

Pastoral Pages

Parish of Our Lady of Kāpiti

Te Whaea Tapu o Kāpiti

Summer 2015



What's Inside

Reflections on Advent & Christmas

Updates on most aspects of Parish Life

EDITORIAL



Welcome to this Advent/Christmas issue of Pastoral Pages. In this issue we focus on the season as well as continue with thoughts around the building of our new church. There are lots of pics from the very successful dinner/dance at Southwards as our middle-page spread, the usual updates from our Parish Pastoral Council, youth and school, a number of people or groups that we

draw to your attention and reports on a number of recent events. There is also information about upcoming events, especially fundraisers for our new church that you may want to support.

We also begin the first of three articles on our Filipino Community. We hope you enjoy coming to know more about these people who are such an integral part of our faith community.

We wish you and your families a very faith filled and blessed Christmas.

Anna and the Editorial Team.

Contributions to:

Email: office@ryanpublications.co.nz with *Pastoral Pages* in the subject line (otherwise it ends up in the junk file).

Phone or fax: 04 902 6331 (work) or 902 6330 (home).

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Reflections

Christmas

A New Zealand Christmas

What a grace upon it that He chose that country -
We have kind oxen and our straw is sweet.
We have shepherds too now and stables and a manger.
Had we but one imprint of His little feet.

For my heart goes crying through these days of summer,
Through the sleepy summer, slow with streams and bees,
Had my land been old then here He might have lighted,
Here have seen His first moon in the ngaio trees.

And my heart goes crying through these days of waiting
While His lilies open and His tui sing,
Had my Lord been born here angels might have ringed us,
Standing round our islands, wing wide to wing.

Had my Lord been born here in the time of rata
Three dark-eyed chieftains would have knelt to Him,
With greenstone and mats and the proud huia feather,
And the eyes of Mary watching would grow dim.

Oh my heart goes crying through these days of waiting,
We too have oxen and our straw is sweet.
We too have shepherds and stables and a manger.
Oh for one clear footprint of His little feet.

The sky would be a tumble of summer constellations,
Our own, alas, hidden, that cluster of loss,
Exiled from sight by some thoughtful angel
Lest He too soon should look upon a cross.

Eileen Duggan

Shepherds were nomads who had a dubious reputation, known to be thieves and murderers. Why did the good news come first to them? Well, that's the way it was. Jesus always reached to the outcasts of society, the people who struggled, the people who knew their need. We struggle. We know our need. Is this why he chooses us and trusts us with the good news? Like the shepherds, we race to the manger, knowing that in our neediness we are favoured by God.



Extract from “Advent as Parable” by Joy Cowley,
Tui Motu, Magazine, December 2013. Used with permission.

Advent

The Candle

I heard a very good sermon last year about the advent candle that has had me thinking ever since (that is in itself unusual).

The priest used the analogy of post-earthquake Christchurch, when there was no power in the presbytery. They got candles from the sacristy and used them to see their way around. He asked us to imagine being in a dark hallway with a candle in our hands – there would be a pool of light around us so we could see a little way ahead of us. If we turned around, the light would show us where we had been.

The message was that Jesus in our lives is like a candle. He lights the way for us.

I have been pondering on the message and I now think the candle is always there, but it is dormant unless we light it with prayer and praise. Think about that for a minute.

Let the candle go out by neglect, so Jesus is not active in our lives and we are groping around in the spiritual dark. When we realize that, of course we start praying again – and so relight the candle.

If we go too fast, and try and do too much ourselves, the flame will flicker in the wind and go out, leaving us lost without Jesus.

Start the day with prayer and the candle is lit; don't start with prayer, and the candle will never be lit.

With the candle lit, we can light up the lives of those we meet.

To give you a chance to think about the relevance of that thought in your own lives, try a family experiment one night. Turn the lights out, give each person a candle, light them and go for a wander around the house. Blow the candle out. See how it feels. Relight it from someone else's candle. See how that feels.

Glen McCullough

Let's Build a Church

Saying Thank you

It is a privilege to be asked to thank the speaker or organiser of an event.

This year we are being made aware of the many busy talented men and women in our Church Community who are working so hard for us to Build Our Church.

There is so much to do; so many things to think about and it will take many months before they can sit back to reflect on and enjoy the end result.

So I wish to add my voice to say "Thank You". Your efforts are appreciated and your energy and enthusiasm is admirable.

I would also like to thank your spouses - the wives and husbands who stand behind you in loving support. Often their sacrifice and generosity is forgotten but without it the tasks would be harder.

God bless you and give you the strength to continue until we finally come to the end - the opening of our new School and Church to the Glory of God and the continued work in this corner of His Vineyard.

Ishbel Cunliff

A lovely lunch was held at the Presbytery after 10.00 mass last Sunday to say thanks to all those who had helped with the build and for the parish at large, It was a wonderful time with DELICIOUS food – thanks Party Perfect!

Lord God, you love life. You clothe the lilies of the field. You feed the birds of the air.

You sent your own Son that we may have life; life in abundance.

We ask you to bless the food we are about to share, food for our physical lives. We ask also that you bless all gathered in friendship this evening.

Since we have come together to build a church, a house where we will celebrate your gifts of Sacrifice and Sacraments, and which will sustain our spiritual lives.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Grace offered by Cardinal Tom Williams at Southwards dinner-dance 19th September

As the more practical steps are being taken to bring our new parish church into reality, ALL parishioners are asked to pray for guidance and discernment from the Holy Spirit and that parishioners will be willing to use their God-given talents to help in developing a parish we can all be proud to be part of.



