



Pastoral Pages

Catholic Parishes of Kapiti

St Patrick's, Paraparaumu

Our Lady of Fatima, Waikanae

Spring 2012



OUR LADY OF KAPITI?

What's inside

Fr Michael & Parishioners' thoughts on change

Social Justice Special

Why the Archbishop came





Editorial

Welcome to the Spring 2012 issue of **Pastoral Pages**. We hope you enjoy it.

As our two parishes ponder Archbishop John's request to consider amalgamating two of the parishes, we thought it timely to invite Fr Michael and some of our parishioners to share their thoughts.

Social Justice Week is just around the corner so we feature this over two pages. Please take time to read this material carefully and ponder on what this may mean for you.

Our advertisers:

We remind you that our advertisers enable us to produce this self-funding publication. Please support them wherever possible.

Contributions to:

Email: ryanfamily@paradise.net.nz with *Pastoral Pages* in the subject line (otherwise it ends up in the junk file).

Phone or fax: 04 902 6331 (wk)
or 902 6330 (hm)

Next Publishing Date

Autumn 24th/25th Nov 2012
copy due 14th Nov

Our Recent Events shares events across our Pastoral Area.

May God bless us all in this time of change and transition.

- Anna and the Editorial Team

Contents



- 3-6 Reflections
- 7 Fr. Jim's been thinking
- 8 Pastoral Area News
- 12 Introducing Parish Groups & People
- 13 Recent Events
- 16 Social Justice Special
- 19 Saint Vincent de Paul
- 21 Share a smile
- 23 Points to Ponder
- 27 Stop Press!
- 30 Parish Directories

Are you involved in a business that would be interested in advertising in Pastoral Pages? Contact the editor for our rates.

Reflections

Our Lady of Kapiti???

Fr Michael and Parishioners offer their thoughts on changes recent and still to come.

Reflecting on Change

“In New Orleans, in the French Quarter, there was a wonderful little jazz club where the most talented musicians regularly performed. From the day the place opened, everyone complained about the terrible old piano with its missing keys and sour notes. The piano players hated playing it. The vocalists hated singing with it. And all the combos that played the club wished they could bring their own instrument. But nothing ever changed. Finally, after years of hearing everyone complain, the owner of the club decided to act and settle the matter once and for all. And so, at great expense, he had the piano painted!” Dennis Clark

It is never easy to talk about change and even more difficult to do. That is because there is a comfort and reassurance in the tried and true and in the familiar. We have grown used to doing things the way we do them and we have grown used to the way things are. This is not necessarily bad because our actions and way of life have an inherent logic that is born of years of experience and by our growth in wisdom. Even so, there also are times when we have to admit that there is little logic in our actions and they are simply born out of preference or even blindspots.

The early Church had to face momentous change. That is why it

is so encouraging to read the Acts of the Apostles and reflect on it in prayer. Here we become reassured by the way it tells the story of how the early Church faced change and how it negotiated important moments of transition. In everything they were faithful to prayer, to the Eucharist, to growing and preserving a spirit of charity and to God's grace. The Acts of the Apostles reminds us that the grace of the Holy Spirit is revealed in the middle of conversation. The grace of the Holy Spirit is also revealed in the dreams of the disciples. In time and under God's grace, these conversations and dreams changed the hearts and minds of the disciples and the shape of the young Body of Christ.

We are called to do the same in Christ. When we look back in reflection, the generations who have gone before us readily come to mind – people of faith who did so much to build and sustain the faith communities of Kapiti. They have left us with a rich legacy of faith and service, charity and prayer. To my mind they are very much present as we listen to the Holy Spirit and reflect on how we ought to build on their legacy in Christ.

May the Lord bless and protect us on our journey of faith.

Michael McCabe,
Parish Priest-Administrator

Attitude is Important

“Should the shaking start.....drop between the pews?” These were some of the words given for the safety procedure in the event of an earthquake at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Waikanae. As I walked into the church, normally a haven of peace and reverence, this loud announcement plus information on the overhead screen assaulted my senses. I knew about the requirement to advise all parishioners of the risk of being in an earthquake prone church, surely a notice on the door would suffice. Did I need to be immersed in all this sound and visual effects?

This was change.....big change....in my loved local church building. My initial reaction was shock followed by negative thoughts.

“Do we really need to have this? What a shame? It’s almost irreverent.”

Since then I have thought and prayed. “Lord, help me to accept the things I cannot change.” I have a choice as to my attitude towards these changes.

A few weeks ago the First Reading was Jeremiah 23.1 “Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered - it is the Lord who speaks.”

Was not this safety message coming from my shepherd Priest Fr. Michael and Archbishop John who were leading the way to protect our physical safety? They were accepting God’s Will and obeying the civil law.

I can use the words “drop down

between the pews” as a reminder to drop down on my knees and “Praise God in all things.” Hebrews 13:15 and into my thoughts also came “Be not afraid,” found frequently in the Old and the New Testament. I have a choice, to adopt a negative attitude and be downhearted about the changes in the local church, lack of priests, Mass times, state of our buildings, to name a few, or I can take a positive approach and have faith, hope and trust in God and each time I pray the “Our Father” really mean the words. “Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven”.

I can constantly call to mind Romans 8.28. “*God turns all things to good for those who love Him.*”

I choose a positive attitude.

Attitude is Important.

Mary Dorrington



Bill's Thoughts

The bonding of our two parishes into one pastoral area seems to have been an encouraging experience all the way. A large part of this smooth transition so far has been due to the spirit-filled strength of each, supported by effective parish ministries.

We're becoming one parish family, doing things together, like the CaFÉ Programme, which drew more than a hundred of us together.

It's all part of a time of change in our church where the declining number of priests is encouraging spiritual and social initiatives to spring up among parishioners as evidenced by the coming week's activities announced in the Sunday pastoral area bulletins – Passionist Family activities, men's and

women's breakfasts, voluntary prayer groups like the Old Ducks, faith and bible study groups together with the traditional societies like the Legion of Mary and St Vincent de Paul.

We're doing well, fellow parishioners!

Bill Lambert



Charismatic Prayer Group

meets every 2nd & 4th Wednesday
at 7:30pm in the Foyer of
Our Lady of Fatima church
in Parata St, Waikanae.



