcement of both the external and internal balustrades with horizontal steel ties and vertical rods, the reinforcing of every second column in the gallery, and steel and wire bracing to the three external crosses and the sculptured angels atop the façade.

After preliminary drawings had been completed, an application was made to the Christchurch City Council for resource consent and the funding of the project. Given that the Cathedral has heritage and cultural significance, and the Council had previously made substantial grants towards the seismic strengthening of the Anglican Cathedral, it was felt that the same consideration should be given to the Catholic Cathedral. The Council willingly granted consent, and agreed to fund the project with five yearly grants

of \$140,000, totalling \$700,000 for which we are most grateful.

Working drawings were completed in December 2003, and three contractors with experience in strengthening buildings were invited to submit tenders. The tender accepted was that of Lund and Son, who carried out similar work on the Anglican Cathedral.

Bridging finance has been arranged through the Catholic Development Fund so that the work may be carried out in a single operation rather than piecemeal when the grants become available, and the Diocese has since assumed responsibility for all financial, insurance, and related matters associated with the work.

A gathering to witness the formal signing of the contract was held at the Cathedral Presbytery on 3rd May, and the work is now underway. It will be completed in time for the Cathedral’s centennial year in 2005, and disruption to normal services should be minimal.

Monsignor J. M. Harrington



The Centennial Ball will be held in the Christchurch Convention Centre on Saturday, May 28 2005.

This will be a night to remember! Mark it down in your forward diary. Further information in the next issue of INFORM.





A letter from our Bishop

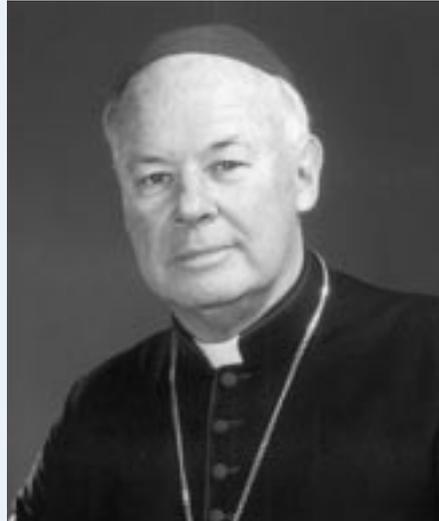
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

The 11th Ordinary General Assembly of the Church's Synod of Bishops will take place in Rome from 2 - 29 October 2005. The topic will be "The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church". Bishop John Dew, Coadjutor Archbishop in Wellington will participate.

The recent Encyclical of Pope John Paul II, *The Church of the Eucharist*, refers to his Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte* in which he made the appeal to know, love and initiate Christ and states that a renewed impetus in Christian living passes through the Eucharist.

It is hoped that preparation for sharing at the Synod and the Pope's Exhortation to follow:

- ▶ will lead to the Eucharist maintaining and strengthening its central place in the Church at the universal and local levels, especially in parishes and communities;
- ▶ that a necessary increase of faith in the Eucharist may result;
- ▶ that the Synod may contribute to the renewal programme in the life and Christian mission of individuals and communities and
- ▶ that the Church's teaching on the Sacred Eucharist might be taken up now and more profoundly received in its entirety.



May we receive all the wisdom and teaching in apostolic times in the Church Fathers, in Councils, particularly Trent and Vatican II and in the relevant interdicasteral and pontifical documents in the spirit we read in Acts 16:4; Paul and Timothy, "passed on the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, with instructions to respect them". (Lectionary, Saturday Fifth Week of Easter)

In the *Lineamenta*, the Synod's preparatory document sent this month to all bishops, Roman Curia officials and members of the Union of Superiors General, we read of the need that the Roman liturgy, in its simplicity desires that "the sacred places and things might indeed be worthy, beautiful signs and

symbols of the heavenly realities". So the Holy Father has called for the strict observance of the Church's liturgical norms and their external expressions. The Latin word *ordo* used in liturgical rites which must be done properly and in hierarchical order (cf. St Paul in 1 Cor. 14.40).