'No one is under any illusions about the magnitude of the project that Our Lady of Kāpiti is embarking upon. However, I believe this project serves the greater good of the Archdiocese as well as the needs of the parishioners for a new church and school. Clearly this is a work of faith and an enormous commitment of faith on the part of all. For this reason prayer is essential to its successful outcome and I encourage you and the parishioners to make this a central part of your continued plan.'

Cardinal John Dew – 23 January 2015

'[The parish] also requests approval for fundraising activities to support Stage 3 of the project. I have no hesitation in giving that approval and ask that all parishioners support the project to the extent that they are able, financially but also in prayer and general support of the project activities. I am aware of the huge amount of work that many people are undertaking, voluntarily, and am truly grateful. Please pass on my thanks to them. Please be assured of my ongoing prayers...'

Cardinal John Dew - 9 July 2015

The Providence of God

What does "The Providence of God" mean?

To me, it means that God will provide whatever I need, whatever that might be at the time, as long as I am doing His work. But I need to be doing.... in

my experience, He does not provide for the idle.

Some concrete examples might help to explain what I mean.

Friends in Christchurch believed they were called to set up a Christian



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Community Centre. They prayed constantly that the Lord would provide everything they needed. They looked for premises, and they were offered a venue. The morning they were due to open they found they needed an extra large teapot, when a stranger knocked on the door and offered them an extra large teapot. God had provided everything they needed to do His work before they knew they needed it.

During my 15 years as accountant for Bible Society there were many times when we were short of funds to meet commitments when money would “magically” appear. On one occasion I remember in particular we were short a little over \$128,000 to remit overseas for Bible supplies, and when the mail was opened that morning there were two cheques totalling \$131,000. When I obtained the overseas draft, the rate

had gone up overnight and the draft cost \$131,000. God provided exactly what we needed for His work, when we needed it.

I have lost count of the number of times the Holy Spirit has put words that need to be said into my mouth when talking to people, exactly when they need to be said. God provides exactly what we need when we are doing His work.

When I take on too many tasks for the church, He finds me the time I need to get them finished.

With that in mind, I have no fear that He will provide everything we need for our new Parish Church. He has already provided the land. He will provide the funds as long as we do not hesitate along the way.

Glen McCullough



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Coming Home

Ed: As changes in our church buildings hot up, many of us are facing grief and adjustment. Glen McCullough shares his thoughts.

During nearly two months overseas recently, I saw many churches - most of them gothic or baroque. That experience formed my preference for churches that are simple ones with a strong focus on Christ and a sense of intimacy, of being enfolded.

We went to Mass the day after our return, still jetlagged. After being greeted by familiar greeters at the door, I stood in the foyer and gazed at the beautifully simple wooden wall behind the altar with the dominant crucifix. I thought about the years of praying I and my community had done in this church.

When Mass started I felt really close to the priest on the altar in a way that was far more intimate than it was possible to be in the great churches of Europe.

It ticked all my boxes – simple, Christ-centred, with a sense of intimacy and being enfolded in prayer.

The difficulty is that both churches in our parish, Our Lady of Fatima and St Patrick's, Paraparaumu, are earthquake risks and are projected to close when our new, centrally located church is opened. I will grieve when our beautiful church has gone, but it is my hope and prayer that our new church will also be simple, intimate, Christ-centred and give a sense of being enfolded in God's love as we enter.



Our Lady of Fatima Church



The simple interior



Christ centred

Fr Jim's Been Thinking

The Growth of Faith



James Fowler, American theologian and psychologist, died on 16 October 2015. I studied his theories at the Seminary in the 1990s. His work on the way in which people develop during their faith journey made a deep impression on me. Equally importantly, he influenced my personal faith growth for I realised that I had been dependent on others for my faith knowledge.

Fowler mapped human faith development over six stages. Although excluding the period from birth to about three years, Fowler's pattern was akin to the final six stages of human life.

Very briefly the stages cover

1. Ages 3 - 7: the beginning of self-awareness and early knowledge of death, sex and cultural taboos.
2. Ages 8 – teens: early stories are affirmed and the stories, beliefs and observances of a faith community are taken on. Here there is a danger of an overliteral acceptance of the factual truth of the stories.
3. Adolescence: branching beyond the family and close community to recognise the experiences of others. A personal faith identity forms but may succumb to an over conformity to others.
4. Young adults (20-30): a critical capacity for self-identity and an ideological outlook may develop. The danger is that they will become overconfident in their ability to searchingly assess their faith.
5. Middle adulthood: become trusting of others and the traditions they represent while still able to reflect judiciously on any/all conventions. Here people acquire an “ironic imagination” enabling them to be in, but not of, their surroundings. There is a danger they will become passive and lazy because of their insight.
6. Late adulthood: overcoming the paradoxes found in Stage 5 and allowing their faith to express, in love and justice, the perceived truths of religions and to become involved in bringing these about. The danger in this stage is disillusionment.

Surveys suggest that seventy percent of people never pass beyond the third stage. Only two percent, the Thomas Mertons and Maximillian Kolbes of our world, reach stage 6.

When I went to the seminary I realised I was stuck in stage 3. Fortunately my faith started to grow again. I now find that generally I operate from stage 5 but with a tendency to revert to 4. I keep on trying!

Reports & Updates from Parish Groups

Parish Pastoral Council

Matters discussed at recent Council meetings include -

- the production of a handbook for, particularly, new parishioners but also as an extensive resource for all those in the parish. Council member Sue McGlone has put a huge amount of work into a most comprehensive booklet which is now available from the Parish Office.
- the “Year of Mercy” which commences on December 8th 2015 and concludes on November 20 of the following year. Parish activity will include hosting the Diocesan Mass of Anointing to be held on Sunday 7 February in conjunction with the pilgrimage to Mary’s statue. Cardinal John Dew will officiate.
- a proposed assembly/seminar on the issue of Euthanasia, together with the lodging of a formal submission to the Health Select Committee.
- the continuing issue of communication and dialogue with those in the parish who are unsettled by the proposed new church and the implications of the eventual loss of our existing places of worship.
- facilitation of a joint meeting between the parish Justice and Peace group and representatives of our Filipino parishioners, with a view to a better understanding of their assimilation into the wider community.