Funeral Home Ltd

Telephone

293 6844



Graeme Rolston



Loris Rolston



Lloyd Dacombe

**Cnr Omaha Street & Kapanui Road, Waikanae Email:
info@waikanaefuneralhome.co.nz**

also incorporating
Kaitawa Crematorium
Ngarara Road, Waikanae

Gardening in Our Parishes

We are journeying through exciting times!

Just over one year ago we moved into our home in Waikanae. We inherited a pre-loved, full, colourful and messy garden. Rose, fuschia, camelia, lavender, alstromeria, hydrangea, daisy and hibiscus fought for space and sunlight, along with a rampant ground cover which we later discovered, hid a multitude of surprises.

What to do?

After prolonged and sometimes fraught dialogue we decided to wait a year to see what was in store for us.

Roses were pruned, lawns mowed, bulbs flowered, seasons passed and the ground cover continued to flourish.

Patience is not my middle name, so after about nine months I began to make

quiet little sorties into the 'jungle' to remove the aforementioned ground cover. Many treasures appeared and began to flourish in their intended environment.

Into year two, the garden is a work in progress. Soil has been well prepared and worked over, mulched and watered. Precious plants, with a South Island story to tell, have been removed

from pots and placed in their new environment. This season's bulbs are about to flower. Plants have room to breath and grow. There is still ground cover, but nothing is hidden under it, away from the light. This gardening year will be exciting!

The ongoing story of my garden has led me to reflect on what is happening in our Kapiti Pastoral Area. We are a community with a rich heritage, living through a time and place of change. We too are sometimes hampered by 'ground cover' which threatens to swamp us, and impatience, when we tend to miss the important signs, but we keep seeking the light and warmth radiating from the Gospel message. In the past few months many surprises and treasures have appeared in our Pastoral Area. We are creating an environment where we will breath and grow and flourish. We have been well prepared. We are a work in progress.

EXCITING!

This word was used again and again at the Day of Discernment for our Pastoral Area held recently at Pukekaraka Marae in Otaki.

We, in the Kapiti Coast Pastoral Area, are journeying through EXCITING times.

Kay Blackburn



Fr Jim's Been Thinking The Bread of Life



Earlier this month John's Gospel reminded us that the Bread of Life has indeed come down from heaven and in truth is Jesus himself. Obviously we celebrate Jesus in our Eucharist when we call Jesus down onto our altars. We continue to celebrate him in our communion when we share him with all those present. But then we take Jesus home so we might celebrate his presence among us in the wider community. This means that I have to take Jesus with me wherever I go.

As we read, Jesus made it very simple for us—"I am the bread of life. If you come to me you shall no hunger—if you believe in me you shall never thirst." Of course He does not refer to our physical needs but is talking about the longings of the human spirit – the great spiritual hunger and thirst within each one of us.

What is the response we make to live out this invitation in our everyday lives?

Do we think that this is in the too hard basket and put it away until next week? Or do we think that Jesus has nothing to offer us in the so-called complexities of our daily living? Haven't we learned yet that we can't live our lives in a vacuum? When will we learn that we ignore the gospel message to our own detriment? When will I realise that all my "things" don't matter a damn?

Michael Kent affirms that trusting God is all that is needed. That trust allows God to provide the essential needs for each human heart. Michael offers this advice:

Concentrate on what is essential in your life. Don't exaggerate your needs. Realise that you make life complex with inflated expectations and complicate it by turning luxuries into necessities. What do you really need in order to be happy? Simplify your life a bit. Try, for example, making love the one rule for the way you deal with all other people. Trust that God loves you and cares for you with infinite compassion, even in the smallest details of your life. If you can live with the essentials and not be intimidated by all the things that don't really matter in life, Jesus' claim that you will never hunger or thirst again is not simplistic at all.



TRILOGY
TRAVEL, TOURS &
KAPITI SHUTTLES

5 Epiha Street, Paraparaumu 5032
Ph: 04 902 5476 www.nztourism.net.nz



RELIGIOUS TOURS 2013

- MARIAN SHRINES OF EUROPE
- LEGACY OF ST PATRICK
- GRAND CATHOLIC ITALY
- LOURDES & SHRINES OF FRANCE
- DISCOVER THE HOLY LAND
- FOOTSTEPS OF APOSTLE PAUL
- IBERIAN SHRINES & LOURDES

Pastoral Area News

Updates from Our Councils

No reports from the Pastoral Area Council or Our Lady of Fatima this issue. Most parishioners are pretty much up with what's going on and is summed up in Richard's report:



Tena koutou whanau

Change. Short. Simple. Not hard to say.

Change. Continual. Different. Very hard to do.

As a Parish we have come a long way. We have experienced a lot of change in the last three or four years and are now in quite a different place. But what has changed? Has anything changed about the fundamental reason we exist, as a body, as a community, why we gather, why we partake?

As a community of Jesus's followers we are living in a time of change. Change flows and happens all around us and our Church is no different. Change will happen because it must, it cannot be avoided, how we organise and do Church cannot be sustained, it is not the reducing numbers of priests, nor is it the buildings. The view from the helicopter tells us that it is a multitude of things, and that if even if these went away then there would be something else – left field is a popular place.

As a Council we have taken the approach that we must change,



we have changed and we will keep changing. We change because if we do not change then something else will change us and when we change, it works best if we can help steer. We change because right from the first calling to his disciples that is what Jesus calls us to do. We can and we want to live our vision better, we do not fill our church and our communities still have need.

As we enter into the next stage of change, possibly forming a new parish with our Waikanae whanau and a larger pastoral area with our Horowhenua cousins, things will be different, somethings will not be done, somethings will be done differently, and there will be new things. Critical, is that we discern, pray, identify and focus on the reason, why we partake. And if it gets too hard, then we stop, take a breath, close our eyes and be Andrew, or Peter, doing what we know, going about our business, and having a stranger ask, come ... follow me.

Change. Yes Lord. I will.

Thank you for the great attendance at Pukekaraka, and your support and drive for the journey ahead. God bless.

