



Pastoral Pages

Catholic Parishes of Kapiti



Our Lady of Fatima, Waikanae

St Patrick's, Paraparaumu

Summer 2010



“No Room at the Inn” - see article on Page 3

St Patrick's Parish Vision Statement:

We, the members of our Parish Family, aim to achieve the Mission of the Archdiocese of Wellington by seeking to live out Christ's calling, through creating a loving, caring faith community.

Our Lady of Fatima's Parish Vision Statement:

We, the parishioners of Waikanae, celebrate God in our lives, by growing in community and by sharing our faith.

Archdiocesan Mission Statement

We the Catholic People of the Archdiocese of Wellington, challenged to follow Christ, are called to proclaim the kingdom of God.



Editorial

Welcome to the Summer 2010 issue of Pastoral Pages. We hope you enjoy reading through it.

Our themes for this issue are – you guessed it – Advent and Christmas.

Congratulations to Mary Dorrington of Our Lady of Fatima, for her recent success in the Knights of the Southern Cross essay writing competition for her essay on the Year of the Priest. For the full essay see the parish website.

Apologies. My personal apologies to Marguerite Osborne for the gremlins that got into her article. I hope you were able to sort out the various bits across the columns.

And more apologies are required. This time to our very own poet extraordinaire, Fay Clayton, for her poem on the inside back cover of our last issue which was not acknowledged.

Looking to the future, our autumn issue will be considering the issues of ethics and ecology. You may have something you'd like to contribute.

We wish each and everyone of you a VERY happy and blessed Christmas.

—the Editorial Team (Anna Ryan (ed), John Butterfield, Joyce and Pat Haughey, Bill Lambert, Glen McCullough, Sue McGlone).

Publishing Dates for 2011

| | |
|--------|---|
| Autumn | 26/27 th February |
| | copy due BEFORE 16 th Feb |
| Winter | 28/29 th May |
| | copy due BEFORE 18 th May |
| Spring | 27/28 th August |
| | copy due BEFORE 17 th August |
| Summer | 26/27 st November |
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Reflections / Themes

Advent and Christmas

The Pastoral Area Adult Education Team is developing a series of Spotlights. The first of these is **Spotlight on Advent and Christmas**. Look out for material related to this topic. There might be some in the church foyer, in the Sunday bulletin, on the data projector; who knows where. It might be words, it might be pictures, it might be a competition, it might be – who knows. Look out for it!

Jesus is the Reason for the Season

Some years ago a shop in Tory St had “Jesus is the Reason for the Season” in huge letters in its window. That has stuck in my mind ever since... but it is just one Christmas window I have seen.

There is not a great variety of Christmas windows about. They fall into four distinct scenes, as described below, but are depicted in a multiplicity of ways.

There has been only one I have found showing a different scene and that is “No room for them at the inn” (Luke 2:7). This window, shown on the front cover, is in St Mary of the Angels in Wellington. Because Mary was about to give birth, she was considered “unclean”. Hence everyone, except Mary & Joseph, is depicted with their hands out, barring entry. So they had to find somewhere else for Mary to give birth - a humble stable. Would you have rejected them, as the people of Bethlehem did?

1. One recurring scene is of the shepherds being told (Luke 2:16).

This example is in the foyer of First Presbyterian Church, Invercargill.

These windows make me wonder how I would have felt; innocently minding my sheep in the black of the night when suddenly the heavenly choir opened up and the angel appeared in all his glory. Wow! No wonder they left their flocks and went to Bethlehem to see for themselves. Would you have?

2. Jesus’ birth (Luke 2:7) itself is another popular scene.

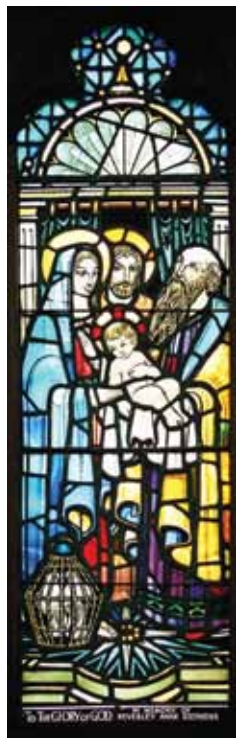


The one on Page 3, with a uniquely Maori design, is situated above the altar in St Pius X Church, Tokoroa. Joseph would have been full of the wonder of it all, helping Mary at the birth (a first for both of them) in a humble stable with limited resources. How did he cut the cord? Where did the water come from to wash the newborn Jesus? Was the star the only light they had? Did Mary have the swaddling cloths in her saddlebag? So many questions.....



3. Then there is the visit of the wise men, kings of the Orient, the Magi bearing gifts (Matt 2:11). This window is from St Georges in the Pines, Banff, Canada. We celebrate their visit as the Epiphany, when it became clear that Jesus had come for the whole world and not just to the Jews. We only know what Matthew's Gospel tells us about the Magi but I always wonder where they came from, how long it took them, did they start off together or meet along the way? I may find out one day....

4. Then there is the Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:22). A host of windows I have seen of this event all show Simeon holding an infant Jesus, and this one from All Saints church, Palmerston North, is no exception. The prophetic words spoken by Simeon and the prophetess Anna (Luke 2:28-38) bear reading and reflection because they tell



us how important Jesus was going to be in the world.

It is quite common for the shepherds and/or the Magi to appear in the nativity scene, combining the scenes. Space prevents me showing an example.

My hope is that you will stop and take in the scene next time you see a story-telling stained glass window, wherever you may go to Mass, especially this Christmas.

Glen McCullough

I photograph religious stained glass wherever I find them, so I guess you could call me an enthusiast.



Give Us Back Our Christmas!

Never in history has a worldwide celebration been hijacked like Christmas.

If you asked the first ten kids you meet in the street what Christmas meant to them, they would – most of them – say it was presents from Father Christmas, or Santa Claus coming down the chimney

Rudolph the red nosed reindeer...
Christmas trees and decorations...
the holidays...

