



# Pastoral Pages

Parish of Our Lady of Kāpiti

Te Whaea Tapu o Kāpiti

Spring 2018



**pilgrimage**



***What's Inside***

Pilgrim's Stories

Dates for your diary

# EDITORIAL



In this issue Joe helps us reflect on 'Pilgrimage'. Over the last few years many of our parishioners have walked the Camino, and we've seen photos of Cardinal John doing the same. Next year Fr Michael is going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, as chaplain to a tour group. Incidentally, the travel agent is generously donating to the building fund in memory of his friend, Justin du Fresne; the new church build was a project very dear to Justin's heart.

In June I was very privileged to be part of the pilgrimage to Medjugorje. We were a group of 17 (9 parishioners and others from the Hutt, New Plymouth and Auckland) very ably led by Anne and Andy Lovell and we had a chaplain along as well – our very own Fr Kev.

Many of my fellow pilgrims had their arm twisted to offer some thoughts on their experience and to share them with you through these pages. My thanks to them all for their generous sharing. I hope you find their experiences of interest and may they inspire you to make your own pilgrimage, in whatever format that might be.

*Anna*

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Copy for next issue closes on 8<sup>th</sup> November. Keep those reports and photos coming in so we can tell the rest of the parish what they have missed out on!

# Reflections on Pilgrimage

## To be a 'Pilgrim'

You can go on line and find several hundred places of pilgrimage around the world, including some here in Aotearoa New Zealand. While going to these far-flung places has considerable appeal and may be spirituality uplifting, they are not essential to being 'pilgrim'. They can distract us from recognizing that we are, as the Fathers at Vatican II tell us, the 'People of God' making our 'earthly pilgrimage'. Being pilgrim gives us an opportunity to reflect:

- a pilgrim is going somewhere, does not wander aimlessly. Do I have a direction in life? For today? For this moment?
- the journey is as important as the destination. 'The Kingdom of God is amongst us'. Do I live as if the Kingdom were amongst us?
- the pilgrim looks after themselves. What does this mean for the care I must take of myself? My development, fitness, well-being?
- the pilgrim is part of a wider community. Pope Francis put it this way to a group of young people, 'it is terrible to walk alone, terrible and tedious. Walking in community, with friends, with those who love us: this helps us, it helps us to arrive precisely at the destination where we must arrive!' What are the wider

communities I am part of? What do I give? What do they give me?

- the pilgrim is never alone, the prayers and thoughts of loved ones are with them. Do I think of those who love me? Do I thank them? Am I appreciative? Do I even know that I am loved?
- the pilgrim reflects deeply, on all aspects of life. Do I stop every now and then? Do I ask, 'where is God in this'?



- the pilgrim does not necessarily know the Way. Where the Way goes, it goes! Some things in life I have no control over. Do I think, 'it is what it is'? Do I 'let go and let God'? Do I take control of those aspects of my life I can control?
- pilgrims come in all shapes and sizes, nationalities, ethnicities, religions, or none. Do I recognize others as fellow pilgrim? Look around. You are not alone. Do I

sometimes think I'm the only one living this life? The only one with the problems I have? Do I reach out to others who have similar life experiences? Do I seek help when I need it?

- every pilgrim is on their own pilgrimage, and when it (life) ends, they have completed their pilgrimage. We neither know the day or the hour when our pilgrimage will end. Do I live in appreciation

of life? Do I live in the present? Or do I always think about the future? Always worry about the past? Am I ready to 'know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom he sent'?

So let's make sure we are not distracted by the allure of those far off places.

Let's make sure we are part of the pilgrim Church – right here and right now!

*Joe Green*

## Addicted to Medjugorje

Although I had, of course, heard stories about the “apparitions” happening in a little Bosnian village called Medjugorje over the years, I must say that I was fairly dubious about their legitimacy! I must say that I was no less dubious when Anne suggested that we visit Medjugorje in 2013, while we were in Europe for our nephew's wedding. However, on the condition that we also visited Gallipoli, where my Grandfather had fought during World War 1, I grudgingly agreed to go. My expectations were that there would be lots of Rosaries and Masses, and crowds of uncomfortably (for me!)



devout and passionate Marian “groupies”! That, of course, is exactly what I found, but there were many other aspects of Medjugorje that proved to be extremely positive and enjoyable, even though we were only there for a few days – just “passing through”, really. I must say that I didn't have a deep experience of Mother Mary or Rosary beads turning gold or even the sun spinning, but there were many other memorable experiences. The beautiful little village, the deeply devout Catholic villagers, the daily worship and Masses, Cross Mountain, Apparition Hill at sunset, the wonderful hospitality of the people and the overwhelming

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feeling of peace touched me in a deeply spiritual way, and would, within a few years, draw me back!

One Sunday morning in April 2016, Anne and I were “Greeters” at morning Mass at St. Patrick’s, and I was at the entrance by the Sacristy. I noticed a piece of paper flapping on the Notice Board outside the Chapel, and, when I looked at it more closely, I found it was an advertisement for a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, in June, organised by MIR Pilgrimages (Patricia Parsons). (I must say that the most attractive feature for me was the cost, which was very reasonable in comparison to our previous visit! – I’m Scottish!) I went home and said to Anne, “Are we doing anything in the first couple of weeks of June?” “No,” she said. “Why?” “Because we’re going back to Medjugorje!” Anne agreed immediately and so off we went!

Our first visit had been on our own, just as “tourists”, so an organised pilgrimage with Patricia provided us with many more experiences, visits and companions, so it proved to be an even more enriching experience

for both of us. A major highlight for us was a visit to Mostar where, apart from the history and beauty of the town, Patricia was able to arrange for us to attend the European Premiere of a documentary film about Medjugorje called “Apparition Hill”. The amazing bonus for us was that, not only were the Director and film crew there, but so were the people who appeared in the film! During the next few days we were able to go to Mass with them, chat with them about their experiences and invite them to New Zealand! What an experience! After we returned home I wrote to the Director and bought a copy of the film, which we intend to show to interested Parishioners at some stage in the future. (You can find another of their films on YouTube. It is called “The Triumph – a Medjugorje Documentary”.)

By the end of our 2016 pilgrimage I think I was becoming addicted! Thus, when we got Patricia’s email about the pilgrimage in 2017, there was no hesitation – we were keen to return, not just for the “atmosphere”, but



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*Depart on pilgrimage - return with Mir*

because we now had friends there and we greatly looked forward to meeting up with them once again. Although there were only six of us in our group, we were blessed to share our house with 35 Americans and their Priest, from Arizona. Wonderful!

