

Inform

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WYD PILGRIMS GATHER AT FOURVIÈRE

(PAGE 32)

TWO WOMEN RESPOND
TO GOD'S CALL (page 3)

ST JOSEPH BRINGS
200 MEN TOGETHER (page 11)

TEN YEARS OF
PERPETUAL ADORATION (page 12)



From Our Bishop



A blessed Pentecost to you all!

Much has happened in the Diocese since the last edition of Inform. At the Easter Vigil we welcomed and were blessed by many people as they formally entered full communion in the Catholic Church; the Diocese was advised of a recourse to Rome involving one of our parish amalgamations; the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care was extended to March 2024; and just last week Tema Colati, a member of our diocese, formally dedicated her life as a Consecrated Virgin, publicly committing to living a life of prayer, simplicity and service of the Body of Christ. We will follow the recourse to Rome closely and we continue to keep all involved in the Royal Commission in prayer.

As I write, we are preparing to celebrate Pentecost. Much like the Apostles as they gathered on the first Pentecost, we too face many challenges and uncertainties, both as individuals and as a diocese. It is at such times we need a large dose of hope and courage to carry on. For the first disciples, the Holy Spirit brought this hope and courage in the form of wind and flame. The disciples, who had arrived in the upper room fearful and uncertain, were changed within, even though the world around them remained the same. No longer fearful, they were now absolutely certain of who they were and what their purpose was; to be ambassadors of Jesus, loved and forgiven. They had the powerful Holy Spirit as their advocate who would help and strengthen them to share Jesus' truth and love with the world, even at the cost of their lives.

Each year, Pentecost is an opportunity to enter the upper rooms of our own lives, to allow the Holy Spirit to enter our fears and uncertainties, to allow ourselves to be led ever deeper into Jesus' love. One of the great mystics, St John of the Cross, reflecting on his life noted, "In the evening of our lives we will all be judged by love alone." Tema Colati, committing to our diocese as a Consecrated Virgin has courageously responded to the call to of Jesus.

It was especially moving to see Tema arrive at the Mass for her consecration in a wedding dress, a powerful symbol of her commitment as a bride, consecrating herself to Jesus as the bridegroom. Such consecrations date back to the apostolic era, where single women (at times widows) formally offered themselves to God and the Church through a life of penance, prayer, simplicity and service. It is based on the practice of the *velatio virginum* dating back to the early Virgin Martyrs. The prototype of the sacred virgin

is the Blessed Virgin Mary. By receiving the sacramental constitutive consecration these women are "elevated to the dignity of bride of Christ and joined by an indissoluble bond with the Son of God."

There are two other Consecrated Virgins in our Diocese, Bernadette Chen and Monica Lee. Join me in thanking God for their courageous and generous commitment to our Church family. It is also appropriate at this time to acknowledge all the consecrated and professed religious women in our diocese numbering around 100. From the very beginning of our diocese, women have dedicated their lives in service of God and His people in this region. Sisters of the various Orders and Congregations, often living in community, have taken vows to live a life of poverty, chastity and obedience. Included among those who have dedicated their lives are women who live in Monasteries, known as Nuns. We the Carmelite Monastery here in Christchurch, where we have eight nuns living in the cloister. We thank God for the very specific way they serve our Church by withdrawing from the world in a spirit of prayer and penance.

The day the apostles entered the Upper Room at Pentecost they were uncertain what life would look like without their master and friend, Jesus. Much has happened since that first Pentecost. The Holy Spirit has empowered, inspired and led people to share the Good News of Jesus' love and mercy throughout the world. We are living examples of this love. We thank God for all who have responded so generously to the call to love God with all their heart, mind and soul. May God find our diocese worthy of many more vocations, where women and men offer their lives in service of Him. Remembering the words of St John of the Cross, in the evening of our lives we will all be judged by love alone.

Yours in Christ's service.

+ Michael Gielen
Bishop of Christchurch



The Beatitudes Celebrates a Final Profession

Sr Monica Tauiiili becomes Sister Giovanna Maria of the Holy Eucharist

On 25 March, the feast of the Annunciation, Sr Monica Tauiiili of the Beatitudes Community made her perpetual profession as a consecrated sister in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

The vows were received by Sr Theresia Schuschnigg, the regional superior of the sisters' branch, who then announced to all gathered, including Sister Monica (for the first time) her new name. "Our newly professed sister is now called Sr Giovanna Maria of the Holy Eucharist."

Long time family friend and mentor of Sr Giovanna, Fr John Jolliffe SM, celebrated the Mass, which reflected a rich mix of cultural, traditional, solemn, and charismatic elements. Samoan hymns, Latin motets, and Beatitudes songs of praise filled the already packed Pro-Cathedral for what was a joyous occasion - a wholehearted celebration of the spousal love between Christ and His bride.

After the ceremony and festive lunch, the Beatitudes and the family of Sr Giovanna Maria hosted a reception at the Beatitudes' Leithfield shrine of

Mary, Mother of the Light. There, under the large marquee, the feast went on into the evening with singing, dancing, laughter, heartfelt speeches, and prayers of thanksgiving.

In the week prior to the profession, stormy weather had plagued the preparations, and with only days left to decorate the shrine, gale force winds took hold of the large marquee, causing three large tears in the special fabric. Not at all deterred, the Beatitudes prayed and called for the people of New Zealand to help them to get the necessary repairs done at very short notice. Thanks to the generosity of people from far and wide, and the good will of a local tent repairer, by the day of the profession, the marquee was ready and when the time came, the shrine of Mary glowed with a most serene light into what was a clear and beautiful evening.

What was it like to experience the final profession of a sister?

"What we witnessed was not just ritual vows, but a wedding! Sister Monica gave herself wholeheartedly in love to her spouse, Jesus. It was so beautiful because she gave herself with a willing and sacrificial love, even though she knew there would be hard times."

- Sarah Alexander (aged 13)

"She is a great example of the beauty of giving oneself willingly and generously to service of the Lord and his Church through religious orders. We pray that Christ's love will shine through her and inspire others to follow Jesus."

- Thomas Alexander (aged 15)

"It was amazing! The singing was beautiful and the vows were so inspiring."

- Zoé Light (aged 13)



Consecration of Tema Colati to a Life of Virginity

On 14 May 2023, Bishop Michael consecrated Tema Colati into the Order of Virgins living in the world. The root of this order is ancient. It dates to the dawn of apostolic times, before the foundation of monastic communities for women. It is a unique vocation.

Through her consecration, she embraces a life of virginity, in imitation of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary, while living "in the world" (i.e. outside of a convent). Tema lives her total consecration to Christ while living what appears to be an ordinary life. She does not wear special attire, except for a ring that she received during the Rite of Consecration, as a sign of her new identity as a Bride of Christ. She supports herself financially and she prays the Liturgy of the Hours

every day. It is this "duality" that characterises her vocation.

When speaking to a group of consecrated virgins in the year 2020, Pope Francis said, "Your consecration dedicates you to God without separating you from the setting in which you live and in which you are called to bear personal witness by a lifestyle of evangelical closeness... let this "chaste freedom" be your way of relating to others, so that you can be a sign of the spousal love uniting Christ to the Church, virgin and mother, sister and friend of all." (Message of His Holiness Pope Francis on the fiftieth anniversary of the promulgation of the revised Rite of Consecration of Virgins).

Here is Tema's testimony of how she was called by God to her vocation.

"Where are you going?"

"I am one of the daughters of the late Mr Aisea Colati and Mereseni Donato of Nasaqalau Lakeba, Lau and Hoi Tonga Tapu. I was raised in a little gully called Matanisivaro, Qauia in Lami on the outskirts of Suva in the Fiji Islands. I grew up in a family of nine, consisting of five boys and four girls, including my niece Sera who was like my youngest sister. I was the seventh child. My parents were poor materially, but very rich in spirituality and love. They were staunch Catholics, and this was lived out in my family. As a child, my two older sisters left home quite early and I was left with my younger sisters and brothers. I grew up as a little tomboy, since I hung out mostly with my brothers.

I had to wade across the river and walked a few kilometres to reach the Marist Convent Primary School in Lami, where I was being taught by the Marist Sisters. I do not have any good memories of my schooling days because I was quite



(L-R) Consecrated Virgins Bernadette Chen, Tema and Monica Lee with Bishop Michael.

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poor; I recall that I only had a couple of books to write all my subjects in. To mask my poverty and my slowness in grasping what the teachers taught, I would disrupt the class and cause trouble just to get the teacher's attention, since I did not take much interest in education either.

Consequently, I dropped out of school at fifteen years old. I started living a reckless life; partying, smoking, enjoying my life, and having boyfriends. One night, while drunk and dancing at a nightclub, in the midst of booming music, I heard a little European girl's voice saying, "Where are you going?" I literally turned around to see the child. I couldn't see anyone, and then it dawned on me that it may have been God. Spontaneously, I said, "God! You are coming to the wrong place and the wrong person."

Not long after, as I was still coming to terms with what was happening, the same voice rose from within me. This took hold of me, and it made me come to my senses. It was a moment of standing still and asking the hard questions like: "Where am I going? What am I doing with my life?" I then found myself in tears since I had been wasting my life. I said, "Lord, I do not know where I am going. I do not know what I want to do with my life." That was a moment of Grace for me. I felt like Saul's experience of being struck off his horse on his way to Damascus. That was my conversion experience.

This led to my joining the Congregation of the Marist Sisters in 1993. Fortunately, the sisters gave me a great opportunity to return to secondary school after seven years of watching life pass by. After doing so well in school, I became a Primary School Teacher and taught in a couple of schools. I enjoyed my religious life as an SM Sister. In 2011, I had a personal crisis while teaching in a school at the highlands in the main Island in Fiji. This led to my requesting to leave the Marist Sisters. Two years later, I left Fiji. Even though I had left the Marist Sisters, in my heart, I knew that I had given my life to God through my first and final Profession and that was going to remain in me until I die.