The politically correct types would even prefer us to say “Happy holiday!” instead of “Merry Christmas” just in case we might offend people of other religions.....Yeah, right.

Anything but the greatest event in human history – the birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary and the coming of God to live among us and reveal himself to us in a way we could relate to.

The marketing industry and the entertainment circus have stolen Christmas from us. Or might our old enemy Satan have had something to do with it?

So how do we re-claim Christmas? I'd like to see the Christian churches unite in a major advertising and information campaign to bring Christ back into Christmas. But that won't happen.

It's up to us to ensure that our children and grand children know what Christmas is really about. Let's fill our own homes with the genuine Christmas spirit. How about we call it Jesus' birthday for the younger ones and their presents “Jesus' birthday gifts.” Let's put a Christmas symbol on the Christmas cake and a crib with the baby Jesus under the Christmas tree. Let's make our Christmas mass the centrepiece of our celebrations and sing a few genuine Christmas carols at home. And let's mail out greeting cards with a Christian theme on them and write: “Wishing you the blessings of Christmas.”

As Christians, Christmas is our festival. Let's reclaim it for Christ!

Bill Lambert



O Antiphons

I have always loved the “O Antiphons”...well ever since I entered the novitiate and prayed them during Vespers on the last days of Advent. They gave a sense of anticipation and expectation to our prayer. We were about to welcome the Saviour, Emmanuel, God-With-Us. Like any

home, our cloisters (the corridors of the convent) were brightly decorated with tinsel and lights but we also had these ornately painted banners of the “O Antiphons”. Each one was an artistic portrayal of a historical and scriptural descriptive phrase for the Messiah. They were...

| | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| December 17: | O Sapientia | (O Wisdom) |
| December 18: | O Adonai | (O Adonai) |
| December 19: | O Radix Jesse | (O Root of Jesse) |
| December 20: | O Clavis David | (O Key of David) |
| December 21: | O Oriens | (O Dayspring) |
| December 22: | O Rex Gentium | (O King of the nations) |
| December 23: | O Emmanuel | (O Emmanuel) |



They are poetic and prophetic names for the Messiah and give an insight into how eagerly anticipated and yearned for this Saviour was. Each day the prayer kind of grew in intensity until we intoned with full gusto the final antiphon “Come O Emmanuel!” Today the O Antiphons are most familiar to us in the hymn “Come, O come Emmanuel”. Each verse of the hymn parallels one of the antiphons. In addition to their use in the Liturgy of the Hours and the gospel acclamation, they have been popularly

incorporated into church devotions and family prayer.

They are beautiful prayers and while thinking about them the idea of contemporary antiphons came to mind...it is so easy to become caught up in the busy-ness and excitement of Christmas... but even in all of that we can still have a focus on what this season means to us today.

So in this spirit I invite you to pray with me my “Kiwi Oh Antiphons” and remember that Jesus is why we, as Christians, get excited at Christmas time

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

John Andrew Diane Graham Robert

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Oh Antiphons ... Kiwi style....



Oh shopping mall...

*bustling place of frenetic energy and laughter, anxiety and frustration...
Lead us through our shopping wisely and with minimum fuss...*



Oh sunshine, surf and barbecues...

*long hot summer of lovely lazy evenings... give us rest and peace to enjoy the
glorious sunsets, sun-skipped waves and good company...*

Oh Pohutakawa Tree...

*you mighty, majestic icon of strength and solidity. Reflect your blaze of
crimson over our lovely land and give us peace and shelter in your shade*



Oh Christmas parties...

*silly hats and dangling earrings, tomato sauce and sizzling sausages, cold
beer and tingling wine... bring on the fun and games, the joy and smiles...
all the connections and reflections of family togetherness.*

Oh Wrapping paper and decorations...

*bright lights to welcome the newborn... shine out across our land
and let everyone know that this place welcomes the greatest gift,
Emmanuel God with us.*



Oh Christmas cards...

*uniting friends young and old... near and far... inspire us and bond us
to those special people for whom we make the annual effort to welcome
into our busy lives...*

Oh Jesus...



*the new born we all love... The Incarnate Son of a God who is with us at all times and
in all seasons... surround us with your love at this wonderful time and may our land of
Aotearoa New Zealand ring out with songs of joy.*

Barbara Henley RNDM 2010

Memories

Most of my memories of the past have been totally eradicated but this is crystal clear - walking down the back lane to Midnight Mass with Mum and Dad and the family. Through the field with the grass crisp with frost under our feet, the sky clear and starry and so quiet that voices of other Mass goers ring out clearly as does the Church Bell, through the disused Quarry and up the back way to the Church. As we go over a little bridge, a stop to look at the water is mandatory, if only to see if we could see a trout. We never did! Through the graveyard and into Church. It is a very old Church, dark, warm, safe and with the distinctive smell of an old Church - a mixture of incense and dust and, I think, sanctity. The excitement at seeing the Baby Jesus in the Crib. The Crib is as old as the Church, very simple and the figures have stood the test of time.

Retrace the journey back home with a little detour to say a prayer at the graves of our relations. Into bed for two or three hours sleep and then up to see if Santa Claus has come. Down the front lane to meet up with our friends and we play Cowboys and Indians. (Not PC these days!) I was always an Indian so I got dispatched early in the piece. In the afternoon another mile and a half walk to visit Granny. She had a stroke as a very young woman and we only knew her as an old lady who sat in a chair and talked funny. But we liked to be with her, even though chair-bound; she ruled with a rod of iron Memory stops here.

Monica Devlin



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Christmas At Kapiti - Altar Hanging 2010

Time- that's what it takes.....

Maureen - we would like to replace the Christmas Lectern Hanging.... do you think.....

Right, well I'll see you next year.....

What was I thinking... pictorial quilts are not a strength... but I have got all year to think about it.....

