

Pastoral Pages

Parish of Our Lady of Kāpiti

Te Whaea Tapu o Kāpiti

Summer 2016

WISE MEN SEEK HIM STILL



What's Inside

Reflections on Christmas

Wise Men

Reports, Updates and Opinion Pieces

EDITORIAL



Our quarterly little magazine takes a slightly different tack this time. Instead of focusing on Advent or Christmas, we take a look at the Three Wise Men and see what they have to add to the Christmas story, as well as taking a look at what they might have to say to us that is relevant to us in Kapiti in 2016.

As usual we report on events that have taken place and give you advance notice of events that are coming up. If you attend any parish happenings, please take photos that we could use in future reports in these pages. Our

team can't be at all the events all the time, so we would love to have you contribute.

We also pay tribute to Justin du Fresne, who gave so much to the parish over recent years both as chair of the Parish Council and in his role on the Steering committee, by taking excerpts from brother Karl's eulogy. He is sorely missed.

May God bless you and your loved ones over this Christmas and holiday time. Whilst we enjoy the gifts given and received, let us also remember to

offer and receive those less tangible gifts such as love, patience, kindness and joy.

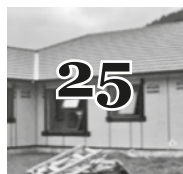
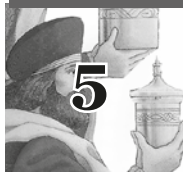
Anna and the Editorial Team.



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Reflections

Joy, Justice and Ginger

Advent

Arrival

We wait for the flavours and focus
of Christ-coming~
peacefulness and joy
justice-making, love
and red-wrapped boxes of ginger.

Advent

Arrival

We wait for the silent feet
of camels
and the clatter of Kaimanawa horses
startled on the Desert Road
of summer holidays.

Advent

Arrival

We wait for the gate to open
urging us
to step into the story
and the mystery
that calms and troubles the world.

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Matthew 2:1-12 The Message (MSG)

2 ¹⁻² After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory— this was during Herod's kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, "Where can we find and pay homage to

the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We're on pilgrimage to worship him."

³⁻⁴ When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not

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Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

⁵⁻⁶ They told him, "Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly:

It's you, Bethlehem, in Judah's land, no longer bringing up the rear.

From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel."

⁷⁻⁸ Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, "Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I'll join you at once in your worship."

⁹⁻¹⁰ Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same



star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

¹² In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

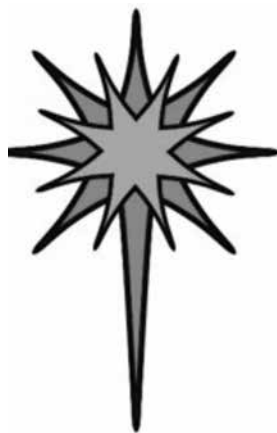
What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a star -
Brilliance in a package.

Something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans,
Or in the pocket of your being.

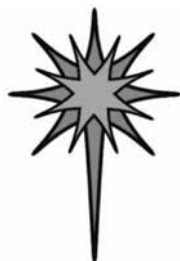
Something to take out in times of darkness,
Something that would never snuff out or tarnish,
Something you could hold in your hand.

Something of wonderment,
Something for pondering,
Something that would remind you of what Christmas
has always meant -

God's Advent Light into the Darkness of this world.



But stars are only God's for giving
And I must be content to give you words and wishes and packages
without stars.
But I can wish you life
As radiant as the Star that announced the Christ Child's coming,
And as filled with awe as the Shepherds who stood
Beneath its light.
And I can pass on to you the love that has been given me,
Ignited countless times by others who have knelt
In Bethlehem's Light.



Perhaps if you ask
God will give you a Star.

Source unknown

The Three Kings – Fact and Fiction

What do we know for sure about the three kings, the three wise men, the Magi? Very little. Matthew is the only one who tells of them. Presumably Luke thought they were irrelevant in the infancy narrative. Matthew said that wise men came out of the east following a star. They met with King Herod and knelt before Jesus and gave him gifts. They went home by another way to avoid Herod. That's all the Gospels tell us. The rest, I think, is conjecture or tradition.

They were probably astronomers, because that is what "Magi" infers. They are thought to be kings because the Old Testament refers to kings paying homage (Psalm 72:11, Isaiah 60:3), and they bore very expensive gifts. There is no certainty about numbers – western tradition has three, the number of gifts, but eastern tradition has nine. There is no certainty where they came from, other than "the east". Early tradition, dating to c.565,

had them coming from Persia, but by the 14th century they had names and origins – Caspar from Tarsus (modern day Turkey), Melchior from Arabia and Balthazar from Saba (modern South Yemen), although Balthazar is also attributed to India and is usually depicted with a dark face.



Their gifts had spiritual meaning, apart from their common use - Gold as a symbol of kingship, frankincense (an incense) as a symbol of deity and myrrh (an embalming oil) as a symbol of death. The latter might have foreshadowed Jesus' sacrifice and it has been said that the gift may have been used to prepare Jesus body for burial. The gold was probably used to fund the journey to Egypt and back.

The timing of the visit is uncertain. It must have been within two years of Jesus birth and before the flight

to Egypt, and was possibly after the Presentation in the Temple.

The Church celebrates the visit on 6th January as the Epiphany. The dictionary defines Epiphany as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi, or a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization". And therein lies the true significance of the three kings, despite all the uncertainties – Jesus, our Saviour, revealed to the world! Alleluia!

Glen McCullough

What lessons can we learn from the story of the wise men?

First, wise men and wise women **follow** God's direction. These wise men followed a divinely given star at the beginning of the story (Matt 2:2,10), and a divinely given dream at the end (2:12). Let's expect God to guide us in unexpected ways this Christmas season.