This all changed when, six months after my arrival in Christchurch, I was drawn to a pamphlet of the Consecrated Virgins after a Sunday Mass at the Pro-Cathedral. Upon

reading about their lives, I felt the calling to be part of them. That was the beginning of my call within a call. I contacted Fr Christopher Orr, who then directed me to Bernadette Chen, who was one of the two Consecrated Virgins in Christchurch in 2013. Due to the difficulty in obtaining Residency in New Zealand, the waiting period took ten years for me to finally reach my Consecration Day on 14 May 2023.

As I look back over the ten years in Christchurch, I had to be patient while keeping my focus on my Bridegroom. The time of waiting involved me seeing the late Bishop Barry Jones, the Vicar General Fr Rick Loughnan, Bishop Paul Martin, and now Bishop Michael. I also had a few spiritual directors and retreats too. It was not an easy time and it was at the foot of the Tabernacle, as the Foundress of the Marist Sisters said, where I found my strength.

“Lord, I do not know where I am going.
I do not know what I want to do with my life.”
That was a moment of Grace for me.”

All the learning and moulding that I have received during this time of waiting, has all been worth the struggle. From my experience, I realise that God's timing is not our timing. God does not call the perfect, but He equips those He chooses and calls. He continues to call you and me today as I heard at the nightclub, "Where are you going?" What are you doing with your life?

If you feel called to this beautiful way of life, as a Consecrated Virgin, feel free to contact any of the Consecrated Virgins (maria.temalesi@yahoo.com).

Thank you and Vinaka vakalevu. God Bless."

Fr Kevin John Foote RIP

28 April 2023



The following homily was given by Fr Geoff Gray at the requiem for Fr Kevin Foote in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, on Friday 05 May.

"In his letter to the Romans, St Paul wisely noted that "the life and death of each of us has its influence on others." That most surely must be said of Fr Kevin John Foote, whom we knew in life and whose death brings us together here today for his Requiem Mass. Kevin died on 28 April, the Feast of the Missionary priest St Peter Chanel, the Proto Martyr of the South Pacific. It was also the weekend of Good Shepherd Sunday. In the Gospel of John 10.1-10 which we have just heard and which the Church offers us to reflect on also at Mass that Sunday, Jesus says; "The one who enters through the gate (of the sheepfold) is the shepherd of the flock; the sheep hear his voice... one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out... the sheep follow him because they know his voice."

Fr Kevin, Kevin John, KJ, Footie, Uncle Donk, Pa Waiwai, Padre Kevin, a man, a brother, a friend, a faithful disciple of the Lord and ordained priest. Kevin's family have kindly asked me to give the homily for Kevin, whose bodily remains lie before us and whom we will soon take for burial. It is a daunting task, as always at a funeral



celebration, words can never do justice to a life well lived. Even more so for a dear friend, a holy man, and a good priest, such as Kevin was.

Kevin and I were introduced to each other in a Christchurch pub one Friday evening in 1969. He told me he had been accepted by Bishop Brian Ashby to go to the seminary and begin his studies for the priesthood the next year, 1970. As it happened, Bishop Ashby had also accepted me for the Diocesan priesthood and I was going

to Holy Cross Mosgiel to complete my theological studies. That evening, Kevin took me home to meet his family and he and I and his dear family have been good friends ever since.

Although the first-born son of devout Catholic parents and well educated in the faith at St Paul's College, Ponsonby, Auckland, where they then lived, Kevin had, at his own admission, stopped going to Mass from the age of 16 and had been the typical teenager and young man of his time. If not exactly wine, women, and song, something similar! Amazingly, at the age of 23, he received a special grace from Christ the Good Shepherd. It was a profound conversion experience. He sensed he was called to become a priest. Kevin had heard the call of the Good Shepherd, began anew to follow him, and never looked back. Thus began a remarkable life of loving service to Christ and his Church, at home and elsewhere.

A priest is first of all a Christian, a believer, a disciple of Christ. Kevin's life as a disciple, especially after he was ordained to the priesthood in 1976, was notable in many ways, but especially in his faithfulness to prayer and the simplicity of his lifestyle. Kevin embraced poverty as no other person I know has embraced it. I remember going into his bedroom when he was Pa Wai Wai, at Te Rangimarie; it could have been the spare room, so spare were his meagre possessions. A change of clothes, his breviaries, the Catholic Catechism, a pair of sandals. When he moved, all he possessed went into a travel bag. His only indulgence was a weekly copy of L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, which he read from cover to cover, underlining as he read, as he likewise did to the text of his well-thumbed Bible. His faithfulness to prayer gradually filled his soul with a tangible spirit of joy, kindness, and generosity. He had a profound devotion to Mary, the Mother



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of God, and the holy Rosary was a constant prayer for him. He loved the Lord, he loved his flock, and was dearly loved in return. But Kevin was also a somewhat restless soul! Like St Augustine, who wrote famously in his Confessions, "You have made us for yourself O Lord, and our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee," Kevin found it hard to stay in one place and literally wandered restlessly over the face of the Earth.



was appointed to Te Rangimarie as the Maori Missioner. Pa Wai Wai became fluent in Maori and loved his people, the Tangata Whenua.

When the Community of the Beatitudes came to live next door,



Consecrated Religious.

After a time with them, he returned once again to the Diocese and here he remained, joyfully serving the people of God as a minister of Word and Sacrament, until falling victim to the early onset of dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Sadly, the past ten years of his holy life have been spent in patient suffering, for him and those who loved him. Mercifully, death has now taken him from this life. He has heard the final call of the Good Shepherd. He has fought the good fight to the end. We can surely hope and pray that he will hear the Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord." May he rest in peace. And I am sure he would like us to end this homily, as he himself so often did, with "Alleluia!"

“ He sensed he was called to become a priest. Kevin had heard the call of the Good Shepherd, began anew to follow him, and never looked back. ”

When serving as the Parish Priest of South Westland; he read about the Missionary Society of St James the Apostle, an association of Diocesan priest volunteers, working in South America. With the Bishop's permission, Kevin volunteered to join them and from 1982, spent five years serving the poorest of the poor in Bolivia. He had a gift for languages, so soon became fluent in Spanish. As my best friend, his going there inspired me to also join that Missionary Society and go to Latin America, and my life was changed forever. For that I will always be grateful to Kevin and to the Lord who called me and he, to serve the poor of that suffering continent.

Returning home, Kevin came back to work in parish ministry in the Diocese of Christchurch. But his restless spirit got the better of him and he left New Zealand again, firstly to work with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity Priests. He was sent by them to the city of Tijuana in Mexico. When he eventually left them to come home, he

Kevin, yielding once again to his restless spirit, eventually joined them. He was sent to Africa, to the Belgian Congo. But there was something about him that meant he was not called to live the life of a

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NZ National Vocations Awareness Week

30 April to 6 May, 2023

“YOU matter to God - Everyone has a vocation.”

According to St Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), everything in the world has a purpose and God is the reason for its existence. As a human person, everyone has a vocation or a calling in life, which can be understood as a God given purpose or mission. For baptised Christians, this calling is further deepened by their membership in the Church.

Most people are called to the vocation of marriage, which is a Sacrament and a way of living out God's plan for love and family. However, some particular baptised Catholics are called to a different vocation, such as priesthood or religious life, which involves dedicating themselves fully to the service of God and the Church.

A vocation is more than just a job or career; it is a continuous prompting of the Holy Spirit that touches the whole person and gives meaning

to our lives. For example, while you may not be required to confess your sins to your employer at work, a healthy vocation may require you to accept God's demand for humility and obedience, which can impact on all areas of your life. Thus, a job is a well-defined portion of a person's life that typically involves specific skills and responsibilities, such as computer skills, accounting, or nursing. It is usually a means of earning a living and may or may not align with your passions or values. In contrast, a

vocation is a calling which engages the whole person, including your relationships, personal journey, and spirituality. It is a sense of purpose and meaning that goes beyond a job or career, and involves a deep commitment to fulfilling our God given mission in life. A vocation is often considered permanent, while a job or career may be subject to change.

In a simple way, vocation can be understood as a relationship. The term 'vocation' has three different meanings. The first meaning is that every human being is called to be good by practising human virtues such as prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. This is a general call to all people, regardless of their religion or beliefs. The second meaning of vocation is for Christians to grow in holiness by being in constant communion with God. This requires the three theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Love. Christians are called to deepen their relationship with God and live a life of holiness and service to others. The third meaning of vocation is specific to the Church and includes the three different vocations of priesthood, religious life, and marriage. These are specific paths of life that are chosen by individuals who feel called by God to serve in these ways.

The different meanings of vocation indicate the different priorities and paths of life that individuals may choose to follow in their relationship with God. For example, the priesthood and religious life are the vocations that demand a person to give themselves up to be available for the mission entrusted to them by God through the Church. These vocations require a person to follow Jesus wherever He



SOLIDARITY 15 priests from the Diocese travelled to Blackball in April to spend time together and share something of their lives in their various parishes and ministries. Bishop Michael joined them for one night. Ask them how to play the card game '7s'!

Prayer about vocation:

The Mission of My Life - St John Henry Newman

God has created me to do Him some definite service.
He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.
I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.
I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.
He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work.
I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.
Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away.
If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him.
If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain.
He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers.
He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me.
Still, He knows what He is about.

goes and leave everything behind. This is why the evangelical vows of chastity, obedience, and poverty free a man or woman from earthly duties, in order to be available for these vocations. In contrast, marriage is a vocation that involves a partnership between a man and a woman, where they commit themselves to each other exclusively, for the rest of their lives. The Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a sacred bond between a man and a woman, created and blessed by God. It is a lifelong commitment that is meant to be exclusive, faithful, and fruitful. The Church views marriage as a Sacrament, a visible sign of God's grace and recognises it as the foundation of the family and society.

Finally, your vocation is a calling from God that gives meaning and purpose to your life. It is different from a job or career as it touches the whole person and embodies a project for life.