I quite liked the old one- it looked very good from where I sit - pohutukawa tree and the infant's crib - who would have known it was painted brown paper on hessian - very clever....

Time to think - has to be Kapiti - the island - the ocean -the fauna and flora, and Jesus, the reason for the season.....

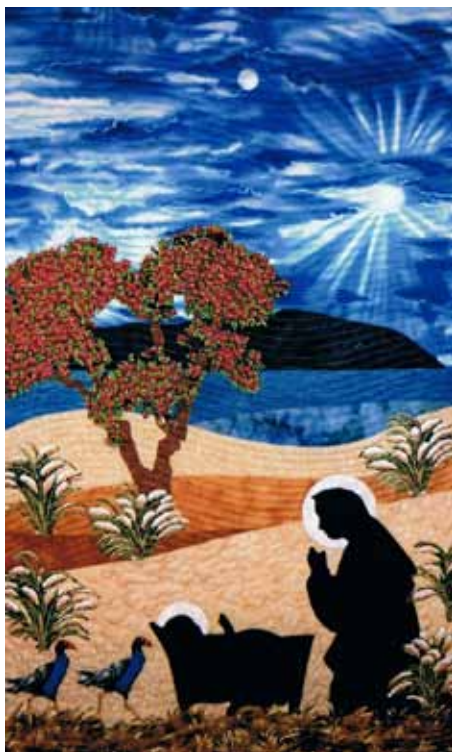
Time to forage for fabric - my favourite website - Hancocks of Paducah, Kentucky, they'll have sky fabric ... Devonport - Huntly - Spotlight Porirua - thank goodness for New Zealand themed fabrics....

Time for a trip to the Copy Shop - can you blow up this profile of the island please -every photo of the island looks different.....

Time - its late October - Maureen will be wondering....

Time to pray ... Dear Lord, you know I can't draw - what am I going to do about figures.....

Late afternoon - a thought - look in the card box - one sole Christmas card - silhouettes of the Holy Family - where did that come from - made in China - artist unknown....



Time to give thanks...and another trip to the Copy Shopup... up... just a little more... ..

Time to put it all together layout - perspective - cutting - stitching - quilting - binding

time for a cup of tea.....

Time to hand it over.....
time to look ... time for Howard to feel the stitches with his hand ... yes - he says - I can visualize it now.....

Kathleen White, quilter



Updates from our Councils

Pastoral Area Council

Since our last report the Waikanae Website has been established, and the Paraparamu one is in the process of.. This then enables parishioners to visit same and see items of interest that may have occurred, or times of Masses or other Sacramental events, etc. The sites will be updated on a regular basis.

It was reported in the last Pastoral Pages that the Terms of Reference for this committee was being finalised, but has in actual fact been delayed slightly, and will now be completed

at our next meeting. This will then establish all “housekeeping” procedures for this group.

The Strategic Property Committee report was delivered at our last meeting and agreed on in principle, with just some fine tuning to be arranged around its presentation to each Parish, and to the Archbishop. The collected data has been recorded and can be utilised at any time in the future if so required.

Jim Power chair

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Council

Since the election of the new Parish Council in June 2010 much has been achieved:

A Parish web site has been established – see <http://www.waikanae-catholic.org.nz/> under the guidance of talented webmaster, Glen McCullough. Content is being added from week to week, with the Minutes of monthly meetings soon to be posted. Photographs have already become a feature. The weekly bulletins are included, so that parishioners who are absent at a weekend can still access parish news. It is planned to extend coverage to Pastoral Area matters including the Terms of Reference and the Strategic Report on Property, which will be released next week.

Appointments have been made or confirmed to joint Committees with

Paraparamu Parish in respect of The Pastoral Pages Committee (Sue McGlone and Glen McCullough) and the Adult Education Committee (Margaret Kay and Sue McGlone) the Kapiti Pastoral Area Representatives (Jim Power, Glen McCutcheon and Michael Dodson) and the Justice & Peace Committee (Noel Doran). The Youth Committee, led by Sr Helen O’Sullivan which was set up at the end of last year, was also re-confirmed.

Work has begun on the Parish Plan for 2010 – 2011 and it is expected that this will be completed before Christmas. It will cover the period till December 2011.

Communications will be enhanced by distribution of Council Minutes by email to Special Groups in the Parish (as well as being on the Website),

enabling parishioners to receive information, as well as setting up a simple and quick way to receive feedback from people actively engaged in Parish organisations.

The Questionnaire on Faith has provided both our parishes with some basic information on what parishioners are looking for, and we'll be following through with this in future meetings.

One of the priorities which we have established is education in the faith for all ages of parishioners (not just adults). This is to be a major focus in the Parish Plan.

The challenge for the next few months will be implementing the changes to the Missal and making the transition as simple as possible.

Michael Dodson, Chair

Introducing Waikanae Parish Council

The 2010/2011 Waikanae Parish Pastoral Council meets on the first Sunday in each month, and a record of their meetings are posted on the church notice board. All except Fr Sinclair are elected in accordance with the Parish Constitution. The photo below was taken at their October meeting.



Back Row: Michael Dodson (Chair), Fr Owen Sinclair (PP), Pat McKechnie, Noel Doran, Glen McCullough
Front Row: Margaret Kay, Sharon Fairfield, Sue McGlone, Sr Helen O'Sullivan.
Not Present: Kathy Campbell, Anthony Kelly



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Tena koutou e hoa ma

As we approach the start of the new Church year, it is worth taking a few minutes to stand back and reflect on the year that has been. From a Council perspective, it has been a highly significant year, starting with an inspirational pastoral area event at St Mary's/Pukekarakara in Otaki and finishing with the introduction of the new liturgical text. We have farewelled two Priests and spent four months operating without a fulltime Parish Priest residing in the Presbytery. Is this the way of the future? We do not know, but we do know that all Parishes in our Archdiocese will have changes and challenges ahead and that as a pastoral area and a Parish, we will need to step up and take responsibility for responding to these in a way that fulfils our vision - seeking to live out Christ's calling, through creating a loving, caring faith community.