Justin du Fresne, chair

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

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Graham

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A Letter from Fr. Michael

The following letter was sent out to parishioners from Fr Michael. We reproduce it here in case you didn't receive your copy.

Dear Parishioner,

On 19 September 2015 we launched our fundraising for our new Parish Church complex with the wonderful dinner-dance called 'Let's Build a Church.'

The sense of celebration, enthusiasm and unity was magnificent. Cardinal Tom Williams set the scene with his beautiful grace and the monies raised from that evening helped take our fundraising total to \$341,000!

A clear message of the evening was the heartfelt desire by so many parishioners and friends of the parish to build a spiritual and educational home for our children and grandchildren. Our deep gratitude is due to Bob Houston and his hardworking team of volunteers for organizing such a memorable evening.

Now that the project has reached the resource consent stage a number of initiatives are being undertaken to ensure our goal of a debt-free church at opening some time in 2017.

Site works are due to begin in November-December and construction of the school and hall set to commence in January 2016 with a projected opening in January 2017.

While the cost of the school and part of the Hall are largely met by funding from the Ministry of Education through the Archdiocese of Wellington the parish must meet all the costs of the new Church with an estimated cost of around \$6 million.

An important part of our fundraising programme is the support of each



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family and household in our own parish community. Over the next month we ask that you consider your financial commitment to our new Church.

In particular, we would like you to look at the commitment you feel you could make over the next 12 months to three years. Your gift could be made as a monthly contribution, by regular instalments, or as a single donation at some stage during this time that is convenient to you. Your gift could also be made as a bequest.

If you wish to use an automatic payment option or require assistance in making a bequest please contact the parish office. Similarly, if you would like to speak with a member of the Fundraising Committee or Steering Group about your gift or about making a bequest to the project, please contact myself, or the Parish Office, or mark your Pledge Form in the appropriate space.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration, of this request. Please continue to keep our Parish of Our Lady of Kāpiti in your prayers.


Yours, Fr Michael.

Update: to date \$526,000 has been raised or pledged.

Asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus said in reply,

“The coming of the Kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce, ‘Look, here it is,’ or, ‘There it is.’ For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you.”

Luke 17:20



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The year is rushing towards Christmas with many of our youth on study leave for NCEA exams. Good luck!

As part of our commitment to support our leaders, Youth Ministry provides leadership training. In September, this year we ran a three-hour workshop followed by dinner at Breaker's Café.

This allowed our leaders time to recharge their leadership batteries with an afternoon of fellowship, prayer and learning with fellow leaders in ministry. The topics covered were; Prayer, the importance of Icebreakers and Self-care. Leaders spend a lot of time, energy and prayer helping youth on their discipleship journey. This was a time to 'feed' their own journey!

Youth from across the Pastoral Area gathered for All Hallows' Eve at Anam Cara in Otaki for food, fun and God. The bonfire and marshmallows were a great hit!



We are planning for our November G.U.Y.S. Camp at Palm Grove with our theme based on Pope Francis' Year of Mercy and the Corporal Works of Mercy. It's a great chance for youth to mix fun and purpose over the weekend. For the service component, the youth are offering their tech skills to help parishioners get the most out

of their mobile phones, tablets and laptops for a donation which goes towards the new church.

Not to be forgotten, Christmas parties for Fun Time and J-Team are on the calendar for Friday 4 December.

We wish you all a wonderful Advent and Christmas season.

The Youth Office will close midday Thursday 10 December and reopen the last week of January 2016.

Jacqui McLaughlin

An MVP in our midst

Vaughan McCauley, son of Theresa and eldest grandson of Corrie and John, aged 15, is currently finishing his Year 10 at Kapiti College via Sts Peter & Paul, Lower Hutt and St Patrick's, Paraparaumu. He is a youth group member, J4R camper, keen rugby player, athlete and mathematician.



Why are we featuring this young man? Recently Vaughan, as Kapiti College U15 rugby captain, was named Most Valuable Player at the Hurricanes' U15 schools' invitational tournament held at St Pat's, Silverstream, where he played as No 8. He also received the MVP award for this year at the college's rugby prize giving. He has also been selected as Sports Captain for the Central 6 tournament, competing in 400m sprint, shotput & javelin.

Well done, Vaughan. We are proud of you.

Photo courtesy of Kapiti News

Our Parish School

Term four is always a busy time of the year, making sure we get things finished by the end of the year and busily planning for the next, let alone preparing to start at the new school at the beginning of 2017.

I remember when ... Do you or someone you know have a story to tell?

We are really excited about the future for the school and the parish side by side at the new location.

In preparation, our plans for 2016 include celebrating and honouring the past and looking forward to the future. We would like to try and collect as many stories about St Patrick's as possible. It's amazing the number of parishioners and parents who walk into the school and start by saying "I remember when...."

Enrolments

Our non-Catholic roll is now full until the end of 2016, and we have a waiting list. If you know families wanting their non-Catholic children to join us at the new school in Milne Drive, they need to take action now.

We are still accepting enrolments for Catholic children. These children must

be baptised, or their parents baptised, or the child or parents are preparing for baptism; we can even accept an arrangement whereby children are supported by a 'significant other' who is Catholic such as grandparent or close family friend or family.

We are currently appointing an extra teacher for next year.

Learning and practising ways to encounter Jesus

This year we have been focusing on learning some of the set prayers of the church and the Rosary.