In October 2017 we again contacted Patricia to see if she was returning to Medjugorje in 2018 and, much to our surprise, she asked us if we would consider leading a group! Anne had, on several occasions, remarked that it would be wonderful to take a group from our Parish, so we were very enthusiastic about the idea!

Thus, in early June this year, a group of seventeen pilgrims made their way to Medjugorje. I am sure that Anne and the other members of the group will fill in the details of our adventures together, so I will leave that to them. I will conclude, though, by saying what a huge privilege it was to be able to share the “Medjugorje experience” with our friends, and to watch them as they deepened their devotion to Our Lady, prayed together and shared their insights and blessings.

And next year??? Talk to us about it!!!

*Andy*

### "Just" a Side Trip

We heard about Medjugorje in 1984 but never had the time or money to take this any further. We did feel a little cautious about it all to be honest.

In 1998 we were invited to attend “Hearts Aflame”, a Catholic ministry to young adults, to teach about leadership. Each morning Andy met and prayed the Rosary with a man as they walked around the football field at St Pat’s, Silverstream. When we came back home we continued praying the Rosary as we walked in the mornings, and continue to do so most days. Mary teaches the power of the Rosary, and what a weapon it is in the battles of life!

In 2012 we were invited to go to a family wedding in Skopje in Macedonia, and I realised that Medjugorje was reasonably close

by. “Why not visit and see what the apparitions were all about?” I thought. I had no real spiritual “drawing” - it was just a small village that I was curious about. In 2013 we visited Medjugorje on our own for eight days, as part of





our European travels to the wedding and beyond. The only significant thing that happened in Medjugorje was that I had a man (an angel?) help me down Cross Mountain - which I found a little daunting! I believe now, looking back, he was possibly sent by God. Two years later Andy felt drawn to return and this time, while we were there, I felt a great desire to take a Parish group to Medjugorje sometime. Great idea! Not one that I prayed or thought about anymore, though! The following year we returned for the third time and once again the same thought, "It would be a lovely idea to take a group from our Parish to Medjugorje". This time I felt more excited about it. I thought about it again when we arrived back home but put it aside in the "busyness" of life once again. I'm a slow learner!

We visited a woman in Hamilton who had been our Leader on the previous two Pilgrimages about six months later and she asked us if we would consider leading a pilgrimage to Medjugorje the following year (2018). Inside I thought, "How wonderful!", and even felt a little excited, then, thinking about the responsibility, etc. "Maybe, maybe not!"

Andy and I talked about this invitation, prayed about it and then decided to advertise in our Parish Newsletter to see what the response was. The same day (Sunday) we had three people contact us and within that week we had five from our Parish seriously interested. We believe God spoke clearly.



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So, in early June 2018 we left for Medjugorje! We had the most amazing journey with a Priest and fourteen pilgrims from Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish, St Joseph's in Upper Hutt, as well as from Lower Hutt, New Plymouth and Auckland. I will leave people to tell of their own experiences. If you believe the Lord is asking you to do something, LISTEN to Him. It will be a life-changing experience! It certainly was for me. I felt deeply

honoured to be a part of people's journey into a closer relationship with Jesus and His Mother Mary. What joy this brought to my heart. It really helped that we already knew all the people except four. Will we lead a Pilgrimage again? YES! We would be very happy to. Are you interested? If so, contact us or, if you have any questions, we would love to help you.

*Anne*

### "I am Calling You" Story of a Pilgrim

"What on earth am I doing?" "I can't believe I'm doing this." "I've gone barmy." "I must be losing my marbles" - thoughts that would pop into my head during the night as I asked myself why I'd made the crazy decision to embark on a pilgrimage. This is just not me. I just don't do these sorts of things.

Six months ago, if someone had said to me "You'll be going on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje" I would have laughed at them and told them they were mad.

Such is the power of Our Blessed Lady. She called and I obeyed.

Six months ago an event changed my life. Our Lady works in mysterious ways. Ways our human minds can't comprehend. It was an event that, for someone other than myself, probably wouldn't have been a big deal. But, for me, it was, and at the time it was happening I prayed so deeply for help to Our Lady. I prayed like I had never prayed before – in a way

I didn't think possible. To cut a long story short, my prayer was answered, almost immediately. It was such an overwhelmingly, powerful experience that I promised Our Lady I would honour her name in some way

The next day at work I was on Google and stumbled across the pilgrimage to Medjugorje. Instantly I knew this was where Our Lady wanted me to go. So I responded and paid my deposit. From that point onwards the doubts crept in. What on earth was I doing? Going somewhere across the other side of the world with a group of people I've never met. I told myself that they will all be devout Catholics and I'd be out of my depth. "Get your money back. It's not too late to withdraw". Often that thought crept into my mind. But I refused to back off. I had made a commitment to Our Lady and she had responded to my call, now it was my turn to respond to hers.



I was born and raised a Catholic, but as I grew into my teens I drifted away. I did have my children baptised Catholics and they were Catholic school educated, but apart from that I had no further involvement with Catholicism. Not until I was called by Mary in March this year. And when Mary calls, one drops tools and obeys. The Pilgrimage was incredible. For those who are considering going on one, all I can say is that it will affect your life. It's not possible to not be affected by it. I felt and experienced so many wonderful things. I had not been to reconciliation for 49 years! I promised Our Lady that I would do this whilst in Medjugorje. I was petrified. It was one of the hardest things I had

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done in my life. It may sound silly to those who regularly attend, but for someone who has been out of touch for a long time, it's difficult. I tried several times but backed down. It wasn't until the third day of being in Medjugorje that I went, and this was with wonderful support from two of my fellow Pilgrims, Nicola and Anna. I felt honoured they nurtured me through it. I did have doubt. I did tell myself I didn't really need to go and that Jesus forgives me and all I have to do is ask him. So it was a battle. I did have divine help also to get me there. Mary knew I was struggling. She sent me a sign. A personal sign which was so powerful for me that I virtually flew to the confessional. (Anna and Nicola will be smiling reading this). My knees were shaking and I didn't know what to say but I had a wonderful priest, Father Leon Pereira, and he nurtured me through it too. I felt so blessed and loved. A complete feeling of inner peace covered my heart and soul. Praise be to the Lord.