Finally three aspects are important:

- ▶ Jesus through his actions at the Last Supper and particularly his words, "Do this in memory of me", did not intend simply to institute a fraternal meal but a liturgy, a true act of worship and adoration of the Father "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24);
- ▶ Liturgical reform did not lead to the destruction of the secular patrimony of the Church but was intended to foster in faithfulness to Catholic tradition the renewal of the liturgy for the sanctification of Christians and
- ▶ The Lord has derived his Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament so that God Emmanuel might be, today and always, a God near to humanity as its Redeemer and Lord.

Every best wish,
Sincerely,

John Cunneen
Bishop of Christchurch

Mary Potter's Little Company of Mary: The New Zealand Experience, 1914-2002

by Ann Trotter, (*Bridget Williams Books/Little Company of Mary House*)
Reviewed by Patrick Coleman

The name Mary Potter evokes images of hospices with elderly or dying people. However, the story of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary (LCM) who ran hospitals such as Mary Potter and Calvary has never been told. Mary Potter's Little Company of Mary chronicles the spread of the LCM from England, Australia to New Zealand and also to Tonga.

Ann Trotter, an Emeritus Professor of History, from the University of Otago, has produced a "warts and all" account of the LCM in New Zealand. All the

highs in the early years and the later pain at the selling of their hospitals and convents are sympathetically told.

A pivotal figure in the early years was an Irish nun, Mother Xavier Lynch, based in Sydney, who Trotter paints as a very capable and formidable personality. She personally oversaw the setting up of the first hospital in Christchurch in 1914 on the Bealey Avenue site now occupied by Southern Cross Hospital. The sectarian tensions of the war years were tough for the Sisters. The people of Christchurch were suspicious of these Australian Catholic nuns. Sheer hard work and the

tragedy of the 1918 Influenza Epidemic helped change these prejudices.

As the LCM expanded throughout New Zealand they set up the famous Calvary hospitals and psychiatric units as well. Trotter notes that the nuns set high standards and were often top in the New Zealand medical exams.

Trotter has provided a sound and insightful study of the LCM who have given and continue to give so much care and compassion for the community. Highly recommended.

Patrick Coleman is a historian, reviewer and Senior Tutor at Lincoln University.

Diocesan Marian Celebration

for the Feast of Assumption of Our Lady as Patron of New Zealand

We are invited to gather as a Diocese for Marian Devotions on this Feast Sunday 15 August 3:00pm Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

Letter from the Catholic Bishops of New Zealand on the new Liturgical Instruction

30 April 2004

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Comment on the Instruction concerning Liturgical Abuses.

We, your bishops, see the new Instruction on avoiding abuses in the celebration of Eucharist as a further affirmation of the sacredness of this great Sacrament. The celebration of Mass is at the very heart of Catholic faith and Catholic identity. It is through union with Christ that our worship becomes worthy of God, not only during the celebration, but also in daily lives that are different because of our union with Christ.

To do justice to this Instruction we need to "receive" it well. This involves at least three important considerations:

1. Its intended purpose:

Its purpose is to put an end to any malpractices that bring dishonour on our celebration of this great sacrament, or diminish people's ability to participate in it serenely and worthily. In support of this objective, we can only be whole-hearted.

2. Universal Church:

This Instruction is intended for the Church throughout the world, and especially wherever the Roman Rite is celebrated. For this reason, the document refers to various abuses that have occurred in different parts of the world. It does not suppose that all these abuses occur everywhere. It is first of all for bishops and bishops' conferences to adjudicate whether a particular abuse is occurring, and to intervene if it is.

3. The concern to avoid abuses:

Our desire to avoid abuses in the celebration of Eucharist can follow

either of two different approaches. One approach puts the entire burden on regulations. The other approach puts the burden on catechesis – inviting and challenging us to better understand what is happening during the Mass and at each part of the Mass.

When people expect the liturgy to bring about in their own lives what the disciples on the road to Emmaus experienced, they are much less likely to trivialise the celebration in any way:

While he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognised him.... and they said to each other: "were not our hearts burning within us while he... opened the scriptures to us"... (and they) recounted... how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread (cf Luke, 24:30–32, 35).

Here, the focus is on the great mystery in which we participate.

