



# INFORM

ISSUE 58

A Newsletter published by the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch

September 2004

## Cathedral Centennial takes shape

The Cathedral Centennial Committee continues to meet monthly to plan the centenary, which will include the main liturgical celebrations of 2005: the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Cathedral (Saturday February 12), the Mass of Chrism in Holy Week, Easter Day, Pentecost Sunday, the Body and Blood of Christ (titular feast of the Cathedral), the Assumption of Our Lady, Christ the King, a Commemoration of the Faithful Departed and Christmas.

The programme for February 12 is being developed. It will feature an opening Mass, shared lunch and an ecumenical service, during which the "Stations of the Cross" specially commissioned for the centenary will be dedicated. The principal liturgical celebration will be held on the afternoon of the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Sunday May 29), with Melbourne's Archbishop Denis Hart as principal celebrant and the Papal Nuncio and the Bishops of New Zealand as concelebrants.

A seven part spiritual programme called "Living Stones", based on Pope John Paul's "Novo Millennio Ineunte" and art works found in the Cathedral, is being prepared for use by parish groups. Its aim is to draw out the spiritual significance of this milestone in the history of the Diocese.

A commemorative booklet by Michael Hanrahan, recounting the history of the Cathedral, has been written and is presently being edited, as is a leaflet for use by schools and parishes on a pilgrimage to the Cathedral during its centennial year.

An impressive large scale model of the Cathedral, constructed by Todd Hall, will be displayed in the principal churches of Westland, mid-Canterbury and South Canterbury, early in the New Year.

The Committee is in dialogue with key personnel with a view to arranging two concerts in 2005 to feature pupils from all Catholic primary and

secondary schools in the Diocese.

A meeting of parish representatives has been held to discuss arrangements for a floral festival in the Cathedral in association with next year's Christ the King Procession which will be held in the Cathedral grounds.

To mark the centenary, a hundred commemorative medallions featuring the Cathedral will be struck and distributed to parishes for presentation to two parishioners chosen for outstanding service to their parish.

A subcommittee is organising a centennial dinner and ball to be held on Saturday May 28 2005.

And so the planning continues – its object is to highlight the unique place of the Cathedral as the mother church of the Diocese, and its relationship to all the parishes.



### CATHEDRAL CENTENNIAL PROJECT UPDATE

Nine of the fourteen "Stations of the Cross" to commemorate the Cathedral's centenary have now been gifted, and the Cathedral Trust is grateful for the generous response to its appeal. The work of mounting the "Stations" has now begun (under the direction of Professor H. J. Simpson) and is being carried out by Jim Cormie, who has cared for the fabric of the Cathedral for thirty years.

A recent exhibition of works by Llew Summers, the creator of the "Stations", was reviewed in *The Press* on 14/7/04. It read: "There is a quality to any sculpture by Llew Summers that makes it immediately identifiable. ... Here's an artist who dares to be different and the good thing is that his work seems to improve both in quality and imagery. Llew Summers' latest exhibition ...

establishes him as an enduring and significant figure in contemporary New Zealand art."

Others wishing to gift one of the new "Stations" to the Cathedral (\$3,000), should contact the Secretary of the Cathedral Trust, at Box 4544, Christchurch. A record of donors is to be kept in the Memorial Chapel of the Cathedral.



# A letter from our Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

The Eucharist lies at the heart of our Catholic faith and by necessity, so does the Priesthood. Throughout history the Church has had to and continues to face the challenge of not having enough priests. In some parts of the world one priest will minister to tens of thousands of parishioners. At times our own Diocese has had to face this challenge. We are better off proportionally priests to people than many places. We can think back to the pioneer priests of Canterbury and Westland who spent weeks walking or on horseback ministering the scattered lay faithful. We can think back to the interregnum between Bishops Brodie and Lyons when five priests died.

