



INFORM

ISSUE 60

A Newsletter published by the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch

March 2005

The Centenary of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament – February 12 2005



A general view of the Centennial Mass attendees at the Cathedral.

At the very hour and day, when 100 years ago the Cathedral was officially opened, an overflowing congregation was present to witness to the faith of their forebears at the Solemn Mass on the occasion of the Centenary of the Dedication of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

Bishop John Cunneen, the eighth Bishop of the Diocese was the Principal Celebrant for the grand celebration.

The liturgy was an uplifting experience for all who participated, helped by the Cathedral Choir who were in fine voice.

Monsignor James Harrington delivered the homily, drawn from the text of the first reading – the re-building of the Temple in Jerusalem – and relating it to the history of the Cathedral bequeathed to each of us by those early pioneers in the faith.

At 2.00pm in the afternoon a Service of the Word was held where the new Stations of the Cross, recently installed in the

Cathedral as a Centenary project, were officially dedicated and blessed.

This was a moving ecumenical ceremony of prayer and song.

Many events are planned in the Cathedral over the following year and are detailed in the brochure "Centenary Programme of Events 2005" – which should now be in your own church porch.

A commemorative booklet *A Suitable Temple* – detailing the extensive history of the Cathedral is available for only \$10.00 at the Cathedral.

Be sure to book a place at a table for the Centennial Ball on May 28. It will be a night to remember. Details on the back cover.

"ECCE TABERNACULUM DEI CUM HOMINIBUS"

Here God dwells among his people.



The Blessing of the new Stations of the Cross – through a haze of incense.



Another milestone for our Diocesan Quarterly *INFORM* is upon us – with this – the 60th edition to be published since its inception in 1991.

Sr Margaret D'Ath RSCJ was the editor for the first seven years and **Fr Chris Friel** continued on the production until this, his final edition. **Fr Michael Doyle** now takes over the reins.



The Sisters of Nazareth celebrated 100 years of service in the Diocese on the weekend of January 8. Gathered outside the Cathedral after the Centennial Mass are Bishops John Cunneen and Basil Meeking with the Sisters of Nazareth and the many adults cared for as children at Nazareth House and St Joseph's Home.



A letter from our Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

The celebrations of the Centenary of our Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on February 12 reminded me of the words of the 1963 Second Vatican Council.

"All should hold in the greatest esteem the liturgical life of the diocese centered around the bishop, especially in his cathedral church. They must be convinced that the principal manifestation of the Church consists in the full, active participation of all God's holy people in the same liturgical celebrations, especially in the same Eucharist, in one prayer, at one altar, at which the bishop presides, surrounded by his college of priests and by his ministers."

The glossary of the Second Edition of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (2000) includes this description of "Cathedral": The official church of the bishop of a diocese. The Greek word *cathedra* means chair or throne; the bishop's "chair" symbolises his teaching and governing authority, and is located in the principal church or "cathedral" of the local diocese of which he is the chief pastor. (*cf.* 1572).

If we want to understand this relationship between Christ and His people and therefore between the priest and his people the best thing is to look at the Holy Mass we celebrate.

It was at the Last Supper on the night before he died that Jesus instituted the priesthood when He gathered the twelve and shared the paschal meal with them saying "Do this in memory of me." This is the commandment we keep every time we celebrate the Mass. But it is not just the Last Supper that we celebrate in the Mass, but the supper and also what occurred on the next three days: namely the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. We call this the Paschal mystery. All of this is part of the saving work of Jesus Christ. All of this has been given to us in every time and place through the sacrament of Holy Orders, in the Episcopacy and Priesthood.

Think of the Mass and picture in



your minds the different places where the priest stands. There are three important places from which the priest performs his priestly duties. These places are associated with three sacred furnishings: the chair called the presidential chair; the altar, and the ambo from which the Sacred Scriptures are read. These have a deeper significance than you might expect. Each of them relates to a specific sacred office of ministry.