Second, wise men and women **travel** to meet Jesus. These wise men came from lands east of Jerusalem. We're not sure where they were from exactly, but lands east of Jerusalem today include Jordan, Iraq, Iran and Syria. Some of the first people to meet Jesus were from lands that are now Muslim. They still need to meet Jesus. These countries are often considered to be our enemies, but even if they are, thirty years after his birth the Prince of Peace told us to pray for our enemies. Over a quarter million people have died in the past few years in the war in Syria. Let's pray for peoples east of Jerusalem this Christmas season, particularly ones in Syria, and ask God

to guide us (see lesson #1) how he wants us to care for them.

Third, wise men and women **fall down** and worship Jesus. That's what these wise men did. Ultimately, the story is about Jesus and our adoration of the incarnate king, born to serve, die and rise again.

<https://davidtlamb.com/2015/12/10/three-lessons-from-the-five-wise-men>

Matthew 2:1-12 shows us that there may be true servants of God in places where we should not expect to find them. The Lord Jesus has many "hidden ones" like these wise men. The grace of God is not tied to places and families. The Holy Spirit can lead souls to Christ without the help of many outward means. People may be born in dark places of the earth, like these wise men, and yet like them be made "wise unto salvation."

These verses teach us, that it is not always those who have most religious

privileges, who give Christ most honour. We might have thought that the Scribes and Pharisees would have been the first to hasten to Bethlehem, on the lightest rumour that the Saviour was born. But it was not so. A few unknown strangers from a distant land were the first, together with the lowly shepherds mentioned by Luke, to rejoice at His birth.

These verses teach us, that there may be knowledge of Scripture in the head while there is no grace in the heart. Notice how king Herod sends to inquire of the priests and elders "where the Christ would be born." Notice also what a ready answer they return him, and what an acquaintance with the letter of Scripture they show. But they never went to Bethlehem to seek for the coming Saviour.

The conduct of the wise men described in this chapter is a splendid example of spiritual diligence. What trouble it must have cost them to travel from their homes to the place where Jesus was born! How many weary miles they must have journeyed!

It would be well for all professing Christians if they were more ready to follow the wise men's example. Where is our self-denial? What pains do we take about our souls? What diligence do we show about following Christ? What does our religion cost us? These are serious questions. They deserve serious consideration.

Last, but not least, the conduct of the wise men is a striking example of faith. They believed in Christ when they had never seen Him - but that was not all.

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They believed in Him when
the Scribes and Pharisees were
unbelieving - but that again
was not all. They believed in
Him when they saw Him a little
infant on Mary's knee, and
worshiped Him as a king.

[http://www.jesus.org/birth-of-jesus/
star-and-magi/what-can-the-wise-
men-teach-us.html](http://www.jesus.org/birth-of-jesus/star-and-magi/what-can-the-wise-men-teach-us.html)




The Kings

Three kings from Persian lands afar
To Jordan follow the pointing star
And this the quest of the travellers three,
Where the new-born King of the Jews could be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King
Gold, Incense, Myrrh are their offering.

The star shines forth with a steadfast ray,
The kings to Bethlehem hake their way.
And there in worship they bend the knee
As Mary's child in her lap they see.
Their royal gifts they show to the King
Gold, Incense, Myrrh are their offering.

Thou Child of Man, low to Bethlehem
The Kings are travelling, travel with them.
The Star of Mercy, the Star of Grace,
Will lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, Incense, Myrrh though cans't not bring,
Offer thy heart to the Infant King.
Offer thy heart.

Composer P Cornelius, from Oxford Book of Carols




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10 Lessons From The Wise Men

1. Never give up

Imagine if the wise men had got tired waiting for that bright star and had decided to quit that night and go to bed. They would have easily missed the star that would eventually lead them to Jesus. Is it not also interesting that the majority of those who got healed during the time of Jesus on earth, were healed because of their persistent spirit? What have you given up lately that you should not be quitting?

2. Decide to step out

What a waste it would have been if they had given up after seeing the star! Sometimes stepping out by faith is doubtful, scary and lonely but if your eyes are on Jesus, it will most certainly be worthwhile. As we step out into a new year, are there areas where you have to step out of the fear and into by faith?

3. Don't partner with the visionless

They might have been called wise men but they sure made some costly mistakes. If I could I would ask them "If it is you who saw the star, why ask the ones who haven't seen what you have?" If the vision is yours, don't even try asking someone who does not share the vision for their suggestions, advice, opinion or any kinds of thoughts. They are likely to endanger your vision.

4. Super Focus

These wise men were focused but they needed more than just that. They needed to be super-focused. Especially when the enemy is after you to distract you from your big goal. They lost their focus to the more obvious reality, the palace. Surely the King must be living here, right? Well, think again! You have a star to focus on. You are not called to do the obvious. Let's keep going!

5. Guard your secret place

King Herod called them up secretly and whispered lies into their ears. Weren't these wise men called and guided by God? And now here they are sharing their heart and ears to the natural. Guard what you listen to, where you listen from and whom you share your time with. Give God all your heart, time and energy. Who are you listening to today? And whose report do you believe?

6. Trust God over your intellect

If you are going to trust God, here's a piece of advice - your thoughts are not His thoughts and your ways are not His ways. The only way you are going to follow God's plan is when you get out of that palace - that place where your intellect rules. The Bible says that when they resumed the journey they saw the star. God's guiding star was hidden by the palace of intellectual thinking. Sometimes it is tempting to trust our logic but let's obey His words over our mind.