Once again our Diocese has to face this challenge, as increasingly it has more parishes than priests. Each of us might have our own theory as to why this has happened but theories don't change the fact of our present situation. What we would all agree upon is that in our rapidly changing world we more than ever need priests to celebrate the Eucharist and minister the sacraments, preach the Good News



and teach the Catholic faith. In the midst of our present situation we must not lose heart. "Do not be afraid" Jesus tells us; nor should we, for we do see encouraging signs. People are wanting to deepen their faith and become more actively involved in their parishes. Many parishes are developing youth and pastoral worker positions and we see the fruits of our Diocesan Youth Team. From these movements and as a fruit of our prayer vocations will surely come.

In the meantime, as Bishop, I wish to thank those priests,

whom I have asked to take on the pastoral care of two, or even three parishes. Your generous response to the needs of the people of God is deeply appreciated. My thanks also to the parishes who have graciously accepted changes, seeing the change of priestly staffing as an opportunity for a more collaborative ministry with your priest in and between parishes. The future will bring further changes to parishes and new initiatives to face our present situation. As Church we must continually look for new ways to proclaim our faith to the world. We should see our present situation as holding possibilities for us to grow in our faith and in living our faith. The Church is always pilgrim, always journeying forward, and it does this with hope and confidence for Jesus has promised us that he will be with us always until the end of time.

Every best wish,  
Sincerely,

John Cunneen  
Bishop of Christchurch

Two senior and well-respected priests in the Society of Mary died in July, **Fathers Norman Scambary and John Gorinski.**

Father Norm Scambary died on July 16. He served in Christchurch for over twenty years, with thirteen years at St Bede's College 1948-50 and 1976-85 where he was Sports Master and a noted teacher of Commerce, serving as Chief Examiner for School Certificate Accounting.

In 1994 he joined the Marist community at St Mary's Manchester Street where he was Chaplain to the Parish school, the Legion of Mary and the Catholic Women's League.

As well as his time in the Christchurch Diocese he was a teacher at St John's College, Hastings; St Augustine's College, Wanganui and St Patrick's, Wellington; he also served in parishes at Timaru and Blenheim.

Because of a setback in health he was, for the last fourteen months of his life, a resident at Nazareth House, where he died aged 85.

Father John Gorinski at his death on July 22 was the oldest priest in the Society of Mary in New Zealand, and had a few days earlier observed his 93rd birthday.

He was Christchurch born, in the Christchurch North Parish, and his service as a priest in the city included four years at St Bede's and a year at St Mary's Manchester Street. It was in the Marist community there that Fr John retired in 1986 at the age of 75. For fourteen years he assisted with Reconciliation, the evening weekday Mass at 5.10pm and was available for callers at the presbytery. Since 2000 he had been a resident at the Mary Potter Home and Hospital.

Australia was the scene of Fr John's major activity as a seminary lecturer, following studies and ordination in Rome



Norman Scambary



John Gorinski

in 1935. He returned to New Zealand in 1957 to work at Silverstream and Mount Albert. From 1980 to 1985 he was the General Secretary to the Episcopal Conference of the Pacific working from Tonga, and then Suva in Fiji.

Between them these priests tallied 128 years of priesthood.

May the gracious God reward his servants.

# The Tribunal Office

The Catholic Church teaches that marriage is, by God's plan, an enduring and exclusive partnership between a man and a woman for the giving and receiving of love, and for the procreation and education of children. This is in accord with the Gospels, with the writings of St Paul, and centuries of Christian tradition.

Every marriage – or, at least every first marriage – including that between non-Catholics, is presumed to be valid. However this presumption could be wrong. Hence the need for a Tribunal to study the validity or otherwise of a marriage.

An annulment may be granted if evidence shows that from the beginning of the marriage – at the time of the wedding – it suffered a basic and profound defect and was, therefore, invalid.

So only when it can be proved that a marriage was, in fact, never valid in the first place, may the Church declare it null. It is important to understand that an annulment does not imply that the marriage was entered into with ill-will or with moral fault, or that a real relationship did not exist. Rather, an annulment is a statement by the Church that, in at least one element essential for a life-long union, the marriage was deficient from the start.