The Chair is not just a place to sit on. It is a place from which the bishop and priest govern the praying people in the name of Jesus Christ. It is from this position that he calls them to worship the Father, and in the name of Jesus Christ. This is the place from which he takes the prayers of the people to the Father. Here he presides over the faithful people of God who by virtue of their baptismal life in Christ are called to worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth.

The bishop and priest have the duty to be a shepherd to the flock entrusted to him in the image of Christ the Shepherd even as the bishop is the supreme shepherd and pastor of his diocese. Here we have to remember that the staff of the shepherd is also the scepter of the king. The shepherd image in the Old Testament and the New is one of leading, guiding,

correcting and nourishing. All of them are part of the priest's life in building up the faith of his people so that they may come closer to Christ and fulfill the mission, which He gives them to accomplish.

The priest, as a delegate of the bishop has a role of authority in the Church at a local level. This authority is to guide and govern the community. The Church is not simply a democratic entity that operates by the vote of the majority. The priest has entrusted to him the task of leading the people to holiness and seeing that their spiritual needs are met. In this way he mediates the kingship of Christ, because it is Christ who governs us. This does not exclude the valid and valuable involvement of the laity.

The Church, whether we like it or not, is hierarchically structured. That means that it is governed by episcopacy and priesthood. That may not be very popular or fashionable but that is the mode of the Church given by Christ. Christ Himself proclaimed himself a king and shares that with His Church. Peter is placed at the head of the apostles not because he was better or more competent, but to be the voice of Christ among his people to articulate what the mystery of faith holds for us.

I am greatly appreciative of the prayers and good wishes leading up to the death of my sister, Millicent Gresham, in London. The faith is a great support and strength at such times.

Thank you for all your kind thoughts and promises of prayer. May she rest in peace.

Every best wish as we journey with Christ to his resurrection.

Sincerely,

John Cunneen
Bishop of Christchurch

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 3 2005

CHRIST THE KING,
BURNSIDE, CHRISTCHURCH

1.30 - 3 pm Confessions

3 pm Chaplet of Mercy

3.15 pm Mass Celebrated
by Bishop John Cunneen

"I WANT TO GRANT A COMPLETE PARDON TO THE SOULS THAT WILL GO TO CONFESSION AND RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION ON THE FEAST OF MY MERCY" (*Diary of St Faustina*)

Come, join the parish for the special celebration of Divine Mercy and receive the flood of graces Our Lord promised so that we may radiate mercy to the whole world. How it needs His mercy!

"Only the mercy of God will quench the thirst of all people."

"God's gift to our time" John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II recently attached a Plenary Indulgence to the celebration of this day.

A free information leaflet on the conditions for the proper observance of this day is available from Divine Mercy Publications, PO Box 20266, Christchurch. Ph/Fax 03 352 2177.



Parishes

Chatham Islands

Friday January 21 2005 will forever be a milestone in the remarkable history of the Chatham Islands, know to the Maori as Wharekauri and to the Moriori as Rekohu.



Kopinga Marae, Rekohu on the Chatham Islands.



St Theresa's Church, Waitangi, Chatham Islands. Bruce Mills (Lay Leader), Tim Hunt (Assistant LL), Pam Hunt, Nita Page. The faithful few!

It was the day the Kopinga Marae was officially opened and declared a place to call "home" for all to come to. The highlight of the ceremony was the renewal of the Covenant of Peace, initiated in the dim distant past by Chief Nunuku that left the Moriori so vulnerable when the Ngati Mutunga came to the islands from Taranaki. They escaped from the upheaval of the musket wars and proceeded to establish their mana by systematically killing the Moriori and making slaves of those they didn't, and impregnating the women to ensure their subjugation.

This was the background to the myth that Moriori did not exist. "We conquered you, we ate you, we enslaved you, you do not exist," which translates politically to, "you have no rights to land, no right to quota".

Out of the ashes of shame and silence emerged a generation who said, "we don't want money or power, we simply want our mana back" and so they have reclaimed it, not without struggle and pain in facing the issues of redemption.

