First new parish church under construction
Page 3
Maryfest
Pages 6-7

Reflections in a Monastery garden
Page 10
Papanui Mission Team visits the Philippines
Page 15

A glance at the Carmel Monastery garden

Silverseye on Howhai

“And the kowhai, with its drooping cups of gold...”
From the Diocesan Administrator

Dear brothers and sisters

The Easter Season and the great feasts of pentecost, The Most Holy Trinity and the Body and Blood of Christ have been celebrated. I hope that you experienced something of the depth and life of the Holy Spirit.

Autumn has come to an end and winter is upon us. Just as the Holy Spirit, in the appearance of a dove, settled on Jesus after his Baptism and drove him out into the desert, so we too in this season of winter are called to enter the desert. Winter is the season when plants die so as to come to birth again in spring. We might call Ordinary Time a season of dying to ourselves and living for Christ, in fact a season of waiting while the ground lies fallow prepared for new growth.

The whole diocese is waiting, waiting for our new bishop. We can wait well or badly for the action of the Lord. We can patiently trust the Lord, knowing that all the vagaries of life can be used for good in the Lord’s loving providence. Or, we can gripe and worry and be fearful in a time of waiting. As we wait for a bishop, I am impressed with the patient waiting of so many of you.

I encourage you to make the best of this waiting time. Pray for the appointment of our new bishop. Pray that whatever the human reasons for the delay — and I gather this delay is not unusual — the Lord will help us to die more deeply to ourselves and to live more completely in His love.

Thank you to all who have taken part in the Diocesan Spiritual Renewal Programme and for your valuable feedback. We are currently reviewing the feedback and considering the possibility of a follow-up programme.

As you will see in an article in this edition of INFORM, the strengthening and renewal of parish churches continues with pleasing progress, both behind the scenes and with some good fundraising results. The situation for the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament and the proposal we will make to the new bishop to restore the Cathedral awaits his appointment. We have continued to work in the background on this proposal and to prepare for fundraising for the restoration of the Cathedral, should the bishop decide to take up this option.

I also intend to propose to the bishop that he consider canvassing the diocese about restoring the Cathedral before he makes his decision.

May the Lord bless you and strengthen you and help you to wait well, not just for the appointment of our bishop, but in all the ways you have to trust Him at this time.

Fr Rick Loughnan
Administrator
Christchurch Diocese

Your Invitation to Priestly Ordinations

The diocese of Christchurch is joyfully preparing for the ordination of deacons Graeme Blackburn, Alister Castillo and Huynh Tran to the priesthood. This Mass will be offered at St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral, Manchester Street on Saturday 1 July 2017 at 11.00am. Refreshments will follow at St Teresa’s Parish Hall, Puriri Street, Riccarton. All are welcome.

Cardinal Dew, Huynh Tran, Graeme Blackburn, Alister Castillo.
The Diocesan Property Team is excited to announce that construction has recently begun on the first completely new church since the Canterbury earthquakes. The foundations for St Mary’s church in New Brighton are currently being laid to support the new 175 seat church. The newly built church will be sited on the same ground as its predecessor and will retain a close connection with the existing parish centre. The parish centre survived the earthquakes with little or no damage so that the new church has actually been designed to complement it.

The church structure consists of a steel portal frame, concrete wall panel construction, lightweight roof and structural raft slab foundation. Proposed materials and colours will help create a beautiful and exciting sacred space for worship and prayer in the celebration of the liturgy and the sacraments. Features of the church include timber ceiling panelling, with stained glass windows and feature lighting providing an ambient internal environment. The shape and build elements of the new church focus on the altar and tabernacle.

St Mary’s church is also seeking Green Star accreditation through the New Zealand Green Building Council. It will be the first green star rated church in New Zealand and we believe it may actually be the first environmentally rated church globally. Environmental features of the church include: the use of environmentally friendly materials, energy efficient heating and ventilation systems, a zero waste approach once the church is open, and the re-use of many features such as the altar, pews and the parish centre itself.

The new St Mary’s church New Brighton is expected to be completed and open prior to Christmas.

Shaun Mitchell
Project Manager — Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Tindall Foundation Grant

The Catholic Diocese of Christchurch has again received a grant to distribute from the Tindall Foundation. The Diocesan Welfare Council is overseeing the distribution of the funds.

If you are part of a group in the diocese that supports the welfare of others, you are invited to request an application pack to apply for funding support.

You can request an application pack from the diocesan website: https://chccatholic.nz/parishes/resources-for-parishes/ or call Matt on 366 9869.
Proactive About Safeguarding

For some time, a small team has been working on the area of “safeguarding”. Safeguarding seeks to ensure a safe environment and organisation for children and vulnerable people in our diocese.

Our clergy spent a day and a half during May on safeguarding. Bill Kilgallon of the National Office of Professional Standards presented on the global context and the current practice. He then explored the way forward for us as a diocese. Jane Zintl, (who has provided training in this area for many years to the Anglican Diocese and other denominations), presented on ethics and professional boundaries.

The National Office for Professional Standards recommended that each diocese take the step of appointing a safeguarding co-ordinator. In May, our diocese took this step, appointing Virginia Noonan as our safeguarding co-ordinator. She has an extensive background in law and a long involvement in Catholic education. Ms Noonan reports directly to the Bishop’s Pastoral Office director, Mike Stopforth and will work with the bishop directly as needed.

The role of the safeguarding co-ordinator is to assist the bishop in ensuring that safeguarding guidelines (recently approved by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference and heads of religious orders for the prevention of and response to sexual abuse in the Catholic Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand) are implemented in the diocese. These guidelines are based on material from the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

The safeguarding role has a number of functions. It will ensure individuals disclosing abuse in the Church have their complaints promptly forwarded to the National Office of Professional Standards. As part of her role, Ms Noonan will develop policy and guidelines and provide training in parishes for those with children, young people and vulnerable adults.

“The safeguarding role will support the bishop in his task of ensuring we have a safe environment and organisation for children and vulnerable people.” said Mr Stopforth. “It is important to note that while our diocese already has a number of processes and procedures in place in terms of safeguarding, we want to raise the standard even further. As a diocese, we will draw on the wealth of material from other places; the National Office of Professional Standards and other dioceses in New Zealand and overseas who are already well down the path in this area.” Mr Stopforth said.