There are no civil effects from the Church's declaration of nullity of a marriage. Children of a marriage are declared by law to be legitimate. Property and access rights between

the parties are unaffected by an annulment.

In testing a broken marriage, the Church is seeking the truth of the matter – was it a marriage according to the criteria of the Catholic Church? We are bound to be faithful to the teaching of Jesus laid out so clearly in Luke 16:18, Mark 10:1 ff and 1 Corinthians 7:10 ff.

Facing our past is not easy, but it is the richest path for allowing us to move ahead. Throughout each region of the diocese we have a wonderful team of trained Tribunal personnel who work with our office director, **Mrs Mary Jo Murphy**, to assist people who are ready to begin the annulment process, or who simply want more information about what is involved.

If you would like to discuss your situation with the Tribunal, in the first instance make contact with Mary Jo – phone (03) 366-9869, write to PO Box 4544, Christchurch, or email her at [mmurphy@chch.catholic.org.nz](mailto:mmurphy@chch.catholic.org.nz). You are assured of a warm and courteous welcome.



Mrs Mary Jo Murphy

## Passionist Family Groups' Formation Weekend



New South Island Directors for the Passionist Family Group Movement, Murray & Aileen Straight (left) with Fr. Brian Traynor CP (right).

Eighty Passionist Family Group leaders and group members from ten Christchurch and four South Canterbury parishes gathered at Pudding Hill near Methven for a formation weekend earlier this year. The weekend was led by Fr Brian Traynor CP, a Brisbane based Passionist priest, assisted by his brother, Paul Traynor, a teacher at St. Bede's College. The Passionist congregation in Australia continues to provide priests on an itinerant basis to foster and nourish the Passionist Family Group Movement in New Zealand. The Movement was begun by the Passionists in Australia over 30 years ago.

The theme of the weekend was "service" – service to one another and to our parish communities. Although the weekend dealt with the practical issues of running family groups, some time was devoted to ritual. The symbols of the basin and the towel were used to remind us that we must serve one another.

During the weekend Raelene and Lex Ferguson, Regional Co-ordinators for the Movement in the South Canterbury region were thanked for their years of service as they stood down from this role. Clive and Frances Bleaken were farewelled from the Christchurch regional team as they have moved to the North Island and have since taken up a role with the Passionist Family Group regional team in Hamilton.

### Discernment Group for women interested in the Consecrated Life

A new group has been established for women wanting to discern a vocation to the Consecrated Life. This will meet every second Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at the Sisters of Mercy, Bishopdale. Phone 359-2212 if you are interested.

## NATIONAL

### Becoming one new Congregation

The Sisters of Mercy from the four New Zealand Congregations are preparing a petition to the Apostolic See to become one Congregation.



Christchurch Mercies before boarding the bus to Dunedin.

This decision was made at the June National Assembly attended by 221 of the 308 sisters. In recent weeks all sisters have had the opportunity to participate in a

formal vote regarding the establishment of the new Congregation. The new Congregation will come into being after the petition is forwarded and a response received from the Apostolic See. Mid-year 2005 is being proposed as a possible time for the Congregation to begin.

The assembly was an experience of unprecedented unity and common purpose. Themes of "weaving" and "new creation" recurred in symbol and ritual, and in prayer that expressed and reflected a profound spiritual experience as bonds of trust deepened. Sisters expect that the re-configuration to one Congregation will enable greater encouragement and opportunity for the ministries to which sisters are called.

## National Conference for Religious

Preparations are well underway for the first national conference of women and men religious to be held in Aotearoa New Zealand. This very exciting gathering will be held at St Catherine's College, Wellington, from January 20–23 2005. A group of members from several congregations has been planning for this event, with the support of the Conference of Congregational Leaders of New Zealand.

The keynote presenter will be Father Timothy Radcliffe OP, who is well-known internationally as a challenging and insightful speaker and author. He has taught Scripture and Doctrine at Oxford, been active in the Peace Movement, and ministered to people with AIDS.

Religious women and men are asked to register with their Congregational Leadership. Further information will be available through the congregations.