7. Revelation leads to Worship

No, it's not the fast-paced songs or the slow good lyrical songs that help you

worship. It's your personal revelation of who God is that leads you to a place of reverent worship where you do not feel the need of a worship leader or music to get you there. The wise men knew who Jesus was and therefore required no high adrenaline music, no introduction, no motivation. Absolutely nothing but the revelation of God brought them to their knees in worship.

8. Worshipped Him for who He was

While many worship Jesus for healing, for deliverance, for saving their souls, the wise men worshipped Jesus for who He was. They did not see Him heal the blind, raise the dead or walk on the waters but they worshipped Him. Your life will truly change when you begin to worship God for who He is and not for what He can bless you with.

9. They gave the best

The wise men did not offer Him a gift for the sake of giving something. They did not settle at giving Him some super absorbent diapers but they brought riches with them. They gave him the best that was available back then. In giving today to God or to someone in need, can we give our best possible gift? It may or may not please man, but let's give in a way that makes heaven proud.

10. Now for my tenth point

Well, I decided not to make up a point just to complete my 10 point list on the wise men. I'll let you do it.

What should be the tenth point?

What have you learned from the wise men that you can add to this list?

<http://revivenations.org/blog/2010/12/22/10-lessons-from-the-wise-men/>

The wise men brought gifts to Jesus.

**If you were there at Jesus' birth, what would you bring him?
Of course we won't be able to give Jesus a gift, but we can give
the Jesus in someone else a gift - a meaningful gift from your
heart. Not anything that you can buy them, but something that
you can give of yourself."**



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Fr Jim's Been Thinking

The Gift which is Salvation



For this issue I was asked to think about the question of gift and I find that Luke's gospel is most appropriate to the search we must all undertake. Recently we were regaled with the story of Zacchaeus and his meeting with Jesus (Lk 19:1-10). Luke details a life quite representative of the human struggle for meaningful relationships and how people depend on the quality of their gifting and accepting.

The first of the gifts Zacchaeus received was that of riches: he was extremely wealthy, being the chief tax collector for the region around Jericho. This was one of the three big ones, the others being Capernaum and Jerusalem. Jericho was sited at a crossing of the River Jordan on one of the main routes to Jerusalem. It was a rich area with great palm forests and groves of balsam.

As chief tax collector Zacchaeus controlled a tax-gathering corporation and employed or contracted a number of go-betweens to collect taxes from the people, usually employing threats. Zacchaeus and each of his agents purchased the agencies to collect taxes and made their earnings through a system of surcharges which made them filthy rich. By and large they had the scruples of a modern-day drug dealer. So Zacchaeus was not a likely candidate for the kingdom! He was definitely not popular; nor would he have been a particularly happy man. In him we find another example of happiness and wealth being unable to complement each other.

We might perceive that his acceptance was somewhat selfish!

The second gift Zacchaeus received was an invitation to salvation. Nobody would have dreamt that Zacchaeus would have taken it into his head to try to see Jesus and yet some inner prompting sees him climb a sycamore tree to get a better view - perhaps he also wanted to hide from the crowds while he watched Jesus passing by. Maybe he had been given a heads up by Levi (or Matthew as we know him). A rustling in the tree possibly prompted Jesus to glance up and see this little fellow above him. His heart went out to him! "Can you give me dinner tonight?" The reply was immediate and to the point: "Of course, welcome!"

That Jesus and Zacchaeus were seeking out each other at this time is a wonderful example of God at work in the world. Despite the mutterings, *He has gone to be a guest of one who is a sinner* (Lk 19:7) both our heroes were full of joy. Zacchaeus turns his life around as he eschews the chasing of wealth and promises to divest himself of half his fortune. Jesus applauds his generosity and greets him as a true son of Abraham (Lk 19:9). The previous selfish streak has dissipated!



This event comes near the end of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem so here he sums up the whole purpose of his mission: *For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost* (Lk 19:10). Shortly, he will enter Jerusalem to face his destiny but Luke leaves me with two vital questions to answer:

How have I received all life's gifts?

Have I answered his invitation with the wholeheartedness displayed by Zacchaeus?

These questions are addressed to us all!

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Winston Churchill



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Geethal's Corner

The Gift which is Salvation



This is the first of a series of articles where we will examine the relationship between our faith, actions, stewardship and attitudes to our wealth. This initial article picks up some of these concepts from the biblical narrative. The subsequent articles will further expand these principles with anecdotal stories from the bible where these have been put in to practice.

The purpose of these articles is to inspire us to examine our own position as individuals in relation to the biblical principles and determine how we will respond to these principles through our actions.

Faith in Action – Points to Ponder

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Heb 11:1)



Long ago, God told Abraham to pack up his things and go to Canaan and that God would make his descendents numerous. He obeyed and went, acting on God's word. The Bible says that God counted his faith as righteousness.



At Mass we ask God to look at our faith not our sins. What is this faith we claim to have? Is it just something we have so that God can forgive us? OR can this faith move mountains and do those great things the Lord Jesus said he would do for us?

In our parish prayer we say, “Glory be to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine” (Eph 3:20). Do we really believe this? Just imagine

what would happen If we took this seriously.

In this advent season we celebrate that God fulfilled his promises by bestowing his greatest gift on us. At this time we can also reflect on the faith of a young maiden who believed God and trusted him. She was willing to act on it by bearing his son, regardless of the risks and consequences. This is a good example of faith in action which led to her being honoured with the proclamation “Ave Maria”.

If we are a people of faith, do we also need to be a people of action? As St James says in his letter, “faith without works is dead”. Faith in action means taking God at his word and acting on it, believing that God will do what he says. If God says that he will provide our needs then how do we act on this promise?