Wow! Wow! Now I can go to Holy Communion. I had never been so excited about being able to go to Communion. The evening mass was simply divine. The International Mass at Medjugorje is better than any rock concert, that's for sure. It

penetrates the heart and moves the soul. I received Jesus back into my soul that evening. I felt privileged. I was so happy I had cleaned my house up for him and I invited him into a clean home. I just know Mary was smiling. She asked me to obey and she had rewarded me.

The group were a great mixture of people and we all got along so well and I'm sure there were some life-long friendships made. I was a bit anxious about that before we set off but I could see how Mary had planned for us to be together. Andy and Anne were so well

organised. There were absolutely no hiccups and if they were ever stressed they certainly didn't let it show. Father Kev was just awesome – I thank God for him.

And, to top it all off, Anna made it up Cross Mountain! What an achievement and what a team effort. Not only was Anna proud of herself, but we were all so proud of her too. Her success was our success.

*Mir, mir, mir\**

*Margie*

*\*Mir = peace in Croation.*

## Then and now

Having been to Medjugorje 14 years ago, I was not prepared for the huge changes that have taken place. It is so much bigger and busier than the last time I was there with my daughter. Going with a group from our parish and some others from elsewhere in NZ, provided an opportunity for making new friends with those from Wellington, New Plymouth and Auckland. Sharing different experiences with others has given me some lifetime memories, especially biking along the seafront at Singapore; going to Dubrovnik and seeing all the beautiful, ancient architecture and artworks; walking around the streets and exploring shops in Dubrovnik; and many more moments.

However, it was the spiritual moments that will remain firmly embedded in



my brain, such as climbing Mount Krizevac at night and staying overnight with a new friend outdoors at the top of the mountain. No-one else was up there at night so it was a little eerie at times. God gifted us with an electrical storm and it felt like an amazing pyrotechnic display with rolling thunder and sheet lightning with moments of forked lightning

covering the sky for three hours. We sheltered from the rain under a tiny altar at the foot of the massive concrete cross. This cross was lit up till 1am and then it suddenly went dark. At no time did I feel afraid and really knew that God was with us in all His power and majesty. It was awesome!

Another significant moment was meeting with a mother and her adult daughter with severe autism. They

were from Krakov and as we shared our stories I became increasingly aware how blessed we are in NZ.

I thank God and Our Lady for providing this wonderful opportunity, the people I journeyed with, the people who prayed for us, and especially my husband who made it possible for me to go. God bless you heaps!!

*Nicola*

### Reviewing a Life-Faith Journey

Following a visit to Kāpiti I returned home with your Parish Bulletin. It was on my table for weeks. Then one morning while eating breakfast and having my prayer time before going to work, my eye fell on the notice at the possibility of a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje. My spirit leapt.

I just knew that nothing would stop me going. I rang Cynthia and invited her to come. What a wonderful decision! I (we) had a marvelous trip.

The week before departure I got the opportunity to research places of interest in Croatia. I discovered that the Roman Emperor Diocletian had built his retirement palace in Split. He persecuted hundreds of Christians. I discovered that there was also a famous church – so added this to my “would love to see list”. Then added Dubrovnik and Mostar.

My Pilgrimage to Medjugorje was like seeing my life all over again. How God has taken care of me, the value of my

parents imparting their faith and now the pilgrimage reviewing my life-faith journey.

The tangible peace in Medjugorje was almost overwhelming. I did not feel called to climb any of the hills so just walked to Mass and around the village every day. Then I noticed that so much of nature was so familiar to me - figs, pomegranates, Pride of India, ring necked doves, two pairs of wagtails, the large black beetles and even a centipede. All brought back memories of my childhood.

And then we went to Dubrovnik where Catholic faith memories from childhood unfolded. We arrived at a Church just in time for a Polish Mass. At the end of Mass the two Priests came back carrying very large candles joined together by a third candle (forming a U shape). I suddenly realised this was for the Blessing of the Throats. Fr. Kev was sitting next to me so I said to him “this is the Blessing of



St Blaise – I have not experienced this since I was about eight years old. In my childhood in South Africa we had this blessing every year in February.” Again my spirit soared.

The history and martyrdom of Priests and Christians in Split, Mostar and Dubrovnik was almost overwhelming.

The power and protection of Our Lady over Medjugorje during the war is a very real presence – it is tangible and still there.

Reasons I might do it all again:

- I feel that part of me has not returned to this world. I would love to do another pilgrimage to Medjugorje.
- What ‘pilgrimage’ now means for me.
- The only words I keep getting are “Be still and know that I am God” and “seek Silence”.
- I am grateful to my parents for passing on their deep Catholic faith. I know the power of Sacraments, particularly The Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. I stand in awe of our Lord and the teachings of our Catholic faith to heal and set us free.

*Denise*

### Why did I go to Medjugorje?

The short answer is “I don’t know”, which sounds silly, I know.

Initially I thought it would be interesting to go with Anne & Andy (whom I have known for a number of years) and see what it was that everyone remarks on about the place. I didn’t know much about it apart from the fact that the Virgin Mary (Gospa in Croatian) had appeared there, and was still appearing to some of the visionaries to the present day. And after having been present at a couple

of these “visitations” I still don’t know what to make of them. At each of these visions I was behind the visionary and couldn’t see their faces, which didn’t offer any help in understanding what was going on.

After returning, I watched a video of Mirjana at one of her monthly visions, and it was plain that she was seeing something and interacting with whomever she could see. The changes on her face were striking as she spoke with Gospa, and I could see that having

visions of Gospa was no picnic for her. This did not become apparent in her book "My Heart will Triumph" even though it seems to be a fairly complete account of her life as a visionary.

Have I got anything out of the trip? I think so, even if it was only a conviction that I missed something and I have to go back to find it.

As a midlife convert I was never particularly comfortable with the approach to Mary that many cradle Catholics have, and never bothered with the Rosary as a form of prayer. When we were on the Camino in Portugal last year, I joined with my wife in saying the Rosary as we walked,



*The Visionaries in the 1980s*

under a degree of sufferance. While in Medjugorje I purchased my first set of Rosary beads, although I am not yet using them with any regularity. But the mere act of purchasing them would indicate that something has changed in my mind.

*Peter*

### Apparition Hill

I have thought a lot but cannot come up with anything to write. I felt like I was in heaven but yet I saw nothing, heard nothing and nothing happened to me. I did all the things I should...

I was resting on my bed one afternoon and felt to go up Apparition Hill.



It was hot, over 30 C (and I don't do heat), but I went. At the top I sat and prayed in the silence that is requested up there. Then I felt to go sit by the crucifix.