A Significant Anniversary

Late in February 1867, a small item appeared in the Lyttelton Times, the only newspaper in Christchurch at that time, announcing the intention to form a branch of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Christchurch. Thus, only 34 years after the organisation was founded in Paris in 1833, it arrived in New Zealand and has continued to this day. Within a couple of months, money was starting to come in from public lectures (the first was on the life and times of St Philip Neri) and from regular concerts, and help of the needy did start. Fr Chataigner, whose idea it was to establish the organisation in New Zealand, was later transferred to Timaru and the organisation faltered a little. A women’s group continued to operate in Christchurch and the men’s group still visited those in need, but was not holding regular meetings. When Bishop Grimes arrived in 1887 he revitalised the organisation and it continued to grow, spreading throughout New Zealand.

To mark the Society of St Vincent de Paul’s 150th anniversary, the Society’s national annual general meeting will this year be held in Christchurch from October 13 to 15.

Taken from Archivally Speaking No. 12 — March 2017.

An occasional newsletter for those interested in the history of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch.
The Ablaze Conference being held over two days on Friday 10 and Saturday 11 November is filled with excellent speakers, liturgies and a wide range of workshops. The conference is an opportunity for our parish leaders to be encouraged and inspired and given tools to help in parish and school communities.

Both Popes Francis and St John Paul II outlined three main areas of evangelisation. They are:
- To inflame the hearts of those who already come so that they will continue to grow.
- Learn how to reach out to those in the community who have left.
- Learn how to reach out to those who have never come.

If we truly want to reach out and proclaim the Gospel, we must first start with those who already come. We help them continue to encounter Jesus and be formed as disciples. The deeper people are able to encounter Jesus and fall in love with Him, the more they are going to want to share this ‘treasure’ with others.

The conference will provide priests and parish leadership with the tools and resources to teach, equip and lead their parishioners to engage in the mission of the Catholic Church. The approach will be very practical so those attending can immediately take what they have learnt and apply it in their own parish. Our hope is that all parishes in the diocese will be represented at Ablaze.

The venue for the event is St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral, Manchester Street and City Church (across the road from St Mary’s). Keynote speakers include Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, who will speak on the role of the parish in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus to all. Danial Ang (Director of Evangelisation, Broken Bay Diocese) will speak on the Foundations of an Evangelising Parish: challenges, opportunities and strategies. Jan Heath (founder of Evangelisation Resources Down Under, Brisbane and promoter of the Catholics Returning Home programme) will speak on how parishes can help people come to (and come home to) the Catholic Faith. She will share her story and how to inspire and train your parishioners for this apostolate.

Mike Stopforth is co-ordinator of Ablaze. “We want to create an environment where people can learn and be inspired, build connections and share ideas to grow our parish communities,” said Mr Stopforth.

The Conference is being co-ordinated by the Bishop’s Pastoral Office. For more information, contact the Pastoral Office on 03-366 9869 or email pastoral@chch.catholic.org.nz

Further information can be found at www.chchcatholic.nz/ablaze
The movement to heal the 500 years of separation between Lutherans and Roman Catholics took a step closer in New Zealand in early June.

On Sunday 4 June, Lutheran Bishop Mark Whitfield and Cardinal John Dew opened a formal dialogue for the two Christian traditions with a combined ecumenical service in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Wellington to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Year of Reformation. This is a significant milestone for our Roman Catholic and Lutheran communities, signaling a commitment to ongoing dialogue.

Cardinal Dew commented that “this year, as we mark this anniversary and remember through prayer with our sisters and brothers of the Lutheran Church, it is a pleasure to announce on behalf of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference that we have initiated a formal dialogue with the Lutherans.” 

"Over several years we have had dialogues with the Anglicans, Presbyterians and Methodists. Those bi-lateral dialogues are now extended as we officially start working, praying and discussing with the Lutherans as we continue to work towards Christian Unity."

Bishop Mark Whitfield’s comments echoed those of the Cardinal.

"I am delighted that we have opportunity in this Reformation Commemoration Year to celebrate our common baptism into Christ and to worship together. I also look forward to Roman Catholics and Lutherans working together to seek avenues of practical pastoral co-operation and support, and to explore joint worship and ecumenical hospitality for the sake of strengthening a joint witness to the Gospel in Aotearoa-New Zealand."

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference has recently appointed Fr Tom Rouse of the St Columban Mission Society to join Fr James Lyons, parish priest at Sacred Heart Cathedral on the Catholic-Lutheran Dialogue commission. The Lutheran Church of New Zealand representatives on the Dialogue will be Pastor Jim Pietsch and Dr Petrus Simons.

We live in an age of uncertainty. This is evident even to our daily newspaper. The causes of that uncertainty, as the paper sees it, are political instability, national and international crises, terrorism and various forms of corruption in public life.

The real crisis of our times however is a deeply spiritual one. Even in our quiet and sheltered corner of the world, people seem to have lost their way; they no longer really know what it means to be human. Things we would once have thought to be immoral are given a hearing, even when they are demonstrably wrong, even when they subvert marriage and family life. The truth about who we are and the truth about our destiny as God’s creatures is simply being rejected.

Why has this happened? Because we reject God and his truth about our world and his law and his love for us. Of course there has always been human sin and error but has it ever been on such a scale? Never has there been a world that is so bereft of religion, a world that is largely organised as if God did not exist and as if he does not have a plan for us his creatures.

So we gather here today, thanks to the Sons of the Redeemer, to ask the intercession of the Mother of God for our country, for our world, for ourselves, our Church, our families who face the difficulty of living in a country where
life is organised without religious faith.

Just 100 years ago, also in a difficult
time, during the Great War, Our Lady
appeared at Fatima in Portugal to three
little children, Jacinta, Lucy and Francis
who lived in the country and looked
after sheep. To those little ones Mary
gave a message that was a call to turn
again to God and his law and his love; it
was also a message of encouragement,
a message that is even more relevant for
our lives today when the situation of the
world is confused and the spirit of the
secular, unbelieving world has infiltrated
the Church. So we her members need
divine help to grasp again the truth of
God who became man and the truth of
his will for his Church and for our
families.

The message of Fatima is first one of
repentance. It echoes the words of the
Old Testament prophet Jonah: “All are
to call on God with all their might and
let everyone renounce evil behaviour
and the wicked things they have done.” (Jonah 3,8) It is not enough to be nice,
it is not enough to be a ‘good guy’. God’s
message, given through Mary at Fatima
is a call to a righteous life, a life lived in
the state of grace and in observance of
God’s law. Have we not in the Church
misinterpreted the teaching of Vatican
II as a permission to live an easy going
spiritual life? Increasingly have we not
given way to the standards of the world
that does not know God or what God
requires of us his people?