There are three different meanings of vocation, which include being good, growing in communion with God, and specific vocations in the Church. Whether it is priesthood, religious life, or marriage, a person's vocation is a permanent commitment that demands their whole personality and engages them in a lifelong journey towards holiness.

Discovering one's personal vocation is essential because it is a sign of our importance to God, who has sent us His Son to follow Him and carry out His divine plan.

*Fr Tien Cao - Vocations Director
of the Diocese of Christchurch*

Two Hanrahans

A pair of priests from a single family was not unusual in the 1900s. The Hanrahan brothers, Tom and Jim, were an example. Their story is unusual, for other reasons. Read their story at archives.chchcatholic.nz/2023/03/the-hanrahan-brothers

Fr Rick Loughnan honoured as Monsignor by Pope Francis



Congratulations Fr Rick! Bishop Michael gave this message:

"It is with joy I announce that Fr Rick Loughnan has been honoured by his Holiness Pope Francis with the title of Monsignor, which designates him as a Chaplain of the Holy Father.

This honour has been bestowed upon Monsignor Rick in recognition of his many years of faithful and humble service to both the local and national Church.

I join with you in congratulating Monsignor Rick and his family on this special occasion."



Issue 137 - Winter 2023

Nga mihi nui from the editorial desk

Inform Issue 137 finds itself in parishes in June so is our Winter edition. It covers Catholic life in the Christchurch Diocese since Holy Week, but with a little catch up on events which did not quite make our Lenten edition but should nonetheless be celebrated.

Among our regular content are some key events we wish to feature. Sr Monica Tauiliili made her final profession in a beautiful and moving Mass in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral on the Feast of the Annunciation. Tema Colati committed to a consecrated life of perpetual virginity in our Pro-Cathedral on 14 May. We foreshadow ten years of Perpetual Adoration in the Christchurch Diocese on 30 June as we give thanks to those who spend time with Our Lord in St Gregory's Chapel, Bishopdale. We share in the joyful expectation of our World Youth Day pilgrims as they prepare for their time with Pope Francis and millions of young people in Portugal.

After you have read this issue, please pass it on to others you know who may connect with its stories. Refer people to our website (chchcatholic.nz/category/inform) so they can read Inform online and share it with others. Remember, we are a Church on mission.

In Christ,

Ken Joblin, Editor &
Caitlin Godfrey, Assistant Editor

Subtle partnerships for the greater good

The practice of Participatory Social Services is the act of listening to our communities and meeting their needs. This approach also delivers wonderful opportunities to partner with other diocesan departments and beyond.

Three subtle opportunities recently arose, highlighting that working together creates positive outcomes for our community.

Novotel Christchurch Airport recently contacted Catholic Social Services (CSS) for advice in assisting one of its clients who was in mental distress. While helping the hotel bring about a positive outcome, Novotel donated bathroom toiletries to CSS's foodbank. This donation is a great addition to our food parcels.

Catholic Youth Team (CYT) Manager James Bryant mentioned the need for a mental health workshop for his extended team, to better equip them in identifying potential mental health issues when ministering to youth and young adults. They recently received our first 'Mental Health 101' which we hope will be a regular occurrence.

In the last three months, we have worked closely with the Prison Chaplaincy service in their desire to better support individuals once

they leave the prison system. While CSS is not the agency working with these individuals, we are well connected within the social service community and have been able to make the appropriate referrals.

Partnerships do not always require formal agreements. They can be subtle partnerships such as these. Funding is the only hurdle we face in our wish to serve the community. We are extremely grateful for all the support received and we hope it will increase proportionally to help us address all requests in a meaningful and timely manner.

God bless.

Luis Arevalo - CSS Manager
Catholic Diocese of Christchurch

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Men's Breakfast with Our Bishop

A cool, early Saturday morning in May saw 200 men gather in the hall of Sacred Heart church, Addington, for breakfast with the Bishop. The focus of the breakfast was to hear first-hand about the experience of the Christchurch South Parish Men's Rosary and St Joseph group.

Starting small, this group has grown from five members to nearly 30 this year. They have just completed the Consecration to St Joseph (many for the second or third time), using a book written by Fr Don Calloway, MIC. The majority of the Christchurch South group are aged under 35 and are busy workers, family men with many demands on their time.

From this starting point, an initiative was put to our Bishop: that a men's breakfast could be a springboard to inspire and encourage men from all over the Christchurch Diocese to increase their own devotion to St Joseph, Patron of the Church. This proved to be a popular and great event, given that 200 men turned out, and not just for the free breakfast! Bishop Michael encouraged the men of the Diocese to start one set day a week with prayer, in small groups in each of their parishes, to ask for the care and protection of the Church, their own families, and for growth in understanding and devotion to St Joseph. He also encouraged personal Consecration to St Joseph, in parish groups. To that end, copies of Fr Don Calloway's Consecration method will be available from our Diocesan office.

As a further example of how this initiative might develop, a statue of St Joseph (carved from olive wood in Bethlehem) was displayed. It is making its way around homes in the

Christchurch South Parish. The statue stays one week in each person's home and is a focus of prayer for the family under the guidance



The team organising this initiative; Bishop Michael, Brendan Malone, Mike Stopforth, Chris Pemberton, Phil Bell, Danny Nicholls and The St Joseph statue.

of St Joseph. All members of the Christchurch South men's group are encouraged to pray for the family that hosts the statue that week. The spiritual and temporal benefits of this devotion are already apparent - just ask St Joseph!

At the end of the breakfast, Bishop Michael blessed the statue of St

Joseph with the intention that this initiative will move into other parishes and devotion to St Joseph will grow, along with prayer and the benefits that flow from it. One of the positive comments made on the day by some of the older men was how pleasantly surprised they were to see such a good number of young men attending the event.

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Here you will find information about parishes, Mass times, diocesan news and events. Parishes, schools and church groups are welcome to advertise events. Please email mstopforth@cdoc.nz

Perpetual Adoration Chapel Turns Ten

On Friday 30 June, it will be ten years since Bishop Barry Jones opened the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St Gregory's Church in Bishopdale.

At the time, Bishop Jones said that the chapel was a great gift to the Diocese. It was opened to help people to deepen their encounter with Jesus and let him transform their lives. It is a place to bring all your worries, concerns, and fears to Jesus and bring all the other people you carry in your heart to Him. St Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "the time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and...will help bring about everlasting peace on earth."

The Perpetual Adoration chapel has borne abundant fruits in the lives of many people over the past ten years.

"To commit myself to spend one hour a week in the presence of Jesus was one of the best commitments I have made of recent times. A time of stillness, contemplation, peace, and reflection has made a difference to my life. I have grown more in closeness to Jesus. I feel more at peace in my life".

To mark this significant anniversary, everyone is invited to gather with our Bishop for Mass at St Gregory's on Friday 30 June at 7.30pm.

I wish to thank all the adorers who committed so generously to an hour (or more) of Adoration each week. It is interesting to note that 83 people who signed up on the first Sunday still adore at the chapel, and 59 of those people still have the same weekly hour. Well over 600 people have, at one time, committed to an hour a week, with hundreds more visiting our Lord. I especially wish to thank those who have been day leaders over the years. Your support has been much appreciated!

Interested in adoring?

If you wish to sign up for an hour, please contact me:

Matt O'Connell

@ chchadoration@gmail.com

The Story of how Perpetual Adoration came about in the Diocese of Christchurch

The story starts many years ago. There have, of course, been many people praying for Perpetual Adoration in the Diocese for a number of years. I was introduced to Adoration at the Hearts Aflame national Catholic summer school in January 2000, where it was offered every day. I quickly became devoted to it and often tried to make a holy hour.

I had already become used to praying before the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle. Each time I went into a Church (often the small chapel in Chancery Lane), I experienced peace and hope. I slowly grew in my relationship with Jesus.

In August 2001, I entered a Franciscan Monastery for a year as a volunteer. This Monastery, which was also a retreat centre and shrine, was the centre for Perpetual Adoration for the Archdiocese of Chicago, and had offered Perpetual Adoration for many years. There were 30 Franciscan Friars who lived in the Monastery and they committed to adoring between the hours of 11pm-7am every day. As a volunteer, I often covered these hours for them while they were away, busy, or tired. It was inspiring to see these men get up, night after night, to adore Our Lord. On returning to New Zealand, I continued to make holy

hours. While Young Adults Coordinator for the Catholic Youth Team (CYT), I ensured I gave all those young adults attending retreats and camps the opportunity for Adoration.

At one of my last events for CYT in late 2011, Bishop Jones gave a talk. At its conclusion, during questions and answers, I thought I would be a bit cheeky and asked him when he was going to start Perpetual Adoration in the Diocese. He responded by challenging me to write him a proposal for it. I responded to his challenge, drafting up a proposal and referring it to him in April 2012. Bishop Jones read it and asked me to form a committee to write a fully detailed proposal with all questions answered and make recommendations for its implementation.

This committee was formed and met for the first time at the end of August 2012. The next four months saw us

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Mass of Celebration

Celebrating the 10-year anniversary of
the opening of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel

FRIDAY 30 JUNE AT 7.30PM

ST GREGORY'S CHURCH, COTSWOLD AVENUE

Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael Gielen
Adoration to follow in the church. Everyone Welcome

For more information, contact Matt O'Connell
moconnell@cdoc.nz or 03 366 9869





meeting regularly to pray, discuss, research, and investigate all the options. Our proposal was presented to Bishop Jones on 15 January 2013. The Bishop took the proposal to his Consulters who read it, discussed it, and fully approved it in April 2013. The proposed starting date was to be two months later on Sunday 23 June.

This day was the eve of our Diocesan Patronal feast day, that of St John the Baptist, on 24 June.