One class combined the technology 'Build it' theme and their RE lessons by making their own Rosary beads which they then used to lead the Rosary at our weekly school assembly.

Martin Elms, Principal

An Invitation to Parishioners:

If you would like to write your memories for us, or record them on your computer (either by yourself or maybe your children and/or grandchildren could do it for you!) we'd love to receive them. Our aim is to create a digital archive and time capsule. It would also be fabulous if some of you were willing to be interviewed and recorded by the students during the year.

Photographs are always great as well. These can be scanned and returned straight away. The more information the better.

STOP PRESS:



Friday 13th Nov.: We had our first school visit to the new site today on the way back from our "clean up the Beach" programme. It brought the site alive to have 125 children running around enjoying themselves and exploring. Visions of things to come! We finished with a reflection and prayer.

Introducing Parish Groups & People

Bereavement Support Team

Relieve the anguish of my heart and set me free from distress Psalm 25:17

The Bereavement Support Team has been providing comfort and assistance to bereaved members of the parish for many years. Great thanks are due to Cynthia Scott (St. Patrick's) and Audrey Ulrich (Our Lady of Fatima), who retired recently as co-ordinators of this ministry for their, and their team's, many years of loyal caring for those who have suffered the loss of a family member.

The work continues under a newly appointed co-ordinator - Annette Corban. Annette has over fifteen years' experience in the field of grief and loss and is a long-standing parishioner. A new team has been formed. They bring a wealth of understanding and empathy to this work and all have their own experience of loss. All feel

privileged to be invited to walk beside those who are experiencing the pain of grieving for a spouse or other family member.

To all those walking this painful journey, whether it started recently or some time ago, you will receive a warm welcome from the team.

Note from Annette:

Following a bereavement, we will make contact by post, offering our deepest sympathy and prayer support. We will then make a telephone call to offer an initial visit. If required, we can follow up with further visits and helpful information



or just a chat over a cup of coffee. After Sunday mass at St. Patrick's we usually get together for coffee at Robert Harris – anyone who wishes to join us would be very welcome.

Even if your bereavement is some time ago, you are warmly invited to call me on the number below (or email me) for

a chat about how we can help. Your journey from bereavement is uniquely your own – but whatever form that takes, we are here to help when you need us.

Annette Corban – Co-ordinator
Phone number: 021 264 4567
Email: annette.corban@gmail.com

LOVED 4 LIFE™

LOVED 4 LIFE™ began in 2007 in the Te Horo area, initiated by Marcia Guest. This community organization was set up as a partnership between the Church and the Community with a view to positively impacting the lives of families and children, to ensure every child will be LOVED 4 LIFE™ and that parents will have the skills to make this happen. It is a not for profit, interdenominational, community initiative, that is inclusive of all families, regardless of race or creed.

What we provide:

- a 'LOVED' quilt is made as a gift to welcome newborn babies into the community
- a meal for the family is provided in the early weeks after baby is born
- Parent Education workshops and events are held
- Pure wool knitting for premature babies is provided for unexpected early arrivals



Members of the Evergreen Passionist

Family Group, along with members of the Waikanae Community, have been providing the above for the last six years and so far 345 quilts have been delivered to families in the area.

For further information look at the website www.loved4life.com.

You may like to become a Volunteer; if so, please contact Barbara Ratcliffe 904 1321.

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Marian Mothers

This is a wonderful group that is there for mothers to support each other in our faith journey. We meet to pray, discuss and encourage one another in our role as Catholic mothers.



Material is prepared and sent to us monthly from the Marist centre, which means that there is a little preparation required before coming to a group.

What does it mean to be Marists? "To be Marist is to want to encounter Jesus, to love, serve and follow him in Mary's way and to share his love with others. We encourage the spiritual growth of families, lay groups and individuals wishing to grow in their Christian journey. Mary wants to gather

everyone into God's family and all are welcome." maristlaitynz.org

We currently have two groups running in our parish. One on the first Monday of the month at 4 Gandalf Crescent at 10.30 and another on the third Thursday of the month (venue varies depending on who is hosting).

Mothers of all ages are welcome.
Phone Martha 9022323.

Martha Stuart-Berrisford

A Very Sound Fellow

Mass at St Patrick's is a better hearing experience for most thanks to the work of the church's "sound man" – **Neil Garton.**

Balancing the very different demands of amplifying the spoken word and the various music groups at Mass, Neil brings his years of expertise as a hobbyist to a building in the "worst possible shape" for sound.

Prior to the church being reconfigured the sound was very good and the then sound system coped admirably, he said, but once the style of use of the church changed, the altered reflected sound posed acoustic problems.





"Let's Build a Church" Dine and Dance





Southwards Theatre, Otaihangā Saturday 19th September 2015



Prepare Ye The Way

Ed: Music is such an important addition to the way we worship. Both parish churches are blessed with wonderful music teams and we continue our look at the wonderful musicians whose ministry this is. Thank you all for your commitment and willingness to serve us all in this way.

The liturgical calendar now draws us towards Christmas with the music of Advent guiding our steps.

For many Advent seasons the music group at St Patrick's Church has made a path, aligning the music to the seasonal readings.

"There's not a lot of Advent music available – it's not like Christmas – and we are always looking for new music," spokesman Bill Borkin said.

Over the years the membership of the group has changed but at the core are Bill, Kath Garton, Lafaele Vaeluaga, Brendan Wilson and keyboard player Joe Lambregts.

Long-time member John McCardle and George Wilkin join in when they are available and Ted Wypych, who now lives out of the parish, has become a "roving minstrel".

In recent weeks another musician has joined the ranks of the music group.

Playing the organ at recent Masses has been Bridget O'Shanassy, composer, musician and highly respected music teacher at Kapiti College. Bridget has a special interest in choral singing, especially harmony vocals, and was prompted to join the music group when she heard the congregational singing at a Jesus 4 Real Mass.