At Fatima Mary asked for sincere
repentance and reparation for our sins;
she did not ask for exaggerated austerity
or extreme penances. She called for
observance of God’s law as it is given
to us in the Scriptures, in the Tradition
and the teaching of the Church. That
means living as a faithful member of
the Church taking part wholeheartedly
in Sunday Mass and the sacraments;
It means living as a good husband and
wife, as a good mother and father,
as a good daughter, a good son, as a
good religious, as a good parish priest.
Mary was calling us to live faithfully
according to our state in life. That can be
demanding, even in today’s world it can
be heroic.

The second thing Mary insisted on
at Fatima was prayer, personal prayer
and especially the prayer of the Rosary.
How many homes keep up the family
rosary? The anniversary of Our Lady’s
apparitions at Fatima is also a time
to improve our meditation on the
mysteries of the Rosary as we say the
decades. The Catechism calls the Rosary
“this special devotion.” Is it so in our
life? Mary asked that we keep saying it
every day. Do we still use the Rosary in
the public devotions of the Church, for
instance in the vigil service at a funeral?
It has been well said that if we find the
Rosary monotonous, that is because we
lack love enough to keep Mary company
for 15 minutes.

May the beautiful occasion of this
Procession on the anniversary of her
apparition at Fatima bring home to
us that Mary is the perfect image of
what God wants us to be. If you are of
my generation you will remember the
traditional Latin Hymn., “Ave maris
stella: Hail thou Star of Ocean”. It calls
Mary “a gateway of grace”, a guardian
whose prayers in a vivid and real way
accompany the Church and the life of
each of us in the time of our pilgrimage
here on earth. In these difficult days
for believers may we be heartened by
words of a Russian theologian who
said: “High in heavenly glory stands the
Virgin Mother of the human race; she
has sanctified the whole world of nature
and in and through her, all things shall
be gloriously transfigured.” (Sergius
Bulgakov)

The Syro-Malabar Community
Celebrating Holy Week

The Syro-Malabar community in
Christchurch celebrated Holy Week
in the Syro-Malabar rite. Monsignor
Francis Kolencherry from the eparchy
of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne,
arrived in Christchurch on 7 April to
help us plan the liturgy for Holy Week
and was the main celebrant for the Holy
Week Masses. We celebrated the Palm
Sunday Mass, Good Friday liturgy and
the Easter Mass at St Peter’s Church,
Beckenham. The Maundy Thursday
Mass was celebrated at Sts Peter and
Paul Church, Halswell. The Easter Mass
was celebrated at 11.30pm on Holy
Saturday. After the Mass, the Easter
cake was distributed to the people.

Readers of Inform may not know of the
Syro-Malabar Church. It is an Apostolic
Church which traces its origin to St
Thomas, the Apostle, who landed at
Cranganore (Muziris) in 52 AD and
founded seven Christian communities
in Kerala, at Palayur, Cranganore,
Kokkamangalam, Kottakavu (Parur),
Quilon, Niranam and Chayal. St Thomas
was martyred in A.D. 72 at Mylapore,
near Chennai/Madras. The early
Christian community in India were
known as the St Thomas Christians.
They were also called Nazranis, meaning
those who follow the path of Jesus of
Nazareth.

The Syro-Malabar Catholic Church is
one of the 22 Eastern (Oriental) Catholic
Churches in full communion with Rome.
It is the second largest Eastern Catholic
Church after the Ukrainian Church
and the largest of the Saint Thomas
Christian (Nazranı) denominations
with 4.6 million believers. It is an
independent Church governed by the
Synod of Bishops headed by the Major
Archbishop.

The major Archbishop of the Syro-
Malabar Church is Mar George Cardinal
Alencherry. USA and Australia are the
two eparchies for the Syro-Malabar
Church outside India.

Vineet Chirackal
Do you know someone who has left the Church? Every year we lament the fact that some people walk away from the Church. How do we try and encourage them back?

While this is a complex problem, there is one time of the year when many people who are disengaged from their faith willingly walk through the door of a Catholic Church; a Christmas Mass. Up to one quarter of Catholics only attend Mass at Christmas and Easter. While it varies from parish to parish, the number who attend a Christmas Mass can be 2-3 times the number attending Sunday Mass. We know that many more people attend Mass at Christmas in our diocese.

A program exists to help parishes engage the ‘lost sheep’. The Dynamic Catholic Book Program has been changing lives since it was started in 2002. The concept is simple; give out a life-changing book to every family that comes to a Christmas Mass. More information can be found here [http://dynamiccatholic.com/book-program/]

Some people will ask whether giving out a Catholic book could really change lives? A number of parishes in our diocese have tried it and the results have been positive. One person was baptised after reading the book, another person who had not been to Mass in decades returned and now attends daily.

Here are three thoughts from Dynamic Catholic Book readers:

“From someone who thought that they would read the book just because it was there to someone now who is truly awakened spiritually and enlightened.”

“A life changing book. My husband said he wants to read this book after me because he could see a change in me.”

“I’m not one for reading books but this one has helped me a lot in understanding what my faith is about and encouraging me to be proud of my faith.”

There are now plans to carry out this program on a much wider scale in our diocese. We would like to give a copy of the book “Rediscover Jesus” by Matthew Kelly to every single family who attends Mass in the Christchurch diocese this Christmas. The cost of each book works out at about $3.90 after the exchange rate and shipping. Some people will say that is a lot of money if a book is to be given to so many Christmas Mass attendees, but how much is one lost soul worth? It is our hope that this program will transform hundreds of lives. This project should not be a financial burden on parishes; it can actually generate money and increase the weekly Mass count.

A team is working on this project, led by Michael Hempseed from Our Lady of Victories, Sockburn. We are approaching parishes to see if they would like to support the program. We would also like all members of the diocese to support this initiative through prayer and by donation.

Many parents and grandparents have been praying for years that their children and grandchildren will return to the faith. If this is you, you might consider making a donation as this project could be a turning point in the lives of your loved ones.

All donations would be gratefully received and will go into a diocesan bank account. This project is supported by Fr Rick Loughnan, Diocesan Administrator.

For more, contact Michael Hempseed michael@ess.org.nz, cell: 0223110608.

**Historic Pay Equity Agreement**

St John of God Halswell recently welcomed the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Paula Bennett to meet care-givers affected by the historic support worker pay equity settlement agreement.

The settlement, announced by the Ministry of Health on 18 April, was made in recognition of pay inequity experienced by the predominantly female workforce in New Zealand’s aged and disability residential care and home and community support services.