Bishop Jones wrote a pastoral letter to his diocese, encouraging people to sign up one week later at Sunday Mass throughout all of Christchurch. Meetings were held, the chapel was prepared, and we were all ready to go for "Sign up Sunday." The response was outstanding, with over 400 people signing up to commit to one hour per week. We delayed the opening by one

week to get every hour covered.

Perpetual Adoration in the Diocese of Christchurch commenced at 6.00pm on Sunday 30 June at St Gregory's in Bishopdale, immediately following the 5.00pm Mass which was offered by the Bishop. Perpetual Adoration has continued ever since. As Bishop Jones said, "this project is one of extraordinary grace. All the glory and honour goes to Him who is our all."

Matt O'Connell

West Coast Parishes gather for Parish Renewal

On Saturday 20 May, Bishop Michael gathered with the priests and representatives of the Our Lady of the Woods Parish South Westland, St Mary's Parish Hokitika, and St Patrick's Parish Greymouth. Held in Hokitika, the gathering was led by Bishop Michael and members of the Bishop's Pastoral Office. The day began with Mass, before our Bishop shared something of his own faith journey, encouraging those present to be close to Jesus. Participants spoke about living faith in the context of the three parishes on the Coast and our hopes that our parish communities enable people to encounter Christ.

(Right) Representatives of the three West Coast Parishes gather with our Bishop.





Oceania Catholic bishops publish response to Synod of Bishops document

The synod process was instigated by Pope Francis in 2021. His initiative "For a Synodal Church - communion, participation, mission", continues to work its way towards the first in a two-part global Synod of Bishops, which is to take place in October this year.

In February, the bishops of Oceania met in Fiji. Bishop Michael Gielen was one of those attending, and wrote about his experience in the last issue of Inform. Part of the focus for their gathering was considering the region's response to the Synod's Working Document for the Continental Stage, entitled "Enlarge the Space of Your Tent."

The Oceania response was drafted by a writing and discernment group, which synthesised reports from the four bishops conferences of Oceania and the Eastern Catholic Churches. In a context of prayer and contemplation, the bishops reviewed and refined that document, which was then approved and submitted to the Synod Secretariat in Rome.

The document has now been published and can be viewed on the

diocesan website - along with the previously produced documents of the Christchurch Diocese and the New Zealand synthesis documents.

The bishops said that "one of the key works of a bishop is to teach. Gathered as the shepherds of the people of Oceania, we wanted to share our prayerful and considered thoughts on what we had heard. We do not want to build a different Church, but rather to renew and revitalise the Church which we love."

The document concedes that the responses gathered represented only a small proportion of the Catholic population, and the breadth and depth of local lived experiences were not always contained in the document. "The document captures the hopes and concerns of our people, and this

might give the impression that the Church is in disarray," the bishops' pastoral reflection says. "However, it is precisely in places and times of pain and suffering that Christ reveals Himself. This confidence and faith in His presence can guide us in our response."

The Oceania report outlines the fruits of the discernment which took place in response to Enlarge the Space of Your Tent, drawing together common themes, issues, and insights. It also highlights tensions and differences, and identifies priorities and calls to action. The Synod on synodality is a significant process internationally as well as for the Church here in Aotearoa. At the core of being synodal is the discernment process, grounded in scripture, prayer, trusting in the Holy Spirit, and deep listening to one another.

Experiencing the Synodal Way Now

Waimakariri parishioners and their senior leadership team were recently invited to experience the Synodal process. This process has been offered throughout the world as part of the Synod on Synodality, initiated by Pope Francis in October 2021.



The Christchurch Diocesan Synthesis, submitted last year, tells us that many people said they had not previously had opportunities to be listened to. Many, however, found that: "This group process of listening and silence was cherished. People found in the experience ways to listen, build trust, learn and dream forward."

The small dedicated group of Waimakariri parishioners who took part in this process, facilitated by Kevin Gallagher and Kathleen Rushton RSM, agreed with these comments as they prayed with and shared their responses to the question: How am I experiencing listening and being heard in my parish? A synthesis of their responses will be offered to their senior leadership team.

The Working Document for the Continental Phase invites all Church institutions to consider how they might integrate the call to Synodality, which is about walking together, into how they exercise their functions in God's mission and, consequently, renew their structures and procedures.

Laudato Si' Week and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

During the week of the 21-28 May, we celebrated the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost. At this special time, the universal Church invited us to celebrate Laudato Si' Week.

This is a way to celebrate Pope Francis' encyclical letter, "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home," and for all Catholics to unite and rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing Laudato Si' to life and to commit ourselves to further prayer and action for our common home. This year has the inspiring theme "Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity."

In the Southern hemisphere, this celebration coincides with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The World Council of Churches and the Holy See's Dicastery for Christian Unity have prepared resources about the theme of "Do good; seek justice" (Isaiah 1:17).

Can these two weeks - Laudato Si' Week and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - be celebrated together? Are they interconnected? Let's look at the three "eco" words - ecology, economy, and ecumenism - all come from the Greek word for "household." This interconnection surely underlies the vision of the World Council of Churches that "the mission of the ecumenical movement today is about transforming the world into a place of justice and peace for all God's creation... [in a] participatory search for alternatives that are centred on the people and the Earth." (Introduction, Economy of Life).

Likewise, in Laudato Si' Pope Francis states: "Today, however, we have to realise that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." (Sec. 49). The urgency of climate change returns us to pray for Christian Unity because for Christian believers, committed to love for God's creation and to respect for the dignity of

every human person, responding to this interconnection will be necessarily a central dimension of the life of faith. As Pope Francis ends his Closing Homily for this Week of Prayer: "All together may we journey along on the path that the Lord has placed before us, the path of unity."

Some Resources:

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:
<https://www.catholic.org.nz/resources/wopcu2023/>

Laudato Si' Week:
<https://laudatosiweek.org/it/eventi-2023-it/>

Watch "The Letter: A Message for Our Earth" video on Pope Francis, the Environmental Crisis, and Frontline Leaders: <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

Download and pray from The Laudato Si' Movement Prayer Book which "features moving prayers from around the globe and will help you and your loved ones experience the ecological conversion that St Pope John Paul II first mentioned and Pope Francis echoed in Laudato Si'": <https://mail.laudatosimovement.org/landing/prayerbook>

Join our local Laudato Si' Group which has continued to meet since the 2022 Ablaze Conference. Contact Kathleen Rushton RSM: kprushton@gmail.com



Come and enjoy social interaction with other seniors...

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10.00 am Morning Tea	9.30 am Mass
10.30 am Arts and Crafts	10.00 am Morning Tea
12.00 noon BYO Lunch / Socialise	10.30 am Board Games
12.45 pm Exercise Class	12.00 noon BYO Lunch / Socialise
1.30 pm Variety Hour	12.30 pm Housie (numbers limited)
2.30 pm Afternoon Tea	2.15 pm Afternoon Tea
	3.00 pm Exercise Class

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The Green Pontificates

Psalm 24 tells us that: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who dwell in it."

As human beings we are given a special place as God's children. That unique place carries a responsibility to the rest of creation in service to God.

Leviticus 25:23 reminds us: *"The land shall not be sold into perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but strangers and guests".*

Whatever we have is a gift from God and our faith calls us to care for creation, not just for ourselves, but for future generations after us.



The stewardship of our planet has always been at the heart of Catholic teaching. Indeed, our most recent Pontificates have placed a heavy emphasis on this, from Pope John XXIII in 1961 making a plea against destroying nature, to Pope Paul VI in 1971 expressing concern over the "ill-considered exploitation of nature," to Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI who have been dubbed, The Green Popes.

In his speech for World Day of Peace, 01 January 1990, Pope John Paul II spoke instead on the environment, demonstrating that peace and the environment were

related issues. He warned us thus:

"If man is not at peace with God, then earth itself cannot be at peace"

"Therefore the land mourns and all who dwell in it languish and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and even the fish of the sea are taken away." (Hos 4:3.)

Modern society will find no solution to the ecological problem unless it takes a serious look at its lifestyle. (Christifideles Laici, Apostolic Exhortation, 1988, No38.)

Humankind's inability to appreciate the goodness of creation reflects an inability to appreciate the work of God.

Our mistreatment of the natural world is not only a failure to respect what God has created but it is also a failure to appreciate our own dignity and sacredness. For in abusing the earth we are endangering the life-supporting resources that we and future generations will need. (Lazarus at the Table, Catholics & Social Justice, Chap 8, p109, Bernard F. Evans).

The bonds that should unite the created world to God have been broken, bonds that recognise that we are connected through the Creator to everything around us. Catholic Social Teaching tells us: *"There is a need to place ever greater emphasis on the intimate connection between environmental ecology and human ecology"*. (John Paul II, Encyclical, Centesimus Annus, 38, AAS83(1991), 842.)

**"If man is not at peace with God,
then earth itself cannot be at peace."**

- Pope John Paul II

Pope Benedict XVI, in his first homily as Pope, expressed his concern that, *"The earth's treasures no longer serve to build God's garden for all to live in, but they have been made to serve the powers of exploitation and destruction."*

He was deeply concerned with the environment and humankind, placing a heavy emphasis on the common good and solidarity. He maintained the perspective that acting in solidarity with others in the common good regarding the environment would establish a way of being, making us more capable of understanding and living the moral truth of Church teaching.

Both John Paul II and Benedict XVI showed us during their Pontificates that ecological problems are moral problems, that when dominion over the rest of creation becomes domination, humankind becomes abusive towards creation and towards other people. (The Green Popes Benedict

Pope John Paul II Brazil 1997. José Cruz/Abn. CC BY 3.0 BR <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/br/deed.en>> via Wikimedia Commons
Pope Benedict XVI, St. Peter's square 2012. Image credit: © Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk CCLicense2.0

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Single-use plastic plagues New Zealand rivers and beaches but there are many easy and simple ways you can reduce this plastic pollution:

- ✓ Avoid using plastic straws
- ✓ Bring your own water bottle and coffee cup to work
- ✓ Choose food with no plastic packaging
- ✓ Avoid using plastic bags at the supermarket
- ✓ Use glass containers instead of plastic
- ✓ Recycle plastics, glass, cardboard, and cans



XVI & John Paul II on the Environment. Rev.Br Ignatius Schweitzer O.P. & Fr Nicanor Austriaco O.P.)