"I understand she appreciated the congregational singing here and in her mind could hear the harmony," Bill said.

In November the group has been introducing Bridget's own composition, The Millennium Mass, which will add to the repertoire of Mass music.

Through December the focus will shift from songs of preparation and anticipation to the familiar and much-loved carols of Christmas.

As well as playing these songs in church, some members of the group will be visiting rest homes to entertain with Christmas music.

"We get a really neat response, especially in the Alzheimers wings.



People who seem to be just sitting there will be drawn in and you see their enjoyment.”

Mentoring and teaching the youth music group has been another role of some group musicians, particularly for John and Lafaele and they delight

in seeing young people come through to take their place among the music groups and singers, praising God and telling the story of the Church year in music.

Margaret Irvine

Barangay Santa Maria Assumpta - in Retrospect

Ed: We are blessed to have such a diversity of cultures within our parish. The largest non-European grouping is the Filipino community and it behoves us to learn about them. To this end Barangay Santa Maria Assumpta has been asked to provide a series of articles for the next few issues of Pastoral Pages. Here is the first of them.

This article is in response to curious thoughts about three major points focusing on Filipinos here in Kāpiti, particularly their involvement in the Parish. These major areas are centred on:

1. Barangay Santa Maria Assumpta as a whole - its historical background, its vision/mission, goals and activities,
2. the motivational factor behind the closeness and commitment of the Filipino Community to the Parish and with each member,
3. migration-related thoughts, such as perhaps, what has motivated Filipinos to come to New Zealand (particularly to Kāpiti), their struggles and difficulties, their mechanisms to cope with major and life-changing events.

For now, let me focus on the first item - BSMA - its history, its name and some other associated areas. Some

publications, namely past issues of Pastoral Pages, the BSMA Newsletter, Filipino Chaplaincy and summary of reports from the Community itself, have already included these items, hence, many Parishioners will already know about BSMA. This write-up may provide some “missing links”.

I believe that it takes leadership in its true sense, as well as the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for such a Community to be formed. The charism, commitment and dedication of a few people that has spread out to many others was instrumental to what BSMA is now and what it will become.

It all started in the last quarter of 2011 when Fr. Alberto dela Cruz, Chaplain of the Wellington Filipino Chaplaincy, contacted Maria Soledad Pagalilauan (Mayie) with the intention of forming a Catholic Filipino group in Kāpiti. Initial work was done in the early part of 2012 by Maribel Fernando (Bheng) in searching for Filipino parishioners who could later be tapped as Core Leaders of the Community. The initial group met on the 5th of March 2012 with the help of Ma. Kristel Sevilla (Kristel). Later on these three ladies, known as Tres Marias, did the ground work in forming the Barangay and served as



Servant Leaders in the Core Group.

On the 1st of April, after the Annual Filipino Palm Sunday & Pilgrimage mass, the Filipino group selected the Core Group with Father's guidance.

On May 2012 The Core Group of Barangay Santa Maria Assumpta was commissioned by Frs. Ambet dela Cruz and Michael McCabe.

Why Barangay? Why Assumpta? What is behind this name?

The word *barangay* actually comes from the basic unit of Philippine society. Because it is a unit, it comprises a group of people formed with common goals and aspirations. As a specific unit in the Filipino Chaplaincy, BSMA distinguishes itself from the other Barangays based in Wellington Region. Assumpta, meaning Assumption, goes with the name of the Barangay's Patron Saint -

Our Lady of the Assumption - who is also the Patron Saint of New Zealand. The Barangay celebrates its annual Fiesta every 15th of August in honour of the feast of its Patron Saint.

The following are excerpts from the BSMA Newsletter on the Vision, Mission and Goals which were formally drafted last year (2014) to answer the needs of the Parish:

Barangay Santa Maria Assumpta is a vibrant Kāpiti Coast Filipino Catholic faith-centred community integrated into Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish, living out the gospel values to fellow Filipinos and to the wider community while expressing a distinct Marian charism and Filipino Spirituality.

Mission/Vision

We, Barangay Santa Maria Assumpta, are a Catholic faith-based community with a strong Marian character under



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the Filipino Chaplaincy, aiming to:

- encourage participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the church,
- propagate the Catholic faith through strong community involvement,
- help our fellow Filipinos in their spiritual growth and development of a deeper relationship with God,
- be a living witness of Christ and to actively participate in the parish,
- assist the Filipino faithful to live and share their faith in the context of our traditions and practices,
- encourage participation in the liturgy and promote response to the pastoral needs of the community,
- promote active participation of the community in meeting their spiritual, material and psychosocial needs,
- be involved in the activities of Our Lady of Kāpiti Parish,
- be a caring community where every Filipino Catholic on the Kāpiti Coast feels welcome and empowered to be a part of this community and the wider parish as we grow in faith.

Ministries: The ministries of the Barangay Assumpta are:

- † Worship/Liturgy
- † Education/Formation,
- † Outreach Service
- † Music.

The Barangay holds a Filipino mass every first Sunday of the month, supports the formation of Himig Assumpta (Choir) and provides BSMA Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers.

Genevieve O'Neill first assumed the servant leadership between 2012 and 2014 when she had to leave her post as

Overall Coordinator for family reasons. Nida Mistal-Leckie took over and still heads the leaders.

Prayer/Bible-Study – To gain greater understanding of God and His will through directed Bible study series and to grow in faith and gain strength for the work of ministry, Bernie Velasco spearheaded Bible-study sessions. These were initially planned to happen every Friday for three months but lasted for almost a year. This Bible-study and sharing is still happening once a month and has extended to other members of the Community.