Steve Berry, St John of God Hauora Trust CEO said “St John of God Hauora Trust welcomes the news that will bring increased recognition of the hard work and dedication of workers in the sector. We await the full details of this legislation and look forward to implementing it in coming months.”

Cindy, a support worker at St John of God Halswell said “When I heard the announcement on radio, I nearly got quite emotional. Not because of the money but because of the recognition of the work.”

St John of God Hauora Trust employs a large team of Support Workers across its Health and Ability Services division in Christchurch and Wellington.

George Anderson
National Manager Fundraising and Marketing

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**Come and enjoy social interaction with other seniors...**

**Mondays**
- 9.00 am: Games
- 10.00 am: Morning Tea
- 12.00 noon: Lunch / Socialise
- 1.00 pm: Exercises
- 1.30 pm: Movie Time

**Thursdays**
- 9.00 am: Games
- 9.30 am: Mass
- 10.30 am: Games / Crafts
- 12.00 noon: Lunch / Socialise
- 12.30 pm: House
- 2.15 pm: Afternoon Tea

**MARY POTTER COMMUNITY CENTRE**

442 Durham Street North, St Alabans, Christchurch

Telephone: 372 9224 Website: www.lcm.org.au Email: activities@lcm.org.au
**A Lay Religious Order For Christchurch**

In a chance chat last year I learned of the intention to establish a branch of the Order of Malta in the Diocese of Christchurch. As the conversation continued I was asked to help with the formation of the Christchurch postulants as they began their preparation for membership in the Order. I am always enthusiastic about the opportunity to help with the faith formation of adults and therefore willingly accepted the invitation.

The full name of this 1000-year-old lay Catholic Religious Order is a mouthful: “The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta”, but the charism of the Order is clear, essential and urgent: “defence of the Catholic faith and charity to the poor.”

After Pope Francis’ recent encouragement to the Order one international leader reflected: “The Order is not about aristocrats, nobles, rich people. The order is different today. The Order is about nobility of the heart. About humility, about works, about youth, about being with the Church, as an instrument of peace.”

A March retreat in Auckland gave the opportunity for the Christchurch postulants to meet with our Christchurch seminarians (pictured) at Holy Cross Seminary. A strong bond of faith and friendship developed and the postulants hosted the seminarians for dinner during their Easter break in Christchurch. Other highlights of the formation process have included a time of reflection with the Carmelite sisters and regular formation sessions.

Later in June our local postulants Belfiore Bologna, Bevan Killlck, Rob Farrell and Abina Pope will be invested in the Order in a Brisbane ceremony and the following week they will be present at the July 1 priestly ordinations of our three deacons.

If you would like more information about the local presence of the Order of Malta please contact local co-ordinator: smomchchnz@gmail.com.

Fr. John O’Connor

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**The Holy Spirit Is At Work Here!**

People comment on the positive and welcoming ‘vibe’ around the John Paul II Centre for Life. Through our Pregnancy Centre, we advocate for and provide practical assistance to women facing unplanned or crisis pregnancies. We offer an unbiased, non-judgemental listening ear to anyone dealing with the grief of baby loss.

We are also excited that other pro-life organisations are basing themselves and their ministries at the Centre. We are seeing new opportunities through sharing, co-operation and collaboration. These organisations through their individual missions also share our common goal to build a culture of life, marriage and family in the Christchurch Diocese, and complement our ministries of prayer, education and practical service.

One group who has a newly established base at the Centre is the Loving for Life team, headed by April Williams. They support parents and educators with age-appropriate Christian educational programmes and resources about the physical and psychological, emotional and spiritual changes of adolescence. These facilitated programmes explore with young people the values required for positive Christian relationships within the context of important contemporary topics. Examples of topics include the importance of family, healthy dating, the impact of media, friendships and choices, the gift of fertility and foetal development. This is wonderful! All thanks be to God!

*Margaret Chang  
Director, John Paul II Centre for Life*
Religious

Reflections in a Monastery Garden

This book goes back a long way — to a little girl lying in the long grass on a summer’s day studying a periwinkle and filled with a child’s wonder at the perfection of the little blue flower plucked from a nearby ditch. I remember it well. Too young to put the experience into words, I felt a oneness with the beauty of it all: the blue of the sky, the blue of the periwinkle, the soft grass, all enfolded in a gentle stillness. And the wonder of a small child that has no need of words, that is content to be part of something beyond words.

On Sunday afternoons my mother often took my sister and me for a walk in the botanic gardens. We always visited the sundial — it was quite a ritual — and there on the rockery among the flowers was a plaque with a verse engraved on it which we recited together:

“The kiss of the sun for pardon, The song of the birds for mirth. One is nearer God’s heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth.” — from ‘God’s Garden’ by Dorothy Frances Gurney.

Some years later I entered Carmel and learnt that in Old Testament times the word “Carmel” meant a place of beauty. And so my sense of wonder at the beauty of God’s creation blended with my life of prayer and praise.

We have an extensive garden, with a few formal beds but most of it consists of flowering shrubs and perennials set against a backdrop of tall trees with descriptive names: red oak, liquid amber, golden elm. These paintings, done over several years, are meant to be a record of this beauty at this particular time in the history of our monastery and were destined for a place in our archives. The scenes, such as the fantail on the prunus autumnalis, or the silvereye standing on the Japanese iris to sip nectar, were of a moment’s duration and were painted from memory shortly afterwards.

Kind friends who have seen this book have persuaded me to share it with others beyond our walls, that they too may experience something of the peace that comes with contemplating the works of the Creator.

Sister Teresa Kelleher OCD
Easter 2016

To order your copy of Reflections in a Monastery Garden, write to: Carmel Barry Gadsby, PO Box 21027, Edgeware 8143, Christchurch. Tel: 03-366-5175, or email barry.gadsby@xtra.co.nz Cost: $45.00
Religious

Aranui Sisters of Mercy — Farewelled

The Aranui Sisters of Mercy were farewelled by a gathering of parishioners from the Catholic Parish of Christchurch East (formerly St James Aranui and St Mary’s New Brighton) on 27 May.

Sr Pauline O’Regan, Sr Helen Goggin and Sr Marie McCrea have been part of the group of Sisters of Mercy who moved out into the suburbs of Aranui, Burwood and Parklands in the 1970s to work among the People of God. The other three Sisters who formed their community were Sr Teresa O’Connor, Sr Monica Stack and Sr Colleen McBride (all of whom have died).