A very big thank you to our Liturgy Committee and to Father Jim for their great commitment to our Parish as we have navigated the last four months.

As a Council, we continue to be focused on our priority areas of Adult Education, Bi-cultural, Liturgy and Ministry, Social Justice and Youth Ministry. We are also saying farewell to Joe Green and thank him for his long service to the Council. We have welcomed Alex Matheson and Donella Manson - thank you guys for stepping up. We are still looking for a few more crew members for the helicopter. If interested, please let me or one of the other crew know. Finally, the usual reminder to check the minutes from our meetings on the noticeboard.

Arohanui.

Richard Ward, Chair

Liturgies for St Patrick's Parish

Monday to Friday – 3-7 January 2011


Over the last five months while Fr Michael has been away on Sabbatical, visiting priests and I have shared the work load in leading weekend and some weekday Masses. On those days when a Mass was not being the Parish was blessed with the efforts of a number of our parishioners who prepared and led Liturgies of the Word with Communion. We owe these people a debt of gratitude and we need to thank God for giving them the expertise which allowed them to answer the call to this service.

In the roster which was prepared at the start of this period, nobody was assigned to the first two weeks of January 2011. At a recent meeting of the Liturgy Committee, we found that most of those who had led liturgies since August would be entertaining family or would be away from Paraparaumu, particularly in the first week. The Liturgy Committee recommended to the Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Committee that there be no liturgies that week and this recommendation was accepted, allowing all ministers a measure of rest and recreation.

In the event of an emergency, I will be available to minister to those who are sick and agree to conduct any funerals which may be necessary.

Accordingly there will be no Liturgical Celebrations from Monday 3 January to Friday 7 January 2011 in St Patrick's Church. Those who take Communion to the Sick are also covered by this "closure". This is yet another opportunity for us to grow as a Parish and recognise an increasing level of communion with one another.

Fr Jim



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Pastoral Area

Adult Education

Following the Gifts and Talents series an Expo of various groups and ministries in each parish was held, with varying degrees of success. It was felt this could be expanded so over the weeks until Christmas this liturgical season is under the "Spotlight". Look out for more Spotlights next year.

A questionnaire was distributed in both parishes recently and the responses will form the basis for ongoing discernment on what initiatives to develop, in conjunction with Parish Council priorities and parish plans for 2011. Top areas of interest were spirituality, the Mass, biblical studies, sacraments, prayer and church history.

Social Justice

As Christmas draws near, it is appropriate to remind ourselves of the work of Bethlehem University in this strife torn city of Jesus' birth. Remember that Caritas accepts and processes donation which attract a tax rebate. For more information check out the Bethlehem University website (www.bethlehem.edu) or ask Peter Ryan (902 6330).

Youth

Please keep the youth and their leaders in your prayers.

Leadership Formation

A group of 17 met in October for a leadership weekend held at the Brothers House in Otaki. We learnt, we shared and we all grew in spirit & enthusiasm for Youth Ministry! It was an inspiring weekend, as this sonnet, written by participants, shows:

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**For those of you
who have children
and don't know it,
we have a nursery
downstairs.**

This Pastoral Area has made a good start;
A strong team being led by the heart.
Respecting our youth for what you can do,
Their skills, their gifts, their energy too.

Camps, J4R, goalposts are fun,
Not just for us but for everyone.
Leadership weekends attended by all,
Young people, old people answer the call.

What happens next you may ask,
Let's get involved in a community task,
Jesus talks about lighting a lamp,
Let's invite the parish to camp.
Be proud of what we've already done,
Share your gifts and work as one.



St Patrick's Youth

Pre-School Children

Grace Hall Thursdays 9.30-10.30

We'd love to welcome newcomers to this fun time of singing, dancing, moving and making music. Our last meeting for 2010 is Thursday 9 December – this will be a special celebration that includes a visit from Santa! Enquiries to

Rebecca Ward 905 4675 or
Debbie Matheson 0226757357.

G.U.Y.S. Youth Group

Come and join them and see for yourselves what our youth like to do in their spare time. 6.30-8.30pm in Grace Hall, St. Patrick's School. Enquiries to Debbie Matheson 0226757357.

Our next G.U.Y.S. Camp is being held at Forest Lakes 3rd to 5th December.
(continued page 16)

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The theme is 'Being "Church" in a Modern World'. Our camps are an opportunity for our youth to gather in faith and learn more about what it is to be a Catholic. They do this among their contemporaries from the wider Pastoral Area in a safe environment. Please keep our camp in your prayers. Camp enquiries to Debbie Matheson 022 67 57 357 or Jacqui McLaughlin 299 3363.

Joint Youth Group Initiatives

We have had 3 ecumenical events in the past 3 months. One with St. Paul's Anglican Senior Youth Group in August and 2 with four other Youth Groups from the Paraparaumu, Waikanae and Otaki area, held at El Rancho Christian Camp in September and at the Waikanae Baptist Church in October. Our youth have enjoyed these opportunities to meet with other Christians.

Our Pastoral Area School

St Patrick's Primary School

This year has been another positive, forward-looking year for the school. Over 25 new entrants have started, building on a growing trend over the last few years. We already have a significant number enrolled to start next year. There are a couple of places available for non-catholic families but they need to get their enrolments in quickly.

The teachers have been working on developing the school's teaching program to meet the requirements of the NZ curriculum and we have also introduced the new digital and web based RE resource that the NZ bishops have had developed to support the

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teaching of religious education. Our school web site is a small window into the school and some of our children are working digitally with other classes and teachers nationally and globally through their online blogs.

Our school IT infrastructure has taken a leap forward with the installation of interactive digital projectors and a ratio of 1:4 computers in the senior rooms. We are one of 3 primary schools in Kapiti who will have our IT infrastructure upgraded by the Ministry of Education (valued at \$30000+).