A man came up, stood for a few minutes near me, then asked "Do you believe in all this?" How could I not answer? Especially when he said he had come on a day trip to Medjugorje, hardly enough time, but all he had. So I told him 'Yes. There are too many miracles here, not to believe.' We talked for a while as he seemed to need it. Then he walked off down the mountain.

I felt guilty for talking in a "requested silence" area but it seemed like a Divine appointment since I should have been on my bed at that time! Silence is so very important, so we can listen to God. This was an example of how God uses people there to help each other.

*Margaret*



## Return to Medjugorje

A few months ago I received a strong inner calling to come back to Medjugorje. I was last there in 1997. I joined a pilgrimage from Kāpiti. While there I was praying for my son's deliverance from the clutches of Satan. I attended daily Mass and prayed in the Adoration Chapel and I spent a lot of time doing my own thing. I climbed Apparition Hill a couple of times and I was present at a few apparitions. I didn't feel anything "out of the ordinary" while I was there. I felt bitterly disappointed and over time I felt certain I had wasted my time going. Sometimes I would look out from my window and glance over to Apparition Hill and I would ask Mary

the reason she called me back. It didn't make sense to me. I missed Fr Slavko and Fr Jozo\*, the visionaries were not giving talks, there were no healing sessions. If I was asked to write a list of negatives verse positives, the negatives would have won hands down. A few days before we left Medjugorje I had one thing left to do and that was to climb Cross Mountain. I knew from the time I got to Medjugorje that I must climb Cross Mountain on my own. I attended reconciliation the day before I climbed the mountain and I confessed something that I had never confessed from my heart before; something I wanted to be freed from but didn't think it was possible. The following

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evening I climbed Cross Mountain. Between each Station I was in battle with Satan. He wanted me to turn back but I kept going. I beat him on Cross Mountain! It felt great!

Once home in NZ I realised I had received a massive healing. Totally unexpected but totally healed. There

is great power in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I'm still praying for my son's healing, which I know will happen in God's time.

Thank you Jesus and Mary.

*Anon*

*\*Franciscan priests originally based in Medjugorje.*

### An Oasis of Peace

I didn't know why I was going except that my sister encouraged me as she was going. I felt it would be revealed when we got there. As we left Paraparaumu I was reminded of the movie, *The Way*. All so different and each with his/her own reasons for going.

In Singapore we went to the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, for Adoration and I noticed the number of young people there in the middle of a Monday. The Church is not dying! It was packed and then the priest came to the foot of the altar and I went up for prayer. I asked to be healed of stress and fear (apprehension). A few days later, in Medjugorje, my sister noticed I was so laid back and I realized I was healed. Praise God.



Dubrovnik

I had prayed for the gift of Evangelisation for a while and in Dubrovnik, after Mass in the church of St. Blaize, the priest blessed our throats for protection and to enable us to speak out the Word of God. I had not experienced this since I was a young teenager. What a blessing. I had received all I ever asked for and more. Now I knew why I had come on this pilgrimage. Both Dubrovnik and Mostar were places of martyrdom for many, and coupled with the presence of Mary and the Eucharist in Medjugorje, I felt we really were on holy ground.

Medjugorje was like an oasis of peace in a chaotic world. We had time to ponder and listen and I came to the realization that the Eucharist is the centre of everything there. I have never seen so many struggling to get into Mass each day, a bit like an Olympic sprint. As the Germans stepped out of their benches to leave the church, the English surged in like a silent tsunami, so as not to have to stand. Someone pointed out the number of young men

sitting under the trees, alone, and deep in prayer. So encouraging for the future church.

The whole journey was wonderful. We had a lot of fun and laughter too. I was sent ahead of the others at airports to do the security strip tease, patted down and tested for explosives, as my hip

pinged and I have no finger-prints!! This does not amuse customs officials. Many new friendships were made and thank you Anne and Andy for a wonderful and blessed journey. You were superb leaders.

*Cynthia*

### Witness to a Miracle

Walking back with Anna to our accommodation about 6.40pm and still very hot, we saw a group of people looking up into the sky. We both said to each other, 'What are they looking at?' We both turned around and looked up to the sun. We could see the host pulsating in front of the sun. The host covered the sun with sparking pinky colours coming out the sides of the sun. How wonderful to have witnessed this miracle, a truly amazing sight and one that I will never forget. We were both blessed to have seen it.

There were many, many highlights / blessings on our trip to Medjugorje - from the 17 people who were on the

pilgrimage that got on so well together, to the visit to Dubrovnik (a city which Saint Blaise is Patron Saint of, where we took part in a Polish Mass at the Cathedral. The priests did a blessing of our throats which I had never experienced before - I had never seen such huge candles), to meeting a young Korean nun from the Oasis of Peace Community and listening to her journey to becoming a nun, to having ice cream at 12 noon (yum!), to having the freedom to do what we wanted to do each day, but, most of all, the peace I felt.

Thank you.

*Karen*

### Recollections of Medjugorje

There were the funny things at Singapore airport: M's newly tinted eyelashes that got infected so she had to go to the doctor and ended up being ambulated across the concourse; the two intrepid women who ended up in the designated chapel area with two Muslim men bowing to Mecca, only to discover they'd completely missed that

there was a separate women's chapel. There was the wealth of information from the guides about all sorts of things but especially things historical: of the apparitions that began in 1981 and have continued daily since then; of the Yugoslav war; and of the centuries old stories of Dubrovnik, Mostar and Split.

There was the juxtaposition: of the very ancient, during the side trips to Dubrovnik, Mostar and Split, with the reality of an airport with only the most basic infrastructure for new arrivals moving through customs housed in what is little more than a warehouse and of a brand new chapel rebuilt after the Yugoslav war in Mostar; of the poverty of the stall holders along the walk to mass, with the increasing wealth of the local population; of the spiritual with the crass commercialism of the souvenir shops everywhere you looked, crammed with rosary beads and statues.

There was comfy accommodation with delicious food and lovely hospitality, which included walking poles to help us get up the two hills; Fr Kev always out and about, meeting up with new friends; even a 'decent cup of tea' cafe just up the road which was run by an Irish lady who's brother lives in Paraparaumu Beach!

There were the communities: *Cenacolo*, for recovering young addicts from all over the world, who do jobs around the village, including carrying people up Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain – inspirational; *Oasis of Peace*\* with its life-sized sculpture of Christ on the cross in gruesome reality.