Socio-Cultural Events. To encourage the participation of the families in the Community and to link with the bigger Parish community, BSMA has organised activities such as showcasing national dances through the Munting Bayanihan Dance Ministry under the leadership and mentorship of Mary Velasco.

In a nutshell, BSMA caters to the holistic development of the Community as well as to reach out to ALL Parishioners, not only for their spiritual concerns, but also toward socio-cultural interdependence.

The next article considers, “What motivates them to work towards their vision, mission and goals?”

Judith Balares Salamat



Recent Events

Bereavement Mass 7th November St Patrick's Church

The annual bereavement mass, held in November, the month of the Holy Souls, is a beautiful way to remember those loved ones who have died during the past year. Some are from our parish, others are family members of parishioners. This is the homily Father Jim's preached on this occasion, largely based on the writings of Flor McCarthy.

Memory is a precious faculty. It connects us with people and events that are no longer present to us. When someone we love dies, we feel the need to connect our lives with that of the deceased. Here is where memory comes to our aid. As soon as the loved one dies, memory begins to work overtime. However, at the same time a cloud of grief descends on us.

Grief is not a bad thing. In fact it is a good and necessary thing. But it can be so painful that we may be tempted to suppress it. However, memory makes this almost impossible. Hence, we may be tempted to also suppress our memories of the deceased. We should resist this.

We all want to be remembered. Jesus too wanted to be remembered. In his love for us, he left us a special way of remembering him, namely, the Eucharist. He said, 'Do this in memory of me.'

The wonderful thing is, when we remember him in this way, he becomes present to us. Not physically present, but nevertheless, really present. And

through the Eucharist a spiritual bond is forged between us, with the result that we are able to enter into a deeper intimacy with him than if he were physically present. We are not merely in communication with him but in communion with him.

Our loved ones are never really lost, never separated from us. If we cherish their memory, they become present to us. They are not just a memory but a real presence, a presence we feel rather than see. When we remember them with love we are in communion with them.

When we finally accept that our loved one is one, we are able to thank God for the gifts he gave us through them. This helps us to let go of negative feelings such as anger and guilt. In their place come fond memories to cherish, memories which like good wine, improve with age.

One of the ways of repaying the debt we owe to our loved ones is to remember them. And by remembering them we continue to reap a harvest from what they sowed while amongst us. There are people whose impact is almost greater in death than in life.

'All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.' *Helen Keller*



Rest In Peace

First Holy Communion

It was such a privilege to be part of the Sacramental programme of Our Lady of Kapiti Parish along with Geoff Mettrick and the Youth Team. It was a very special day for our 14 young people who received Jesus



for the first time in Holy Communion. They were so perceptive and receptive. They treasured the solemnity of the moment. Its significance will deepen for them as their faith grows. They knew this was a sacramental, holy and very special, day. They simply shone with enthusiasm and joy.

The day was filled with such beauty... the liturgy was a joyful song of praise to Jesus the Bread of Life. Bridget sang the responsorial psalm Taste and See with such meaning as did Roland and Charlise when they sang the Song of Blessing after Communion.

Thanks Fr Michael for your homily... for reminding us of the need for and

value of food...for remembering Izac, our friend and of his passion for food even though his tumour prevented him from enjoying it.

The children sat down to a lovely morning tea and a delicious Communion cake all of which was also enjoyed by family and parishioners.

Once again our parents prepared their children well and supported them totally. May they and all of us keep up the good example and continue the faith journey with these young people who are so ready to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Barbara Henley rmdm

O God enlighten me so that
When I am enjoying food,
I remember the hungry;
When I am enjoying activity,
I remember the unemployed;
When I am at home,
I remember the homeless;
In my freedom,
I remember the imprisoned;
When I am in pain,

I remember the suffering;
In knowing I am loved,
I remember the unloved;
In my enjoyment of life,
I remember the dying.
And may this remembering,
free me of complacency
Bestir my compassion, and move me
to live a life that reflects God's love.
Amen

Ten Years of Men's Breakfasts!

On Saturday 22nd August, 100 men gathered to celebrate the tenth anniversary of men's breakfasts. In that time there have been 41 breakfasts for men and seven breakfasts for women.

Almost 11 years ago, Frits Bergman felt a strong calling to awaken the men of the parish spiritually. He prayed about this calling for a number of months and then followed the Spirit's prompting to talk to Patrick Haughey. The two of them continued to pray and then formed the first core group, along with Howard Walker, Keith Banks, Peter Ness and the late Alan Bailey and John Eller.

The objectives of the group were to help themselves and other men in the Parish to make progress in his spiritual life and in active participation in the Parish.

The 41 men's breakfasts have been the most public outreach of this dedicated group. Who knows how many different men have been affected by the personal faith stories of the 41 different speakers? Who knows the impact of men taking their faith seriously enough to arrive at the breakfast early on a Saturday morning for fellowship with

each other? The food has always been plentiful and of high quality, thanks to Matalena and her tea in the kitchen.

As well as the breakfasts, the core group, which has changed over the years, has also arranged two "Men Alive" programmes and a number of retreat days. Since the first "men Alive" programme in 2010, men have joined together for prayer and sharing for an hour every second Saturday morning. In July 2015 a more theological programme has been taking place each fortnight on a Wednesday evening.

Who know where the Spirit will lead this group? The original core members are ten years older now, and have already passed some of the mantle on to the new chair, Nick Maher, and others including John Butterfield and Glen McCullough. However – there's still plenty of room for inspiration and energy from even younger men! Alan Brunton gave us a glimpse of what the future might hold in his commentary on the present model at the anniversary breakfast.