On the other hand, when people who look mainly to the regulations themselves – fearing abuses, watching out for them, expecting to see them, they are focusing mainly on correctness. This sort of preoccupation can diminish the community's experience of the liturgy, and harm especially those who live with this kind of preoccupation.

The purpose of this Instruction, namely, the elimination of abuses, will be achieved less through preoccupation with regulations and concern for correctness (often accompanied by campaigns and accusations), than by good catechesis on the meaning of the liturgy and each of its parts.

Finally, as we have previously mentioned, it is the intention of the New Zealand bishops to provide a comprehensive catechesis on a national basis as soon as the revised Sacramentary is available to us.

Signed:

New Zealand Catholic Bishops

Celebrating the Most Holy Eucharist

Last year on Holy Thursday Pope John Paul II addressed his 14th Encyclical, *The Church of the Eucharist*, to all the people of the Church. His intention was to rekindle in all of us "the astonished gratitude that should always fill every assembly gathered to celebrate the Eucharist".

The Encyclical is an eloquent meditation on the wonder that is Christ's sacramental presence among us in the Eucharist. Drawing on the Scriptures and all the riches of the Church's whole Tradition, the Pope makes clear that this is the central mystery of the Church's life, the source and summit of her being, the reason for her existence, what she is for. In the Eucharist the death and resurrection of Christ are re-presented here and now to continue the work of our salvation. In the Eucharist and the other sacraments the risen Christ lives and acts in his Church – it is the way he fulfils his promise to stay with us always. It is the way the life of the vine is carried to us who are its branches. There has never been a more profound and authoritative

exposition of this mystery or a more thorough catechesis on it.

The Encyclical was needed to dispel the shadows the Pope sees shrouding our vision of the Eucharist. While acknowledging the fruitfulness of the liturgical reform inaugurated by the Second Vatican Council, he sees also "confusion" concerning "this wonderful sacrament". One example he gives is a "reductive understanding of the Eucharistic mystery. Stripped of its sacrificial meaning, it is celebrated as if it were simply a fraternal banquet". Another is the obscuring of the utterly distinctive role of the ministerial priesthood, which reflects confusion about the very sacramental nature of the Eucharist.

Welcoming the Encyclical last year, Cardinal Walter Kasper described the situation confronting the Church bluntly. He said, "In our time... the very perception of the historic specificity of the Christian sacraments seems to be lost." He goes on

to quote Cardinal Daneels as saying we are seeing a kind of atrophy, of "blinding", whereby the sacramentality of the Church is no longer perceived.

To remedy this disastrous situation the Pope promised to provide, in addition to the catechesis he was offering in the Encyclical, a document which would reiterate the liturgical norms with which the Church is obliged to safeguard the sacredness and universality of the mystery entrusted to it. (E.de E.,52) This *Instruction*, called *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, was released on 23rd April. Its vital importance for all our lives can only be grasped when it is seen as the promised sequel to *The Church of the Eucharist*. Its whole purpose is to spell out exactly what is required in the celebration of the most Holy Eucharist if its divinely instituted sacramental nature is to be clear. The challenge to us is to accept it with the fidelity we owe to Christ in his Church.

Betty O'Dowd bmodowd@globe.net.nz



The team has developed a new therapeutic group course for women, "Women Who Care Too Much". It is fully booked for a second time and feedback from Carol's first course was very encouraging to say the

least. A group course was also developed at the request of the Deaf Association which started on May 19. The agency has also been approached by the Corrections Department and CYF for specific service requests, so we must be doing something right.

Thanks to all who support us and put their trust in our work. We can constantly

say yes to people and respond to their needs in a caring way. If you are not part of this agency already, do become one of our supporters or one of our volunteer team members. Even a bit of your time can mean a lot to others.

Want to know more about us? Call in, read our pamphlets and newsletters, ring Mary at reception or check our website.



Parishes

St Mary's, Manchester Street

Sister Mary Concepta RSM

(Ellen Walsh)

St Mary's Parish acknowledges that for close on thirty years Sister Mary

Concepta was a faithful and diligent Sacristan at St Mary's Church, Manchester Street, and a frequent adorer of the Most Holy Sacrament at the times of Eucharistic Adoration.