There were the challenges: riding a bike for the first time in 35 years; walking 20-30 minutes in 32-34° heat to mass every day; climbing (more like bouldering really) up Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain – and then having to come back down those boulders in that same heat – thank heavens for the poles - but I've now got bragging rights; being homesick.



There was the wonderful support: of the group who made sure I got up both those hills despite my arthritis; the camaraderie with strangers as we all recited the rosary together, regardless of differing languages; being one of hundreds gathering daily to hear mass.

And there was the spiritual: the peace and prayerfulness praying the rosary at the blue cross at the base of Apparition Hill and praying for loved ones and for needs back home; the wonderful artworks depicting the Stations of the Cross going up Cross Mountain or the mysteries of the rosary on Apparition Hill; being invited to be present when Ivan (a visionary) experienced an apparition and to see his eyes light up and his lips smile and move



as he conversed with (to my eyes at least) thin air; the wonderful Fr Leon Pereira\*\* during reconciliation and his 5 minute sermons before mass; experiencing the miracle of the spinning sun.

Would I go again? You bet.

Anna

*\*Where a young (Korean) nun talked to us about the community and said:*

1. Ask Mary why she had invited us to come to Medjugorje. And then listen to her answer!
2. The image of Mary, given by the visionaries is of Mary with one hand on her heart (usually the right hand) and the other extended out to us in

*a gesture of 'come closer'. Sr Faustina suggested that she was saying 'give me your joys and sorrows, your loved one, your burdens, the problems you have brought in your heart and I will take them to*

*my Son for you'. Then to just sit in her presence and LISTEN to what she has to say to you.*

3. Put your hand in Mary's hand - do this by holding the rosary.

*\*\*Check him out on You Tube. Delightfully refreshing.*



## In Relationship

It is easy to wonder when you are planning to go on a pilgrimage whether, at the end of your journey, God will look kindly on you and lighten your personal troubles and circumstances, the particular swords that are piercing your heart and your life at the time of setting out. We all long for miracle, that sudden moment of reward for faith, capable of filling us with joy and gratitude, and changing everything.

Medjugorje is full of miracles, and many are visible ones. But many more of them are interior: the conversion or re-conversion of the heart, the recognition and confession of particular sins which have burdened us for years, an experience of the fullness

of God's love for our damaged and faulty selves.

For years now, through her messages to the Medjugorje visionaries, Mary has been calling us back to God. Statues of her are everywhere in the souvenir shops there, and in her usual pose she holds one hand on her heart, and the other is raised and beckons us... inviting us to consecrate ourselves to her immaculate heart, calling us into deeper relationship through her, with Jesus. Her messages always contain the word "you" – as they are for each person who reads them or hears them, each child of God, a personal invitation and call.

On the day before we set out on our journey, June 2nd, Mary said through

the visionary Mirjiana “... *I am calling you to accept my words which I am speaking to you as a mother, with simplicity of heart, so that you may set out on the way of ... the singular love of my Son, man and God. A joy – a light indescribable in human words – will penetrate your soul and the peace and love of my Son will take hold of you. I desire this for all of my children... My children, the Eucharist – my Son alive among you – His words will help you comprehend because His word is life... His word makes the soul breathe, His word brings about cognition of love*”

We are reminded often at the masses in Medjugorje, that most of the miracles that occur there happen during the holy hours of adoration of the Eucharist. It is here that we truly meet

the suffering and triumphant Christ. Personal petitions and “worried” prayers often die on our lips after a few minutes in His presence. He draws forth the spontaneous praise and love from our hearts as we feel ourselves embraced and the light penetrates our souls; His peace and love take hold of us...

Returning home, the troubles and difficulties are the same, some perhaps worse. But there is a Light and Peace in the heart which memory and prayer immediately revive; a joy indescribable in human words, which nothing seems able to exterminate.

*Thank you, Mother, for leading me into relationship with your Son, as you promised me so many years ago.*

Sue



In front of the Medjugorje parish church with our guide, Ivan.

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## Pilgrimage of Migrant/Migrant Workers

When we hear the words “pilgrims” and “pilgrimage,” we instantly think or imagine Medjugorje or the Holy Land or Rome, or any other place where we spend special time to pray, reflect, recharge ourselves, and transform ourselves into better persons.

These words “pilgrims” and “pilgrimage” are the key points here, but they are used in the context of being migrants, or in another context, of being travellers and pilgrims outside of the usual connotations of Church-based/mainly religious “pilgrimage,” i.e. journey or pilgrimage of life.

Let me cite general descriptions of pilgrimage: A few sources I consulted define it as a “journey” or “search of moral or spiritual significance”. Others put it as either an allegorical or metaphorical journey. Also, it is “a trip with the component of being able to change your heart and expand your mind”.

Taking these descriptions on board, a pilgrimage --- either religious or otherwise --- can do three things:

- 1) connect (us) with the past;
- 2) forge new relationships; and
- 3) help you feel part of something greater than yourself.

From this context of pilgrimage, then, a pilgrim is someone who experiences this journey, undertaking that trip which will change the heart and expand the mind.

All of us, then, are pilgrims --- once or twice in our lives, we may have travelled to that proverbial far-away land, not as mere tourists, not to attend a short-term course, but to experience how it is to be in that place. In short, we have all experienced what it is like to immerse ourselves in the strange culture but at the same time bring in to the place our own culture and consciously or unconsciously share it with others.

One clearer, and hopefully better, way to illustrate this is to cite the life of any migrant worker. One effective way is to talk about the migrants who came to New Zealand. It is already hard to come to a new/unfamiliar place with a different climate, different food, different idioms, a different educational system. What makes it even tougher is, when someone comes to a new place, they have to leave family, try his/her best luck and wit to find a job, adjust to a new workplace culture, battle homesickness, and try to assimilate because that is the way to survive - mentally, psychologically, emotionally. Migrants have to learn how to survive, not only physically, but spiritually as well. Surely, even Kiwis, Australians, Americans, or other nationalities who have tried their luck as overseas/migrant workers, would have experienced similar feelings, similar pains and difficulties. Filipinos are no an exception to this. The

adjustment are endless from food, to weather, to clothes, to music or shows. As mentioned, Filipinos as migrant workers are not excluded from this “pilgrimage”. But as far as their experiences are concerned, their journey connects them with their past. The view from outside their own country, the Philippines, becomes clearer and the more they appreciate their family connections, their cultural heritage and the time-tested values passed on to them by their parents and grandparents. It’s also a chance to forge new relationships - this time, in a more cross-cultural sphere. They learn to slowly integrate with the Church community, their children’s school community and their social organisations, using their respective potentials, talents and skills. Most of all, this pilgrimage allows them to feel that they are part of something greater than themselves; the difficulties and

challenges they encounter result in a stronger spiritual belief. While going to Church may be an integral part, serving and helping others goes with this belief.