Keith Banks



The original team: Peter Ness, Keith Banks, Pat Haughey, Frits Bergman, Howard Walker, John Eller (dec) and Alan Bailey (dec)

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Upcoming Events

First Sunday of Advent

There's a Christmas tree in the foyer of St Patrick's Church – but it's bare. No lights, no decorations, no tinsel. There are baskets under the tree – but they're empty. What's the story?

Each week at the end of Mass we are reminded of those who cannot be with us in the church as a small group of people come forward to receive their pyxes, ready to take Communion to people at home, in retirement villages or in hospital beds.

As well as sharing the Eucharist, these ministers take newsletters, Pastoral Pages and what's been said in the homily or by visiting speakers. Friendships develop with family and carers too, and when there's a death, the family often turns to the Minister of Communion for support.

As Advent draws closer, we ask parishioners for gifts suitable for the homebound. They can be quite simple

– tissues, handcream, lollies, a small packet of biscuits, writing materials or postage stamps. Think of your own elderly family and friends. What sort of gift would they appreciate?

During Advent the people of St Patrick's place their gifts in those empty baskets under the tree. Then a week or so before Christmas, a small group of parishioners wraps and labels the gifts ready for distribution to the ministers who take Communion to the homebound throughout the year. The gifts are given by the ministers on behalf of the parish – a small but tangible reminder that others are thinking of them.

By Christmas Eve, the baskets and the gifts are gone, the tree has been transformed with lights and decorations, and we hear the angels' words – "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will to all."

Discovering Ourselves 2016

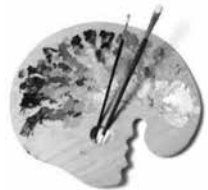
History: In 2006 a small group of parishioners organised a project to seek out and showcase the interests and skills of fellow parishioners. Over a number of months we uncovered a large number of people with amazing works and skills, a lot of it tucked away in their homes, seldom seen by others.

The Waikanae Hall was hired for a day and 95 exhibitors shared their work

and talents.

Although, on this occasion, raising money was not a priority, \$3000 was raised for Habitat for Humanity.

Today: Fast forward to 2015 – we now have two communities working hard for a new church and school.



We believe that the Discovering Ourselves template is as relevant now as it was 10 years



ago. This time we have the double goal of bringing our two communities together to share their faith and talents, as well as using the event as a means to raise funds.

So far: a steering committee of six people has been formed to spearhead the project, including four of the original 2006 group. This number is likely to increase over the next few months.



The Waikanae Hall has been booked for 21 May 2016 and doors will be open 10.00a.m. – 4.00p.m.

How it will work: Expressions of interest will be sought from parishioners with work to display, as well as offering them the opportunity to sell their work if they wish, with a percentage of monies raised also going to the cause.

Further monies will be raised through an entry fee as well as through raffles being sold. Food and drinks will be sold and there will be a sales table. We will be seeking assistance from parishioners to make items for a sales table in the next few months.

Given that the committee is now a lot older than in 2006, they will seek to recruit some younger parishioners to assist with the setting up of this

Discovering Ourselves

*A display of work and interests
by the parishioners of Our Lady of Kāpiti*

will be held on

Saturday 21 May 2016
in the Waikanae Memorial Hall

All profits for our new church

We need:

- expressions of interest from parishioners with hobbies and interests to display
- people to join our organising committee.

Contact:

Kathleen White 905 7850 ktwhite@paradise.net.nz

function. We will also canvas the Youth to consider a role they could play in this event.

From here: It's not too early to make contact and offer your help in organising or to express an interest in having your skill or hobby showcased on the day.

Contacts:

Paraparaumu: Kathleen & Tony White
905 7850 ktwhite@paradise.net.nz
Waikanae: Jenny & Tony Pritchard
904 6971 pritchardj@actrix.co.nz



Ladies Do Lunch - A Warm Invitation

Our monthly \$10 Lunch Club initiative is proving a real success. There are eight teams meeting regularly and another about to be formed. One interesting aspect is to hear the men are asking to be part of the Club Teams – and why not?

Our current aim is to form twelve teams by Christmas. We would welcome three new Leaders who could each gather a team of ten regular participants – friends, neighbours and family - who between them, would host a SIMPLE lunch each month with each person attending asked to pay a \$10 donation to the Church Building Fund. Once a core team is formed, they can then choose a convenient regular date and time to hold their monthly lunch. Leaders are provided with coded deposit slips to use when banking the donations.

It is important to understand that these lunches be kept SIMPLE as the object is fellowship and to raise much needed funds for our new church.

There will be times when members are unable to attend their lunch date; in these cases they are welcome to ring another team leader and attend a neighbouring lunch. Some team members may choose not to host a lunch but may consider helping someone else who is hosting.

To enquire about a Team in your area and for a day that suits you, or to lead a new Team, please call Velma Knight on Ph. 299 1539, leave a message if necessary, or email dvknight@xtra.co.nz

Please strongly consider taking part
and
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send an email, even send a photo?

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Sunday 29th November, after Mass 11.30-12.30
in the foyer of St Patrick's Church.

Cost: a donation to the new Church Building Fund.

If you would like to book a time for a one on one lesson then please email us including what time you would like and what gadget you have.

kapiti.youth@gmail.com

Saint

St Francis Xavier (1506-1552).

Feastday 3rd December.

St. Francis Xavier is noteworthy for his missionary work, both as organizer and as pioneer, reputed to have converted more people than anyone else has done since Saint Paul.

He was born in Xavier Castle, northern Spain, near the French border. He was sent to the University of Paris for his education, and there he met St Ignatius Loyola and was one of the seven who founded the Society of Jesus in 1534. He was ordained at Venice in 1537 and in 1540 was ordered to the Far East as one of the first Jesuit missionaries. The next 12 years of his life can only be described as one of monumental travel.