Richard Ward



2012 is proving to be a year of moving for the Kapiti Catholic Child and Youth Ministry Office. In the last Pastoral Pages we advised that we had moved offices on the school grounds. Now we advise that due to the loss of classrooms at the school to a needier cause, we have moved again. We are currently in a temporary office at 27 Tongariro Street until the end of Term 3. The Governance Group is investigating options of where to next, with a major consideration being the cost of renting an office. It is the desire of Child & Youth Ministry to have an office in close proximity to St Patrick's School and we hope that clarification on a more permanent, albeit possibly temporary solution for a few years, will be worked through speedily. In the meantime the office continues to be open to visitors 9-3pm Wednesdays during term time.

In the next few months Child & Youth Ministry intends to go out into the pastoral area to talk to families to find out where Child and Youth Ministry fits into their children's lives, what they would like, what difficulties they find in getting their children to youth groups and events and how we can all work together in the future to provide

support and opportunities for our children to fulfill their potential as disciples of Jesus and to become active members of our church community.

Our Youth Music Group is in great demand, being invited to lead music worship regularly at Waikanae & Paraparaumu parishes as well as leading music up at the Youth Masses in Otaki 3-4 times per year. Congratulations. Keep an eye on the Parish Bulletin to find out when they are next playing.

Opportunities continue to be available to our Year 8 and above youth to mix with other Christians and other Catholic Youth Groups. There are two more ecumenical evenings of games and worship at El Rancho for 2012 - on 24 Aug and 23 Nov. There is also a gathering of youth from Plimmerton to Levin for a games evening and sausage sizzle at Otaihangā Domain on 10th Nov and the final G.U.Y.S. Camp for the year from 30 Nov to 2 Dec.

For a full list of monthly events for all age children and youth, please contact the office on kapiti.youth@gmail.com or call Debbie or Jacqui on 02267 57 357.

Jacqui McLaughlin



Our Pastoral Area School



No report from our school this issue.

Adult Faith Exploration

CaFé has been a huge success once again and we've been delighted to have parishioners from Levin and Otaki join us for these evenings. The material has been even better than last year's, our inimitable M.C., Bob Houston, has been firing on all cylinders, the food has been superb and the atmosphere a buzz!



We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the many people who have so generously given of their time to bake, set up the foyer, welcome participants, organise the kitchen, etc. etc. etc. You are too many to name individually but Kathy, Joyce and Patrick – thank you, thank you, thank you.

Be sure to be part of this superb Pastoral Area event, brought to you by the Faith Exploration Team, next year!

Anna Ryan, chair FET

Social Justice

See article later in this issue
(pages 16 & 17.)



Contacts: Peter 9026330 (Prm),
Des (9048086 (Wae).

Kapiti Television Ltd

4

FreeView Television Installations
Agent 4 EWTN International
Catholic Television Channel
Current Sky installer

Contact Mark Marfell on
Phone 2127280
(Free calling number Kapiti)
Cell phone 021441736
markmarfell@gmail.com
www.kapititelevision.co.nz



Mission Gala 2012



Now only a few weeks to go to the gala - **Saturday 29th**. We still have a need for more items and contributions, especially for the Tombola, so how about a quick spring clean and check for good quality items that you no longer need that could be given a new life by someone else. If you have anything please contact the stall convenors listed below.

We are very grateful for all the support so far, practical and prayerful, and of

course many are gearing up to provide baking, preserves, plants, etc, closer to the day.

We are looking forward again to your support on the day, where you can buy it all back (not your stuff – someone else's!!), and if you need sustenance while you are there Wai will have a great sausage sizzle going. See you there.

KNITTING	Mary Zelda	298 4113 905 9248 zeam@paradise.net.nz
CAKES	Joy	298 7802 joy.woodham@hotmail.com
JAMS and PRESERVES	Trish & Brian Velma & David	902 3366 bthoward@paradise.net.nz 299 1539 dvknight@xtra.co.nz
SWEETS	Annita	902 1572
USED CLOTHING & SEWING	Convent Joy	905 3420 298 7802 joy.woodham@hotmail.com
WHITE ELEPHANT ODDS & ENDS	Robyn	905 6988 animalsrock@paradise.net.nz
WAIKANAE DEPOT	Mark	293 2978
GIFTS & NOVELTIES BITS & PIECES	Joan	298 1654 terry.odea@clear.net.nz
BOOKS	Catherine	297 2411 ccarruthers@clear.net.nz
TOYS GAMES & PUZZLES	Martha	902 2323 marthabstuart@gmail.com
TOMBOLA	John	902 4019 jaypee604@msn.com
PLANTS & PRODUCE	Maureen	297 3461
CONVENOR	Tony	2996825 tm.bevin@xtra.co.nz

Introducing Parish Groups & People

St Patrick's Family Ministry has a New Leader

June Brunton, who helped to found the St Patrick's Family Ministry back in 1997, is taking up the reins again as co-ordinator. Phil Lawton, who has led the ministry for the past ten years, and his wife Jennifer, have retired having provided help and companionship to hundreds of families.

The Family Ministry was initiated by June Brunton, Cynthia Scott and Sue Devereux and an initial survey conducted in 1997 showed a great need in the parish for family support in many areas - teenage difficulty, alcohol problems, a need for support for the lonely, sick, and bereaved. The following year 1998, was the "Year of the Elderly" and a first project was a very successful evening for them. The Family Ministry then moved to assist with a seminar on alcohol and drug problems.

When Phil Lawton took over in 1999, a further seminar showed the need to widen the net to welcome new arrivals in the parish, provide transport to mass, provide a pre-school Christian programme and to help with budgeting and teenage problems.

The Ministry was structured with volunteer groups providing personal support in these areas. Today there is a committee of nine leaders in each area of support, with 45 volunteers backing them up.

June Brunton is assisted by a committee of nine with the following

responsibilities:

Bereavement team visits

Cynthia Scott 9051124

Home visiting

Joyce Haughey 9054467

Living Aloners

Jan Dowd 9054633 and

Zelda Masterton, 9059248

God Start for infants

Robin Cranshaw 2990589

Welcoming new parishioners

Bill Lambert 9022246

Family support

Maureen Smithson 9040824

Budget advice

Helen Lambert 9022246

Teenage problems

Barbara Fairweather 2991201

Transport to mass.

Catherine Carruthers 2972411

Bill Lambert

Ed: If you have a need or know someone who has, give someone in the family ministry a call and see if they can help. They do a great job. Don't we have a Pastoral Area full of wonderful volunteers! ☺



Recent Events

Day of Discernment

80 parishioners from Paraparaumu, Waikanae, Otaki and Levin turned out at Pukekarakara for the Day of Discernment on 4th August. The proportion from each parish was roughly equivalent to their respective Mass counts.