The “gifts” the Sisters brought to the many families and people they met were immense. The empowerment of women and the compassion and sheer dedication to the Gospel were hallmarks of their commitment. Many people have paid personal tributes to the presence of the Sisters among them.

Pauline, Helen and Marie are now leaving the “east” of Christchurch to take up residence at Essie Summers Retirement Village in Beckenham. No doubt they will continue their “mission” as disciples of Jesus in this place too!

Thank you to the Aranui Sisters of Mercy for all you have been and done for us in north east Christchurch. God bless you all as you continue on your journey.

Sr Mary Wood RSM

In Him I Trust

This is the motto of Sr Susan Ashby RSM, who was first professed in 1950 and who died on 9 May. Her Requiem Mass took place at Our Lady of Victories, Sockburn on 13 May, the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. We take some thoughts offered in a tribute to Sr Susan to a full church at a Mass celebrated by Diocesan Administrator, Fr Rick Loughman.

Liz Campbell is one of the 22 nieces and nephews of Sister Susan. “After several years of working, Sue realised that she was being called to a religious vocation. In 1947 she entered the novitiate in Timaru and was professed as a Sister of Mercy on 4 January 1950. Her brothers and sisters were very proud of the 3 little ones as Brian was ordained a priest 3 days earlier in Rome and Nora was professed as a Good Shepherd sister later that year in August.

In 1968 Sue undertook a major career change and went to England to study. Uncle Brian (Bishop Ashby) gave her some of his sage advice when she left, ‘Don’t let your studies get in the way of your education,’ and as he was the Bishop she did as she was told.’

Sr Mary Catherwood rsm shared the tribute with Liz Campbell and did so on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy. Sr Mary recalls that, on Sr Susan’s return from her studies, “She worked enthusiastically as part of a Diocesan Team assisting adults who accepted the responsibility for the faith education of young people. She was supportive and confident as she encouraged faith development, personal relationship with God and sound understandings for all. It was a ministry on the move as Sue travelled around Canterbury from Christchurch to Twizel and then later on the West Coast from Totara Flat in the north down to the Haast. Sue loved meeting parents and their children and was a welcome overnight guest in many country homes.”

“In an account she wrote, she commented on the loneliness of the country road, but also on the beauty of the mountains and lakes, forests and farmlands in their varying moods. Being in the midst of beauty was the impetus for her to pray and sing out loud, sensing the closeness of God. Later in Hokitika, she coordinated our Mercy community and was involved in various parish ministries there.”

“In Dallington, when she was retiring after 14 years as a loved pastoral assistant, Fr Miles O’Malley said of her, ‘She is always gracious ..., and all who come to know her in time of sorrow and joy know how helpful and caring she is’. He continued, ‘For me, she always listened... gave her wise advice ... and was loyal.’

We return to the words of Liz Campbell, concluding her tribute to her aunt: “Rest in peace dear Sue. You have earned your place in heaven and you have left us, your family and friends, with the most cherished memories of an incredible lady who lived the values of her faith to benefit all those who were part of her life.”
Recalling The Year Of Mercy

It was the intention of Pope Francis that in the year, people realise that their failures and sins are no obstacle to the love and mercy of God. It is easy for every one of us to slip into routines and patterns of thinking and of behaviour that are less than the fullness of life for which we were created. Without a doubt our lives are happier and healthier when we know that we are living with and for God. Confession of our sins is an opportunity to deepen friendship with Jesus Christ.

When Confession is mentioned, a common response is “But it’s years since I have been to Confession... I don’t know what to say”. This is no problem at all. The simple process is, well... just do it! Spend a few minutes asking the Holy Spirit to reveal your sin to you. You will probably be surprised at what then comes to mind... and maybe even more surprised at what does not surface. Then get yourself to a church at one of the times advertised.

Enter the confessional and tell the priest that you have got no idea what to say, but you felt that it was right that you go to confession. The priest will guide you the rest of the way. Use this as a chance to say everything you need to say and you will be filled with God’s grace and mercy. Even if you cannot remember an Act of Contrition the priest will guide you through this too.

After Confession, you will be asked to make an act of contrition.

**Act of Contrition:** My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

In Christ,
Fr John O’Connor
Parish Priest, Parish of the Good Shepherd Hurunui

Arrupe New Zealand

**Forming Spiritual Directors in the Ignatian Tradition**

A new course forming Spiritual Directors in the Ignatian Tradition began recently in New Zealand. Previously this formation was only available offshore.

Te Wairua Mahi (The Working Spirit) is thoroughly grounded in New Zealand — its land; its people; its spirituality. The course material offered is drawn from all that is available in the rich tradition of Ignatian Spirituality.

Making the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius in daily life or in the residential 30 day retreat is a prerequisite for admission and the foundational resource experience for Te Wairua Mahi.

Spiritual Direction is a ministry in the Church available for women and men; lay, religious and clergy who know a hearts call to companion others in their spiritual journey. The foundation of this ministry is listening, where the spiritual director attends to how God is already at work in people’s lives, helping them notice this. Allowing ourselves to be formed by God’s grace was central in the spirituality of St Ignatius and also forms the contemplative ethos of Te Wairua Mahi. ‘It is less a matter of searching for God than of allowing oneself to be found by God in all situations’.

Whakakoingo o te Ngakau: (The Yearning Heart) a recently formed group in the diocese, with the encouragement of Fr Rick Loughnan, support Te Wairua Mahi and the important ministry of spiritual direction in the diocese.

Te Wairua Mahi is offered as five 5-day residential units over two years at the Home of Compassion Island Bay Wellington. Supervised practical experience of accompanying others and offering retreats in everyday life settings is central to the experience of participants in Te Wairua Mahi.

For further information on Arrupe New Zealand’s ministry in NZ please refer to the website www.arrupe.org.nz
Our Diocesan Sacred Arts Team is pleased to announce that Sir James MacMillan is coming to Christchurch in late July. He will conduct singers in his St Anne’s Mass at the 5.30pm Mass in St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral.

Sir James is one of the world’s most successful contemporary composers and a globally renowned conductor. He is coming to New Zealand to conduct the National Youth Orchestra and warmly responded to our invitation to come to Christchurch to lead us in his music and give a talk after Mass in the Music Centre, adjacent to the church.

Sir James MacMillan was first internationally recognised in 1990. His prolific work has since been performed and broadcast around the world. He was Composer/Conductor of the BBC Philharmonic from 2000-2009 and Principal Guest Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Kamer Filharmonie until 2013. Sir James composed a congregational setting of the Mass which was used when Pope Benedict XVI visited the UK to beatify Blessed John Henry Newman. A CD of MacMillan’s work was recently featuring in the top ten on Radio New Zealand Concert’s Classical Chart. Our own Cathedral Choir and Orchestra was privileged to be conducted by Sir James on their visit to his parish church in Glasgow in 2015.