Anyone who would like to make a donation towards conference expenses is asked to forward this to the secretary, Sr Josephine Caulton, at 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay, Wellington 6002. Grateful thanks for the generous donations received to date.

Any queries can be addressed to the Secretary, National Conference for Religious, 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay, Wellington 6002, Ph. (04) 383-7850, email [sr.josephine@hoc.org.nz](mailto:sr.josephine@hoc.org.nz)



# Parishes

## Ross

The gold miners worked their claims in Ross in the early 1860s. Their first church was built of baltic pine with iron roofing and was blessed on October 21 1866. Fr

Binnsfield was the first priest to arrive in Ross in 1865 with Fr J. A. Goutenoire the first parish priest appointed in 1869.

It was in this church of St Patrick's that Fr Peter Head SM. concelebrated his Silver Jubilee Mass on March 7 with his brother Fr Kevin Head SM. Parishioners, relatives and friends joined in making this Mass very special for Fr Peter. It was here that he was baptised and received the Sacraments of

Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Hence, it was fitting that his Jubilee Mass was celebrated in this lovely church.

After Mass photos were taken to remember the day and all adjourned to the "Roddy Nugget", a restaurant for refreshments. Many stories were exchanged amidst much laughter and fun.

Thanks to all who planned this day, particularly Joy Roichford. It was with joyful hearts we left Ross grateful to God for the wonderful memories St Patrick's held for us.



Present and past parishioners celebrate with Fr Peter Head SM.

## Timaru North

The Parish completed its development project with Fr Steve Lowe blessing the parish's new presbytery on Sunday February 29. The previous presbytery, next to St Joseph's church, was built in 1952 for the parish's then three priests. Since then the number of priests in the parish has reduced to just one. In 2002 the parish opened new parish offices that were part of its extensions to St Thomas' church. This left the five-bedroom presbytery largely empty and so it was decided to seek and purchase a smaller home close to St Thomas. After an exciting dabble into the vibrant real estate market the parish purchased a three bedroom home on Mountainview Road. The Parish Priest and Parish Cat are both very happy in their new home.

## Greymouth

Three recent events were held in Greymouth. First we had Bishop John confirm 36 young people from the parishes in the Greymouth region. The Church was jammed full, the choir sang, and it was a great celebration for the Catholic community.

The weekend was an extremely busy one at St Patrick's. On the Friday night the TAG youth group held their annual Talent Quest, on Saturday night there was an excellent concert given by the Orlando singers from Auckland, and then on the Sunday night two NZSO musicians,



Confirmation at Greymouth with Bishop John Cunneen.

a harpist and a flautist gave a superb recital, which was well attended.

On August 11 our Taize Prayer Around the Cross evening drew a good sized gathering. People from other denominations as well as our own parishioners attended, as did many young people. The evening was part of the requirements of the confirmation programme and the theme was the coming of the Holy Spirit.

## Hoon Hay

On Sunday August 15, the Feast of the Assumption and our Parish Feast Day, Bishop Cunneen ministered the Sacrament of Confirmation to twenty of our young parishioners, in a very moving liturgy. The fall of late winter snow, which steadily settled on the ground outside did not in any way dampen the spirit of the occasion, but added to its celebration.

## Dallington

Blessed Mary MacKillop's feastday was observed with a service in her honour on Sunday August 8 at St Paul's Church, at which parishioners joined Josephite associates. Sister Benedict Tolich RSJ gave an address on a recent publication of Blessed Mary's correspondence with her mother. (The book is called *Mary MacKillop and Flora* edited by Sheila McCreanor.)



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# Parishes

**A new Bereavement Care Group is born**  
Papanui, Bishopdale and Bryndwr Parishes

For six weeks twelve parishioners together with their priests from Papanui, Bishopdale and Bryndwr Parishes have been meeting to establish a Bereavement Care Group for their area. The result will be a small group which will work within each of the parishes assisting families at the time of a bereavement. The group has been studying the rites of the Church associated with vigils,

funeral Masses and liturgies, and committals. It has been helpful seeing the steps of illness, death and the events in the days following as a journey – each moment with its own needs and demands. Understanding something of the stages of grief will strengthen us for this important work which the Church calls – the *Ministry of Consolation*.