She had a good sense of humour even to the point of being able to enjoy a light joke about sacred things such as the chances of the Crusaders in a Super 12 match; she was Andrew Merhtens' most prayerful fan! We prayerfully commend Sister Mary Concepta into the eternal love and joy of her Lord and God. May she rest in peace.



Easter Floral Cross

The plain wooden cross used for the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday was decorated into a Flowering Cross for the Easter Vigil and the celebrations of the Resurrection of the Lord. Marie McKee, Ria Hill and Dorothea McKenzie put together this significant floral focus for Easter. "Hail, O Cross, our only hope."



"Stained Glass" from pupils of St Mary's-in-the-City Primary School for Eastertime.

In preparing and celebrating the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, classes in the Parish School used their artistic talents to provide a setting in the porch of St Mary's Church for their Holy Week Liturgy. The "stained glass" posters remained for Easter Week.



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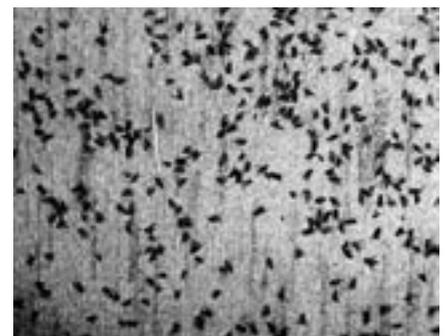
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Mackenzie-Pleasant Point Parishes

The Government recently ran a ballot to pick 50 Veterans to return to Monte Cassino on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the battle. A Trust aptly named "Our Heroes" was set up to fund more veterans who want to go but missed out on the ballot. It is assisting another 70-80 to get there with a group of people to support them. Fr Michael Pui accompanied them as Spiritual Director cum Translator.

FLY-BUYS at Fairlie Church?

Actually it is more like Flies-Stopping-By!! For nearly three months the church building has been invaded by a plague of Cluster-flies. The experts say that the best solution is simply to vacuum them up (sigh!). Incense has been used to deter them from coming in with some measure of success. As the cold days come, the numbers are dwindling (the flies!), and it is hoped that it would soon be Fly-Bye.



Dead Cluster flies on the floor of the choir loft, 24hours after cleaning.



Parishes

Ngahere

On Sunday May 2 the congregations at Mass in Ngahere and Runanga celebrated Good Shepherd/Vocations Sunday with Fr Dan O'Connor with renewed enthusiasm. They also remembered the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker and May Day.

At the offertory parishioners presented tools/utensils. They were also able to pray and thank God for the gift of having work and for God's vocation in their lives:

- A logger with a saw; remembering that Jesus would have used a saw as a carpenter.
- The spirit-level; recalling the need to possess good balance/level in one's life.
- A woman with a kettle; remembering the many sharings over cups of tea/coffee.
- A sledge hammer; and the need to have a firm foundation in faith and life.

Importance in possessing the right tools for the job; so also the need to do the right things in our lives for God's reign/kingdom of love, faith, justice and peace.

- A torch; needed for checking cows calving, giving new life, and also for our life's journey that Christ be our light.
- A hoe; to keep weeds out of our gardens, to care for God's creation and also the need to hoe out bad habits/sins so as to bear a good harvest.



Homily: Help in the Valley

We also remembered the slogan written on the Runanga Miner's Hall nearby – United we stand – Divided we fall. World's wealth for world's workers. May we respond wholeheartedly to whatever be our vocation in life from our Good Shepherd who said, "the harvest is ready but the labourers are few: so pray to the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into the harvest."

National

First National Congress for New Zealand Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites

Ten Members from the Peace of Christ Community in Christchurch were among the 40 attending the 1st New Zealand Congress of the Order held in Wellington at the end of February this year.

The Congress, called "New Beginnings in New Zealand", launched the establishment of our own National identity within the Region, while still remaining under the umbrella of the Australian Region.

The Discalced Secular Carmel has two other communities in New Zealand: Holy Family in Auckland, and St Joseph's in Wellington, who hosted the Congress.

The General Delegate for the Secular Order, Fr Aloysius Deeney OCD, was present from Rome, along with Fr Des Williamson OCD, our Regional Delegate from Australia and Mrs Sandra Johnson OCDS, the President of the Regional Council.