Francis, after a year's voyage, six months of which were spent at Mozambique where he preached and gave aid to the sick, eventually arrived in Goa, India in 1542 with Fr. Paul of Camerino, an Italian, and Francis Mansihas, a Portuguese. There he began preaching to the natives and attempted to reform his fellow Europeans, living among the natives and adopting their customs. He visited the Paravas at the tip of India, near Cape Comorin, Tuticorin (1542), Malacca (1545), the Moluccas near New Guinea and Morotai near the Philippines (1546-47), and Japan (1549- 51). In 1551, India and the East were set up as a separate province and Ignatius made Francis its first



provincial. In 1552 he set out for China, landed on the island of Sancian within sight of his goal, but died before he reached the mainland.

Working against great difficulties, language problems, inadequate funds and lack of cooperation, often actual resistance, from European officials, he left the mark of his missionary zeal and energy on areas which clung to Christianity for centuries. He was canonized in 1622 and proclaimed patron of all foreign missions by Pope Pius X.

Francis Xavier developed Jesuit missionary methods. His success also spurred many Europeans to join the order as well as become missionaries throughout the world. His personal efforts most affected Christians in India and the East Indies (Indonesia,

Malaysia, Timor). India still has numerous Jesuit missions and many more schools.

Modern scholars place the number of people converted to Christianity by Francis Xavier at around 30,000. He insisted that missionaries adapt to many of the customs, and most certainly the language, of the culture they wish to evangelize. And, unlike later missionaries, Xavier supported an educated native clergy. Though it seemed for a time as if his work in Japan was subsequently destroyed by persecution, Protestant missionaries three centuries later discovered that approximately 100,000 Christians still practiced in the Nagasaki area.

He is indeed a significant missionary saint.

Source: www.catholic.org/Saints

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Exam Q&A:
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He woke up to his alarm clock - made in Japan.
While his coffeepot – made in China - was perking,
he shaved with his electric razor – made in Hong Kong.
He put on a dress shirt – made in Sri Lanka,
designer jeans – made in Singapore
and tennis shoes – made in Korea.
After cooking breakfast in his new electric skillet – made in India
he sat down with his calculator – made in Mexico
to see how much he could spend today.
After setting his watch – made in Taiwan, - to the radio – made in India
he got in his car – made in Germany,
filled it with gas – from Saudi Arabia
and continued his search for a good paying Kiwi job.
At the end of yet another fruitless and discouraging day
checking his computer – made in Malaysia, Joe decided to relax for a while.
He put on his sandals – made in Brazil
poured himself a glass of wine – made in France
and turned on his TV – made in Indonesia,
wondering why he couldn't find a good paying job in New Zealand.



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Parish Directory November 2015

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	Carol Lamain/Maureen Jones	902 5815
29 Parata St, Waikanae Mon-Fri 9am-12.30pm ourladyofkapiti@paradise.net.nz		
Finance Committee Chair	Michael Gaffaney	905 2402
Pastoral Council Chair	Justin du Fresne	299 6087
Pastoral Pages	Editor: Anna Ryan office@ryanpublications.co.nz	902 6330
Liturgy Committee	Prm Maureen Borkin	904 7464
	Wae Sr. Barbara Henley	904 6112
Adult Faith Enrichment	Anna Ryan	902 6330
Youth Co-ordinator	Jacqui McLaughlin	0226757357
Trust	John McCardle	904 1823
Justice and Peace	Wullie Grant	293 8702
St Vincent de Paul	John Reardon	293 6079
Website (www.kapiti-catholic.org.nz)	Lafaele Vaeluaga	(04) 238 2454

Church Worship Support and Other Parish Groups

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

Bereavement Support	Prm	Annette Corban	298 8596
	Wae		
Altar Servers (Prm)		Maureen Borkin	904 7464
Altar Brass & Linen (Prm)		Nan Lewin	905 6388
Men's Group Nick Maher	298 8475	Pat Haughey 905 4467	Glen McCullough 293 1747
Passionist Family Groups	Prm	John & Corrie McCardle	904 1823
	Wae	Jenny & Mark McGlone	(06) 364 3908

Other Contacts

Presentation Sisters			905 3420
Presentation Associates		Margaret Bevin	299 6825
Cenacle Sisters			293 8344 & 905 7213
Maori Mission		Wai Stewart	902 4909
Wae Prayer Groups	Monday Afternoon	Lorraine Gaffaney	905 2402
	Christian Meditation (Tuesdays)	Wanda Sager	293 2441
Not Your Usual Sunday Readings	Wednesday Michele	298 7378	Thursday Sheila 902 2578
Wae Scripture Study Group	Clare Borst	293 6262	or Pat Belgrave 902 3995
Paraparaumu Cath Women's League		Fay Doyle	902 3017
Waikanae Women's Guild		Sharyn Pearce	902 2571
Meets every 2nd Monday of every month except January			
RCIA	Fr Michael	902 5815	Eddie Doran 902 1074
Used Clothing	Child (enquire Parish Office)	Adult Joy Woodham	298 7802
Mission Circle		Jean Beaumont	902 4146
Living Aloners	Jan Dowd	905 4633	Zelda Masterton 905 9248
Widowed, Separated, Divorced		Annette Corban	021 264 4567
Family Ministry		June Brunton	298 6266
Old Ducks Prayer & Scripture Group	Chris Todd	298 8984	June Brunton 298 6266
Mission Gala Convenor		Sr Breda Ryan	905 3420
Prayer Chain	Gill Doran	902 1074	Nan Lewin 905 6388
New Parishioners and Home Visits		Joyce Haughey	905 4467
Waikanae Rest Home Liturgy Services		Catherine Englert	293 2978
Indoor Bowls		Stan Furze	298 2015

St Patrick's School

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

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

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