Once commissioned at a Sunday Mass the



Some of the members of the new Bereavement Care Group.

Bereavement Care Group will work with the priests to help families prepare the funeral liturgies, assist in those celebrations, and co-ordinate ongoing support to the bereaved into the future.

## Methven



Back row: K. McKendry, C. Gorman, B. Lowe, Sr Lorraine, J. Stern, M. Daley, L. Keane  
Front row: J. Middleton, B. Weir, J. Maw, P. Nicholas, Sr Mary, M. McLeod.

During the last week of July 14 members of Holy Family Parish, Methven, took part in a Retreat in Daily Life. Sr Lorraine Thomas RSM, and Sr Mary Gleeson RSM from Rosary House journeyed throughout the week with those taking part and they were such great

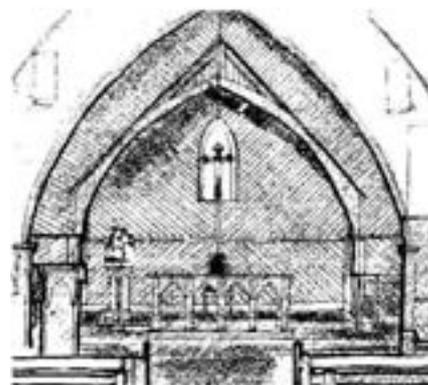
Spiritual Directors everyone completed the week wishing it could continue. The highlight was the enrichment in their daily lives, learning how to live with prayer as a main focus in their everyday life. Everyone is looking forward to repeating the Retreat again next year.

## Akaroa

August 15 is a special day in Akaroa, not only because it is the Feast Day of Our Lady, it is also the anniversary of the arrival of the first Catholic Missionaries in the South Island. Three Marists, Fr Comte, Fr Pezant and Br Florentin arrived in Akaroa on this day in 1840 on the French ship *L'Aube*. Four days later they welcomed the French settlers who arrived

on the *Comte de Paris* on August 19. Then on Saturday August 23 1840, the first Mass on land in the South Island was celebrated on the beach at Akaroa. Six weeks late Bishop Pompallier arrived at Akaroa and the mission station of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was established.

## Fairlie



An artist's impression of the new stained glass window to be installed in Fairlie.

The Parish of St Patrick celebrated its centenary in 2002. To mark the event, it was decided that a window would be commissioned for the front wall of the church. At the time of the Centennial celebrations, several people made financial pledges to support the Centennial Window project but as of July 2004, only about \$1400 has been collected for the project. This figure is well below the estimated cost. Presumably those who made the pledge have been waiting for developments before making their contribution.

To date, the power cables at the back of the church have been relocated underground to make way for the window. It would be good if this project can be brought to a conclusion soon. If you had intended to contribute, please do so by sending your contribution to the present Parish Priest, Fr Michael Pui.



RETIREMENT VILLAGE

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# Youth News



## A great time had at Antioch 2004!

On the weekend of August 6–8 the “Antioch” weekend was held with 90 young people from years 11 –13 (forms 5 to 7) attending. The weekend includes young people sharing their faith with other young people, with opportunities for group discussion, Mass and reconciliation. This continues to be an amazing experience for teenagers!

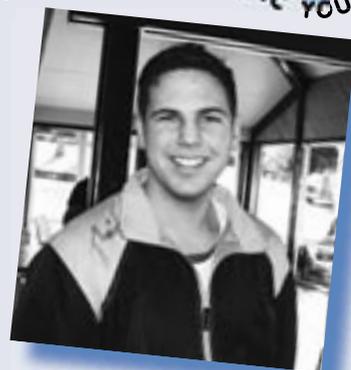
“The various talks and presentations over the Antioch weekend allowed us to really open up our hearts to God. The games, songs and discussions helped bring everyone together to bring a start to some great friendships and to strengthen existing ones.