The day had been called to determine the four parishes' response to the Archbishop's call for us to consider forming one Pastoral Area instead of the present two.

The day was very ably led by Cenacle Sisters Mary Kay and Clare O'Connor using Ignatian methods. After we were welcomed onto the Marae, Sr Mary outlined the task, which was to simply say "Yes" or "No" to the Archbishop's request.



Srs Mary Kay & Clare O'Connor

First, we split up into groups of four (one from each parish wherever possible) to discuss the question *What was our first positive impression of Church*. The discussion was very lively, judging by the noise level in the hall.

For Prompt, Expert Service

MARTIN PHILLIPS

**Certifying Plumber
and Gasfitter**

**Certifying Drainlayer
Mini-Digger Hire**

Phone 021 550 653 anytime



After a cuppa, we formed into our respective parish groups to discuss the question *what special gift(s) does our parish bring to the proposed pastoral area?*



The discussion was again lively, and afterwards we were sent away for personal reflection on the Gospel passage featuring the paralytic being lowered through the roof by four men (Luke 5:17-26).

After a sumptuous shared lunch, a representative from each parish gave their response - the writer was too busy absorbing the answers to take notes, but common to Paraparaumu and Waikanae was experience. Levin parish's main gift was diversity and a

great choir. Otaki parishioners seemed divided on their approach to the question, but they certainly brought the gift of history, as they are the original parish for the whole area and regard themselves as the caretakers of the special nature of Pukekarakara.

At the end of the day we were given space for reflection, then asked to hold up either a yellow (yes) or blue (no) piece of notepaper in our parish groups. Paraparaumu and Waikanae were totally **yes**, except for two Paraparaumu abstentions. Levin was **yes** with one **no**, but Otaki was a split decision.

It was then left to our individual parish councils to relate our decisions to the Archbishop.

All of those attending owe a debt of thanks to the Cenacle Sisters and the guardians of the Pukekarakara Marae for their generosity and service on the day.

Glen McCullough



Fr Rod Milne Celebrates 50 Years of Priesthood with His Beloved L'Arche Community



Fr. Rod with Ewan Laurenson

Parishioners of the Pastoral Area were warm in their welcome to Fr Roderick Milne when he concelebrated

Mass at St Parick's church on July 22 at the monthly mihi in te reo. Afterwards the Kapiti L'Arche Community invited Fr Roderick's family, friends and members of the congregation to morning tea in Grace Hall to honour his fifty years since ordination (1 July 1962). Fr Roderick has been living in Christchurch since January 2011 so he really enjoyed catching up with folk from Wellington, Otaki, Waikanae, the Hutt Valley and Paraparaumu who had travelled to be present. Happiness and joy abounded amongst the L'Arche Community who showed their appreciation of Fr Rod's

contribution in establishing L'Arche in New Zealand and his pastoral ministry to them over many years with the gift of a korowai (cloak), a beautiful cake, and a koha for travel.

Fr Roderick wrote this week:

My fifty years of priesthood has been blessed in many different ways, and I thank God for his gift but also his people whom he has called me to be with. You who belong to L'Arche Kapiti or to other L'Arche Communities I have known are part of that gift and my reason for celebrating this Jubilee with you has been to acknowledge your different and unique ways you have contributed to this gift of priesthood for me, and to bless you and thank you.....

L'Arche Kapiti – you are alive and well. God bless you, Roderick

more Recent Events from page 18



Hunger Amongst Us - An Article for Social Justice Week

This article draws on Catholic teaching and tradition from a number of Popes and from our New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference (NZCBC) and the 2012 Social Justice booklet from Caritas Our Daily Bread: Putting Food on the Table.

Children go hungry in New Zealand

Is that any concern of ours? Aren't we "meddling in politics" in bringing this up in a Catholic environment?

Firstly: Who are "we"?

Popes, Bishops, NZ Bishops Conference, Catholic laity.

Secondly: Is this "our business"?

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference emphatically declares that it is our business and link this concern with the Mass:

Our participation in the Eucharist demands that we address the needs of people in the world who do not have what they need to survive, including those in our own country. "A Eucharist that does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented" (Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Estⁱ)

The final paragraph from the forward (signed by seven NZ bishops, as the NZCBC) to *Our Daily Bread: Putting Food on the Table* reads:

If we believe that hunger in New Zealand is not the Church's business, is not our business – then we are not following the teaching of our own bishops in New Zealand in 2012 and we are not following the Pope's teaching either.

So we can't go to Mass and then ignore the hungry.

Thirdly: Is there really a problem in New Zealand?

New Zealand Herald, July 2011 - 40,000 New Zealand children are being fed by charitable programmes in schools.ⁱⁱ



The NZCBC put their names below the following statistics:

In New Zealand, 33.7 percent of the population live with low to moderate food insecurity and 7.3 percent live with severe food insecurity. This means children arriving at school hungry with nothing for lunch, or families having inadequate diets.ⁱⁱⁱ



Fourthly: Surely this is the parents' fault?

This is quite a common view – the poor are poor through their own fault. They are on benefits because they don't want to work and the benefit money goes on cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, gambling and the kids miss out. It is a view seen in *Once were Warriors* and in a number of court cases that are reported regularly.

Everyone in New Zealand gets enough to live on. The adults in these families have made bad decisions with their money. It's a pity the kids have to suffer – but we don't want to pour good money after bad.

But this tars all hungry children with the one brush – they are hungry because their parents don't love them enough.

The latest nutrition survey undertaken by the Ministry of Health and Otago University found that overall 59.1 percent of households were classified as being fully/almost food secure, 33.7 percent were classified as being moderately food secure and 7.3 percent were classified as having low food security.

Food security is also experienced differently in different sections of New Zealand society. This national survey shows that around 32 – 38 percent of poorest households (the lowest 20 percent of incomes) are never, or only sometimes, able to afford to eat properly...

When low-income households do not have enough money to pay rent, heat their homes, pay for transport and generally take care of themselves, it

is frequently food which is the most elastic item on the budget.^{iv}

But this isn't a problem in our parishes, is it?

It is.