As climate change worsens for planet Earth, concerns for the common good and the environment have been expanded on by Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. Simple lifestyles, good kaitiakitanga of the gifts given to us and living in harmony with creation is asked of us.

The Christchurch Catholic Justice & Peace Commission recently invited you to prepare for the Season of Creation starting in September. One way to do that was to participate in World Environment Day on 05 June. This year the focus was on solutions to plastic pollution.

It is estimated that half of all plastic produced is designed for single-use purposes, with approximately 36% being used in packaging. This includes single-use plastic products for food and beverage containers.

The problem is that of the 7 billion tonnes of plastic waste generated globally since 1950, less than 10% has been recycled, with millions of tonnes of plastic lost to the environment or being burnt or dumped.

In Aotearoa New Zealand the biggest proportion of debris found in our rivers and on our beaches is single-use plastic, with food wrappers and plastic bags being the biggest culprits. There are many ways you can participate in protecting our planet by reducing your use of single-use plastics.



Retreat participants mark the 650 year anniversary of St Julian

St Julian of Norwich - celebrating a 650 year anniversary

On Monday 08 May, a small group gathered at the Community of the Beatitudes for a retreat on the English mystic, St Julian of Norwich (1342-1416). The retreat was led by Fr Barry Malone SM, who gave us some background on Julian. In the 14th century, at the age of 30, Julian became very ill and over a period of 50 hours, experienced a series of extraordinary visions. These revelations transformed her life and after a miraculous recovery, she took vows to live in a cell attached to a church in Norwich. In the years following the visions, she continued to reflect and write about them, becoming the first woman to write a book in English, "The Revelations of Divine Love." More information can be found at www.julianofnorwich.org.

Group gathers at Tuahiwi Marae



On Friday 05 May, the first group of 12 attended the Ngāi Tūāhuriri Marae for a workshop called "Getting to know us."

The workshop included a powhiri, each person working on their mihi, hearing the story of Tūāhuriri Māori, and understanding the powhiri process. The workshop is part of our

desire to deepen our knowledge and understanding of te ao Māori. Previously, a hui was held for diocesan staff at Te Rangimarie. We intend to continue to have clergy, parish,

and diocesan staff undertake this workshop, as a basis for our ongoing development. This will include wider use of te reo in the Mass, as provided for in the Missal.

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Fr Paulo receives Order of Merit

Congratulations to Christchurch East Priest Fr Paulo Filoialii, who was recognised in the New Year Honours earlier this year. Fr Paulo was awarded a New Zealand Order of Merit for Services to the Pacific Community at the Investiture Ceremony on Tuesday 23 May.



In 2012 Fr Paulo was recognised for his kindness, service, and heroism during and following the Canterbury Earthquakes, and has been a magnificent supporter of the Pasifika Community throughout the city and our Diocese.

Fr Paulo was the first Pasifika Priest ordained in Rome in 1990 and Samoan Mass was celebrated for the first time in the Vatican at his ordination, resulting in Pope John Paul II decreeing that the Samoan Mass could now be celebrated anywhere in the world.

Fr Paulo is the current Chaplain for the Christchurch Women's and Men's Prison, providing support to victims and perpetrators at Court and through spiritual counseling.



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Praying for Peace in Ukraine



A group of Cathedral parishioners have been meeting to pray for peace in Ukraine every week since fighting began. In January, Fr Ihor, a Perth-based Ukrainian priest, concelebrated a Mass for Ukraine. It was heartening to hear his assurances that he would send our photo back to Ukraine, and that it would be sent to the front lines to encourage the troops that there are those, even so far away, who are standing with them in prayer.

Final Mass at St Teresa of Lisieux Catholic Church Chatham Islands

It was wonderful to gather for the final Mass in our existing church on Easter Sunday. The Parish community looks forward to building a new church to replace the current one, which has fallen into disrepair. The parish community will be raising funds to build the new church. Anyone interested in supporting this venture is welcome to contact Judy Kamo, email: juch_k@xtra.co.nz.

Fr Chris Orr



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The Closure of St Paul's Albury

The closure of this church marks the end of an era for the community, but it is not the end of our faith journey.

On Sunday 12 March 2023, as the final Mass was celebrated by Bishop Michael, people from various parts of New Zealand came together to recall the many blessings they had received in the church building over the years.

The Bishop's homily was a poignant reminder of the countless people who were baptised, received their first Holy Communion, were Confirmed, married, and whose funerals took place in the church. Throughout the Mass, prayers were offered for the memories of liturgies, Sacraments, and special moments shared in the church to continue inspiring and guiding the faith community. The leaders of the faith community, particularly Bishop Michael Gielen and his brother priests, were also prayed for: that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit as they discern the future of the diocese and continue the work of God's kingdom. The community also offered prayers for those who contributed to the maintenance and upkeep of the church building

over the years. Their efforts and sacrifices were remembered and appreciated, especially Rita Gallen, Dermott O'Sullivan, their families, and the Parish Council Members. As the community faces a time of transition, we are reminded that the Church is not just a building, but the people who make up the Body of Christ. The faith community also prayed for the dead, that they may come to the fountain of God's glory in His kingdom.

After the ceremony at the church site, the participants were further invited to attend a light finger food luncheon and refreshments at the historic Albury Tavern nearby. Although it was a sad occasion, many people found that it was good to catch up with friends, neighbours, and families. The faith community placed our trust in God as we closed this chapter in our faith journey. We thanked God for the blessings that we and our ancestors received in the church building and the memories we will carry with us.



The church may be closing, but our faith journey continues as we seek to grow in faith and love.

The Mackenzie Catholic Parish

More images can be viewed here:
www.mackenziecatholicparish.nz/archive

Images © Clare Friel Photography
www.facebook.com/clarefrieltemuka



Holy Family Parish, Timaru



(L-R from top) Palm Sunday at Sacred Heart Basilica, Timaru; A Mass of Farewell was held at St Andrew's Church in South Canterbury on 26 March. The church was opened in 1903 and has rarely been used over the past 15 years. It was sold recently and the purchaser intends to convert it into a home; The blessing of the Easter Fire at Sacred Heart Basilica; Some of the many parishioners who celebrated the parish feast day on St Paddy's night in the parish hall; Anzac Day Decorations at the Sacred Heart Basilica; The opening Mass for the wider South Canterbury School teachers was held at the Sacred Heart Basilica in early Lent.



Good Books Change Lives

A Visit to St Augustine's Bookshop, Burnside

In an age where so much information is accessed through the internet, the desire to browse bookshelves in search of writing which stimulates the mind and uplifts the spirit has not lessened.

Studies support the view that the human brain retains more information through engaging with hard copy, than by looking at computer screens. Further, readers appreciate the physical engagement of books: their smell, their feel, and the artistry in their publication. There is a dignity in opening a book. The reader is given a sense of entering into a world which is yet to be discovered. The same may not be said of the ubiquitous, utilitarian computer screen. For these reasons among others, Inform remains in hard copy, while also being online for a more casual "flick through".

I recently visited St Augustine's Bookshop, found off the foyer of the Church of Christ the King in Burnside. I asked its founder, Dan Martin...

What first prompted him to set up a Catholic second-hand bookshop?

"I always enjoyed exploring the Catholic faith, be it at my great-aunt's bookshelf when I was young, or at the big Mercy Library in Christchurch as a young adult. The Church has two thousand years of living tradition from which to draw. Being able to tap into the truths of the faith and reading about people's lives throughout the centuries has always fascinated



and inspired me. I was also blessed to complete a theology degree at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland. Through my studies, I had access to the extensive Good Shepherd College library, much of which had been brought to Auckland after the closure of the Marist Seminary at Green Meadows. I naturally kept up to date with an amazing selection of the latest offerings from Catholic authors. During this time, I often reflected on how to make second-hand Catholic books available to people searching for good quality literature on the Church, her people, and her communities."

How did St Augustine's Bookshop come about?

"Three years ago, with the restructuring brought about by Our Faith, Our Future, a room became available at the Church of Christ the King in Burnside. I approached parish priest Fr Rick Loughnan to seek his support for setting up a second-hand bookshop there. He was very encouraging, as he is himself a bookworm, and knows the impact books have in developing and deepening our faith. Through advertising in the Christchurch North parish and beyond, I sought donations of Catholic books which people no longer wished to keep. While I was concerned that I would not get many books or that their quality might be dubious, I was surprised and thrilled to receive over 1,000 interesting books, ranging from spiritual classics, apologetics, history, theology, saints, and children's books. Having received these books, renovated the old parish office into a shop, and recruited volunteers to staff it, the next question was "would anyone be interested in buying the books?"

Why is the bookshop under the patronal name of St Augustine?

"St Augustine came to mind as he had a huge impact on Catholic thought and writings throughout the centuries.

A photograph of a man and a woman walking on a city street. The man is wearing a blue suit and the woman is wearing a blue dress. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is a blurred city street with trees and buildings.

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His most famous book, "Confessions," is considered the first Western Christian autobiography ever written. So, if any saint is going to help readers find the appropriate book for them and their spiritual growth, I thought he would."

Has there been much interest in the shop?

"Fortunately, we received customers from day one and word has kept spreading. After two years of operation, we have sold over 1,000 books. We are especially blessed to have a small number of wonderful volunteers to staff the shop and engage with the customers. We are also now making some books available on TradeMe, to widen our reach across the country."

What impact can reading more about the faith have on the reader?

"I once stood outside Scorpio Books and read Helen Exley's quote that "Books can be dangerous. The best ones should be labelled 'This could change your life'". I think this is especially true of Catholic books. Reading about people who have fully lived the Catholic faith or of how God has interacted with the world throughout the centuries and guided His Church, can only help us be inspired and draw us closer to God."