The Prime Minister, Helen Clark, and five Cabinet Ministers were present. The political paled in the light of the spiritual when the Covenant of Peace was renewed and all the children came forward to touch the stone mere which was then laid at the foot of the

central Po on which are inscribed some 1500 names of Moriori ancestors living at the time of the 1835 migration.

Some of the greatest movements of history have had the smallest of beginnings. May those who are the "first to see the light" of the new millennium and of the beginning of each day, be a light to the nations. That peace flowing out of forgiveness and reconciliation is not only possible but is a reality.

On the Friday following the celebration, Polly Brown, the "young 90 year old" senior woman, identifying as Moriori died, and her Tangi was conducted in the Kopinga Marae, where she had taken pride of place opposite the visiting Maori Queen only a week before.

Her death somehow sealed the effort that has gone into planning and building the Marae, but especially the infrastructures that have been put in place to steer the waka through the storms and calm that lie ahead.

The hope is that this new found sense of identity and relationship, the efforts of so many priests and other church ministers, the witness of the SMSM Sisters who staffed the hospital for 50 years, and the families whose faith in the Church seems to have been rejected by the "now" generation, will be a seed bed for a new evangelisation.

Rangiora

Congratulations to long-time Rangiora parishioners **Sylvia and Bernie Hickland** who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with family and friends. Sylvia and Bernie were married in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament by Monsignor Liddy on January 27 1955.

Youth News: **Claire Jenkins**, former Rangiora Youth Co-ordinator, applied for and was accepted into the Australian NET programme. NET - National Evangelisation Teams is a Catholic pair to pair Youth Ministry that puts into action the church's mission to evangelise and disciple young people. After a five week period of training, Claire has been placed with a team of three girls and two boys in Warwick, Queensland, until the end of the year. The team will work in parishes, schools and with youth. Claire's replacement is **Joseph Lill**, who will continue her good work in the Rangiora parish.

The Rangiora parish has been blessed to have been in the care of **Father Bernard Mahoney**, of America, who has been on a very active "working holiday" to relieve Father Dan Doyle for six weeks. Father Dan has been based in McMurdo Station as Chaplain for the service men and women there. He has been able to keep in touch with us via email and sends greetings from the highest, coldest and driest place in the world - Antarctica. The weather has been warm, usually 6-12°C most days, with light winds and clear skies. Father Dan travelled to the South Pole for Ash Wednesday Mass and spent a few days with about 200 people there. He reports that everybody is starting to pack up and get out before winter closes in and the skies become dark for the next six months. Father Dan is due to fly to Christchurch on the second last flight of summer on February 24. He finished off his message by sending God's blessings from the end of the earth.

St. Joseph's School Rangiora will celebrate the official opening of their new library with a school and Parish Mass and picnic on March 20. The school has outgrown its present library and have for a number of years planned for a new library. In 2004 funds became available for this development and with funds raised by the school community, Portacom was commissioned to build the new library. The staff, board of trustees, children and parents are excited about the learning opportunities that will be provided by the new library. The library will provide not only more space for a wider variety of books but will have a bigger workspace and enable greater use of Information Technology in the school programme.



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Parishes

Sumner

As we start the year 2005 we have many reasons to rejoice. Our "new" parish priest, Fr Denis Nolan, has survived his first year despite the death of both parents in a very short time. As we tried to support him, and he shared his feelings over this loss, we got to know him quite well and liked what we saw.

The parish celebrated two big events during last year. The Catholic Women's League celebrated 50 years of service, and Mollie Clark of Woolston and Kit Stappard organised a weekend of events to mark the occasion. Our Lady Star of the Sea school celebrated 75 years of educating Catholic primary school children from this area. They held an evening where they launched a book on the history of the school, written by Mr Peter Murdoch.

Sr Audrey Wafer RSM, our parish assistant also had two big celebrations, first her

70th birthday with a surprise morning tea after Mass, and then her Golden Jubilee on January 4 2005. We congratulate her on both these events and wish her continued health and energy. Her work amongst us is invaluable.