Sir James MacMillan is an ardent Catholic and his music reflects his Faith, Scottish heritage, social conscience and close connection with Celtic folk music. He is an articulate commentator on the Church’s sacred music, underpinned by his thoughtful understanding of what the Church asks of Her musicians, particularly in the Post-Vatican II context.

MacMillan is convinced that “the most authentic way forward for Catholic music is to combine the participatory ethos of Vatican II with the deep history and traditions of the music of the Church.” He is encouraged by the more recent realisation that there are such considerations as “good and bad practice, authentic and inauthentic approaches, attributes of holiness, goodness of form and universality.” He observes that “These considerations should always be at the forefront of the minds of anyone who is responsible for the liturgy, whether priest or people.” He asks: “Can we be inspired to reach out to the objective beauty of a timeless, archetypal Catholic praise?”

To sing with and hear from our leading Catholic composer is indeed a great opportunity for anyone involved in Catholic music.

Do not miss this unique event. For more information email kjoblin@chch.catholic.org.nz

Ken Joblin
Sacred Arts Team
“Love SO Amazing!”

Jubilate South Canterbury

The words “Love so amazing” are from Isaac Watts’ famous hymn “When I Survey the wondrous Cross”. These wonderful words and those of other composers were sung by an 80-strong children’s choir in Timaru’s beautiful Sacred Heart Basilica in Holy Week. In the preceding weeks, Ken Joblin and David O’Beirne from our Diocesan Sacred Arts Team visited our South Canterbury Catholic primary schools to help students and teachers learn six songs for a concert of sacred music. The children sang to a largely full basilica on Holy Tuesday. The involvement of schools was very encouraging and students from small schools were thrilled to join their voices with a good number of others. Some had never been to the Basilica before and St Joseph’s Pleasant Point brought its entire school to either take part in the singing or help form an appreciative audience.

The theme of Jubilate was Lent and Holy Week. “We are aware that not everyone is able to go to all the Holy Week ceremonies” said Sacred Music Co-ordinator, Ken Joblin, “so we wanted to make sure the children had a taste of something from each liturgy and could see how Holy Week fits together.”

Family members and supportive parishioners listened attentively to the sound of singing, the depth of the Hobday organ, along with solo singing and a moving cornet solo from Thomas Kissell, an instrumentalist from Roncalli College. All were called to contemplate the love of Christ which is so amazing that he died so that we might have life and have it to the full.

Jubilate 2017 is to take place in St Mary’s Pro-cathedral on 15 November at 10.30am. It will involve many schools from Christchurch and surrounding districts. It is hoped that Jubilate South Canterbury will be offered again next year as it is more difficult for those schools from further afield to participate in the Christchurch event. Kia Kaha South Canterbury!
In Lent, Fr John Adams and thirteen of his St Joseph’s Papanui parishioners embarked on a sixteen day mission to the Philippines. Their plan, to work with the poor in Manilla and villages just outside Tacloban, whose lives were devastated by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

Many hours of fundraising went into this mission project. The team also received some quite practical advice from Missionary Sister of Mary, Sr Rachel Myriam (a New Zealander based in Manilla). She told them to “prepare mentally and physically.” She noted that many of the young people who would be encouraged by their visit had suffered a great deal. She also encouraged the travellers to imagine the hottest weather they had experienced and double that. “Wear cotton clothes with long sleeves and dress conservatively,” she advised.

The group travelled to Manilla via China and stepped into 30 plus degrees and heavy humidity. “We had some marvellous and humbling days in Manilla,” said Fr Adams. “We experienced the tremendous work of the Missionaries of Mary Sisters and their efforts to change the lives of young men in conflict with the law and young women who had been living on the streets. We had a chance to mix with these young people and share with them something of our New Zealand culture. We also visited the poorest of the poor in their tiny homes in the slums of Manilla. In the prisons, we prayed and celebrated Mass with young prisoners.

The St Joseph’s mission team then travelled south to Tacloban. They would spend time in the small seaside village of Santa Cruz. In this village of 250 families, approximately 250 lives were lost in the typhoon.

“Each evening we celebrated Mass in the little chapel, always full, particularly of young people,” said Fr Adams. He offered daily Mass for those who had died. People were encouraged to write the names of family members they had lost to be included in the prayer of the faithful. One little girl just kept writing and writing. She had lost most of her family. One little boy who was swept away and was found alive in a village four kms away told Fr Adams “Father, I just swam and swam.”

A major task for the mission was the installation of a water purification unit next to the San Nino Community Centre in Santa Cruz. This unit was also built with the assistance of donations from St Joseph’s parish after Fr Adams and six parishioners visited in 2014, the first anniversary of Typhoon Haiyan.

“I think we should be proud of the impact our little team had on the people of Santa Cruz who welcomed us with such joy,” said Fr Adams. “The poverty and simplicity encountered called us to a new depth of understanding and it was there we found our God waiting for us. There is something transformative about receiving from those who have nothing to give but themselves. Being on mission with the poor is also liberating. It allows us to cast off the bonds of the desire to possess and to emerge from the tomb of self-interest.”

“In offering the inevitable physical discomfort of a mission experience as a sacrifice to the Lord, we are taken out into the light. The gift of self — this is the movement from death to light. This is also the Easter journey of Christ.”
Around the Parishes

Major Heritage Project Underway

The iconic St Patrick’s church on Rue Lavaud Akaroa is to receive a major restoration. The category 1 historic church was built in 1864 by Patrick Joseph Cullen and is still in daily use. Literally hundreds of visitors accept the roadside invitation to “make a visit, light a candle and say a prayer”.

Getting to the stage of a full restoration has been full of delays. Action was imminent in 2012 but the aftermath of the Canterbury earthquakes intervened. However, the local parish committee pressed ahead with engineering and heritage assessments. Their persistence has seen the Diocesan Management team take over the project and gain final resource consent from the Christchurch City Council.

Age and the elements have meant much of the Church has to be replaced or renewed. Borer has fed on much of the timber, the roof needs to be completely replaced and some earthquake damage to the tower needs to be repaired. The estimated cost is $810,000!! This is a tall order for the small number of resident Catholics of Akaroa who have been challenged to raise $260,000. A fundraising campaign began in May and is now underway.