Pilgrimage of migrant workers is not only limited to the changes that happen to the way they think, the way they feel about both the adoptive country and their country of birth, their discovery of their strengths and limitations, but also to their inner selves. Most often their pilgrimage transforms them into better persons and deepens their spirituality. Like any pilgrimage, their experience provides them a place and opportunity to pray intensely, reflect, recharge themselves, and transform them into better persons. This pilgrimage rejuvenates them and allows them to consider things holistically, their focus on their being, not on becoming.

*Judith Balares Salamat*

## A Roman Church to Remember

The Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica is celebrated on 9th November. As far as I know, it is the only church that is celebrated with a feastday which reflects its importance as the mother church of the world. Its formal name is the Archbasilica of St John in Lateran.

Some churches simply stick in your mind and never go away and, to my mind, St John in Lateran is one of them. Why? First, a few facts.

Although not within the Vatican, or even within the walls of ancient Rome, it is the most important of the four basilicas in Rome because it is the church of the Popes.

It is the most ancient Christian church in the world, having been built under Pope Miltiades (311-314) on property which had been occupied by the Lateran family until taken over by Emperor Constantine and given over to the Bishop of Rome. It was the home of

the Popes until they were removed to Avignon in 1309. When they returned in 1377 the church had been damaged by fire and fallen into disrepair. So the Popes took up residence at the Basilica di Santa Maria in Trastevere and later at the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore. Eventually, the Palace of the Vatican was built adjacent to the Basilica of St. Peter and Popes began to reside there. After many changes, St John in Lateran took on its present form in the 18th century. The latin inscription on the façade translates to “Pope Clement XII, in the 5th year of his reign, dedicated this building to Christ the Saviour, in honour of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist”. The 5th year of his reign was 1735.

I have been fortunate in visiting the church twice, with a decade separating the visits. The square façade is impressive, but the interior is even



more impressive.

The church is in the shape of a latin cross, with something of interest at every glance. The floor is inlaid marble.

One apse we took to be designed for Papal audiences and there was also a particularly attractive side chapel, closed off by a grille and said to be reserved for the Pope. But for me the over-riding interest was in the ceiling panels, predominantly gold and blue, dedicated to past popes. The example below is dedicated to Pius VI (1800-1823).



There are six papal tombs in the church and twelve more tombs were destroyed by fires in the 14th century and those remains have been buried in a single tomb. The last Pope to be buried in the church was Pope Leo XIII in 1903. As well as the statues of the apostles, there is reference somewhere in the church to most popes other than the ones I had earlier seen buried in Avignon.

As I wandered around, I became more and more overcome by a sense of the history of my Catholic Church; an unbroken line of authority from Jesus and the apostles through the popes to today. Awesome.

*Glen McCullough*

## *Fr. Jim's Been Thinking*

### Discernment for the Journey



When asked to “think” about “The Journey of the Heart” for this article, I realised the topic is too broad for 300 words and therefore concentrate on this particular aspect which I believe to be vital to the Journey. Our decision making must follow sound guidelines:

- Be pragmatic: we need to be realistic at all times and make decisions in terms of the conditions which prevail. Young people tend toward idealism; older people may dwell in the past, glorifying it.
- Have good timing: there can be a right time and a wrong time for any action. It is important then, to act without undue delay without being overly hasty. Do not allow time constraints to exert pressure by breaking down the decision into manageable segments.
- Have decisions critically assessed, particularly by those with whom you live. Those who live alone can make poor choices by operating without external advice, especially in areas where we have little expertise.
- Listen to your heart: a well-developed intuition is invaluable in decision-making. We may dislike the basis of our society and deny some of its realities but our decisions and actions must not ignore such realities.
- Be aware of Satan: temptation can create a scenario where our decisions become irrational.
- Avoid major decisions during times of crisis: the Cancer Society excludes volunteers for twelve months following a spouse's death.
- Know your own limitations: act prudently at all times. Seeking the Cross is not necessary but if God sends one, be prepared to accept it.
- Be aware of missed opportunities: life is full of times of letting go and dying. It is okay to mourn ignored options or lost opportunities.
- Use Jesus as your guiding light: through his life we see what God intends for each of us.
- Recognise the risks involved with each decision and trust God: risks will face us all during our decision-making processes. We have to learn to let go and let God!

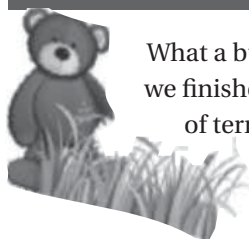
# Reports and Updates from Parish Groups

## OLOK Parish Build Project

See the parish website for the latest Project on a Page as well as the update presented at masses recently: <http://www.kapiti-catholic.org.nz/?sid=1490>



## Youth



What a busy 2nd term - we finished the last day of term with a Teddy Bears Picnic at Fun Time, Build a Picnic at J-Team

and a Progressive Dinner for Gravitare. Its such an awesome experience seeing our young people and families having such a lot of fun together!

Term 3 has started with a hiss & a roar – we're exploring God, me, friends and social media. We live in a digital age; this is the reality for our young people and us. So, how do we navigate the awesome opportunities and



*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

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the challenges that are now a part of everyday life? Is everything about the technology negative or are there also amazing opportunities that technology offers? Where does God fit into the technological age? These are some of the questions we'll be exploring this term.



Thank you to all those who support Youth Ministry as we endeavour to support our young people on their spiritual journey.

*Jacqui McLaughlin*



## Our Parish School

*(Ed: our first report from our new principal. Thanks Viv and, once again, welcome.)*

Kia ora koutou katoa - Greetings, hello to you all!

I have had the most amazing past few months building relationships with the staff, the Board, our families and getting to know the children.

I was able to start building a closer connection with the Parish by speaking to our three Masses about how, as a Principal, I will endeavour to link our Parish prayer to our school values of Achieving Excellence, Living the Gospel Values and Growing our School. I feel it is so important that our Parish families have a school that they want to bring their children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces to, so that they can grow in a faith-based education.