On another note, the scriptures say “give from the gratitude of your heart, not grudgingly for the Lord loves a cheerful giver”. The term “giving” can be very broad, including our time, money, talents, possessions - in fact everything the Lord has blessed us with. This is part of stewardship.

Something for us to think about:

What is the link between faith in action and stewardship?



Scrabble

DORMITORY	When you rearrange the letters:	DIRTY ROOM
PRESBYTERIAN	When you rearrange the letters:	BEST IN PRAYER
ASTRONOMER	When you rearrange the letters:	MOON STARER
THE EYES	When you rearrange the letters:	THEY SEE
GEORGE BUSH	When you rearrange the letters:	HE BUGS GORE
THE MORSE CODE	When you rearrange the letters:	HERE COME DOTS
SLOT MACHINES	When you rearrange the letters:	CASH LOST IN ME
ANIMOSITY	When you rearrange the letters:	IS NO AMITY
ELECTION RESULTS	When you rearrange the letters:	LIES - LET'S RECOUNT
SNOOZE ALARMS	When you rearrange the letters:	ALAS! NO MORE Z'S
A DECIMAL POINT	When you rearrange the letters:	IM A DOT IN PLACE
THE EARTHQUAKES	When you rearrange the letters:	THAT QUEER SHAKE
ELEVEN PLUS TWO	When you rearrange the letters:	TWELVE PLUS ONE


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Youth

As we near the end of the school year we also start to finish up our Youth Group events. We have had a great year and have loved touching base with so many of our parish youth in many varied ways throughout 2016.

During the weekend 25-27 November we will have our annual Gravitate Youth Camp. This is being held up at Palm Grove in Valley Road and the theme this year is “the Journey”. This is always a really fun weekend away and the youth get to connect with new and old friends while learning along the way. Contact us on 022 6757 357 asap if you want to get on this camp.

Our Music Jam sessions have finished up for the year and we were really excited to have opened this up to year



5 and above. Our talented senior youth musicians are helping to teach the newer members of this team and we can't wait to see what next year brings with regards to our Music Jam team.

J-Team finishes on 2 December with our annual Christmas Party. J-Team is usually for those in school Years 5 – 7 but we like to invite the Year 4s too for the Christmas Party so they can come along and see what J-Team is all



about and decide if they want to join in next year. If this sounds like you, see you 2 December, 5-6.30pm at Grace Hall, St Patrick's School.


The Fun Time group is such a wonderful family group and we love seeing the happy faces every Friday morning. We are grateful to the Year 8 students of St Patrick's School who help to keep this group running smoothly as part of their service. We are having a Fun Time Christmas party to mark the end of our year on 2 December 10.30-11.30 at Grace Hall and all are, as always, welcome.

Next year we will be joining the school and moving with them to their new premises for our youth groups. Keep an eye out in 2017 as we advertise exactly where in the school each event will be held (i.e. St Patrick's Hall or the Library, etc).

Our thanks to our wonderful leaders and helpers for giving the Youth Ministry their time and talents throughout 2016. We have a small group of young and young at heart people who give their time on a regular basis and without these helpers our groups could not run. Thank you also to the Parish for the open hearts and arms you have extended to our youth events over the past year.

Delwyn Barber, Administrator,
Youth Ministry





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Cooking

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Setting up

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Publicising

☐

Selling tickets

- I could lend a trailer or truck, assist with moving heavy furniture (trestles, chairs).
- I would like to join the co-ordinating team.
- I think we can direct some/more effort to the following areas:

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**Why do we press
harder on a remote
control when we
know the batteries
are flat?**

Parish Directory November 2016

This directory is as accurate as we are able to make it.
Please let us know if there are any errors or omissions on these pages.

Our Lady of Kapiti Parish Administration

Parish Priest & Presbytery	Fr Michael McCabe	902 5815
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Website (www.kapiti-catholic.org.nz)	Lafaele Vaeluaga	(04) 238 2454

Church Worship Support

Liturgy Committee	Prm	Maureen Borkin	904 7464
	Wae	Sr. Barbara Henley	904 6112
Altar Brass & Linen (Prm)		Nan Lewin	905 6388
Altar Servers (Prm)		Maureen Borkin	904 7464
Anointing Masses		Colleen King	905 5913
Baptisms & Bereavements		Merle Whiteman	904 1855
Bereavement Mass		Maureen Borkin	904 7464
Children's Liturgy		Jenny McGlone	(06) 364 3908
Church Flowers	Prm	Velma Knight	299 1539
Communion to the Sick	Prm	Eddie Doran	902 1074
	Wae	Pat Fouhy	293 1140
Liturgy Rosters		Parish Office	902 5815
Music - Prm		Bill Borkin	904 7464
Wae Organists	Judith Wheeler	293 1129	Maria Vink 905 9190
	Doreen Hoffmann	904 3276	Patricia Beasley 293 7964
Guitars		Wullie Grant	904 8702
Sacramental Programme		Parish Office	902 5815

Other Parish Groups

Adult Faith Enrichment	Anna Ryan	902 6330
Bereavement Support	Annette Corban	298 8596
Catholic Women's League	Fay Doyle	902 3017
Cenacle Sisters		293 8344 & 905 7213