To start this year, the wall hanging commissioned by Fr John Coleman before he died, was installed in the parish centre. It is a large impressive item incorporating the beach scenery of Sumner but portraying the message of God's love given to and received by the parishioners. It was created by Mrs Jeanette Gibson of Dunedin and she kindly came to oversee its installation and dedication in Fr John's memory. If you are over this way it is well worth a look.

Finally we congratulate a special



Merle Carter from Sumner parish, who can still tickle the ivories, on her 90th birthday.

parishioner, Mrs Merle Carter. She is one of our regular organists and to start the celebration of her 90th birthday she played for our 9am Sunday Mass. Not only did she donate our organ many years ago but she has contributed to the music of our parish for over 60 years and we thank her sincerely for her many years of service among us.

Waimate

Our Diocese is blessed with some of the finest places of worship in the country. The Basilica of St Patrick in Waimate is another of the gems in the crown of architecture - and has a Category I classification with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Built in 1909 to replace the original Church of 1876, the Basilica is now in need of major structural strengthening, roof repairs and interior and exterior refurbishing.

A substantial proportion of the \$500,000 needed for the Restoration Project will be contributed by the State through community and corporate organisations, but the Parish also needs your support to reach our own target.

Invitations of monetary support for this major project are invited by ex-parishioners, friends and supporters of our project and may be forwarded to:

St Patrick's Church Restoration Trust Inc.
PO Box 24
Waimate 8791

Methven



Lily and Edgar Hill, parishioners of Holy Family Parish Methven, Mt.Somers, recently celebrated 65 years of marriage. They celebrated with a house Mass on the lawn at their daughter's home with seven of their eight children as well as friends and relations and parishioners.

Fairlie



Fr Michael Pui from Fairlie had a tall story to tell after this catch!



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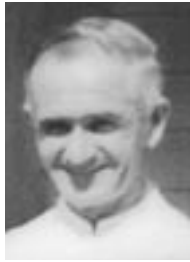
Open 1-4pm Monday-Friday or call 379-0357 for an appointment.



Parishes Temuka – Geraldine

Timaru

Brother Clement Turnbull SM, a member of the Marist community at Sacred Heart Parish, Timaru, died after a heart attack in Timaru Public Hospital on January 17 2005. Clem was a Dunedin cabinet maker by trade when he professed religious vows in 1952.



Brother Clement Turnbull SM. RIP.

He volunteered for the South Solomon Islands mission in 1957 and spent 34 years there, building school rooms, churches etc. He was at the General House in Rome as a renovator in the early "eighties", retired to St John's College, Woodlawn for 10 years and came back to Timaru in February 2004.

A wonderfully helpful, prayerful man gone to God.

Well known Sacred Heart Timaru parishioners, Peter and Claire Haines celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their family in Richmond a month ago. Their seven children and most of the 16 grandchildren were present. Peter and Claire were married at Sacred Heart Convent Chapel in Wanganui on 29 January 1955. *Ad multos annos!*



Fr Bill Warwick, PP of Richmond, Claire and Peter Haines.

The parishes of St Joseph's Temuka and Immaculate Conception, Geraldine recently bade "farewell" to their parish priest, Fr Geoff Gray, who has been transferred to the parish of St Joseph, Timaru North, vacated by Fr Steve Lowe, who has been seconded to work

in the National Seminary.

Sadly, because of the shortage of Diocesan priests in the Diocese of Christchurch, no permanent appointment has been made for Temuka, Geraldine and Waimate parishes for 2005.

Sacramental ministry will be supplied by short term Administrators until a permanent Parish Priest can be appointed, hopefully in 2006.



Sockburn

A reflection on a wonderful event to witness

The Combined Churches Ecumenical 2005 Ash Wednesday Service has proved to be a popular and well attended service for the past five years and has been hosted by Our Lady of Victories Church for the past four years.

The area churches participating are: Anglican-Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst; Anglican-St Christopher's; Baptist-Avonhead; Methodist-Riccarton Hornby; Presbyterian-St Mark's; Catholic-Our Lady of Victories, Sockburn.