It has been a pleasure to be part of all our assemblies over the term, especially the Welcome Assembly which is a lovely, moving event. I can't wait till next term's one.



Our Matariki evening was also a highlight of Term 2 for me. The children performed so beautifully and it was so nice to see our families come





together, sharing food and getting to know each other.

I was blown away with the support for our Arbour Day planting. We had a large number of donations from our families and now we are looking forward to seeing the plants grow and spread some colour.



It was great to see all our children training over the term so that they were all prepared for our School Cross Country. They all ran extremely well and I loved their support for each other as they ran past.



I have enjoyed going along to netball and chatting on the side-lines to the families and cheering our teams on in my OLOK jersey.

It was a special time for our school and Parish as we celebrated Confirmation Mass with a group of our students. St

Patrick's Hall was full with their family, friends/sponsors. We also had many of our staff members who came along and supported our children which shows how much of a family we are.



I finished off the term reading all the reports and writing a personal comment to the children on them, as well as going through all our badge applications for Academic, Sports, The Arts and Service to our School. This has been another way for me to see and hear what the children are doing in their classrooms.



Finally, a big thank you to all our school families and parishioners who have made me feel so welcome at Our Lady of Kāpiti over the last term. I am so proud to be the Principal of such an amazing school.

*Manaaki te Atua ia koutou, God bless you*

*Viv Conroy, Principal*

# Introducing

Wherever there is a need, there are willing workers toiling in God's Kāpiti vineyard.



In Waikanae, **Joe and Barbara Ratcliffe** are one such couple. Reluctant to be singled out, they are both well involved in church and community.

Joe is a member of Our Lady of Kāpiti's St Vincent de Paul Society Conference. A retired builder, he puts his white "tradies" van to good use to pick up and deliver goods. Meeting time is fortnightly on Monday mornings, Tuesday morning is golf and other than that he can frequently be driving for a "Vinnies" assignment.

One job is the pickup of food from bakeries and food outlets, donating to add to the food parcels for distribution. When people are moving or downsizing for a move to a retirement village, the call comes into the organisation with offers of furniture and furnishings.

Often donations can be used to set up households in the district – there is a special relationship with new Filipino families – and Joe also has a network with the Salvation Army in Kāpiti, the

St Vincent de Paul shop in Porirua and the distribution centre in Wellington as well as north to Otaki and Levin.

Sometimes the donors and receivers are Catholic – parishioners – sometimes they're not. "We never know how people get onto us."

Meanwhile Barbara is involved with the newest members of the community. As organiser for the Waikanae chapter of Loved 4 Life, she reaches out to the parents of newborns, leading a team who make quilts and merino wool garments for the babies and deliver a meal to the family.

Each "Loved" quilt goes with the message "May God's love, like sunlight, always surround you," and has four ribbons to be tied. The first is tied when the quilt is delivered and the parents knot each of the others when a significant milestone is reached.

The goal is to let families know they are loved and supported and part of a caring community.

"In our best year in Waikanae, we gave quilts to 80 babies and nationally the 16 chapters of Loved 4 Life give out around 5000 quilts and meals a year and provide some parent workshops."

Joe and Barbara agree there is need within the Kāpiti parish and district and they are among the many people working to help eliminate it.

*Margaret Irvine*

# Recent Events

## Men's Day of Reflection

The Day of Reflection for the men of our Parish took place in our Waikanae Church on 21 July 2018. Organized by the Catholic Men's Group and ably led by Fr Brian Cummings SM, the 45 men who attended gained much to deepen their personal journeys in faith.

Fr Cummings took the apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis – “Gaudete Et Exsultate” or “Rejoice and Exult” as the theme. There were 4 sessions.

**The call to holiness.** To “Rejoice and be glad” (Mt 5.12). The Lord's call to “Be holy, for I am holy” (Lev 11:44) for each in his or her own way. Each believer is to discern their own path, that brings out the best of themselves, the personal gifts that God has placed in their heart, rather than trying to imitate something not meant for them.

**The Beatitudes (Mt: 5.1-12).** Nothing is more enlightening than turning to Jesus' words and seeing his way of teaching the truth. Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the Beatitudes.

**What does it mean to be Holy?** “How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” We were invited to enter the realm where we can face with honesty who we are, to be at peace in our relationship with God, to realise that God is with us at all times and to see every moment as a gift. To realise that everything does not depend on me.

**Signs of Holiness in today's world.**

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expressions of love for God and neighbour. Perseverance, patience and meekness. Joy and a sense of humour. Boldness and passion. Growth in holiness is a journey in community. Constant prayer.

It was a day to remember. We shared our faith together. We nourished our minds and hearts. We came away satisfied, yet still searching for the truths that only God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, can provide.

I expect to be there next annual Men's Retreat. I hope that all men of the Parish who can come, will come. I believe that there are unsung saints right here in our community. We can all make a difference. Each in his or her own way is called to "Be holy, for I am holy." The Men's Retreat provides us with some help along the way.

*Brian Geary*

### "Fiesta Assumpta" Fundraiser.

God indeed blessed us with great sunny weather for the much anticipated and sold out event, the FIESTA ASSUMPTA, a fundraiser for Our Lady of Kapiti Church building fund, in honour of the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, the patron saint of the Kapiti Filipino community of Barangay Santa Maria Assumpta, celebrating its 7th year anniversary.



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On the table was a sumptuous feast of well-loved Filipino dishes of Chicken and Pork adobos (meat cooked mainly in soy sauce, vinegar, garlic and other spices), Embutido (Filipino-style meat loaf), spring rolls, chop suey (sautéed vegetables), boiled rice and pan-de-sal (Spanish for “salt bread”). The treats for the sweet toothed were fruit salad, Biko (glutinous rice cake), Leche flan (milk and egg custard) and home-made cupcakes. A specially made custard cake was to mark the 5th year anniversary of Fr Dennis Nacorda’s priestly ministry. He is well-loved by the community as he spent his first year of service in the parish – coincidentally, a challenging time for the young barangay.

A feast is not complete without entertainment so Filipino talents were showcased in solo songs, chorale

singing (Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika – How Beautiful is Our Music; Isang Mundo Isang Awit – One World One Song; and Jubilee Song), as well as in cultural (Pandanggo sa Ilaw – Filipino folk dance of lights that simulates fireflies at dusk and night) and contemporary (Havana – Cuban inspired zumba) dances. The chorale songs were particularly noted for their themes of peace, love, and unity – a fitting tribute to the parish community working together.