Family Ministry	June Brunton	298 6266
Justice and Peace	Wullie Grant	904 8702
Living Aloners	Jan Dowd 905 4633	Zelda Masterton 905 9248
Maori Mission	Wai Stewart	902 4909
Men's Group	Nick Maher 298 8475	Pat Haughey 905 4467
Mission Circle		Glen McCullough 293 1747
Mission Gala Convenor	Jean Beaumont	902 4146
New Parishioners and Home Visits	Sr Breda Ryan	905 3420
Old Ducks Prayer & Scripture Group	Joyce Haughey	905 4467
Passionist Family Groups	Chris Todd 298 8984	June Brunton 298 6266
	Prm John & Corrie McCardle	904 1823
	Wae Jenny & Mark McGlone	(06) 364 3908
Pastoral Pages	Editor. Anna Ryan	office@ryanpublications.co.nz 902 6330
Prayer Chain	Gill Doran 902 1074	Nan Lewin 905 6388
Prayer Groups (Wae)	Monday Afternoon	Lorraine Gaffaney 905 2402
	Christian Meditation (Tuesdays)	Wanda Sager 293 2441
Presentation Sisters		905 3420
Presentation Associates	Margaret Bevin	299 6825
RCIA	Fr Michael 902 5815	Eddie Doran 902 1074
Scripture Study Groups	Wae Clare Borst 293 6262 or Pat Belgrave	902 3995
Not Your Usual Sunday Readings	Wed aft Michele 298 7378	Thurs evg Josephine 974 0629
St Vincent de Paul	John Reardon	293 6079
Used Clothing	Child (enquire Parish Office)	Adult Joy Woodham 298 7802
Waikanae Rest Home Liturgy Services	Catherine Englert	293 2978
Widowed, Separated, Divorced	Annette Corban	021 264 4567
Women's Guild	Sharyn Pearce	902 2571
Youth Co-ordinator	Jacqui McLaughlin	0226757357
Trust	John McCardle	904 1823

St Patrick's School

Office	Val McCall	298 6780
Principal	Martin Elms	298 6780
Board of Trustees Chair	Martha Stuart-Berrisford	902 2323

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

Our Parish School

This will be our last contribution to the Parish Magazine as St Patrick's School. On 1st January 2017 we officially become Our Lady of Kāpiti school.

Parishioners and past pupils are invited to attend our end of year Graduation Mass on Thursday 8th December at 6.30 pm. This will be a time to celebrate, to remember and to look forward with optimism to the future.

We also look forward to your joining us at the new school for a visit, after mass, on Friday 3rd February 2017.

Some things will continue just the same, including the Logo and school uniform.

Recently we had our annual MISSION DAY GALA (initiated by the Presentation sisters many years ago) to raise funds for the children

to give away to help those in need here in NZ and overseas. Over \$1600 was raised. Thank you to parishioners and the school community who supported this event so generously. The theme for mission day was 'masquerade' and all the children created their own masks along with the teachers. There were



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some amazing creations.

St Patrick's day will continue to be an important day – next year we will celebrate the day with the official opening of the school by Cardinal John. The feasts of the Sacred Heart and the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be important feast days in the future for the school as well.

Cardinal John has approved the Board's request to name the three new teaching blocks *Nagel*, *Aubert* and *MacKillop* after three important

southern hemisphere Catholic religious who set an example of Christianity in action through works of charity and mercy, championing Catholic education, especially to the poor and marginalised.

We have had a very successful year with students representing the Kāpiti region in cross country, touch and netball. Two students won the Year 5 and 6 Kāpi-mana scripture reading competitions. A significant number of students achieved High distinction, Distinction, Merit and Credit in the University of New South Wales Educational Assessments in Maths, Spelling, Writing and English. Over 1 million students enter from Australia, NZ and the Pacific.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.

Martin Elms, Principal

We're Building A Church

Project on a Page - Diary the Dates

The latest Project on a Page gave an update on progress on the new site as well as a list of events and dates that are coming up in the parish, including activities around the closure of the St Patrick's school and church and the events at the new site early in the new year. It also outlines the proposed timetable for masses once St Patrick's church is no longer available to the parish.

Did you miss out on the latest Project on a Page? You can access it on the parish website:

<http://www.kapiti-catholic.org.nz/?sid=1490>

Fundraising Reports:

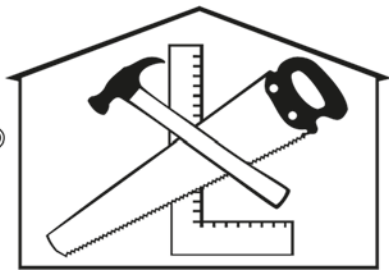
Sunday Produce Stall - St Patrick's

Our Produce stall continues to be well patronised and to date the total raised is \$6,241. Home baked goods are popular and we expect that garden produce will soon be available to provide variety. Please keep in mind the need for produce to sell and the importance of customers!

Quiz Night

What a wonderfully supported evening our Quiz night proved to be! The Senior Citizens Hall was full to capacity with teams vying to be part of the prize winning table.





During a break in the rounds of quiz questions plated desserts were sold and disappeared quickly, while the table of raffle prizes attracted a steady stream of hopeful buyers.

Our Church building fund will profit by a nett \$2080 but more importantly the parish community met and mingled with a great deal of enjoyment. Truly, fundraising can be fun!

Trade to Build Project

To date our sales of donated items via Trademe have raised in excess of \$18,000. Our Parish Account, "OLOKTRADER" has developed a

strong trading profile receiving 100+ positive feedbacks.

This is an on-going project, dependent on your generosity in donating goods, buying listed items and using your networks to encourage others to support our efforts. Further information is available on the Parish website, www.kapiti-catholic.org.nz, or contact Claire Reiher 04 9046956.

Ladies who Lunch

Our lunch groups' total has reached \$10,129. To join a group or set up your own, phone Velma 299 1539.