The Church will be closed from July for perhaps four months but Sunday 9.30am Mass will continue in the Trinity Church Hall. The goodwill existing among the churches will be furthered by this co-operation and even deepened by the plan to have Divine worship at the same time and then share food and fraternity at 10.30am.

The wider community was invited to a free shared luncheon in June at the Akaroa Bowling Club and heard Mr Dave Margetts from Heritage NZ speak about the heritage status of St Patrick’s.

Fr Paul Shannahan sm (Parish Priest)
For more information, visit www.akaroacatholicparish.co.nz.

St Peter’s Welcomes a Marist Troubadour

St Peter’s Beckenham forms part of the parish of Sancta Maria. A love of music was clearly evident on an Easter Sunday evening when Fr Chris Skinner sm (now resident in Auckland) entertained around 90 Sancta Maria parishioners. Fr Skinner is well known throughout New Zealand as a folk balladeer with 20 albums to his credit and his visit to the parish was sponsored by St Peter’s Passionist Family Groups.

Parish musicians (including some emerging teenage talent), preceded Fr Skinner in entertaining an enthusiastic audience. The parish centre rang out to the sound of popular music mixed with Fr Skinner’s own compositions. The finale, “Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water”, was described by one parishioner as sounding like “a Southern Baptist revival meeting”. John Walsh, Beckenham
When members of our parishes are asked about their concerns for their communities or to give their priorities for future investment, our young people are almost always in the top responses received. So it was with great enthusiasm that our Diocesan Youth Team (CYT) agreed to take up the opportunity to host the National Catholic Youth Ministry Conference (NCYMC) in our diocese earlier this year.

NCYMC is a collaborative event of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinators of New Zealand, held every three years and is a conference for youth and campus ministers, religious education leaders, clergy and religious, young adult ministers, volunteers and all people who have an interest in ministry with young people.

The theme for the 2017 NCYMC was ALIVE and WELL and it was our vision that the joyful hope and new life for our young people would flow out into our Catholic Youth Ministry Community and the Church in New Zealand. Over three days, our keynote speakers and other workshop presenters helped us to break open this theme and explore many different aspects of ministry with young people in the Catholic context. Jimmy Mitchell from Mysterium Ministries in the USA and Roby Curtis from Blind Eye Ministries in Brisbane helped us to consider the challenges our current generation of young people face and look to see how we can more effectively embrace them and journey with them towards fullness of life in Christ Jesus.

We had over 140 people register for the conference, representing communities and ministries from every diocese of New Zealand. We had a wonderfully diverse mix of people from the most junior youth leaders to senior diocesan youth workers, priests and religious present for the weekend.

The hard work of our CYT staff and wonderful volunteers ensured that those who attended experienced not just lots of inspiring input, ideas and resources but also had the opportunity to be ministered to through the sacraments, prayer, adoration and worship. It is our hope that everyone left feeling topped up intellectually and spiritually.

James Bryant, CYT Manager

Aotearoa Catholic Youth Festival
2-3 December 2017, Auckland

Internationally recognised musician and global phenomenon in contemporary Christian music, Matt Maher will perform at this year’s Aotearoa Catholic Youth Festival in Auckland.

The festival will take place in St Mary’s College at St Marys Bay in Auckland during the first weekend in December. This will be an event led by young people for young people, with many youth organisations from around the country collaborating to present this hugely unique and exciting event.

The festival will consist of a wide range of activities, including workshops, a cultural showcase and interactive experiences throughout. Highlights include a Festival Mass on the Saturday night and the chance to participate in music and prayer led by international guest Matt Maher.

Hosted by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, the festival is aimed at those aged between 15 and 29 years of age, with organisers expecting upwards of 500 young people to attend.

In announcing the festival, Bishop Patrick Dunn, President of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference says:

“We are delighted to invite Matt Maher and his band to join us in Aotearoa New Zealand to celebrate the work of God in and through young people. His music, faith, and presence among us later this year will be a challenge for all young people to be inspired to use their own God-given gifts when they return home to their local communities.”

On Sunday 3 December, following the festival there will be a public concert by Matt Maher for the Christian community of Auckland at the Victory Convention Centre, Freemans Bay, Auckland. The concert will have limited seating capacity with tickets on sale from 1 August 2017. All festival participants will receive premier VIP tickets to the concert as part of their festival registration fee.

Matt Maher is an internationally acclaimed Christian songwriter and worship leader. Born in Canada, Matt now lives in Nashville in the United States. Matt is excited about the opportunity to be with us here in New Zealand, both learning from us, and sharing with us his music and leadership.

The festival will run from Saturday 2 December to Sunday 3 December 2017. Registration opens 15 July and concert tickets will go on sale 1 August.

For further details please visit www.catholicyouthfestival.nz
Schools

St Peter’s School
90th Birthday Celebrations
The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (R.N.D.M.) started St Peter’s School in Fisher Avenue, Beckenham, on 2 February 1927 so this year we are celebrating our 90th birthday! We warmly invite all past pupils and past staff of the school to join with us for our celebrations. If you have items of memorabilia from our school that you would like to loan us for the event, we will take very good care of them!

29th June 9.30am: student-led prayer service. All past pupils and past staff are very welcome to join us. 10.15am-3.00pm: school open for past pupils to view. 9.30am-12.30pm: display of school memorabilia in Parish Centre

30th June 6.00pm-9.00pm: shared “Bring a Plate” meal. It would be great to experience food from the many countries that are represented in our school today. We also encourage anyone to wear clothing from your country of origin if you would like to. Important: if you are coming to this event, please RSVP the school with your name and number of people attending.

2nd July 9.30am: whole school Mass. 10.30am-11.30am: Opportunity for the community to have a look around the school and view memorabilia.

St Peter’s School email: office@saintpeters.school.nz or phone 332 7598

Pamela Arthurs, Principal / Tumuaki

Catholic Community of Learning Appointments
The Selection Committee of the Catholic Community of Learning is pleased to announce the appointment of the following teachers to the Across Community Teacher roles:

Kerri Campbell is Teacher in Charge of Te Reo Maori at St Thomas of Canterbury College.

Liz Beattie is Acting DP and new entrant teacher at St Joseph’s School, Rangiora.

Megan Martin is Teacher in Charge of Health at Marian College.

Tracey Cringle is Lead Teacher of the Year 7 and 8 Department at Villa Maria College.

Julie Maxwell is Head of Faculty Mathematics at St Thomas of Canterbury College.

We congratulate these teachers on their new appointments and wish them well as they begin to work in their area of leadership and make contact with the 15 schools across the Catholic Community of Learning.