“Although I was really looking forward to Antioch since the start of the year, I had a few uncertainties – I really didn’t know what to expect but God gave me this amazing strength to fulfil my duty on the weekend as a leader, as well as having time to myself to really think about my own life and faith.

“It was beautiful to see so many young people over the weekend growing and shining in God’s love, opening up their hearts to God and ready to take on a deeper level of their faith.

The weekend was such a positive experience – I didn’t want it to end! It was a really big milestone for me. I wish that every young person could experience an Antioch like I did this year.”

*Juliette aged 18*



### “Adopt a Camper” for Antioch 2004

A huge thank you to the many people who donated money towards our “Adopt a Camper” fundraising campaign. We were able to raise \$1800 to keep the price for a participant down to \$50 (instead of \$70 per person). I am sure families appreciated the support by making the camp cheaper. Thanks again for the support!



## Parishes

### Burnside



*Fr Bill Middleton.*

Christ the King Parish, family and friends from around New Zealand joined Fr Bill Middleton in celebrating his 70th birthday in June and 40 years Priesthood in July. Thanksgiving masses were a highlight of the celebrations for a much loved Parish Priest who has served tirelessly in the Diocese of Christchurch.

### Kumara

On Sunday July 25, in St Patrick’s Church, and 50 years to the very day in the same Church, Fr Michael Tomasi SM celebrated the anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood by Bishop Edward Joyce. Some 500 family, friends and faithful attended this joyful celebration. There was a touch of

sadness as Eileen Prendergast, a devoted parishioner and Fr Mick’s sister, had died two days earlier. Tributes and stories about Fr Mick flowed at the lunch afterwards. He has been a true labourer in the Lord’s vineyard. May he continue to be blessed in his ministry.



*Frs. Kevin O’Sullivan, Mick Tomasi SM, Peter Costello & John Adams.*

### Hokitika

On July 17 parishioners held a ceremony after Mass to dedicate and name our parish meeting room in memory of Fr John Collins, who died on September 10 2003. Fr John had established this room while serving as Parish Administrator in 1999. His family was represented by a cousin, Patricia Dunn, who unveiled a framed photo and tribute to Fr John. We give thanks to Fr John – may he rest in peace.



# Parishes

New Brighton



The new St Mary's Community Centre Te Whare o Hato Mere, Lonsdale Steet was opened and blessed by Bishop John Cunneen on Pentecost Sunday May 30. The opening ceremony began with a mihimihi given by Ray Kamo. Through story-telling and a powerpoint presentation significant events in the life of the local area and the parish were recalled: pre-European settlement, the founding of the parish from St Mary's Manchester Street, the establishment of the school, the call of Vatican II and the role of laity and our ecumenical links.

The Centre has been the dream of parishioners ever since the interior of their church was redesigned under the guidance of the late local artist Ria Bancroft. To accommodate the new centre, which is adjacent to the church, the raised altar area has been relocated on the seaward side of the church.

Parish Council member Siobhan Rooney said that the carefully designed Centre would enhance the community life of the parish and be available for use by the wider community. The new facility which includes a large gathering room, kitchen, office and small meeting room is connected to the church by a spacious porch.

The Centre has been mainly financed by the sale of a house owned by the parish and the generosity and voluntary labour of parishioners and friends.

## A STARTING POINT FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION ... AN IMPETUS FOR DIALOGUE ...

These words are the statement of intent used to introduce the recent Letter from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the collaboration between men and women in the Church and in the world. With them, it invites our engagement with its arguments, and a correspondingly reflective response. The topic itself could scarcely be more timely, given the plethora of variations on human sexuality demanding recognition and acceptance in contemporary society.

There is nothing new in this Letter, at least for anyone who is familiar with the writing that has been coming from the Holy See for several decades on the role of women, especially during the present pontificate. What makes it so useful is that it presents the fruits of this earlier work in a relatively succinct and summary form. And it is clearly and directly written, in language that makes it more accessible than previously.