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PHONE ANGELA 04 2935611



Let's Build a Church

Christmas Fayre

When: Saturday 10 December 2016 from 10.00am-4.00pm

Where: Grace Hall, St Patrick's Primary School

Gold coin admission for adults

The Christmas Fayre promises to be a fun-filled event offering:

- ☆ Arts and Crafts made by artisans from Kapiti to Wellington. Your opportunity to purchase those last minute Christmas gifts from over 20 stalls offering a wide range of goods.
- ☆ Parish stalls offering Cakes, Jams and Chutneys, Tombola, Raffles, Morning Tea, Sausage Sizzle,
- ☆ Children are catered for through face painting and lucky dips.

Can you help us by donating any of the following items to assist our team of helpers with baking and by making jams/ chutneys:



Sugar



Flour



Dried fruit



Butter

There will be a box wrapped in Christmas paper in the foyer of St Patrick's and Our Lady of Fatima Churches at each Sunday Mass until Sunday 20 November in which you can place these items.



If you are able to help on the day with any of the parish stalls your assistance would be really appreciated.

This will be the last event to be held in Grace Hall, let's make it a HUGE success.

For further information contact:

Carole and John Hutchings tel 902 3378

Mary and Ron Cook tel 298 3255.

(Re)Introducing Parish Groups & People

Johannes Sijbrant – Writer Of Icons

In the Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition the writing of icons is an ecclesiastical ministry. The artist is properly known as a writer of icons and painting is “read” as a liturgical object, clarifying and manifesting the purpose of our Faith.

Johannes Sijbrant of Raumati South is steeped in the culture and symbolism of icons.

“We all know the verbal theology from Scripture. Icons portray theology in colour, line and composition. They are never intended to be museum pieces or priced and traded as works of art.”

Growing up in Amsterdam, Johannes was exposed from a very early age to the great art and culture of Europe. In his family the arts were highly esteemed. He was taken to great art exhibitions every year. At the end of his street was the 2000-seat Basilica of St

Mary which was full of paintings. From a concert hall backing on to his home the music of the great composers could be heard.

Given a gift of paint and equipment for his 10th birthday, Johannes was influenced by the art about him. He created his first icon at age 12, a triptych which still hangs on the wall of his home. By 16 he wanted to make icons on a regular basis but the pressures of study and work ruled that out beyond occasional work.

Johannes had a busy life as a psychotherapist and counsellor both in Holland and New Zealand.

In 1982 he came to New Zealand with his wife, Bea, and two sons, Joshua



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then aged five and Aron, seven.

Although he had been raised in a non-religious family, he always had an interest through the arts.

“I developed a private faith that I shared mainly with my mother.” Once in New Zealand, Johannes and Bea were moved to learn about the faith in various churches, the second-to-last being Pilgrims in Kapiti, a small evangelical church until, as Johannes says, “God called us to leave everything and join the Catholic Church. What we

were trying to achieve in Pilgrims was already fully available in the Church.”

Now retired, Johannes has returned to his beloved painting. Not only icons but landscapes, seascapes and symbolic works.

At the Graduation Mass for children at St Patrick’s School, one of his icons, especially commissioned for the new school buildings and inspired with the collaboration of principal, Martin Elms, and nine senior students, will be unveiled and read.

L’Arche is Building a Community

On the site of the former school field in Tongariro Street, two new houses are taking shape for the L’Arche community in Kapiti.

Community leader, Candice Wilson, says there will be two homes, each of seven bedrooms and full family facilities with the potential for more developments on the site at a later date.

They will replace existing homes on Riwai Street and Redwood Close. The moving-in date is expected to be in February.

In each home will be four core members and three assistants “living in the spirit of the Beatitudes”

Although core members are defined as those with intellectual disabilities and assistants are helpers who come from around the world to work in L’Arche homes, the house residents work together, Candice says.

“Not doing ‘for’ but doing ‘together’. We all have abilities and disabilities.



We work together to learn and grow as God created us.”

While the assistants are global travellers from Tonga, the Phillipines, France, the United Kingdom, the United States and one Kiwi woman, who stay for a time before returning home or moving on to another L’Arche community, each home will also have a house leader who remains long term at L’Arche Kapiti.

Within the homes there will be shared day-to-day responsibilities – cooking, cleaning, gardening and the normal activities of a household – as well as shared prayer.

Beyond the walls of home, core members and assistants are participating members of the Kāpiti

community. In Our Lady of Kāpiti parish they are vital and vibrant members of the congregation, contributing to its prayer life.

In the wider community they take part in a wide range of activities including Special Olympics where swimming and bowling are favourites.

The name L'Arche is derived from Noah's Ark and symbolises a place of refuge. There are more than 146 L'Arche



communities in 35 countries; the Paraparaumu community is the only one in New Zealand.

Recent Events

L'Arche Retreat

During a year of many changes, great “busyness” and a lot of growth, our L'Arche Community was recently able to take some time out and enjoy a weekend retreat at the Magnificat Centre in Featherston. Core members of our community, assistants and many friends joined together to pray, rest, reflect and enjoy the opportunity to build community together by simply

being present to each other. Our theme for this year was “Our Daily Bread – Simplicity” and with the help of our able bread-maker Kathryn Fernando, we all participated in mixing, resting, kneading and shaping and finally, breaking and eating the bread together.

As we enjoyed this activity throughout the weekend we explored aspects of



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Leah, Ryan, Nesi, Tamzin

our own individual lives and lives in community; the gathering of very different 'ingredients', and the mixing together which makes us one; the resting and waiting for the Holy Spirit like the leaven in the dough to rise through and increase us from within; the kneading through which we experience the knock backs and difficulties, and finally the shaping, breaking and sharing of the bread that is us and Christ within us.

We were blessed to have the Magnificat Community join us in the chapel for a joy-filled celebration of mass



Emmett, Tamzin & Trish

celebrated by Fr Rod Milne. Michele Ness and Sr Judith McGinley of the Dominican Community provided us with some beautifully simple but profound reflection sessions. There was even time for some of the more enthusiastic assistants and friends to do some night hiking up the Rimutaka incline.