Fr Deeney spoke to us on the New Constitutions recently approved by the Holy See, which replace our earlier Rule of Life. He also complimented us on our National Statutes, also just approved by the Holy See, and expressed his confidence in the Secular Order in this country.

He also spoke to us very clearly about Formation, and Carmelite life in general. His talks were followed by

discussion groups for the Members with relevant feedback.

With his input, and that of Fr Williamson, we all came away with much food for thought and action to share with our Communities at home.

We were privileged to have Cardinal Tom Williams concelebrate Sunday Mass with our Carmelite Friars and join us for the Congress Dinner which followed.

The Wellington Community had put a great deal of work into the preparation of the Congress, and with this and the willingness of our other members to participate, the Congress was a great success.

THURSDAY A DAY TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS AND FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD



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Youth News



Young Adult Ministry in the Christchurch Diocese

In 2001 the Diocesan Youth Team employed a person specifically to work with young adults, who are generally defined as people aged 18–35. Employing this worker was a response to the growing awareness that more could be done to effectively meet the needs of young adults in the Church.

From our diocesan office, young adult ministry aims to connect young adults with Jesus Christ, the Church, the mission of the Church and with each other through such things as co-ordinating diocesan wide programmes such as retreats, Catholic faith formation, social events, prayer experiences and a bi-monthly newsletter. We also support and resource parishes where there are existing young adults groups and parishes that are seeking to have a young adult ministry. We also support those directly involved in leading young adults' ministry.

Currently there is a group of committed young adults in the diocese who are involved in many areas of the life of the Church and support and care for each other.

If you are a young adult and would like more information, want to get involved or just want to meet some likeminded people please do not hesitate to contact the office. If you are in a parish and would

like to start something for young adults please also contact the office and we can help you.

Young Adult Ministry is an exciting and developing area in the Catholic Church and will continue to produce many positive fruits in the years to come.

Contact the Catholic Youth Team Office on (03) 366-9869 or email Matt O'Connell on moconnell@chch.catholic.org.nz or view our web site www.cyt.org.nz



Matt O'Connell.

The Young Adults Worker for the Diocese of Christchurch.



A recent young adults retreat for those aged 18 to 24, held at Hanmer Springs

Fundraising efforts are under way and there are plans to have a variety of initiatives to assist young adults to fundraise the necessary money to attend in August 2005.

For more information about World Youth Day contact the Catholic Youth Team or view the web site

www.wyd2005.org



Preparation underway for World Youth Day 2005

"We have come to worship Him!" (Mt 2:2) is the theme chosen by Pope John Paul II for the 20th World Youth Day being held in Cologne, Germany.

International World Youth Days are held every two or three years in a selected country. Pope John Paul II calls young people to gather with him to celebrate, to pray and to share. From the Christchurch Diocese there has been less than a handful attend each of the last three World Youth Days. However there is a great deal of interest from young people from our diocese in making a pilgrimage to Germany in 2005.

"Adopt a Camper" for Antioch 2004

On the weekend of August 6–8 the Youth Team will be running an Antioch weekend for young people in years 11–13 (forms 5 to 7). Due to growth in recent years we have had to move to a larger venue that will take the expected 150 young people.

This move to the larger venue of Living Springs has increased the cost of the weekend. We are therefore looking to subsidise the weekend by asking people to "adopt a camper", by offering \$20 for a young person to attend.

If you are interested in "adopt a

camper" then send \$20 to Catholic Youth Team PO Box 4544, Christchurch, with your contact details and parish you belong to (we will endeavour to subsidise someone from your parish). We will then send you a prayer card for the weekend and the first name of your adopted camper.

Thank you for helping more young people to be able to attend camp to experience their faith alive and in action. We look forward to hearing from you. For more information phone (03) 366-9869.

People

On Monday May 24, the Feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians, Sr Joan McCrossan RSM was farewelled 25 years to the day she began work as the Secretary Notary for the Catholic Church Tribunal, which deals principally with marriage annulments.



Sr Joan McCrossan RSM

Sr Joan taught for 33 years before being asked by Fr Tom Cahill, the then Director of Catholic Social Services, of which the Tribunal was part, to take up duties that have culminated in this day of happy retirement.