A brief, critical evaluation of some current conceptions of human nature and their implications for relations between women and men is followed by what seems to me an extraordinarily valuable survey of the Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelations, setting out the Biblical vision of the human person. This Section is the most substantial and is half of the whole text. Here we find, in rich, specific detail, the Biblical basis for Catholic belief that men and women

equally image God; that they are from the beginning, and for always, radically different in the way they do this; that they are not interchangeable; that they are called to exist mutually "one for the other"; that in this self-giving love they mirror the mutual self-giving of the persons of the Trinity. We see too, how fundamental to God's revelation of his dealings with his people is his spousal covenant with us. It is very clear that in the Biblical vision of humanity, our sexual identity, our masculinity or femininity, is central to our being as persons.

The rest of the document offers reflections on the implications of this vision for society and in the Church, particularly with regard to the necessary contribution of women in both. Recall, the Letter says – it is intended as a starting point. One thing that seems to me to be due for ongoing reflection is the specific contribution of men, of what is the essentially masculine way of imaging God, of imitating Christ. The essential contribution of what is feminine in humanity is explored in this Letter. It sets out what Pope John Paul II has described as "the genius of women". What we need to hear more about is what we should expect the masculine to look like, in husbands and fathers, in ordained clergy, in the consecrated life? What is "the genius of men"?

Betty O'Dowd [bmodowd@globe.net.nz](mailto:bmodowd@globe.net.nz)

### The Adult Education Trust & Seed

#### An invitation

to experience the  
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This Retreat is an opportunity to deepen your awareness of God present in your life, loving you, and leading you.

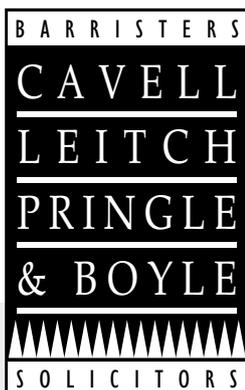
At the semi-wilderness Bellbird Heights, Living Springs – 20 minutes drive from central Christchurch, overlooking the Bays and Lyttelton Harbour.

Here you wake up to the sound of the bellbirds, look at, walk in the native bush rising up around you, gaze at the splendour of the Bays ahead of you, swim in the heated pool!

Directors: Fr Armand Nigro SJ, Sr Mary Gleeson RSM., Fr Mark Chamberlain and Kevin Gallagher.

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For enquiries, and to register your interest write to Kevin Gallagher or Sr Kath Rushton RSM. PO Box 972 Christchurch



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## Organisations

### Hibernian Society

Recently the St Patrick's Branch of the Catholic

Hibernian Benefit Society celebrated 100 years of involvement with Holy Name Parish, Ashburton.

The celebrations were held at the Hotel Ashburton and at the Friday night function Councillor Robin Kilworth ably welcomed visitors, guests and members. The National Annual General Meeting held in conjunction with the local celebration gave delegates from around the country an opportunity to visit our town and enjoy the countryside. At this meeting Peter O'Neill, our local member, was elected New Zealand President of the Board of Management. Formalities, entertainment and dinner on the Saturday evening set the stage for plenty of reminiscing. Mr Pat Connell, our longest serving member, who joined the branch in 1937, cut the Centennial cake. A Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday morning at Holy Name Church, presided over by Bishop John Cunneen and concelebrated by Monsignor James Harrington and Fr William Grounds concluded the celebration.



Past and present Presidents and Secretaries of the Ashburton Hibernian Society.

L-R Back Row: Malcolm Cunneen, Peter O'Neill, Kevin Crean. Middle Row: Marie Shea, John Shea, Mick Casey, Don Summerfield. Front Row: John Hurley, Joan McCloy, Pat Connell, June Cunneen, Maree O'Neill.



Confirmation at St Mary's Manchester Street with Bishop John Cunneen.

## NATIONAL VOCATIONS SYMPOSIUM

November 22-26 2004

### Creating a vocations friendly Church

The National Catholic Vocations Symposium, to be held in Christchurch, will be a time to explore the ways in which we can encourage an environment that fosters different vocations in the Church.