The Archbishop, through the Catholic Schools Boards, has decided there is a need to upgrade our classrooms to the Ministry of Education's specifications for 'modern learning environments'. This is a significant milestone for the school. The architects visited in early November and expect building work to start by the middle of next year. This will ensure our children have modern classrooms into the foreseeable future.

During this year we have seen increased use of the school facilities by parish groups by providing a warm, comfortable, flexible meeting space. This is clear evidence of the school and parish working together.

Once again we would like to thank the St Patrick's parish for their generous donation towards pastoral care, social justice, RE professional learning and resources at the school. All these areas fall outside the operational grant provided by the Ministry of Education.

Introducing Martin Elms - Principal of our Pastoral Area School.

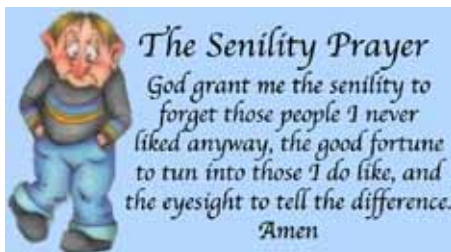
Martin has over 20 years' experience as a principal. He also spent four years as a merchant Navy officer and twelve years as a foster care social worker.



St Patrick's is his first journey into the Catholic education system after becoming a catholic a number of years ago. His faith journey started in the Anglican church as a child and has encompassed a number of Christian faith communities before joining the Catholic church.

Martin has always endeavoured to provide children with positive faith experiences so that as they grow older they have the information and knowledge to make their own choices about how they want to live out their faith in God.

Martin's role as Principal is to lead and develop a community where faith and learning work together to prepare our children to live as successful Catholics in a modern world.



Recent Events

Gala

A special and heartfelt thanks to all those in our pastoral area of Our Lady of Fatima and St Patricks, and to the wider Kapiti Coast community for another successful gala to support the Sisters' mission work. We raised over \$15 000 as a result of a wonderful event that so much reflects the tremendous community spirit of cooperation and support for

each other that is a hall mark of our parishes and the Kapiti Coast. Since becoming involved in the gala I have never ceased to be amazed and reassured by the way in which so many helpers and supporters all come together. Once the place and date have been decided it all just seems to happen!

Tony Bevin – gala convenor

Passionists and Gardens...

Members of the seven Passionist Family Groups in Waikanae parish gathered on Sunday afternoon recently at Mark and Jenny McGlone's place for the annual Passionist Garden Party. Some of us tried petanque, others stood and talked, while others just sat and talked. A great time was had by all, and after the great afternoon tea, there was a brisk auction for the leftover scones. The organizers decided that the competition for the expected hat prize was too great, and decided not to award it this year. A great pity.

Photos of the event are on the website, www.waikanae-catholic.org.nz, click on <Gallery> then <Passionist Garden party>. Here are one or two to whet your appetite....



The ladies, or course, wanted to parade their gorgeous hats



Petanque was a favoured occupation



Everyone had a very social time

Passionists and Cake...

On 31 October 2010 St Patrick's Passionist family groups celebrated their 15th birthday with Mass followed by a Devonshire Tea.



St Patricks have seven family groups at present with each group having regular monthly activities. These activities are advertised on their notice board in the church foyer for anyone to participate in. If you would like to

join a family group you can contact John & Corrie Mccardle on 904 1823 or contact any of the Group Co-ordinators listed at the bottom of the notice board.



Mary MacKillop Women's Celebration Breakfast

Over 100 Kapiti women responded to the invitation to attend a celebration breakfast on 16 October 2010 to honour the imminent canonisation of Mary MacKillop.

The breakfast was themed to compliment Sister Lyndall Brown's address and to emphasise the spiritual character of the occasion. Each woman was presented with a prayer candle, a prayer stone and a gift wrap of sweets. These had all been blessed by Father Jim Kershaw with water from Merymana's House of Dormition, the alleged resting place of Holy Mary.

The breakfast commenced with the presentation of a bottle of wine,

gifted by Marie Louise Bailey, to an attendee with a birthday on the date of the canonisation. The candles were then lit communally to represent a relationship with Mary MacKillop in the same way that the lighting of a baptismal candle represents a relationship with God.

The prayer stones were identified with David's slaying of Goliath and had a connection to the canonisation because Australian aboriginal representatives to this event were having mission stones blessed by the Pope.

The gift wraps of sweets contained 13 Jelly Beans representing Christ and

the Apostles. The connection to Mary MacKillop was signified by the fact that she was understood to have sweets in her pocket to reward children in her teaching days.

Margaret Bergman, Judy Chandler-Jones and Joyce Haughey attended to “Grace”, “Introduction” and “Thanks” respectively and Sister Lyndall Brown’s address captured the audience completely.

The breakfast concluded with the audience using their individual prayer stones to offer a prayer for the forthcoming canonisation and singing a Mary MacKillop song. Attendees departed the breakfast with a cup cake each which had been gifted by Kelly Gibson. The photos below attest to the wonderful time had by all – even the men folk, who worked so hard to put on this wonderful celebration.



Waikanae Parishioner wins Essay Competition

Mr Patrick Horan, of the Knights of the Southern Cross, was present at Our Lady of Fatima Parish church on the 19th Sept. for a presentation to Mary Dorrington, joint winner of the adult section of the Knights' 2010 National religious writing competition. At the end of Mass Father Owen Sinclair presented Mary with her certificate and prize of \$200.



The essay topic was : *This year we have been thinking about our priests.*

1. What do you consider to be the three most important duties of a parish priest?
2. Outline three ways that you can assist your parish priest to fulfill his vocation.