Ask our St Vincent de Paul people. Ask our Parish Priest/Administrator.

Hunger is relative. What about those who are starving overseas – actually dying?

This is not a case of either/or. We need to address both issues. Let's not pretend there is no problem here and complacently preach to the rest of the world. On the other hand – let's not ignore the rest of the world either.

OK – What can I do?

1. Become better informed:
 - Read the copies of *Our Daily Bread: Putting Food on the Table*. These are available in both parishes.
 - Attend the workshop planned for Social Justice week (**Tuesday 11th Sept, Waikanae church foyer 7:30pm**) to hear about local issues with poverty and hunger told in a direct way but does not breach privacy or dignity.
2. Give to help those working in this area – here or overseas.
3. Question the values that underpin a society that allows so many of its children to suffer hunger and consequent poor health and education.

Peter Ryan

Social Justice co-ordinator, Prm

All references are from Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand (2012) *Our Daily Bread: Putting Food on the Table*:

i page 7 ii page 12 iii page 5 iv page 11

Filipino Community Celebrate Their Patronal Feast



Barangay Santa Maria Assumpta, a local Filipino Catholic organisation, celebrated the feast of their patron saint, Our Lady of the Assumption last Sunday, 12 August with a Mass celebrated by Fr Ambet dela Cruz of the Wellington Filipino Chaplaincy and Fr Michael McCabe as the co-celebrant.

A delectable and delicious Filipino cuisine was served and short programme showcasing Filipino folk dances and songs followed,



entertaining parishioners and guests. Despite the heavy downpour, the feast was well attended by many Filipinos from all over the country and by our local parishioners as well. This was truly a wonderful family event!

On behalf of the Barangay Sta Maria Assumpta, Genie O'Neill, Barangay coordinator, wishes to express her heartfelt gratitude to all those who celebrated this monumental event with us.

Nida Leckie, Brgy Sta Maria Assumpta
Outreach Coordinator

Waikanae Family History Group

(VFO Trust, Corp Member #0921, Waikanae Chartered Club)

Have you done your
Family History yet?

Do you know your grand-
mother's maiden name?

One day you are going to have to
answer that question!

Get individual assistance and advice
to research your family history.

Join us and you will be amazed and
excited at your progress



We look forward to
welcoming you.

For more information
or to register contact

Hanley 904 3276,
hdhoffmann@paradise.net.nz

Waikanae Chartered Club,
2 Elizabeth Street Waikanae,
9.30am - 12.30pm, 4th Thursday
\$1 door charge, tea, coffee & biscuits

Saint

9 – 15 September is Social Justice week so this issue we focus on a saint whose name is well known but perhaps little is actually known about.

St Vincent de Paul (1581-1660)

St. Vincent was born in Pouy, Landes, Gascony, France, to a family of peasant farmers. He had four brothers and two sisters. His father placed him under the care of the Cordeliers (Franciscans), but he finished his studies at the University of Toulouse and in 1600 was ordained priest at the age of 20. His ambition was to be comfortably off and he was already chaplain to Queen Margaret of Valois, from whom he received the income of a small abbey.

In Paris Vincent met Fr Peter De Berulle (later Cardinal) who had a great esteem for Vincent and prevailed

on him to become tutor to the children of Philip De Gondi, Count of Joigny. His wife chose him for her spiritual director and confessor. In 1617, while at their country seat, Vincent heard the confession of a seriously ill peasant and discovered the terrible spiritual state of the peasantry of France. He preached at the local church and was so successful that he had to call in the Jesuits of Amiens to assist him



A real estate advertisement for Harcourts. The background is a blue sky with a mountain range. The text 'The Double Lovell team' is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below it, in smaller white text, is 'Licensed Salespersons REAA 2006'. To the right, in a white box, is the Harcourts logo. Below the team name, in bold white text, are the phrases 'Double the PROFESSIONAL SERVICE', 'Double the COMMITMENT', and 'Double the RESULTS!'. At the bottom, there are two portraits of the team members: a man and a woman. To the right of the portraits, there is contact information for both team members, including phone numbers and email addresses. At the very bottom, in small white text, is 'Harcourts Paraparaumu TEAM MKH LTD MREINZ LICENSED AGENT REAA/2006'.

especially with confessions.

With the urging of Fr De Brulle, Vincent became pastor of Chatillon les Dombes. He converted a count and numerous others before returning to Paris to work among the Galley slaves.

Madame De Gondi offered him an endowment to found a perpetual mission among the common folk. Vincent did not regard himself as fit to undertake this work so she and her husband established a company of Missionaries to assist the people of the countryside and their own tenants. Their brother, then archbishop of Paris, gave the College des Bons Enfants for the new community. Its members were to renounce ecclesiastical preferment to devote themselves to the smaller towns and villages and to live from a common fund. He attended the Countess until her death two months later, then joined his new congregation. In 1633 they were given the priory of St Lazare.

Towards the end of his life he suffered much ill health. In 1660 he died calmly in his chair at the age of 80. He was canonised by Pope Clement XII in 1737 and was proclaimed patron of all charitable societies by Pope Leo XIII, outstanding among which is the society which bears his name and is infused with his spirit.

Today they are a congregation of secular priests who make four simple vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and stability. They work in missions, especially among country people, and have colleges and missions in all parts

of the world. Vincent lived to see 25 houses established in France, Poland and Madagascar. He also established confraternities of charity to attend poor sick persons in each parish, and from them sprang the institute of Sisters of Charity.

The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded by Frederic Osanam in Paris in 1833.



Bequests

Are you thinking about or planning a bequest?

A gift to your Parish's building and development fund would help to secure the future of our churches here in Kapiti.

For help or more information contact the Parish Office:

Waikanae: 293 1386

Paraparaumu: 902 5815

Share a Smile



To be sure, it's Irish!

The reason there are so many Irish jokes is because the Irish have a quaint way with words.....As well as.....?

Murphy dropped dead the moment he arrived home from a vacation in the tropics. He was laid out in the coffin for friends and neighbours to pay their last respects.

"He's got a great tan," Mrs Doolan from next door mused. "The holiday did him the world of good."

"And he looks so calm and serene," said Mrs McGuinness.

"That's because he died in his sleep," explained Mrs Murphy, "and he doesn't know he's dead yet, but when he wakes up, the shock will kill him!"