A service booklet was distributed comprising the following: Penitential Prayer, Absolution, Collect, First Reading, Psalm 51, Second Reading, Gospel Reading, Reflections, The Ritual of Fire.

The participating churches were invited to bring their palms forward for the ritual burning. A representative of each congregation brought forward symbols and placed them in the incinerator to be consumed by fire. The congregation silently watching for a time as the steady stream of smoke gradually rose aloft into the high tower above the altar. It was an unusual sight and created a strong atmosphere of unity and reflection.

All clergy took part in the Blessing of Ashes. The ashes were passed around the congregation, all remained standing as the imposition proceeded along each row. In silence each person marked their neighbour's forehead with the ashes – another unique and humbling experience.

All were invited to a Lenten cuppa served at the rear of the church. An atmosphere of dignity, oneness, spirituality, compassion and deep thoughtfulness was apparent to the several hundred people participating.

Mairehau

Fifty years of teaching in our school, originally staffed by the Holy Faith Sisters who came to Christchurch from Dublin, was celebrated over Labour Weekend 2004. With the retirement of **Mrs Hilary Dewe** as Principal in December, our next 50 years commenced happily with the first male Principal – **Mr Denis Aberhart** – a name familiar to many Christchurch people, particularly those interested in cricket. Denis and the staff were welcomed by Father Paul Duncan on behalf of the parishioners at the 9.00am Mass on the Friday prior to the commencement of the school year.

Staying with cricket – another parishioner and past pupil, **Ben Enoka**, has achieved a feat only dreamt of – in getting two hat tricks in one match while playing for St Bedes ... and he wasn't even coached by Denis!

Just to prove our school shines in areas other than sports, the organist playing for the splendid Mass celebrating the Centenary of the Dedication of the Cathedral was **Grant Bartley**, another past pupil of Our Lady of Fatima.

March 6 will be a memorable day for our Parish when Fr Paul celebrates our Sunday Mass in the Cathedral at 9.00am, as we play our part in recognising our Parish role in the centenary of the Cathedral.

On the afternoon of March 6 the parishioners are joining with our much respected Columban resident, **Fr Hubert Hayward SSC**, who will celebrate his 90th birthday. Congratulations Fr Hayward!



Organisations

I have great pleasure indeed to inform all our supporters that we will be shifting soon.



All staff are very excited to be given the opportunity to serve our community from adequate premises and to offer clients ideal conditions for therapy. This shift will contribute a lot to an increase in the effectiveness of this agency's work.

I would like to express gratitude to all who contributed in this decision in our Diocese and to all of you who put your hopes and trust as well as funds and gifts in this agency and its services. It is my hope you will keep using our services in Cashel Street and you will find improved programmes and intervention in a new and friendly environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to businesses and all who may be in a position to help our agency with, especially, good office furniture or computer equipment. It would save us a lot and help a great deal.

Please keep all of our work and us in your prayers as we all keep you in ours.

God bless.

Jon Brian

Tindall Foundation

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Christchurch has received a most generous allocation of funds from the Tindall Foundation for distribution in our Diocese.

A sub-committee of the Diocesan Welfare Council will meet with prospective applicants prior to all applications being considered.

The aim of the Foundation is to help improve the overall quality of life for New Zealanders and to provide them with a helping hand up, not a hand out. The Christchurch Diocesan Welfare Council administers this grant. All applications from the various organisations are considered. If the strict guidelines set out by the Tindall Foundation are met, a decision is made as to the proposed allocation and presented to the Bishop for his approval. All successful applicants must present a report on how their grant was spent.

Please phone for an appointment with the sub-committee of the Diocesan Welfare Council to discuss your proposed application no later than April 8 2005.

Liz Pennell,
Diocesan Welfare Council
PO Box 4544, Christchurch.
Phone (03) 366 9869

Youth News

Catholic Diocesan Youth Team



Training Initiatives – Something for everyone ...