Ken Joblin
Inform Editor

St Augustine's Bookshop

Christ the King Church Foyer
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Opening Hours:
Wednesday to Saturday, 11am-2pm

For more, visit their Facebook page: facebook.com/Catholic2ndhandbookshop



Lincoln CWL Annual High Tea

In early May, the Lincoln Catholic Women's League (CWL) held their annual High Tea to celebrate women and mothers, and to promote the League.

This year, the High Tea was well attended, with 20 visitors from both Lincoln and Leeston along with thirteen CWL members.

Tiered cake plates, lovely bone China cups, saucers, and plates, and beautiful food was enjoyed. Most importantly, there was lots of chatter. No one was in a hurry to go home. It was a great afternoon.



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Photo: Hawkes Bay Civil Defence

More about Holiness

- the Spirituality of St Pope John Paul II

The first pastoral priority of the Diocese of Christchurch is "Growing in Holiness". In 2001, Pope John Paul II issued a letter to the whole Church called *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (At the Beginning of the Third Millennium). This most beautiful letter invited all the members of the Church to "gaze on the face of Christ" and strive for Holiness.

Dame Betty O'Dowd was a great gift to our diocese and beyond, and did much to form people in the faith. She was a great contributor to Inform, though her articles were often unattributed. She wrote two articles for Inform around that time, about this letter and the call to Holiness. Twenty years since these words were written, they are still very relevant today. Her second article is reproduced below with a small amount of editing.

More about Holiness

- the Spirituality of St Pope John Paul II

"Pope John Paul II's letter *At the Beginning of the New Millennium* has been described as a great symphony of spirituality. We live in a time when people turn away from doctrinal formulations and ecclesial commitments. In our secular, post-Christian society, religious beliefs are largely lost. What has replaced them is a constant, restless search for new "spiritualities". In this context, the Pope has set out for us the fullness of Catholic spirituality, the vision which has come down to us from the Apostles and has animated faith-



(T)his letter is addressed to us all. Perhaps more urgently than anything else this Pope has written, this letter needs to be read and studied by lay people. We hear incessantly about new roles and responsibilities for the laity in the Church. What this letter makes clear is the prerequisite responsibility of every person, lay or clergy, to respond to the call to holiness their Baptism offers them.

Even more to the point, this Letter shows us in practical terms how to go about it. Section II is called *A Face*

“ There can be few of us who do not need to deepen our faith and draw closer to Christ. ”

filled lives throughout the centuries between. It comes to us in this Letter with extraordinary freshness, in the words of a man whose own whole life has been spent contemplating the face of Christ.

to Contemplate. In it, the Pope shows us most movingly how we can find Christ in the Scriptures, the Christ who loves us so deeply and inexplicably, who seeks our companionship. In the next Section, called *Starting Afresh From Christ*, the Pope invites us to ask the question put to St Peter after his Pentecost speech: "What must we do?" He answers it by showing us what it means to become holy and how to go about learning to pray more deeply and intensely. He offers us the Psalms as the ideal source of Christian prayer, not only Spirit-inspired prayers, but prayers that teach us how to pray. These two sections alone are worth any effort we put into reading them, reflecting on them, studying them with others in a group.

This Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, is easily available on the Internet, to which most people have access either directly or through a friend. There can be few of us who do not need to deepen our faith and draw closer to Christ. It would seem particularly rash in the faith-testing times we live in to pass up an offer like this."

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Do You Know How to Listen to Your Heart? (Part 1)

We all have to make choices in our lives and, to do so well, we need to know how to discern. Pope Francis, in his weekly General Audiences (August 2022-January 2023) Catechesis on Discernment, offers a series of teachings on discernment which he describes as “demanding but indispensable for living.”

Francis begins by asking: “What does it mean to Discern?” Then he states: “Discernment is an important act that concerns everyone because decisions are an essential part of life. Discernment involves exercising

During his long recovery, after being wounded in battle, Ignatius asked for books on chivalry but the only ones available were The Life of Christ and The Lives of the Saints. As Ignatius reflected, he noticed that his

initial resistance: “But I’m not going to read this boring thing about saints” - but when welcomed, resulted in a lasting peace. Here Ignatius had his first experience of God by listening to his own heart.

“ Pope Francis invites each of us into the art and practice of discernment...To make good decisions, one must listen to one’s own heart ”



Pope Francis invites each of us into the art and practice of discernment: “This is what we must learn: to listen to our own heart to know what is happening, what decision to make. To make a judgement on a situation, one must listen to one’s own heart. We listen to the television, the radio, the mobile phone. We are experts at listening, but I ask you: do you know how to listen to your heart? Do you stop to ask: “But how is my heart? Is it satisfied, is it sad, is it searching for something?” To make good decisions, one must listen to one’s own heart.”

In part 2, we shall deepen our understanding of listening to the heart by exploring Francis’ presentations on The Elements of Discernment.

our intelligence, our skill, and our will to respond to our choices.” Francis explains: “To learn to live, one must learn to love, and for this, it is necessary to discern. The end place of good decisions,” he continues, “always leads you to that final joy. The joy of the one who found the treasure in the field, sold everything “so great is his joy” (Mt 13:44).” This joy is described by Pope Francis as “a very special joy that no human reality can give.”

Central therefore to discerning well, is an intimate relationship with God, who Francis states, “is always willing to advise us, to encourage us, to welcome us. But [God] never imposes his will. Why? Because [God] wants to be loved not feared”.

As an example of discernment, Francis tells how St Ignatius of Loyola helps us understand the importance of reflecting on the mind and the heart before making a decision.

thoughts on chivalry were attractive but left him empty and discontented. Thoughts of Christ and the lives of the Saints, on the contrary, roused an

Kevin Gallagher offers the first of a three-part series on discernment on behalf of the Christchurch Diocesan Spiritual Directors Group Whakakōingo o te Ngakau: The Yearning Heart.

Helping suffering Christians in Nigeria



Nigerian Christians are suffering massive discrimination and violence. The reasons for the conflicts are manifold (economic, cultural, ethnic), but religion underpins much of it. Islamic terrorists and armed Fulani are systematically terrorising Christians. Hundreds of civilians are killed every year,

millions have fled their homelands in search of security.

Nigeria is a bleeding wound. These Christians are with Christ on the cross. **Aid to the Church in Need wants to give**

a voice to our brothers and sisters in faith. Their stories are unthinkable, but they are true. **They need our help! They need your help!**

To watch videos, learn more and donate, scan the QR code or visit



www.aidtochurch.org/nigeria

To give over the phone, call **1800 101 201.**



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ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch Diocesan Catholic Women's League Conference, April 2023

"Manaaki Whenua - Manaaki Tangata - Haere Whakamua" (Care for the Land - Care for the People - Go Forward)

Friday 21 April saw the 87th conference of the Christchurch Diocesan Catholic Women's League (CWL) take place at the Lincoln Events Centre.

The opening Mass was held at St Patrick's Church in Leeston, and was offered by our Patron, Bishop Michael. He was joined at the altar by Fr Peter Farrant, our Diocesan Chaplain, and Fr Brian Fennessy, the Parish Priest and chaplain of the Lincoln Branch.

Bishop Michael's opening address was very well received. He reminded us that we are the women of the Mission of the Gospel. We need to pass on the Faith to our children and grandchildren by reading to them and by praying with them. He also reminded us that LOVE

is a four-letter word called TIME and TIME is a four-letter word called LOVE.

We welcomed Michelle Cogger, an ambassador from the charitable organisation "I Am Hope". Each year the Catholic Women's League of Aotearoa New Zealand (CWLANZ) chooses a worthy, non-government funded cause for its annual "At Home" appeal. Last year, donations collected from our branches around New Zealand totaled \$8,000 and were presented to Michelle at our conference.

Our guest speaker was Bernie McCarthy from Christchurch "Aunties". This is a network of over 6,000 volunteers who assist people, mainly women and their children, from all over Canterbury, who have experienced family violence, are "at risk," or who have been displaced. It is their vision that these families are safe, well supported and resourced as quickly as possible. They are not government funded, and work through and with domestic violence agencies in Canterbury. They do not interact directly with recipients. The Aunties also provide 'safelets' for women, in the first six months after leaving a violent situation. These are connected directly to the police. Many of our members displayed interest in becoming an 'auntie' by signing up on Facebook.

The AGM then took place, with the unanimous passing of the one Remit: "That CWLANZ requests Te Whatu Ora-Health NZ, fully fund palliative care for all New Zealanders."

We welcomed Aleisha Mitchell from Diabetes Youth NZ, which is our



'At Home' appeal for this year. The innovation of CGMs (Constant glucose monitors) at a cost of \$400 each, is a great device, enabling parents to check the glucose levels of their children at any time. Diabetes youth camps held during the year enable families to gather with other families in the same position, providing much needed support. CWLANZ is hopeful that we will be able to raise money over the year to assist with these programmes.

A workshop entitled 'Be Safe with Technology and Communication' proved very popular. We concluded with the Rite of Dedication for the New Diocesan Council. Inspired by our motto of 'Faith and Service' and relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we pledged to give leadership that enlivens our members. CWL encourages and welcomes other women in the Diocese to join us on our journey by becoming a full member, an associate member, or a 'Friend of CWL'. Find us on Facebook - CWL NZ, or contact any member.

Sylvia Mellish
CWL Christchurch Diocesan President

(Below) CWL Chch Diocesan Council: (L-R) Gloria Topliss, Liz Roach, Mary Slattery, Lorraine MacMillan, Carmel Tyson, Kate Gregg, Lyn Windle, Joan Lawn, Jenny Muschamp, Sylvia Mellish, Fr Peter Farrant



Who are we?

We are an international organisation of Catholic women who participate in the social, intellectual and spiritual life of the Church.

We forge lifelong friendships, grow in faith, have fun, and face the world with gratitude and love.