Br Duane Stallard

On the Feast of St Cyril and St Methodius, February 14, I took a step "into the deep" by receiving the habit and temporary professing the vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience.

After a Novitiate year last year and five years with the Beatitudes I went from wanting to be an All Black to being clothed in "All White". My desire to consecrate my life to Jesus has grown in my journey with the Beatitudes. It was truly a blessed day and now I desire with God's help to be a sign of the kingdom to come. Thank you for all your prayers and support. Please continue as the journey has just begun. Christ is Risen!

Halswell Parishioner, Bernie Welch, who will be 74 next month, is Christchurch's oldest footballer. Bernie, with fellow club member and next door neighbour Noel Hoppood, decided to form the Halswell United Soccer Club while celebrating Bernie and Margaret's 10th wedding anniversary in 1964. The club celebrated its 40th anniversary on May 14/15, with both men still active in the club. Bernie is player/manager of the Masters C team—he referees or plays if they are a player short. Away from sport, Bernie is Treasurer of the Halswell branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society and is in charge of the Halswell SVDP food bank.



Christchurch's oldest footballer Bernie Welch

Sr Judith Moore SMSM congregational leader based in Rome, was visiting Christchurch recently and was given a surprise pre-60th birthday by her friends and relatives. Sr Judith was born in Hokitika, the eldest of five children, and grew up in Christchurch educated by Sisters of Mercy at St Mary's. She was professed in 1966 after spending her novitiate years in Heretaunga. Her pastoral experience includes working with the training of novices at Heretaunga, involvement with the training of the Sisters of Nazareth at their novitiate in Cawaci, Fiji. She taught in Sigatoka and did social work in Suva before becoming Regional Leader of Fiji in 1979. She was Provincial of the South Pacific from 1989 to 1995. Since 1996 Sr Judith was working in the Phillipines where was involved with Pastoral and Chaplaincy work in General Santos City. Her new duties as the eighth SMSM Congregational Leader commenced in Dec 2001 and she has been elected for a period of seven years.



Sr Judith Moore on her birthday

Lefties stand on the right (side of the ball).

Recently Fr. Denis Nolan from the Sumner-Lyttelton parish played in the New Zealand National Left Handed Golfers' Association annual tournament. "We lefties are less than ten percent of golfers, so I know what it's like to be part of a minority. Most golf courses, selection of gear etc, naturally favour right-handers", said Fr. Denis. "It was great to be part of a field of about 190 golfers from all over New Zealand and a sizeable contingent from Oz, who all stand on the same side of the ball!" he added. He even met some Aussie Nolan's who are probably related. "They came from the same part of Victoria that my great grandfather left, when he came to the Coast in the early 1870's. I've since had an email from them and hope to get some more information. That's an example of the camaraderie in this minority group", explained Fr. Denis.

He got lucky and won a number of prizes, chief amongst which is a national trophy for the best senior nett score over the tournament. "I'll take it up to Nelson for the Nationals next year. Lefties are good company and great fun!", he concluded.



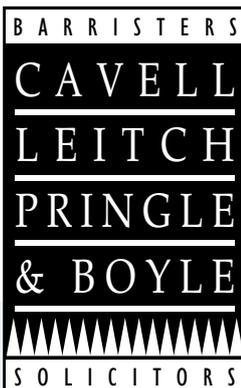
Fr Dennis Nolan with his prizes including six golf balls, \$230, and a new putter that went with the trophy.

Fr Brian Fennessy recently left New Zealand as the Chaplain with the 3rd military contingent to Afghanistan. The New Zealand contingent of 100 soldiers is based at Bamiyan, north west of Kabul. The area was famous for the 2000 year old Buddhas that were destroyed by the Taleban.

Fr. Brian will return to New Zealand in September.



Fr Brian Fennessy en route to Afghanistan



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Villa Marie College

Waterpolo

It has just been announced that Villa Maria College student Rebecca Boyd, Year 12, is the only South Island member of the New Zealand Schoolgirls' Waterpolo Squad.

Following a series of training camps, the New Zealand Team will be selected to compete in the 2004 Australia/New Zealand Tournament to be held in Auckland in December 2004.