Our primary focus as the Diocesan Youth Team is supporting parishes in their ministry to young people and young adults, and one of the key ways we can do this is by providing training in leadership and formation. Over the last four years we have invested time in developing our training programmes, aiming to provide appropriate training at all levels: for senior secondary school students; adults already involved in parish youth ministry; and those looking to become involved in youth ministry for the first time.

Ignite – our programme for senior secondary school students that runs throughout the year beginning with a camp and involving day training sessions in the school holidays. Students are sponsored by their parishes, and in order to complete the programme they must complete two practical projects within their parish. This year we have fifteen students on the programme.



Ignite camp participants.

One participant's reflection of the Ignite camp ...

"The Ignite camp was an awesome weekend away to get to know the people on the course and to learn new skills about how to be a good leader. The whole weekend was beneficial but I most enjoyed the session about building relationships in order to be a good leader. I thought this was important because it helps to have a relationship with people so they are able to respect you and what you say. Another of my favourites was, 'Understanding our uniqueness' because it showed how we have to realise that everyone is different and we need to be able to respect everyone around us and appreciate them. The weekend was a huge success as it helped the participants to get to know each other and to start the Ignite course in a positive way." Gaby (age 17)

STEP – Support, Training, Encouragement and Prayer form the basis of this programme for adults involved in parish youth ministry. This programme is comprised of a training day each term, which includes teaching, networking opportunities and time for prayer.

Empower – this programme was run for the first time in November last year. It was designed specifically for those looking to become involved in youth ministry for the first time, or for those who were new to it. It was a great weekend where participants had the opportunity to explore both the theory and practise of youth ministry.

From left to right:

Gabrielle Christenhusz has been elected president of "Cathsoc" the student Catholic group at University. **Johanna Christenhusz** is serving alongside **Megan Fowler** and **Aleisha Byrne** at Our Lady of Victories Parish, Sockburn. **Joseph Lill** is serving in Sts Mary and Francis de Sales Parish Rangiora, and **Alana Rabbit** is serving at the parishes of Burnside and Bryndwr.

World Youth Day 2005

As you may be aware by now, there is a group of young adults from our Diocese who are hoping to attend this year's World Youth Day in Cologne. This international event, initiated by Pope John Paul II, has impacted the faith lives of millions of young Catholics from all over the world since the first World Youth Day in 1984. Participating in the World Youth Day Pilgrimage costs around \$6,000 each, so the 12 pilgrims are currently involved in a number of fundraising initiatives at both parish and diocesan levels. We encourage you to support these initiatives where you are able, as we have seen the fruits for those who have participated in previous World Youth Days. If you would like to give a one off donation this would also be gratefully received, and will be distributed evenly amongst the pilgrims. Cheques can be made out to "Catholic Youth Team" and posted to Catholic Youth Team, PO Box 4544, Christchurch.



New to youth ministry...

We're thrilled to introduce to you four young adults who have begun serving in parish youth ministry this year.



The Solemn Profession of **Sr Cushla of Mary Immaculate OCD** was held on December 8 2004 at the Carmelite Monastery in Christchurch.

Sr Cushla (far right) is welcomed back here into the cloister. "With zeal have I been zealous for the Lord God of Hosts."

Congratulations to "Walk by Faith" graduates

Four people in the Christchurch Diocese deserve sincere congratulations on the completion of their "Walk by Faith" Diploma. **Cecilia Carshalton**, (A Young Vinnie), **Erina Coleman** (Sacred Heart, Addington), **Marie-Therese McRae** (St. Joseph's Papanui) and **Jill van der Plas** (Our Lady of Victories, Sockburn) all completed their Diploma in October 2004. In their final catechetical projects, they were able to help large numbers of friends and fellow parishioners better understand the Church's teaching on Bioethics, Catholic Family Life, The Role of the Laity and understanding the Mass.

"Walk By Faith" aims to enable participants to grow in their faith and to become more confident and knowledgeable when sharing their faith. It is a classic course in catechetical and religious studies and is designed time wise, to meet the needs of those in full time employment. For further information contact Sue Broad, Diocesan Coordinator, Walk by Faith. Ph. (03) 338-3682.



The 2004 Walk by Faith graduates.