Altogether a blessed weekend. Our gratitude goes to the many people who worked so hard to make our weekend together possible, as well as to the Magnificat community who hosted us with so much love and joy.

Men's Breakfast

20th August - Men's Breakfast with Rex & Theresa Begley, Associates at Kopua Monastery, on "Why venture on strange paths, risking all?"



Women's Breakfast



15th October - Woman's Breakfast with Rev Jenny Dawson, St Paul's Anglican Parish, Paraparaumu on "Family as a Challenging Mosaic".



28th – 30th April 2017

El Rancho, Waikanae

Look out for more details and early bird bookings coming soon.

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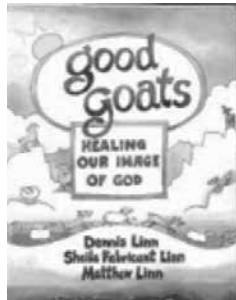
Book Review

Good Goats – Healing our Image of God

Good Goats – Healing our Image of God by Dennis Linn, Sheila Fabricant Linn & Matthew Linn Illustrations Francisco Miranda.

This book is based on presentations given at retreats for several years by Dennis & Sheila Linn and Matt Linn S.J.

Based around Mt 25:31-31, 41,46, the first section, “Healing our Image of God”, contains short stories and life experiences to illustrate God’s unlimited love for and acceptance of all people, explaining how we are all good goats. The second part, “Questions and Answers”, contains the way the authors respond to



the most commonly asked questions when presenting this material at retreats. This section is rather more wordy but still very readable, without resorting to church speak.

We all have goodness and failures within us and God keeps on loving us all – just

as the Forgiving Father loved, waited for and embraced the Prodigal Son. This book is an easy read, complemented by delightful illustrations making the lessons presented extremely accessible for all.

What is your image of God? Are you a sheep or a goat?

Ishbel Cunniffe

*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

Graham

Rodney

Merryn & Andrew Malcolm

Diane

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There in Times of Need

Obituary

Justin du Fresne

Excerpts from Justin du Fresne's funeral eulogy delivered by his brother Karl du Fresne

Justin du Fresne was a good man, in the most complete sense of the word. He was a good husband, a good father and a doting grandfather. He was a good son and wonderful brother. Justin was loving. And he was brave, as he showed in those last weeks when his body failed him and we could see him growing weaker by the day.

He was born in Hawera on November 17, 1941, the third son of Kathrin and Eric and one of six children.

In 1943 the family moved to Palmerston North. Even then, Justin demonstrated an aptitude for communication and an ability to charm people.

As a boy, he stood apart from the rest of us because he was always so orderly. Getting to Sunday Mass on time was always a scramble but I can still see Justin, neatly dressed, shoes polished, hair brushed, waiting patiently by the front door while the rest of us floundered around looking for misplaced shoes and socks.

Justin did his secondary schooling at St John's College, Hastings, boarding through the week and coming home at weekends.

It was our father's wish that at least one of the family should get a degree, so Justin was packed off to Victoria

University with the intention of becoming a teacher. Within a few months he decided broadcasting sounded more exciting and got a job as a clerical

cadet at what was then the New Zealand Broadcasting Service.

By 1961 he was an announcer on 2ZB and two years later, aged only 22, he was chosen to launch the Sunset Show playing pop music five evenings a week.

He came from a family of singers and was a very good singer himself. Justin's broadcasting career was put on hold for a year in the mid-1960s when he went to Britain with a singing group called the Folkestone Three. In London he married Lynne, who had followed him from New Zealand. They had two sons, Piers and Andre.

Justin resumed his broadcasting career on returning to Wellington but his life took a new turn when he moved to Levin to work for his father-in-law. After his marriage ended he went back to his home town, Waipukurau, and opened a menswear store.

In 1979, he married a second time, to Judy. Together they had a son, Christian, and Justin adopted Lee and Jenny, Jude's children from her first marriage.



Justin's marriage to Jude gave him a second shot at life. They were devoted to each other and celebrated their 37th year of marriage this year.

In 1983 he was invited to Wellington to take part in a special broadcast. The audience response was such that Radio New Zealand invited him to return full-time

After a break of about 15 years, Justin was host of an afternoon music show. When the station dropped music in favour of talkback, he made the transition effortlessly and for 23 years, presented the weekday morning talk show and later, a Saturday morning show. By the time he retired in 2013, he had established some sort of record for longevity.

Much of that was due to the immense loyalty of his listeners. There was an overwhelming outpouring of public affection for him after his death.



He was a man of strong faith. He chaired the Catholic parish council and was a member of the steering group raising money for a new church and school. I'm certain his faith helped him face death with courage and a sense of peace.

Although he lived much of his life in public, he was essentially a private man whose greatest pleasure was in the simple comforts of home and family.

A bit of this and a bit of that

Our Prayer Box

When all our children were at home we used to have two prayer boxes at our Family Devotions. One was the FAMILY PRAYER BOX where I wrote on a card the name of everyone in the family, plus every person in the extended family--grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. We would pass the box around and each one would take a name from the box. If they weren't very familiar with the name of the extended family member they chose, it was a good time to tell them about them. Prayer is a wonderful way to keep connected with the extended family, especially when they live in different countries as is the case in our family. I am sure you will find this a great blessing in your family too.



We also had another box called the URGENT NEEDS PRAYER BOX. In this box I wrote on cards the names of missionaries we were praying for, the names of people we knew who were facing specific trials or sickness, and the needs in our nation and the world.