The Symposium is open to all those who work directly with vocations, and those within parish communities who are, or would like to be, involved in the Church becoming more vocations friendly.

The Symposium will consist of two keynote speakers. Sr Mary Ryan RSJ is currently the Executive Officer of Catholic Vocations Ministry, Australia. Fr Cyril Hally is a Columban priest lecturing in Missiology at the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

The Symposium, organised by the Christchurch Diocese, has the support of the New Zealand Bishops and Congregational Leaders.

For more information please contact Fr Rick Loughnan, Good Shepherd House, phone: (03) 385-8300 or email: [vocationsnsymposium@hotmail.com](mailto:vocationsnsymposium@hotmail.com)

### Catholic Women's League Sumner Branch

will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee on the weekend of November 6-7 2004. All former members and friends of the Branch are cordially invited to attend. Phone Pat (03) 337-2556 or Kit (03) 326-5232 for a registration form.

### St Joseph's School Ashburton

125th Anniversary Celebrations are planned for two days over Labour Weekend in October 2005.

They will take the form of a relaxed weekend with plenty of time to chat and reminisce. There will be a dinner on the Saturday afternoon and Mass in Holy Name Church on the Sunday morning.

The two main schools concerned are St Joseph's Primary School and the former Sacred Heart College. There were earlier schools but they all merged into those two. Anyone connected with either school who would like more information about the reunion is asked to write to: The Secretary, 125th Anniversary Committee, C/- St Joseph's School, 87 Havelock Street, Ashburton or email [trish.k@xtra.co.nz](mailto:trish.k@xtra.co.nz)

## "OURS TODAY, THEIRS TOMORROW"

250 women from around New Zealand gathered at Addington Raceway in Christchurch on the weekend of 15-18 July to attend the Biennial National Conference of Catholic Womens' League of New Zealand.

The opening Mass was celebrated by Bishop John Cunneen and 10 clergy at Sacred Heart Parish Church, Addington.

After Mass Mayor Garry Moore welcomed all to Christchurch and Bishop Cunneen declared the conference open.

He blessed the conference candle and handed it to National President Geraldine Scott. This candle was to burn throughout the conference to symbolise the presence of the Holy Spirit among us.

The Theme of the conference "Ours Today Theirs Tomorrow" was approached in many different ways.

Keynote speaker Dr Cindy Kiro, Commissioner for Children spoke of the rights of children to be treated with respect and care, and highlighted some cases where this is not happening in our society. She also spoke of the work of her Office and other organisations in bringing these matters to the public and working to correct them.

The business of the conference addressed the social concerns of women in the church, as well as voting on remits ranging from violence on TV; funding for the care of terminally ill persons, to dental care for children and adolescents.

It was a very positive and enlightening conference showing that the Catholic Womens' League is a vibrant part of the Church living out the motto "Faith and Service".

### Rosary House Spiritual Life Centre Evening programmes

#### Enneagram Two:

September 21 & 23 (5.30-9.30pm) Joan McPetridge. It is necessary to have completed Part One first. Cost \$55.

#### An Introduction to Thomas Merton:

September 29, October 6 - Fr Ray Schmack  
Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00pm.  
Grounded in each person's unique configuration is a loving God who constantly beckons. Merton convinces us that every person has potential for unlimited transformation. Cost \$25.

#### Finding God in All Things:

October 5, 12, 19  
Kevin Gallagher. An opportunity for men to deepen their awareness of God, present in their lives. Cost \$25. Time: 7.30 - 9.00pm

#### Weekend Programme: A Feather on the Breath of God:

October 1-3 Rev Phil Dyer.  
A weekend spent with Hildegard of Bingen exploring through reflective activity the life and contribution of this amazing leader, writer, healer, visionary, artist, composer.  
Arrival Friday 7.30pm - Sunday 1.00pm. Cost \$85

For bookings and registration ring Rosary House (03)379-1298.

## INFORM

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