Thank you to our guests for your support and most encouraging comments, to all raffle prize sponsors, especially to New World, Waikanae for the grocery hamper, and to everyone who contributed to the success of this event. Proceeds from ticket sales is estimated at \$2,600.00. To God be the glory!

*Bernie & Mary Velasco*





# Upcoming Events

## The Mission Gala - Now What?

In our Autumn issue (February 2018) Sr Breda and Tony Bevin reflected on the 35 years of fundraising the parish has done for the Presentation Sisters' missions in Papua New Guinea and Chile.

There will be no more galas – September will seem empty without all the preparations and then the BIG DAY, but the work of the sisters goes on and the need does not abate.

Please continue to pray to the Lord for blessings on this wonderful work. If you want to continue to support the mission work in material ways, you can donate to the *Presentation Sisters Provincial Account*. Details of how you can do this are below.

There is also the *Nano Nagle Charitable Trust* which supports NZ children unable to attend Catholic schools because of financial hardship.

Both of these are eligible for the tax rebate.

"Thank you everyone for your generosity and giving spirit over all these years." Sr Breda



**Perhaps you might like to donate a similar amount to what you might have spent at the gala. Mission Donations may be made to:**

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**Women's breakfast**  
**13th October**  
*Women Parishioners speak*



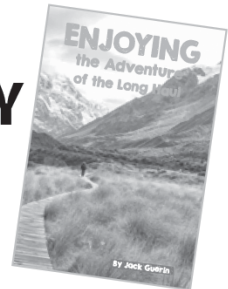
### **Men's breakfasts**

**1st September**  
*Fr Michael speaks*

**17th November**  
**combined event with**  
**Anglican men**  
*Richard Sawrey speaks*



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Our speaker in August was Fr John Rea.

Who will it be in September, October, November?

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they "slept like a baby"  
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# *A Bit of This and a Bit of That*

## Healing Within Mass

In every Mass, we hear the priest say the words of John the Baptist "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." To which we reply: "Lord, I am not worthy ... but say the word and my soul shall be healed."

This healing began at the beginning of Mass in the Penitential Rite if we had a sincere attitude of repentance. With this healing, we receive Jesus in all of his humanity and divinity. With this healing, we leave church ready to be like John the Baptist, testifying by word and by the way we live that "now I have seen that Jesus is the Son of God."

All parts of the Mass contribute to this. Jesus is present in the community as we unite in song. Jesus is present in the

Penitential Rite. Jesus is present in the Liturgy of the Word - the Word read and the Word broken open in the homily like bread to nourish our spiritual growth. And Jesus is present in all the prayers: the ones we offer and those of the clergy.

All of Mass is meant to transform us, prepare us, and send us out from church as witnesses of the true presence of Christ in our world.



## **Ray White.**

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## Did I Read That Right?

### In a London department store:

Bargain basement upstairs.

### In an office:

Would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please bring it back or further steps will be taken.



### Outside a second-hand shop:

We exchange anything - bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

### Notice in health food shop window:

Closed due to illness.

### Seen during a conference:

For anyone who has children and doesn't know it, there is a day care on the 1st floor.

### Notice in a farmer's field:

The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges.



### On a repair shop door:

We can repair anything. (please knock hard on the door - the bell doesn't work).



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# Parish Directory August 2018

*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
Parish Office and Secretary	Marie Lemmon/Maureen Jones	902 5815
29 Parata St, Waikanae Mon-Fri 9am-12.30pm kapitiparishoffice@gmail.com		
Parish Finance Committee - Chair	Nick Maher	298 8475
Parish Finance & Project Administrator	Isabel Carberry	902 5815
Pastoral Council - Chair	Bob Houston	293 3390
Website (www.kapiti-catholic.org.nz)	Lafaele Vaeluaga	238 2454

## Church Worship Support

Liturgy Committee	Maureen Borkin	904 7464
	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 & Funeral Preparation	Merle Whiteman	904 1855
Children's Liturgy	Jenny McGlone	(06) 364 3908
Church Flowers	Velma Knight	299 1539
Communion to the Sick	Prm Pauline McGlinchey	904 0243
	Wae Pat Fouhy	293 1140
Liturgy Rosters	Parish Office	902 5815
Music - Guitars	Bill Borkin	904 7464
	Wullie Grant	293 8702
Organists	Maria Vink	905 9190
	Kathy Hutchison	297 3097
	Patricia Beasley	293 7964
Sacramental Programme	Parish Office	902 5815

## Other Parish Groups

Adult Faith Enrichment	Anna Ryan	902 6330
Bereavement Support	Annette Corban	021 264 4567
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	293 8702
Kapiti Carers	Marie-Louise Blockley	298 3810
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
	Glen McCullough	293 1747
Not Your Usual Sunday Readings	Wed aft Michele 298 7378	Thurs evg Josephine 974 0629
OLD DUCKS Prayer & Scripture Group	Lyn Jarden	905 2588
Meets 10am Tuesdays	or Vicki Devane	902 2688
Passionist Family Groups	John & Corrie McCardle	904 1823
	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
	Gillian Ratcliffe (after 6pm) 298 4000	Ann Scanlan 904 2042
Prayer Groups	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
St Vincent de Paul	John Reardon	293 6079
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

### Our Lady of Kāpiti School

Office	Kate Bertham	298 6780
Principal	Ms Viv Conroy	298 6780
Board of Trustees Chair	Isabel Carberry	021 620 516

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

## **I've sure gotten old!**

I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement,  
New knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes  
I'm half blind,  
Can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine,  
Take 40 different medications that  
Make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts.  
Have bouts with dementia ..  
Have poor circulation;  
Hardly feel my hands and feet anymore.  
Can't remember if I'm 89 or 98.  
Have lost all my friends. But, thank God,  
I still have my driver's license.



## **The Universal Prescription**

*No moving parts, no batteries,  
No monthly payments and no fees;  
Inflation proof, non-taxable,  
In fact, it's quite relaxable.  
It can't be stolen, won't pollute,  
One size fits all, do not dilute.  
It uses little energy,  
But yields results enormously.  
Relieves your tension and your stress,  
Invigorate your happiness;  
Combats depression, makes you beam,  
And elevates your self esteem.  
Your circulation it corrects,  
Without unpleasant side affects.  
It is , I think, the perfect drug:  
May I prescribe, my friend,..... the hug!  
(and, of course, fully returnable!)*



*Henry Matthew Ward*