They would also take a card from this box. This helped the children to pray beyond their little "God bless Mommy and Daddy" prayers.

Never has there been a time when

there are so many Christians being persecuted and it is continually on the rise. We feel our responsibility to pray. This is not something we should do if we feel like it. We are commanded to do it, and to pray for them as though we were suffering with them. Hebrews 13:2 (NLT) says, "Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies."

I often think as we pray for the persecuted Christians in different countries of the world that if I was being persecuted I would hope that someone was praying for me.

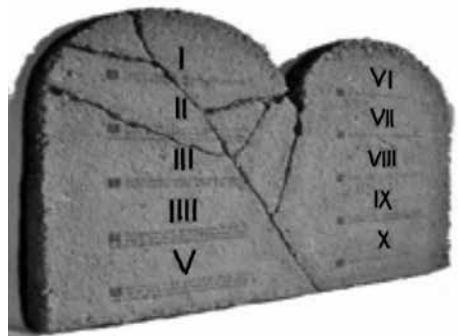
(Ed: For the full article go to <http://tinyurl.com/IdeasForPrayerCards>)

Nancy Campbell,

Above Rubies www.aboverubies.org

The Second Ten Commandments

1. Thou shalt not worry for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
2. Thou shalt not be fearful for most of the things we fear never come to pass.
3. Thou shalt not cross bridges before you come to them for no one has yet succeeded in accomplishing this.
4. Thou shalt face each problem as it comes; you can only handle one at a time anyway.
5. Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you for they make very poor bedfellows.



6. Thou shalt not borrow other people's problems; they can care better for themselves than you can.
7. Thou shalt not try to relive yesterday for good or ill; it is forever gone. Concentrate on what is happening in your life now and be happy.
8. Thou shalt be a good listener for only when you listen will you hear ideas different from your own. It is hard to learn something new when you are talking.
9. Thou shalt not become bogged down by frustration for 90% of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive actions.
10. Thou shalt count thy blessings, never overlooking the small ones for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.

Author Unknown

Prayer Gives You Access To God

'We can come before God ... without fear.' Ephesians 3:12 NCV

Dr James Kennedy said: 'I read an interesting book by an unbeliever who attempted to "do in" the Christian faith. Despite his lack of belief, I found insightful something he said regarding prayer. He called it "the most incredible conceit in the history of mankind," arguing that if you worked for General Motors as a lowly employee and wanted to see the boss, you wouldn't have the remotest chance ... Think about it. What would happen if a citizen tried to speak to the President of the United States?

I've thought about putting in a call just to see ... I'd probably speak to a secretary or an assistant to somebody, but not likely the President ... "And so," says my skeptical friend in his book, "what an incredible conceit to suppose that at any moment we can talk to the boss of the whole shebang." And indeed the concept of prayer would be an incredible conceit... if it weren't true. But it is...and it's the most incredible condescension on the part of a gracious God. You could probably never speak to the highly placed people in this world, yet the most highly placed person in the universe – "the boss of the whole shebang" – waits patiently to hear what you have to say. "We can come before God with freedom and without fear ... through faith in Christ." Don't you find that amazing? This day ... You can talk to the boss, tell Him your worries and cares, share with Him your triumphs and joys – and He always has time to listen.' Prayer gives you access to God!



The Word For Today June 2016

Our Parish Prayer

Ed: We sometimes get so used to what we are saying that it becomes automatic and no longer engages us with what we are really saying. This translation may help us to see our parish prayer in a new light

Ephesians 3:14-21 from *The Message Translation*

¹⁴⁻¹⁹ My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love.

Reach out and experience the breadth!

Test its length! Plumb the depths!

Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

²⁰⁻²¹ God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

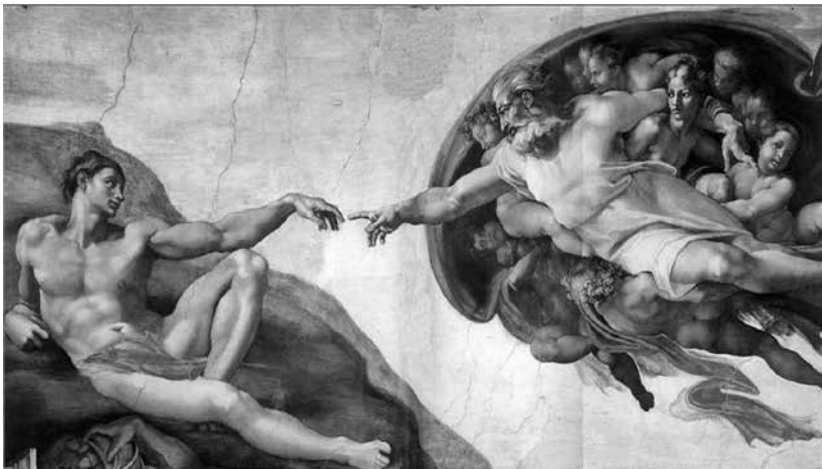
Glory to God in the church!

Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!

Glory down all the generations!

Glory through all millennia!

Oh, yes!





Our Lady of Kāpiti School

(St Patrick's School until 31 December 2016)

Open for learning – school starts
3 Presentation Way (off Milne Drive) Paraparaumu
on
Tuesday 7 February 2017 at 8.50am

Enrolments are now open for 2017 and beyond.

Places are available for

- children who have been baptised catholic
- children who have a baptised catholic parent
- children who have a baptised grandparent/close relative
- children with no catholic connection (waiting list for 2017).

Note - some conditions may apply.

See school website for details www.olorok.school.nz

Please contact the Principal, Martin Elms

Phone - 04 298 6780

Email - principal@olorok.school.nz