Mary thanked Fr. Owen, Patrick Horan and the Knights of the Southern Cross. She explained to parishioners that during the 'Year of the Priest', along with two friends, she had organised seven social and prayer evenings for priests. This had prepared her for writing the essay. Mary also gave tribute to the fact that the Year of the Priest evenings had been born out of the Monday afternoon prayer group. She reflected, "We need to use one grace before we get given another."

Mary was joined by her brother Bro Robert Johnsen sm from Palmerston North and family from Wellington.

The Old China Tea Party

Parishioners of St Patrick's were invited to a showing of Kathleen White's magnificent quilts, a presentation by Kath Garton on her stunning new vestments and a fancy afternoon tea complete with fine china. Everyone had a wonderful time and is looking forward to the next event.



A sample of the quilts on show



Have we got our little fingers at the right angle?

Introducing Parish Groups

CWL Paraparaumu Branch Oct 2009 - Oct 2010

What does the CWL do? Here is a summary of the past year's activities.

Speakers: Kay Blackburn, WUCWO International Secretary; reflection on "Martha and Mary"; NCW workshop on "WATER". A thought provoking day on what is happening to our water and what will happen from Barbara Arnold and Jim Macintosh; Cecilee Donovan speak to us on 'Grandmothers raising Grandchildren

Fundraising: Christmas Hamper raffle proceeds to our Mission Station in PNG supporting Presentation Sisters' Noviciate. Donations also sent to Catholic Enquiry Centre, Mary Hospice, Nathaniel Centre, St Patrick's School. Members helped with Daffodil Day collection.

Last social meeting for year mid-November - Christmas Tastings – with recipes available to take away.

Annointing Mass - commitment affirmed and dates set.

World Day of Prayer hosts on Friday 5th March.

Expo - display of our activities in the parish in church foyer.

Discussed 'Women in the Old Testament' using material from the WUCWO preparatory papers.

Members attended the Mass in Lower Hutt for St Margaret Clitherow.

A general meeting in early September asked the question 'Do we continue?' The decision was to continue at least for the coming year. All three executive positions were filled, with branch member support. We will place ourselves in the hands of the Holy Spirit and trust that all needs will be met.

Margaret Butterfield

St Patrick's Prayer Chain

About twenty years ago, some of the Prayer Chain contacts were part of a prayer and scripture group that met regularly. From within that group it was felt that we should pray for each other's needs, and from this grew the prayer chain.

About sixteen years ago it widened to the whole parish and there are now three teams of prayers, two operating during the day and one in the evening. Over the years we have had many

answers to prayer. The photo below illustrates just one example:



Some time ago we were asked to pray for a little girl called Lola, who is the granddaughter of John and Annette Theyers (former parishioners), great g'daughter of Joan and Frank McMullan and great niece of Betty Trevor. Lola suffers from cancer, has had several sessions of chemotherapy, and is now in remission. Her grand-

mother wishes to thank everyone for all the prayers and to let you see a picture of Lola, taken recently, looking really well.

Contact Names for Prayer Requests

Jill Doran 9021074;

Margaret Butterfield 9028596;

Nan Lewin 9056388

Saints for This Month

The Feast of the Holy Innocents December 28

The feast is generally celebrated within the octave of Christmas (alongside the feasts of St. Stephen and St. John) because the Holy Innocents gave their life for the newborn Saviour. Stephen the first martyr (martyr by will, love, and blood), John, the Disciple of Love (martyr by will and love), and these youngsters (martyrs by blood alone) accompany the Holy Child Jesus as he enters this world on Christmas Day. The Roman Rite keeps the feast on 28 December

It is not known when this Feast was included in the Church's Calendar although it is likely that it has been celebrated from about the middle of the fifth century. When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

Herod the Great (73 BC – 4 BC) was an Idumean (or Edomite) whom the Romans established as the king of Idumea, Judea, Samaria and Galilee. Matthew's account is consistent with the character of Herod, who was ruthless in defence of his power and notorious for his brutality. However, the massacre is not mentioned in Luke's gospel or in the work of Josephus the Jewish historian.

It is likely that the number of children actually killed was about twenty although some writers suggest a few more and others somewhat less. Because writers of the time, other than Matthew, have ignored the story it is quite likely that these numbers are realistic given the size of Bethlehem. The number of these children was so small that this crime appeared insignificant amongst the other crimes of Herod.

This story has been given epic status in several areas: the Greek liturgy mourns the death of 14,000 boys, the Syrians 64,000 and several medieval authors put the number at 144,000 in accordance with the Book of Revelation 14:3. This form of expression ensures that the significance of the event is recognised.

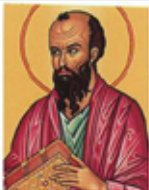
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Today's Holy Innocents

Over the past ten years or so I have made a connection between this Feast and the Holy Innocents of our own time. These are the children of New Zealand and other countries who have miscarried, been still born, been aborted or who have succumbed to "cot death" or SIDS. While we recognise that all these children are now in the arms of God, their parents and, in particular, their mothers are all too often grieving as did Rachel. This Feast is not a time to be judgemental but a time to recognise the genuine grief suffered by the parents of all the children who have died in one of these ways. We need to ask God to grant them all the peace and consolation of His love.

Fr Jim

The Holy Spirit

I am responding to a comment in the Spring Edition of Pastoral Pages about the exercise of the gifts of the Holy Spirit within our Church. My personal experience is that the gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12: 4-20 are all to be found in the Catholic Church.

A Spirit filled life is not restricted to membership of any particular group within the Church, but I have personally found membership of Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) in New Zealand a powerful aide towards achieving that goal.

It is important to emphasise that the groups and organisations within CCR operate within the authority and blessing of their Priests and Bishops.

I refer readers to two letters, both co-written by Cardinal Thomas S Williams, as Archbishop of Wellington, and six New Zealand Bishops:

“A Letter to Our Fellow Priests from the Bishops of New Zealand” written in 1981 for Pentecost; and *“Catholic Bishops officially recognise Catholic Charismatic Renewal”* written for Pentecost in 1988.