Tony Shaw, Lead Principal

“Scones, Anyone?”
In April, our Year 4-6 students hosted a devonshire tea for Fairlie’s older people. In the lead up to the day, some students had been mastering scone making while others practised some musical items to entertain our guests. Money had been raised from school sausage sizzles to pay for ingredients so that our guests could be offered hospitality at no charge. Our students expected around 20 guests, and were quite surprised to see a full hall. Following the success of the afternoon, we plan on repeating this event once a term.

One of our students, whose job was to serve hot drinks, commented that he really enjoyed making cups of tea and that it made him feel good. We believe that it is important for our students to serve others and to feel the joy of service.

Angela Marshall, Principal, St Joseph’s School, Fairlie

Dual Controls
At the beginning of term two, the Waimate District Council Recycling Team visited us at St Patrick’s School (above). They explained what we can recycle and showed us a huge cork board full of things that people in the community had mistakenly thought could be recycled.

The recycle truck was amazing. It had two sets of complete controls and could be driven from the left or right. If you turned the steering wheel on the left, the one on the right turned too!

This visit was valuable as we learnt what items we can safely recycle and what in fact needs to be put in the rubbish. One of the biggest lessons learnt was that if packaging uses two different types of materials, it cannot be recycled. The school now has dedicated recycle bins and we are working very hard to put into practice what we learnt, the "Recycling Team" are pleased with our efforts.

Sharon Stace, St Patrick’s School

“No Cell Phone Coverage . . . What a Disaster!”
Each year, John Paul II High School in Greymouth takes its students away to a lonely place on retreat. In more recent years, the Diocesan Youth Mission Team has come to the Coast to lead our retreats. By spending the day together in a reflective atmosphere, students are given an opportunity to look at how they can put their Catholic faith into action.

In the second week of Term Two, students travelled to the Runanga Rugby League Rooms, at Dunollie, about 15 minutes from school. Here, there are no shops, and very little cell phone coverage. Surrounded by farmland and the League field students can give their full attention to the Lord.

This year, we have a special connection to the Mission Retreat Team because one of their members, Liam Douglas, is a former student of John Paul II. The Youth Mission Team brought amazing enthusiasm for their faith as well as energy and fun activities, giving our students a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

Janet Webster, Director of Religious Studies
“Sleeping on cardboard is no joke.”

The Caritas Challenge 2017
During Lent, Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand again issued its nationwide challenge to young people to live, in a very practical way, the experience of people in harsh economic conditions. Catholic Cathedral and Marian College students again joined together to live the Challenge. For some, it was the fourth year of their involvement.

Sleeping in cardboard at school, having to walk for water and food was only one facet of this year’s Challenge. In the evening the student leaders who were trained on the Caritas leadership days, facilitated the “Big Game” on Challenges in the Pacific. Students were placed in the situation of families around the world and experienced a tiny glimpse of the reality of Climate Change, quite an eye opener for some:

“It was such an amazing moment because we got to live for a very small moment like those who suffered from climate change ...” said one participant.

For the first time service was incorporated into the Challenge as the practical act of Caritas. So, after a not so cosy night, students worked in a variety of service places around the city: the John Paul II Centre, Nazareth House, St Peter’s parish, St Vincent de Paul and City Council. None of the students gained service hours for their school for this work. The Caritas student leaders were very passionate about the idea of no reward for their service. Giving to the community for the sake of giving was their theme this year. This decision made the 2017 Challenge significantly different. The commitment of all students (and teachers from both Colleges) was outstanding. Great spirit was evident not only in the building of cardboard boxes and working, but also in the night vigil in front of our broken Cathedral and the opening Mass. Fr Rick Loughnan’s homily resonated with all students and encouraged them not only for this Challenge, but in their faith journey. Thank you to all students and teachers and Caritas staff who joined us.

Te Wairua Tapu, Empowering Our Students
Catholic Cathedral College Chaplain, Fr John Craddock SM, recently blessed our latest classroom provided by the diocese in response to our growing roll. Bob and Barbara Te Miha were present as our Kapa Haka students led the ceremony with Karakia and a beautiful waiata.

The blessing of each of our rooms is important in acknowledging the Wairua Tapu, (the Holy Spirit), in guiding and empowering our learners and teachers in these spaces.

We appreciate the support of the diocese in providing us with these facilities so that our students can access quality educational outcomes in a Catholic environment.

Tony Shaw, Principal

ADULT EDUCATION COURSES
Taught by staff of the Catholic Education Office for The Catholic Institute of Aotearoa, New Zealand

Do you want to learn more about your faith? Looking for ongoing faith formation?

The Person and Work of Jesus
Three day block course 2-4 October (Christchurch)
Lecturer: Sister Eleanor RSJ

Distance Learning
A variety of papers on Church History, Theology, Sacrament and Scripture start in early July.

These courses can be taken for NZQA credit or for interest only.

For more information visit www.tci.ac.nz
or contact the Christchurch coordinator Wendy Clark, phone 03-353 0787
email wclark@chch.catholic.org.nz

Discover Faith and Wisdom at Garin College and Hostel
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www.garincollege.ac.nz

“Set sail into a great future”

Enjoy a quality education
It was Marian College’s privilege to host this year’s Bishop Lyons’s Competition on 5-7 May. Students from all seven Catholic colleges competed in public speaking, debating, religious questions and scripture reading.

Students invested many hours polishing their craft with the hope of doing well for their college. All events showed the outstanding talents and gifts of our students and all colleges gained points. Congratulations to all students who participated. As this year’s hosts we are especially proud that our team won the prestigious first place debating cup for Marian College. St Bede’s College won the Shield again and we applaud their team for its success.

Part of this weekend was the celebration of the Solemn High Mass at St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral, with students taking part in choir and orchestra under the guidance of the Diocesan Sacred Arts Team. The high point, around 20 students were formed into a Bishop Lyons Shield choir to sing the four part unaccompanied anthem, “If Ye Love Me” by Thomas Tallis. The Cultural Concert at Catholic Cathedral College on Saturday evening contributed very much to the success of the weekend. The variety showcased the diverse talents of all the students. A big thank you to our staff, students, and parents and friends group who all contributed to the hospitality and friendly atmosphere over the weekend.

Above all the contest and competition it is important to remember that this annual event celebrates the youth of the Catholic Church and provides a focus for the expression of abundant talent. It also gives a sense of history to those taking part as many have parents and grandparents who have participated in the Bishop Lyons Shield.