Back row: Sue Broad – Diocesan Co-ordinator and Carolina Gnad – Tutor. Front left to right: Cecilia Carshalton, Jill van der Plas, Marie-Therese McRae and Erina Coleman.



RECOVERING OUR IDENTITY THIS LENT

Amongst other things, Lent is a time to reflect on what matters in our lives in the light of our Catholic faith. What better way to do this than to think about WHY Pope John Paul II has made this the Year of the Eucharist, and what response we need to make? Doing this involves us in going to the roots of our identity as Catholics. It is the Eucharist that makes the Church, the Eucharist that is the sacramental presence of the risen Christ among us, sharing his life with us, the reason for the Church's existence.

It is a matter of common observation that in the western world at least, our sense of Catholic identity has been seriously eroded, most importantly by the weakening of our sense of sacramentality. God's sacramental presence in the Church, in Christ, is bringing about the new creation, in which all things will be restored to the Father. The sacraments of the Church, above all the Eucharist, are God's masterpieces, the gift of his Holy Spirit to the Church. They make Christ present in a unique way.

It was to focus our attention on the

wonder of the Eucharist that the Pope proclaimed the Year of the Eucharist. He had already addressed this in his encyclical *THE CHURCH OF THE EUCHARIST*, in 2003. In it he also spoke of the shadows that had obscured our understanding of the most holy Eucharist and the need to dispel these if we are to realise our identity and fulfil our mission as Catholics, who are the people of the Eucharist.

As the Holy Father said, the reality of the Eucharist should fill us with awe. We should be overwhelmed with gratitude that we have been enabled by our baptism to enter into this sacred mystery of Christ's presence with us. We could then want to exclaim with the psalmist, "too wonderful for me this knowledge, too high beyond my reach".

Instead, too often we trivialise and "domesticate" what happens at Mass. We reduce it in our understanding and behaviour to what we can feel comfortable and cosy with, as if it were a community-building exercise. The Pope described this particular "shadow" by

saying: "At times one encounters an extremely reductive understanding of the Eucharistic mystery. Stripped of its sacrificial meaning, it is celebrated as if it were simply a fraternal banquet".

What follows from this? First, as the Pope reminds us, we must recover our sense of awe at what happens at Mass. We must recall that we come to Mass to offer WORSHIP to God, our creator and the creator of all that is, to give thanks to him for our existence and the salvation He is offering us in His love. We know by our faith that a sacred mystery, not of our making and beyond our grasp, is taking place, and that we are privileged to participate in it. Remembering all this, surely it matters to give witness to our faith, in our body language, in manifesting recollection and reverence for what we are about when we come to Mass. It could be a practical way of responding to the Holy Father's urging to remember the transcendent mystery being celebrated.

Betty O'Dowd bmodowd@globe.net.nz

People



Good Shepherd House has one new entrant this year in **Rory Paterson** – photographed here with **Suzanne and Ian Bell** at his farewell in January after working for two years with Funeral Directors Bell, Lamb and Trotter.

Italian Pilgrimage 2005

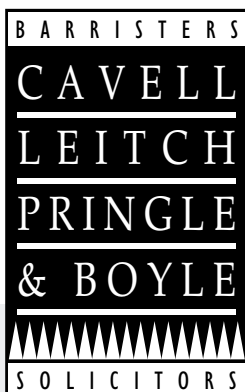
Following on from a very successful trip last year, Fr Chris Friel will be leading a 22 day pilgrimage tour returning to Italy and Croatia in September 2005.

The pilgrimage starts in Rome with four nights accommodation right beside St Peters. We have nights in Assisi, Florence, Venice, and Cassino and visit some beautiful hilltop towns along the way.

Travelling by coach down the Adriatic coastline we stop at Split for a night before moving on to Medjugorje for three nights.

We ferry from the ancient city of Dubrovnik to Italy and visit St Padre Pio's huge sanctuary on our way to Cassino, Rome and home.

To find out more or for a registration form phone Peter Fleming on 0800 356 728 or write to Pilgrimage Tours, Freepost TOURS, PO Box 11458, Ellerslie, Auckland.