If anyone is interested I can supply them with a copy of either article, reprinted in “Tongues of Fire” – a Catholic Charismatic Renewal magazine. Unfortunately there is not room in this publication to enlarge upon their content.

“Because it is the work of the Holy Spirit and is for the good of the whole body, all renewal is, theologically speaking, “Charismatic”. One of the renewal movements in the Church today is also called “Charismatic Renewal”.

“The exercise of our pastoral responsibility requires that we be close enough both to encourage what is good and to discourage what is not. And our own personal growth requires that we be open to the Holy Spirit wherever He breathes. It is the Lord who tells us to ‘be not afraid’.”

Billie Watson, Waikanae Parish

(Ed: Whilst recognizing that the Holy Spirit is indeed alive and well within the Catholic Church, I believe our contributor was concerned that there is little overt acknowledgement of His power in the everyday and that we would do well to harness this power e.g. through prayer ministry at our Sunday liturgies.)

A Light On Cardinal Newman

Cardinal John Henry Newman, the Anglican Minister who converted to the Catholic Church in 1845, was beatified by the Pope when he visited England recently. What kind



of man was he? The following prayer, written by him, reveals a man who reflected his Christianity like a shining light, radiating peace and joy.

Dear Lord, help me to spread your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with your spirit and life.

Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may be only a radiance of yours. Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel your presence in my soul.

Let them look up and see no longer me, but only you, O Lord. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine; so to shine as to be a light to others.

The light O Lord will be all from you; none of it will be mine; it will be you shining through me. Let me thus praise you in the way you love best, by shining on those around me.

Let me preach you without preaching, not by words but by my example, by the catching force and the sympathetic influence of what I do.... The evident fullness of the love my heart bears to you. Cardinal Newman also wrote the hymns “Lead Kindly Light” and “Praise to the Holiest”.

New Charismatic Prayer Group Started

A charismatic prayer group has been started for Kapiti Catholics.

It meets for prayer & praise in the foyer of Our Lady of Fatima Church, Parata St, Waikanae from 7:30 to 9.00pm on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month. Supper & fellowship provided. EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Enquiries to Billie 902 3768 or Glen 293 1747

Campaign to put Christ back into Christmas.

Aim: To get Christians to light up their houses at Christmas.



How? Light up your house with true Christmas symbols.

Lobby suppliers like 'The Warehouse' and make it known that there would be demand for nativity scenes, angels, Christmas stars and appropriate slogans. We can create a demand for decorations that mention Jesus. If every Christian goes into every Christmas shop or retailer of Christmas lights or decorations and asks to see whatever they have that conveys the thought that 'Jesus is the reason for the season', we can create an apparent market to influence ordering decisions for next year.

Email your friends and relatives and encourage them to do the same.

Lights can be expensive but by displaying posters visible by day and illuminated from behind at night, we will get the message across. This is feasible for most of us.

Possible messages:

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR
THE SEASON

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM

JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Contacts for Christian themed lights:

The Christmas Light Co. 0800 496275
www.enquiries4xmas@hotmail.com

Paramount Lifestyles NZ 06 8435 435
www.basaa.co.nz

The Warehouse – 0800 422 274
to contact the buyer or email
customerserviceteam@thewarehouse.co.nz,
submit your request, expect no reply.

(We support this initiative by The Meadows Church - Ed)





<http://www.freecycle.co.nz/index.php>

What is it?

Freecycle is for people who want to get rid of their unwanted items, and for other people to pick that stuff up - for FREE. After all, one man's clutter is another man's treasure.

I'm intrigued. Tell me more.

The Freecycle concept is simple really. People who want to clear out their old stuff list their items for other people to come and pick it up.

If you're after free stuff then it's a great way to anonymously get some good stuff that's otherwise going to waste. Waste not, want not!

The Freecycle Grand Plan

Freecycle's big idea is to reduce unnecessary waste, and maybe help a few people out too. Some of the stuff we throw out is perfectly good stuff but maybe it's just getting in the way and isn't quite good enough to sell. Freecycle offers you the ability to get rid of your stuff without cluttering up the tip.

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DIGGER HIRE

Twinkies and Root Beer

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of Root Beer and he started his journey.



When he had gone about three blocks he met an elderly man. The man was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons.



The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the man looked hungry so he offered him a Twinkie.

The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again so he offered him a root beer.

Again the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling but they never said a word.

As it grew dark the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave. But before he had gone more than a few steps he turned around, ran back to the man and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later his

mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond he added, "You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile the elderly man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

Author Unknown

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Time for a laugh or two...

A student wanted to hire himself out as a handyman and started canvassing a well-to-do neighbourhood. The owner of the first house said "I guess I could use someone to paint my porch. How much do you charge?" The student replied \$50. The man agreed and told him that the paint and everything he needed was in the garage. The man's wife overheard the conversation, and said to her husband "Doesn't he realise that our porch goes right round the house? Maybe it's a bit much." A short time later the student came to collect his money. "Finished already?" the husband asked. "Yes," the student replied, "and I had paint left over, and I gave it two coats".

Impressed, the man reached into his pocket and handed over the \$50. "And by the way," the student added, "it's not a Porsche, it's a Lexus."

A man, reading the racing pages and looking at his baby sitting in the pram, said: "Baby's nose is running again." His wife answered scornfully "Don't you ever think of anything but horse-racing?"

Kids Say the Darndest Things...