Murphy arrived home late from the pub, well oiled and ready for trouble.


"Is that you Murphy?" called his wife.

"Byjasis! It damned well better be!"

Dublin's contestant in an international quiz was waiting for his first question.

"First, what's your name and occupation?" The compere asked.

"Pass", came the reply.



**GOODMAN
CONTRACTORS
LIMITED**

**Civil Engineering
Contractors**

(a good man to know...)

**Bulk Earthworks, Roading,
Subdivision, Drainage**

**Transit Prequalification 4A
ACC WSMP Secondary Accredited
Operate Safe Stage 2
ISO9001:2008 Accredited**

4 Anne Street, Waikanae, 5036

**Phone 04 293 7176
Fax 04 293 7136
email office@goodmans.gen.nz
www.goodmans.gen.nz**

Paddy and Shamus were hitchhiking. "It's best if we split up," said Paddy. "I will meet you in the next city under the town hall clock".

Later that night Shamus was waiting at the appointed place when Paddy drove up in a swanky car.

"Where the hell did you get that?"

Paddy explained that he had just walked a little way when a beautiful woman picked him up. She drove into the woods, got out and took all her clothes off.

"She said I could have anything I wanted, so I took the car," said Paddy.

"Good choice too," said Shamus.

"You'd look ridiculous in her clothes."

Paddy was coming through the customs at the airport carrying a large bottle.

"What have you there?" said a suspicious customs officer.

"Tis Lourdes holy water. I am bringing it home with me", said Paddy.

The officer took the bottle and tried some. "Why it's Irish whiskey!" he spluttered.

"Lord bless me!" said Paddy. "Another bloomin`miracle."



Breaden McCardle Chubb
LAW SOLUTIONS
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

**SOLUTIONS FOR
ALL MATTERS LEGAL**

- Residential Conveyancing
- Wills and Estates • Trusts
- Legal Issues for the Elderly

John McCardle
Stephen Chubb
Don Breaden

44 Ihakara St, Paraparaumu
www.lawsolutions.co.nz

(04) 296 1105

KP115272/CG

Points to Ponder

Did Jesus Struggle as You Do?



*We offer a
further reflection
on The Lord's
Prayer*

Did Jesus struggle? **YES!**

Besides being fully divine, Jesus was also fully human. That means that he had to learn to live the Sermon on the Mount long before he preached it. He had to discover how to love his enemies. Doing good to people who hurt or opposed him probably wasn't always easy. He didn't enjoy giving to everyone who asked or stole from him. Although he never sinned, he had to grow in spiritual maturity. Hebrews 2:10 says that he was not fully perfect until he suffered on Good Friday.

Jesus practiced holy living one day at a time. Some days were harder than others, but he grew from his experiences, and he learned to overcome his struggles. The only real difference between Jesus and us is that Jesus never gave in to the temptation to give up the struggles and succumb to sin. When he preached the Sermon on the Mount, he did not ask us to do anything that was foreign to him. He truly understands what we go through as we struggle not to sin.

Even the words he chose for the "Our Father" prayer came out of his own needs and experiences. Take a look at

the Lord's prayer from his perspective. Let's imagine what he might have prayed as a young adult:

Our Father in heaven, the One who gave me this human life, the One who gave life to every person who was ever conceived and who ever will be conceived. You made me a brother of that man who came into my carpenter shop to order a storage chest for his tailor shop. He was so demanding and picky and unreasonable that I wanted to throw him out, but instead, I worked extra hard to do my best work for him. And how did he reward me? With more complaints and a refusal to pay the full amount. Is that fair? No! But You, O God, love him anyway. He is my brother, and so I choose to love him, too. Help me to love him the way you love him.

Hallowed be Your Name. I want to revere You in everything I do. I want to be a witness of how wonderful You are by the way I live my life. Use me to make a difference in others. Show me how to help others revere You. Give me an opportunity to reveal to that tailor how much You love him. Maybe I can find a good deed to do for him. But what I long for most, my Father, is to reach multitudes of people with Your love. In the meantime, I'll work at evangelizing the few people You've put in my life right now.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Sometimes, Father, I think You're not using me to my fullest potential. I

could be doing so much more if I weren't stuck in this carpenter shop. I know Mother needs me. I understand that she and other relatives depend on the income I earn, now that Dad's gone. But I feel frustrated sometimes. How long must I limit my usefulness to carpentry work and a few good discussions in the synagogue? How long must I practice patience with unreasonable tailors and grumpy fishermen and the others who come into my shop? They're only interested in themselves; most of them don't listen to me when I try to tell them the advantages of holy living. Send me to people who are ready to listen! Why are you keeping me here? Yes, Father, I trust that You know the perfect timing for everything. Therefore, I pray that Your will, not mine, be done in my life in this town in this job with these people — just as completely as Your will is always done in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Please give me and my family and my neighbors and my customers — everyone who's part of this community of brothers and sisters in which You've placed me — whatever it is that we need today to do Your will. Give my tailor-brother an awareness of the love You're showering upon him, so that he can be healed of the insecurities that make him so fearful of being cheated. And give me more of Your patience so that doing good to him becomes easier. I also need patience to be truly satisfied with the life and the job and the small town I am in today.

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Thank you, Father, for giving me the strength to resist sin. I pray on behalf of my brothers and sisters who do succumb to sin. Since we are all part of the same community as Your children, I accept their guilt as my own. Forgive

Maher Chartered Accountants Ltd

**CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS**



As Chartered Accountants we stick to our knitting, advising on:

- Business structures and profitability
- Family Trust formation and their operation
- Income Tax

We also prepare:

- Financial Statements
- and all manner of Tax Returns.

Nick Maher (902 6148)
Maher Chartered Accountants Limited
112 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu



*Weight Watchers will meet
at 7pm at the Presbyterian
Church. Please use large
double door at the side entrance.*

us, Father, for we don't understand what we're doing when we sin. We don't realize how we're actually hurting everyone, including ourselves, when we choose to disobey Your will. And Father, because I personally have been hurt by the sins of the others, I ask You not to hold this against them, for I choose to forgive them.