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Telephone: (03) 379-9940 Facsimile: (03) 379-2408 E-mail: cavell@clpb.co.nz

50th Jubilee – Our Lady of Victories School

The 50th Jubilee of OLV School will be celebrated on Labour weekend 2006. In preparation for this important event we are compiling a database of past pupils and gathering information for a commemorative book. If you or a member of your family or one of your friends are a past pupil of OLV and would like information regarding the 50th Jubilee or can contribute any amusing stories, anecdotes or yarns for the commemorative book, then please contact the school secretary, Anne Adlam Ph: (03)348-7790 or email admin@olv.school.nz



St Anne's Primary School in Woolston celebrates 100 years of learning in February 2006. The Principal, **Peter Callanan** (pictured) and children welcome your early registration. Ph/Fax: (03) 384-3073 or email peter@stannes.co.nz

Teachers keep learning too

Sarah McMullan and Frances Maunsell received their Diploma in Religious Studies (Religious Education Stream) at a liturgy and ceremony held on December 6 2005. Sarah teaches at Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Sumner, and Frances teaches at St Alban's Catholic School. Both teachers completed all courses within two years to become the first two Christchurch based teachers to receive this Diploma. Catholic Education Office staff affirm their dedication and commitment, as well as the support given by their school communities. Courses followed included scripture, theology, spirituality and religious education.



Jessie Jackson, Aimee Hay, Thomas Tripp and Karena Johnson receive the Certificate in Catechetical Studies.

At the same ceremony, four College of Education students – Aimee Hay, Jessica Jackson, Karena Johnson and Thomas Tripp – graduated with a Certificate in Catechetical Studies. This Certificate includes a teaching practise in a Catholic school and covers the six courses that can be credited as the foundation papers for the Diploma in Religious Studies.



Frances Maunsell and Sarah McMullan receive the Diploma in Religious Studies (Religious Education Stream).

Papers for these qualifications are taught in this diocese by staff appointed by the Christchurch Catholic Education Office. Some students combine on-site courses with distance learning provided by the Wellington Catholic Education Centre.

Teachers in Catholic Schools are encouraged to update their knowledge, and students at Colleges of Education are encouraged to prepare for service in Catholic schools by enrolling for these courses. Successful study in these NZQA approved courses can also lead to further theological and scriptural

study. Enquiries to Mary Catherwood RSM, Christchurch Catholic Education Office, PO Box 4544, Christchurch. Ph. (03)366 9869.

Email: mcatherwood@chch.catholic.org.nz

Rosary House Spiritual Life Centre

Prayer and Fasting

Poustinia April 1–3 Rosary House Team

A time of prayer, fasting, solitude and silent listening to God, offered in love and atonement for ourselves, our country and our world.

Life's Healing Journey April 5-14

A live-in Retreat which attends to the healing of life's hurts, and includes meditations on the humanity of Jesus, input on the normal and necessary grieving/healing process, private time and individual accompaniment.

The Gospel as a Guide in our Time May 13-15 - Fr John Fitzsimmons SM

Dreams: the path to Self-knowledge June 11 – Allan Bloore. Jungian Analyst

Hidden Treasure: June 1,8,15

The development of the inner spiritual person in the second half of life - a Jungian perspective – Allan Bloore, Jungian Analyst.

For booking and further information please contact:

Rosary House, 15 Dublin Street, Christchurch. Ph (03) 379-1298 Fax (03) 366-1418 or email roho@xtra.co.nz

CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

Centennial Ball

Saturday May 28th 2005
7.00 pm

Christchurch Convention Centre

Lucky Ticket Prize

*Ticket Price \$125.00 per person
(Includes drinks, three course meal with wine
& live entertainment)*

To order your ticket
or table for 10 contact

Clare Corcoran
22 Longmuir Street
Christchurch
Phone (03) 357-9390
Email: clareandpaul@xtra.co.nz



Make up a table or come on your own and enjoy a night you will never forget

INFORM

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