Never trust a dog to watch your food.
(Patrick, age 10)

When your dad is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?" don't answer him.
(Heather, 16)

Never tell your mum her diet's not working. (Michael, 14)

Parish Directories November 2010

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

Kapiti Pastoral Area Council

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Area Pastoral Council Chair | Jim Power | 293 2985 |
| Area Pastoral Council Sec | Anna Ryan | 902 6330 |
| Pastoral Pages ed. Anna Ryan | office@ryanpublications.co.nz | 902 6330 |

St Patrick's School

| | | |
|--|-------------|----------|
| Office | Val McCall | 298 6780 |
| Principal | Martin Elms | 298 6780 |
| B.O.T. Chairman | Dave Meyer | 298 6780 |
| Board of Trustees: Meets at School 4th Wednesday monthly | | |

Our Lady of Fatima Parish

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Presbytery | Fr Owen Sinclair | 293 4236 |
| | Email - ojfs@clear.net.nz | |
| Parish Office | email: our.lady@xtra.co.nz Fax | 293 1386 |
| Parish Pastoral Council Chair | & Secretary - Mike Dodson | 293 1624 |
| | Email: mdodson@clear.net.nz | |
| Finance Committee | Chair - Brian Byers | 293 7368 |
| | Secretary:- Peter Fairfield | 902 0864 |
| Liturgy Committee | Sister Barbara Henley | 904 6112 |
| Website | Glen McCullough | 293 1747 |
| Church Flowers | Barbara Ratcliffe | 904 1321 |
| Church Worship Support | Eucharistic Ministers: | |
| Communion to the Sick | Mary Byers | 293 7368 |
| Rosters Co-Ordinators | Patricia McKechnie | 293 4290 |
| Music: Organists | Judith Wheeler | 293 1129 |
| Maria Vink | 293 8621 Doreen Hoffmann | 904 3276 Patricia Beasley |
| Guitars | Wullie Grant | 904 8702 |
| Sacristans | Pat and Don Gee, Mark Englert | 293 2978 |
| Children's Liturgy | Jenny McGlone | 904 7451 |

Other Parish Organisations

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Women's Guild | Barbara Henley | 904 6112 |
| | Judith Healey | 904 7545 Anna Upton |
| | | 293 6347 |
| St Vincent de Paul | Martha Westerbeke | 904 2757 |
| | Secretary: Ron King | 293 2757 |
| Passionist Family Groups | Phyllis & Jim Power | 293 2985 |
| Justice and Peace | Des Horan | 904 8086 |
| Bereavement Support | Martha Westerbeke | 904 2757 |

St Patrick's Parish

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Presbytery | Fr Michael McCabe, | 902 5815 |
| Parish Office | Kathleen Beaumont | 902 5815 |
| Pastoral Council Chair | Richard Ward | 905 4675 |
| Finance Committee Chair | Dave Diggins | 902 1328 |

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| Youth – Co-ordinator | Debbie Matheson | 0226757357 |
| Trust - | John McCardle | 904 1823 |
| Presentation Convent | Sister Celine | 905 3420 |
| Liturgy | Marie Huxford | 299 0650 |
| | Margaret Butterfield | 902 8596 |
| Liturgy Roster | Margaret Butterfield | 902 8596 |
| Children's Liturgy | Alison Boyle | 904 6834 |
| Music | Bill Borkin | 904 7464 |
| Altar Servers | Ashley Fulton | 298 5596 |
| Masses of Anointing | Colleen King | 905 5913 |
| Bereavement Mass | Marie Huxford | 299 0650 |
| Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation - Kath Garton | | 904 9341 |
| Engaged Couples (Foccus) | Doug & Mary Fake | 904 6290 |
| Baptisms & Bereavements | Merle Whiteman | 904 1855 |
| Adult Education | Anna Ryan | 902 6330 |
| Parish Library | Robyn Cranshaw | 299 0589 |
| Parish Groups: | | |
| St Vincent de Paul | Gabrielle Orange | 904 8545 |
| Maori Mission | Wai Stewart | 902 4909 |
| Intercessory Prayer Grp | Karen Huxford | 299 4307 |
| Cath Women's League | Fay Doyle | 902 3017 |
| NCRS & RCIA | Father Michael | 902 5815 |
| | Eddie Doran | 902 1074 |
| Used Clothing - adult: | Joy Woodham | 2987802 |
| child: | Joanna March | 904 7350 |
| Legion of Mary | Gill Doran | 902 1074 |
| Mission Circle | Jean Beaumont | 902 1446 |
| Passionist Family Grps | John & Corrie McCardle | 904 1823 |
| Living Aloners | Jan Dowd | 905 4633 |
| Widowed, Separated, Divorced | Susan Harwood | 905 7077 |
| Bereavement Team | Jennifer Lawton | 905 4439 |
| Men's Group | Frits Bergman | 297 0777 |
| Parish Ministries: | | |
| Eucharist Ministers for the sick | Eddie Doran | 902 1074 |
| Church Cleaning Roster | Parish Office | 902 5815 |
| Church Flowers | Joyce Haughey | 905 4467 |
| Sanctuary & Brass | Nancy Lewin | 905 6388 |
| Family Ministry | Phil Lawton | 905 4439 |
| Missions: Fundraising for Presentation Sisters - Sister Breda | | 905 3420 |
| Mission Gala | Convenor Tony Bevin | 299 6825 |
| Prayer Chain | Margaret Butterfield | 902 8596 |
| | Gill Doran 902 1074 | Nan Lewin 905 6388 |
| Statue & Pilgrimage | Neil Garton (sound) | 904 9341 |
| | Geoff Mettrick | 904 2623 |

Five Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C. S. Lewis once said, a 'sweet duty.'
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.
5. And lastly comes our little finger - the smallest finger of all which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, 'The least shall be the greatest among you.' Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.



Websites - for advent and preparation for Christmas

<http://www.spirithome.com/advent.html>

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>

<http://www.textweek.com/advent.htm>

<http://www.waikanae-catholic.org.nz>

Our wish for you for 2011

May peace break into your house and may thieves come to steal your debts.
May the pockets of your jeans become magnets for \$50 notes.
May love stick to your face like Vaseline and may laughter assault your lips.
May your clothes smell of success like smoking tyres.
May happiness slap you across the face and may your tears be that of joy.
May the problems you had forget your home address.
In simple words: May 2011 be the best year of your life.