Journeying together, membership offers the opportunity to...

Be informed at parish, local, community, regional and national levels

Enhance personal & faith development

Enjoy friendship, prayer and spirituality

Share the wisdom of your life experience and skills

Interact with like minded women in influencing the future of the Church and society.



Catholic Scout Group Celebrates St George

On 23 April, St George's Scout Group honoured its patron saint with Mass and a day of activities.

The Catholic-sponsored scout group supported the early Sunday Mass at the Church of Christ The King, Burnside; providing greeters, readers, and an altar server. They then hosted morning tea for the congregation.

Alongside the spiritual and social/family aspects of the day, community engagement and outdoor adventure took place. Following Mass, the scouts travelled to Kowai Bush, near Springfield, visiting the local war memorial which features a sculpture of St George and the Dragon. This visit also served to commemorate Anzac Day, but two days later. The final activity was to hike into Lake Rubicon on nearby Brooksdale Station.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is another Catholic organisation with which the scout group interacts. Donated firewood allowed the Cubs and Scouts to bag up pine cones

which were then delivered to the Vinnies store at Stanmore Road in time for winter.

Other recent scouting activities include bivouac weekend, biking, Civil Defence badge, Camporee at Little River, Cub go-karting (awarded second place) and a group camp at Rimu Scout Park in Yaldhurst.

Last year, Fr Anton McLean (who as a boy earned the Queen's Scout Award), accepted the position of group patron. A visit from Bishop Michael is being planned.



St George's Scout Group comprises Cubs and Scouts and meets on Tuesdays at Christ The King Pastoral Centre, Burnside.

For more information contact Group Leader, Edmund le Grelle, 021 261 9369 stgeorges.chch@group.scouts.nz.

www.christchurchnorth.org.nz/st-georges-scouts

www.facebook.com/groups/stgeorgesscoutgroupchristchurch

(This year, the Christchurch Diocese carried out a Safeguarding review of St George's scout group, which complements the child protection policies of the Scout Association.)

UPCOMING EVENTS >>

Dio Date Night - Saturday 15th July 6.00pm

Is life getting busy? Have you been finding it hard to spend one on one time with your spouse away from the kids? Then this night is for you! Hosted at the Commodore Hotel the evening will consist of a fantastic guest speaker, delicious dinner, and an optional discounted accommodation fee for those who want to stay the night. Register >> www.jp2.org.nz/marriageenrichment

Theology of the Body for Young Adults - North Parish - September

Interested to find answers to your questions on love and sexuality? St Pope John Paul II's teachings on theology of the body provide answers to critical questions including: "What does it mean to live a life of freedom?" and "How can I tell the difference between lust and love?" Register >> www.jp2.org.nz/theologyofthebody

Race Night - Friday 1 September

Race Night is our annual fundraiser and a guaranteed fun night out. Held at the Addington Raceway, the evening consists of 10 races, a three-course meal, and great company. Come along to enjoy the fun and to support the mission of the John Paul II Centre for Life. Register >> www.jp2.org.nz/communityevents





Catholic School Chapel Wins Canterbury Architecture Award

The WSP-Designed Chapel at St Albans Catholic School was a winner in the Small Project Architecture category at the 2023 Canterbury Architecture Awards. The judges recorded the following on their award citation:

"While created as a prototype design, this small building achieves a strong and welcoming presence in its corner location on the school grounds. The dropped roof corner signals human scale, while the high timber wall indicates a formal entrance. Refined detailing, acoustics, and the play on the geometry create a quiet, soothing space for students, teachers, and clergy. The users remark at the immediate calming effect of the space on students, confirming that the architects have met their brief in creating a repeatable design the size of a classroom, but with a remarkably different spatial experience."

The various professional disciplines at WSP have designed and implemented a stunning Chapel; a Chapel that speaks of God and our intimate

relationship with God who lives in, and walks with, each one of us.

Fr Kevin Wei has committed to offering Mass in the Chapel each Friday, with the students and teachers of St Albans Catholic School. Parents of the children and our more mature parishioners are invited to this Mass. At the end of these Friday Masses, Fr Wei engages the children in a question-and-answer session on the topics they study in their religious education classes. He invites them to ask him anything they wish about his priestly ministry or the Catholic faith generally. Parents and other parishioners are invited to stay for these sessions, showing that we are never too old to experience the joy only children can bring! Fr Wei is the face and heart of Christ to these children and his work as Chaplain to St Albans



Catholic school provides the community with an authentic experience which enriches the special Catholic character of the school. Together, the sacred space of this beautiful Chapel and Fr Kevin's commitment to assisting the students of St Albans Catholic School in understanding and experiencing God's love for each of them, serve as a living testimony to our call to go in peace, glorifying the Lord by the actions of our lives.

*Mike Nolan
Manager - Catholic Education Office*



Peer to Peer ministry at Villa Maria College

Villa Maria College's chaplaincy team has been working hard to develop the next generation of young Catholic leaders in our community.

A major focus of this leadership development has taken on the form of Peer to Peer Ministry, which empowers young people to step out and share the Gospel with those around them. We joined forces with the Catholic Youth Team (CYT) and the National Evangelisation Team (NET) to form our students in peer to peer ministry.

In early February, a group of Year 11-13 students received a day of instruction. They learnt the "ins and outs" of youth ministry leadership, focusing on how to run games, give talks and testimonies, lead activities,

and facilitate small group discussions around faith and wellbeing/hauora.

Equipped with these new skills, the students worked alongside NET to run our Year 7-9 school retreats. These young leaders are now involved in preparation for school Masses, leading Young Vinnies, and other service projects within our college. We are reaching out beyond our own school. Last year's student ministry team even helped run retreat days for St Joseph's Papanui, sharing their gifts not only within our school grounds but out in the community too.

Peer to peer ministry is vital for our young people. When young leaders in our schools are living out the Gospel, they have the power to change hearts and bring their classmates closer to Jesus and the Church. The goal should be not only to have spirit filled teachers or staff, but spirit filled students who bring the love of Christ to those around them. We are very excited to see further development in our ministry.

*Phoebe Bryant
Pastoral Chaplain, Villa Maria College*

Bringing Our School History Alive

At Our Lady of the Assumption School, we wanted to interweave our own school history into the new history curriculum, so we began an oral history project.

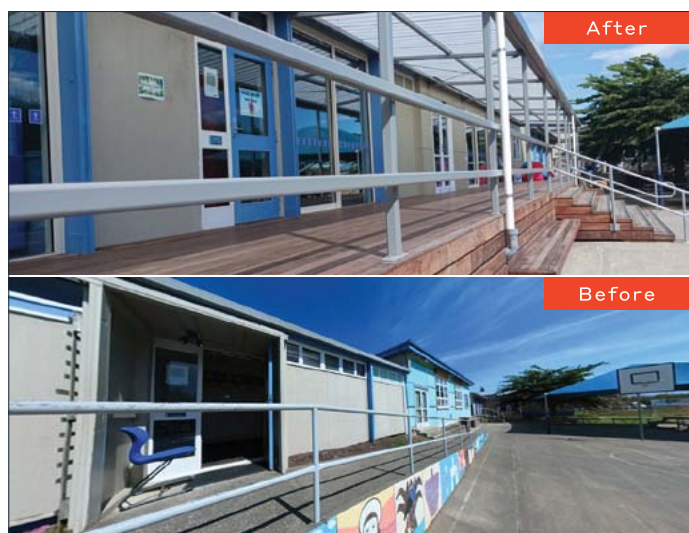
Last year, our Young Vinnies received oral history training from Lynette Shum from the Alexander Turnbull Library. In beginning this work, we were very fortunate to have access to some pupils who started on our very first day in 1951, as well as those from more recent eras. Our 2022 Young Vinnies interviewed a number of past pupils and found out some really interesting information, like our school didn't have a sick bay, so if anyone got injured, they had to leave the school grounds, cross the road and go to the house on

the corner of Sparks and Hoon Hay Roads!

So far, we have completed five oral histories. The audio and the transcripts are available for current and future students to use as first-hand sources regarding the history of the school. This is a project that we are continuing to develop each year for the benefit of our school community. How amazing it has been to tap into such a rich local resource and really bring our history alive!



David, Emilia with Angela Woolstencroft





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“You’re the Voice - Justice Day 2023”

The 5th of May is the feast day of Blessed Edmund Rice. To honour his feast day, Christchurch Diocesan colleges came together at St Thomas of Canterbury College for “You're the Voice - Justice Day 2023”.

This event was generously sponsored by the Catholic Development Fund (CDF). Its purpose was to bring our dioceses' college students together to build relationships, to consider and discuss justice issues of our time, and to begin formulating thoughts on what actions can be taken within our respective colleges to highlight social justice.

Our first guest speaker was Olivia Shimasaki. She spoke passionately

about her journey of faith and experience of growing up volunteering, which ultimately led to her current role as Vinnies Youth and Young Adults' Development Officer. Thereafter, attendees were divided into small groups facilitated by youth leaders who were St Thomas of Canterbury College alumni and young adults from the Christchurch West parish.

After joining back together we heard from our second guest speaker,

activist/advocate and lawyer, Moana Cole. Moana shared her journey towards Catholicism and her connections with the Catholic Worker and Plowshares movements. On 1 January 1991, she was part of a group who attacked Griffiths Air Force Base near New York as an anti-war protest. As a result, Moana spent a year in a USA jail.

At the end of the afternoon, students were asked to meet back in college groups to start coming up with charity and/or advocacy activities that could be seeded within their respective colleges. Each college reported back to the main group and we look forward to catching up with them later in the year to see how these ideas were brought to fruition.

The success of the day was actually bringing colleges together to build relationships and to celebrate our Catholic Special Character. As Pope Francis says in his encyclical “Fratelli Tutti” - with fraternity and social friendship we can build a better, more just and peaceful world.