Do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil. Your faith is our shield that protects us from sin, but to rely on You we must turn to You. So for myself and on behalf of the others, I ask for Your divine help. You have given each of us the strength we need to resist the evil one; help us learn to use that strength. It is only through Your power that we can obey Your will; help us to continue to grow in the free use of that power, so that the struggle between the flesh and the spirit is more quickly ended. You've taught me that the most

effective way to resist temptation is to do the opposite of what the evil one wants me to do; help me to do that more readily. If I'm ever tempted again to throw that tailor out of my shop, help me to more speedily make him feel welcome. And strengthen everyone in my human community. Help us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, to bless those who curse us, and to pray for those who treat us badly. Help us to overcome temptation by becoming instruments of Your infinitely powerful and totally unconditional love.

And use me, Father, to deliver all of my human family from the evil one. For You have so loved the world that You've sent me to manifest Your love, that whosoever believes in me shall have everlasting life.

Thank You for hearing my prayer.
Amen!

Your Choice – My Commitment

Harcourts have the best systems and technology in real estate, designed to give you, the client, the greatest opportunity to be successful.

If you list or buy with me you can always rely on my total honesty, reliability and commitment.

If you wish to discuss your real estate needs with no obligation, please feel free to call me at anytime.



John Jarden



Sales and Marketing Consultant

T: 04 902 9619 M: 0274 417 895 E: jjarden@paradise.net.nz

Harcourts Paraparaumu, Coastlands Parade, Kapiti

Garden

*An invitation in a book of prayer exercises: call Jesus your special names for him
- then listen for his special name for you.*

He whispered to me 'My garden!'
And that, being no gardener myself, was a mystery
Until I let the seed of his Word sink in and start to grow.

Then I began to see how he'd come
To a patch of clayey mud
And chosen it to be transformed;
Had staked his claim, fenced in secure,
Then dug and channelled and drained the soil
Made fertile with his sweat and flesh and blood,
And having planned his garden-scape,
Breathed his Word into the secret places
Of my life.
Then waited and watched.

He smiled to see new shoots
And growth and buds;
Bloodied his fingers uprooting briars of sin
Framed the vines and staked the flowers
That could not stand the force of winds;
Lit warmth of friends as oil pots
To see me through the frosty nights;
Pruned and pruned and pruned some more,
Repaired the ravages of storms,
Burnt dead wood, watered me from springs of living love.
All this with tender care, persistence
And full knowledge of the seasons
Of my life.

If he now joys to be in me
Finds pleasure in some fruit and fragrance there
So be it.
The Gardener is my delight
Thank you, Lord.

Clay



I feel like clay
Not the pristine chunk taken from the block
With the excitement of beginning,
But a worked-over puttied mass
Thrown back on the wheel
With the splat of exasperation.
Life seemed for a while
To be shaping up quite well –
There was the vase, a little too solid
But providing excellent stability,
The stem refined, compressed and narrowed
By the pressure of pain's fingers,
And then a widening, an opening out
A goblet to be filled with love
For pouring out.
And now nothing.
No shape. No direction.
I believe in the Potter –
But still have the urge to be doing something,
Though I don't know what.
Still clay must still wait
Still point at the centre of the turning wheel –
or does it even turn?
I believe in the Potter.
Be still and know that I am God.



Both poems are from Faith Evolving: A Patchwork Journey by Trish McBride

STOP PRESS

A number of parishioners from both parishes in our Pastoral Area were delighted to witness Archbishop John present Kathleen Beaumont with the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Papal Medal. An honour indeed. We hope to be able to give you more about Kathleen in our next issue.

CONGRATULATIONS Kathleen - from us all.



Life is Not All it Seems

A man was sick and tired of going to work every day while his wife stayed home. He wanted her to see what he went through so he prayed:

Dear Lord: I go to work every day and put in 8 hours while my wife merely stays at home. I want her to know what I go through so, please allow her body to switch with mine for a day.



God, in his infinite wisdom, granted the man's wish.

The next morning, sure enough, the man awoke as a woman.

He arose, cooked breakfast for his mate, awakened the kids, set out their school clothes, fed them breakfast, packed their lunches, drove them to

school, came home and picked up the dry cleaning, took it to the cleaners, stopped at the bank to make a deposit, went grocery shopping. Then he drove home to put away the groceries, pay the bills and balance the check book. He cleaned the cat's litter box and bathed the dog.



Then, it was already 1 p.m. so he hurried to make the beds, do the laundry, vacuum, dust and sweep and mop the kitchen floor.

He ran to the school to pick up the kids and got into an argument with them on the way home, set out milk and cookies and got the kids organized

*In my father's house there are many mansions..(Jesus said) ..
I go to prepare a place for you - Saint John 14 vs 2*

John Andrew Diane Graham Robert

Kapiti Coast Funeral Home
9 - 11 Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu

There in Times of need

Telephone 04-2985168
www.kapiticoastfuneralhome.co.nz

to do their homework. Then he set up the ironing board and watched TV while he did the ironing.

At 4:30 he began peeling potatoes and washing vegetables for salad, breaded the pork chops and snapped fresh beans for supper.

After supper, he cleaned the kitchen, ran the dishwasher, folded laundry, bathed the kids and put them to bed.

At 9 p.m. he was exhausted and, though his daily chores weren't finished, he went to bed where he was expected to make love, which he managed to get through without complaint.

The next morning, he awoke and immediately knelt by the bed and said: - *Lord, I don't know what I was thinking. I was so wrong to envy my wife's being able to stay home all day. Please, Oh! Please, let us trade back. Amen!*

My son, I feel you have learned your lesson and I will be happy to change things back to the way they were. You'll just have to wait nine months, though. You got pregnant last night.



More Irish Humour for You to Enjoy

"Your glass is empty O'Flaherty, will you be having another?"

"And why would I be wanting two empty glasses?" replied O'Flaherty.

A patient hobbled into the Surgery waiting room.

"I hope to God the doctor finds something wrong with me because I'd hate to feel like this if I was well!"

Paddy was coming through the customs at the airport carrying a large bottle.

"What have you there?" said a suspicious customs officer.

"Tis Lourdes holy water. I am bringing it home with me," said Paddy.

The officer took the bottle and tried some. "Why it's Irish whiskey!" he spluttered.



"Lord bless me!" said Paddy. "Another bloomin' miracle."

On his way home one night, Paddy dropped into the pub.

The barman poured him a beer and asked if he wanted to be in a raffle.

"What's it for?" asked Paddy.