Top Student Award

Former Villa Maria College Student, Roberta Hager, is the country's top female Pacific Island University Bursary scholar. She got an average of 80 per cent in Bursary German, Biology, Chemistry, Statistics and Physics.

Schools



Roberta, who is doing a one year Health Science course at Otago University in preparation for medical school, was one of eight Christchurch students awarded scholarships in the 2003 university Bursary examinations. She will receive \$8000 towards her studies.

Mary Lynch described Roberta as an "outstanding student and a wonderful role model" and added, "we are tremendously proud of her." In a recent note to the College Roberta wrote, "University life is going well...the ex Villa girls are working hard and having fun...believe it or not we always end up talking about how we miss the good old days back at our high school."



Organisations

National Marriage Educators' Conference

The 7th National Catholic Marriage Educators' Conference was held at Novotel Tainui in Hamilton on April 23-25.

The theme, Bridging the Gap, explored aspects of marriage in society today that challenges us to build bridges and close the gaps in our understanding of issues that threaten the marriage relationship.

The first keynote address on the Friday night was given by Cecilia Lashlie, former prison manager and currently facilitator of the "Good Man" project. Her talk entitled "Morality at the heart of effective relationships - healthy marriages" challenged us to have greater moral courage in the way we live, and to connect "properly" with one another.

The next keynote speaker, on Saturday morning, was Sr Christina Neunzerling RSJ, a scripture scholar who integrates scripture with living. Her talk "A Spirituality of relationship - a biblical perspective", invited us to live the creative tension between our need for solitude and our need for intimacy. Her talk was full of insights and given with great humour.

Peter Walsh, an Organisational Developmental Consultant, gave his address on "Insights and Skills for

understanding and managing interpersonal relationship needs".

This talk gave useful ideas for successful collaborative relationships.

The final keynote address on Sunday morning, was given by Noel and Peta Karalus - a couple who spoke of the trials and rewards of a cross-cultural marriage. Peta, a chief in her extended Samoan family, and Noel, a surgeon, from a rural nuclear family in Taranaki, spoke from the heart as they shared their personal experiences, in raising eight children.

The Conference also included a number of workshops, ranging from how we relate effectively with the current young adult generation (our clients) to a Maori perspective on identity and relationships.

This Conference aimed to address gaps associated with spirituality, morality, cultural difference, communication and educational approaches towards marriage. It did that.

The eleven delegates from the Christchurch diocese left feeling more confident and knowledgeable after this Conference, knowing that we, with Christ, bridge the gap.

Rosary House Retreats

Enneagram One

Joan McPetridge July 20 & 22
5.30-9.30pm both evenings
The Enneagram is a path to self-understanding to assist us in exploring our own inner journey.

Weekend Retreat: Come Aside and Rest Awhile "I am with you" Rosary House Team

A gentle time in Christ's presence. Spend a weekend in silence to relax, read, walk, contemplate and be at peace.

Waking up to your Dreams: The River of the Soul

July 24, 10.00am-3.00pm Allan Bloore Jungian Analyst
This one-day workshop will assist participants to be more present to themselves at the interior level, and to tune in more deeply to the symbolic meaning of their dreams.

*For Registration ring Rosary House Spiritual Life Centre—
phone 379 1298.*

Catholic Women's League

The 68th Diocesan Conference of the Catholic Women's League was held in Timaru on April 16 and 17. Bishop John Cunneen celebrated the Opening Mass and attended the Conference.

Diocesan President, Mrs Lorraine Doyle welcomed representatives from six regions who presented reports on the activities of members in the past year, including raising funds for mission stations, assistance to children in health camps, visiting the sick and helping homeless people.

Three guest speakers shared their knowledge. Entertainment was provided by Timaru members at the Conference dinner. We all had a wonderful time.

Did you know the Diocese has an updated web site?

www.chch.catholic.org.nz

- A complete list of all Mass times in each parish of the Diocese
- Find all schools in the diocese
- A full list of all priests in the diocese with contact details
- Find out about the 2005 Cathedral Centenary
- A weekly gospel reflection by Msgr Tom Power
- Photos of each parish Church
- And much more!

INFORM

A Quarterly published by the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch.

Deadline for the next issue: **August 30 2004**

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