<https://youtube/DldAusAQU4U>

Anna Kelly and Stephen Kennedy



St Bede's College Chapel



Te Raekura Redcliffs School



Spark Square



Paragon Apartments



Ballantynes Redevelopment



Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement

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Our Lady of the Missions Keep Kura Connections

One of Catholic Cathedral College's Founding Orders is the Sisters of our Lady of the Missions (RNDM). We still hold a strong connection to the Sisters.

Every year, they run a retreat in Waikanae for female student leaders from Sacred Heart schools and colleges throughout the country. This year, our two Special Character Leaders, Larcel and Ferlyn, attended the retreat, along with staff members from our Religious education Department.

Special Character Leader, Ferlyn, observed that "Visiting and taking part in the RNDM retreat was an experience I will never forget. I learned much about RNDM founder, Euphrasie Barbier. One part I particularly loved

about the retreat was that it not only allowed me to connect with people from other New Zealand schools, but also with my teachers and Larcel who accompanied me."

Whilst there, the students also managed to squeeze in a visit to the beautiful St Mary of the Angels church in central Wellington. This church is now New Zealand's National Marian shrine.

*Mathew Harris
Catholic Cathedral College*



Wā Whānau Lenten Koha (Almsgiving)



A big "thank you" to students, staff and whānau for donating kai - two meals, one dessert and Easter eggs, in our wā whānau Lenten koha. This was an important part of our almsgiving during Lent. We donated over 26 supermarket bags of kai to St Vincent de Paul. The team at St Vincent De Paul is very appreciative of our collection, as their stocks were running low. This will help them reach out to those in our city who are in need. - Myra Fidow, Director of Ministry, Marian College



World Youth Day is Imminent

Preparations are continuing for World Youth Day 2023. It is less than a month before the 34 pilgrims from this diocese depart for the experience of a lifetime.

The pilgrimage consists of 17 days touring holy sites across France, before joining in Days in the Diocese in Fatima. They then travel to Lisbon, Portugal, to join with the Pope and millions of others in the World Youth Day celebrations. The pilgrim group, which includes Bishop Michael and three priests, is grateful for the prayerful and material support of the wider diocese.

Along with all the logistical provisions, we emphasise the spiritual side of preparing for what will be both a demanding and fulfilling time. In late April, pilgrims joined in a day of retreat with the Beatitudes Community in Leithfield.

Pilgrims Heading to Europe go First on pilgrimage to Fourvière

On the Saturday closest to the feast day of Oceania's first martyr, St Peter Chanel, the Beatitudes always host a beautiful day of formation and prayer at the Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Light, in Leithfield.

On Saturday 29 April, members of the Catholic Youth Team (CYT) gathered at the Sanctuary of Fourvière in Leithfield on a pilgrimage ahead of their upcoming trip to Europe for World Youth Day and a larger pilgrimage around France. This pilgrimage will include a visit to the Sanctuary of Fourvière in Lyon. It was from Fourvière Lyon that St Peter Chanel and seven of his Marist confreres first travelled on mission with newly consecrated Bishop Jean Baptiste Pompallier to the shores of the islands of Oceania.

Fr Ben D'Souza SM gave the first of two talks. He recounted from the diary of St Peter Chanel and his letters, the beautiful disposition of the Saint as he felt the call to become a missionary, his love of Mary, and his willingness to endure considerable hardship, in communion with Jesus, as he brought

the Gospel to the people of the Pacific. Peter Chanel heard the call as a young man and his "yes" to that call is an inspiration to the youth of today, who gathered to learn about the holiness and courage of Peter Chanel.

Fr Pierre Marie of the Community of the Beatitudes then gave a talk on the spirituality of

pilgrimage. He told the young people, "You will be there at World Youth Day with many thousands of others - people from all around the world from different cultures, languages and backgrounds - some will not be Catholic, some may be there at the invitation of other young friends, but all will be seeking communion. And at the end of that special time of togetherness, prayer, praise, and adventure, the Pope himself will come! And who does the Pope represent?" asked Fr Pierre Marie. "Jesus!" the young people answered. "Yes! Jesus will come! Jesus is coming and it is in him that we find the fullness of communion in perfect love." Fr Pierre Marie then challenged the youth to pray their way to Jesus on this pilgrimage - to look to the word of God to illuminate the path and to be the light of the Gospel to the others whom they meet along the road.

Such is the spirituality of pilgrimage. To take time away from the ordinary and to deliberately head off on a journey with Jesus as the Way - to seek communion with others and with God as we head towards Him and the communion of Heaven - and to be encouraged here in the journey of our lives, accepting to be a missionary presence - sons and daughters of a new evangelisation and to be bearers of the light in this darkened world.





Pilgrims gather outside Fale



Fourvière director Michael Loretz and Apostolate Coordinator Thomas Peacock also addressed the young people, speaking of the great missionary fervour which sprang out of Fourvière Lyon in the 19th Century, and letting the young people know some special things to look for related to Peter Chanel, Suzanne Aubert, and other missionaries while they are in Europe.

A beautiful outdoor Mass was then offered under the marquee at the Shrine of Mary, Mother of the Light. A small group of Pilgrims from New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna, also present at the feast, led singing in the Wallisian language as the procession headed towards the newly built "Fale of St Peter Chanel" at the Sanctuary's Mission Heritage Trail - a new installation which is nearing completion. Once finished, the Fale will be the home of a stunning icon of St Peter Chanel and some first-class relics of the Saint. Following Mass, a festive lunch was shared and the



afternoon was filled with Polynesian music and dancing.

This pilgrimage was just a small step in a larger pilgrimage for these young people. Many expressed gratitude

that it really boosted them in their preparations for their big adventure. But the same is true for all of us. Taking even a small time for a small pilgrimage away from the routines of life and moving deliberately towards communion with Jesus is a huge boost for the great adventure of our lives, as we head towards our heavenly home.

If your heart is moving you towards going on a pilgrimage, a simple visit to a Marian Shrine, a time of prayerful retreat, or a move towards spiritual accompaniment, are all ways that can revitalise your spiritual life and encourage us in the gifts of the Holy Spirit to take up the call of Jesus to spread the good news and be missionaries within our families and communities.

To book your next retreat at the Beatitudes, please send an email to the Beatitudes at retreats@fourviere.nz or visit our website beatitudes.nz.



FIREPOWER Youth Night

Early May saw the return of a Firepower Youth Night, as 50 young people from throughout the diocese gathered in the hall of Catholic Cathedral College.

After a challenging few years for events, this was the first Firepower held since 2019. The theme of the night was "Made for more," based on Christ's words in John 10:10 "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Over the course of the night, Conor Entwistle offered a reflection on this theme. He encouraged us to consider the things we desire and to which we cling and instead, to turn our eyes to the cross.

The night also featured a drama from Youth For Christ (YFC) Ashburton, as well as an inspiring testimony from Kaiya Lysaght. In what is always a highlight of these events, the pinnacle of the evening was a time of adoration and worship with reconciliation available and in constant demand.

Catholic Youth Team (CYT) Events Coordinator Cyrene Tionko was delighted with the night and is already looking forward to the next one.

A new kāika, home for St Anne's senior students



Dallas Wichman, Principal, delighted with the modular construction design of the new classrooms, now home to 50 senior students.

In the heart of Woolston is a great wee school teeming with special character and full to the brim with 180 students. Founded by the Mission Sisters in 1906, St Anne's Catholic School stands proudly as an example of Catholic education where Christ and Gospel values are at the center of school life.

In 2022 a new classroom block was required to meet pressure due to student roll growth (55% growth from 2017-2022). The project's financing was completed via a [Catholic Development Fund](#) (CDF) loan, with design and management undertaken

in partnership between WSP and the Catholic Education Office.

St Anne's Principal, Dallas Wichman, is grateful for this work: "We are excited to embrace a modern learning environment here at St Anne's and

are delighted with the modular construction design. The building provides two interlinked teaching spaces with separate quiet and breakout rooms, modern kitchenette and toilet facilities. A covered deck along the front steps gives shade and

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Two interlinked teaching spaces include separate quiet and breakout rooms, a modern kitchenette and toilet facilities.



protection. It also makes for quick access to our school's playing field.

The local contractors were very familiar with the sustainable building techniques used and were great to have on site. The new buildings have a localised theme to them, with images of the Port Hills portrayed throughout and the original Ngāti Wheke name used boldly on the inside - 'Kā Kōhatu

Whakarakaraka o Tamatea Pōkai Whenua', also celebrating St Anne's bilingual education offering.

Feedback from teachers and pupils is that these classrooms will provide a wonderful learning environment. We were delighted to move fifty senior students into their new space in May 2023."

Liza Sparrow



The CDF exists to help the Church achieve its mission by providing for activities to help strengthen community.

Interest-earning investment and savings accounts, 100% guaranteed by the Bishop of Christchurch, offer a socially responsible investment opportunity to lay, school, and business investors.

The surplus generated is available for the Bishop to help those in education and need of care and support. Upon application, Catholic schools and organisations throughout New Zealand can borrow for their own projects' needs.

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cdf.org.nz

Casting out the NET into the Diocesan Deep

NET
AUS & NZ

As Inform readers will know, this year the Diocese of Christchurch welcomed a NET Ministries team to minister to young people in our parishes, schools, and other communities.

After arriving in mid February, they hit the ground running, covering an impressive amount of the diocese.

So far, they have offered 60 days of ministry to approximately 1,500 young people. As well as the important ministry in schools, they also helped launch the new Youth Group in the Holy Family Parish, Timaru, and served at camps in the Christchurch North and West parishes.

Embracing the spirit of hospitality, April saw NET open their own house to host a very popular Young Adults barbecue.

The team is being well received wherever they are ministering. Villa Maria College chaplain Phoebe Bryant remarked that "It's been a real blessing to also bring in the NET team and have their presence in our school. Their witness as young Catholics who are actively living out their faith is radical and beautiful."

“ Their witness as young Catholics who are actively living out their faith is radical and beautiful. ”



Inform

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