"It's for a poor widow with 13 kids." said the barman.

Paddy shook his head, "No good for me. I'd never be able to keep them."

My top time saving tip is to cook one big meal to last for two nights. Do this 2 x a week and you're through to Thursday!



Parish Directories

August 2012

Please let us know if there are any errors or omissions on these pages.

Kapiti Pastoral Area Council

Area Pastoral Council Chair	John Butterfield	902 8596
Area Pastoral Council Sec	Anna Ryan	902 6330
Pastoral Pages	ed. Anna Ryan	office@ryanpublications.co.nz
Websites	Glen McCullough	293 1747
Liturgy Committee	(Wae) Sr. Barbara Henley 904 6112 (Prm) Marie Huxford	299 0650
Faith Exploration	(Wae) Sue McGlone 293 8536 (Prm) Anna Ryan	902 6330

St Patrick's School

Office	Val McCall	298 6780
Principal	Martin Elms	298 6780
Board of Trustees Chairman	Dave Meyer	298 6780

B.O.T. meets at School 4th Wednesday monthly

Our Lady of Fatima Parish

Administrator	Fr Michael McCabe	902 5815
	stpatrickskapiti@paradise.net.nz	
Parish Office	Secretary: Mary Maloney Hours Mon, Wed, Fri 10:30-1:30	293 3767
	our.lady@xtra.co.nz Newsletter deadline Wed. pm	
Parish Council Chairman/Secretary	Michael Dodson	293 1624
Finance Committee Chairman	Brian Byers	293 7368

Church Worship Support

Church Flowers	Barbara Ratcliffe	904 1321
Communion to the Sick Co-ordinator	Mary Byers	293 7368
Rosters Co-ordinators	Mary Maloney	293 3767

Music	Organists	Judith Wheeler 293 1129	Maria Vink 905 9190
		Doreen Hoffmann 904 3276	Patricia Beasley 293 7964

Guitars	Wullie Grant	904 8702
---------	--------------	----------

Sacristans..	Sr Barbara, C Tolenaar 9022456	M Westerbeke 9042757	S Bater 9052774
Children's Liturgy Coordinator	Jenny McGlone		904 7451
Sacramental Programme 2012	Fiona Green		293 1778

Other Parish Organisations

Rest Home Liturgy Services	Faith Outreach Convener Nonie Hoggard	293 3328
Women's Guild	Sr.Barbara Henley	904 6112

Meets every 2nd Monday of every month except January

St Vincent de Paul President	Audrey Ulrich	293 3932
------------------------------	---------------	----------

Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month except January

Passionist Family Groups	Jenny & Mark McGlone	904 7451
Justice and Peace	Des Horan	904 8086

Prayer Groups	Monday Afternoon	Sandra Bater 905 2774	Billie Watson 902 3868
	2nd & 4th Wednesday Evening Group	Glen McCullough	293 1747
	Christian Meditation (Tuesdays)	Carla Tollenaar	902 2456

Scripture Study Group	Thursdays	Mary Dorrington	904 7390
-----------------------	-----------	-----------------	----------

Youth Group	Debbie Matheson	0226757357
-------------	-----------------	------------

Bereavement Support (SVDP)	Martha Westerbeke	904 2757
----------------------------	-------------------	----------

Communications & Pastoral Pages	Glen McCullough	293 1747
---------------------------------	-----------------	----------

St Patrick's Parish				
Presbytery	Fr Michael McCabe			902 5815
Parish Office	Kathleen Beaumont			902 5815
Pastoral Council Chair	Richard Ward			905 4675
Finance Committee Chair	Dave Diggins			902 1328
Youth Co-ordinator & Sacramental Programme	Debbie Matheson			0226757357
Trust	John McCardle			904 1823
Presentation Convent	Sister Celine			905 3420
<u>Church Worship Support</u>				
Liturgy Roster	Tony Whiteman			904 1855
Children's Liturgy	Alison Boyle			904 6834
Music	Bill Borkin			904 7464
Altar Servers	Rene Barker			905 1736
Eucharist Ministers for the sick	Eddie Doran			902 1074
Masses of Anointing	Colleen King			905 5913
Church Cleaning Roster	Parish Office			902 5815
Church Flowers	Joyce Haughey			905 4467
Sanctuary & Brass	Nancy Lewin			905 6388
Bereavement Mass	Marie Huxford			299 0650
Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation	Kath Garton			904 9341
Engaged Couples (Foccus)	Doug & Mary Fake			904 6290
Baptisms & Bereavements	Merle Whiteman			904 1855
<u>Other Parish Organisations</u>				
St Vincent de Paul	Rebecca Thomson			905 4675
Maori Mission	Wai Stewart			902 4909
Intercessory Prayer Group	Karen Huxford			299 4307
Cath Women's League	Fay Doyle			902 3017
NCRS & RCIA	Fr Michael	902 5815	Eddie Doran	902 1074
Used Clothing	Adult Joy Woodham	298 7802	Child Joanna March	904 7350
Mission Circle	Jean Beaumont			902 1446
Passionist Family Groups	John & Corrie McCardle			904 1823
Living Aloners	Jan Dowd	905 4633	Zelda Masterton	905 9248
Widowed, Separated, Divorced	Susan Harwood			905 7077
Family Ministry	June Brunton			298 6266
Bereavement Support	Cynthia Scott			905 1124
Men's Group	Frits Bergman	297 0777	Pat Haughey	905 4467
Justice & Peace	Peter Ryan			902 6330
Mission Gala Convenor	Tony Bevin			299 6825
Transport to Mass	Catherine Carruthers			297 2411
Parish Library	Robyn Cranshaw			299 0589
Prayer Chain	M. Butterfield	902 8596	Gill Doran	902 1074
Statue & Pilgrimage	Neil Garton (sound)	904 9341	Geoff Mettrick	904 2623
Presentation Associates	Margaret Bevin			299 6825
Home Visits	Joyce Haughey			905 4467

Of Bridal Bouquets, the Upper Crust, Raining Cats & Dogs and Canopied Beds

Here are some facts about the 1500's:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.



Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, don't throw the baby out with the bath water!

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, it's raining cats and dogs.



There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, dirt poor. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in winter when wet so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence a thresh hold.

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.



Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Ed: Now, who said history was boring!!! Accurate? Sound plausible enough.