



# Pastoral Pages

Catholic Parishes of Kapiti

St Patrick's, Paraparaumu

Our Lady of Fatima, Waikanae

Summer 2011



Cover images: NZ Post website

## *What's inside*

Your responses to what the future church might look like and an update on the consultation process within our Pastoral Area.

Lots of photos from recent events. Are you in one of them?



## Editorial

Welcome to the Summer 2011 issue of Pastoral Pages. We hope you enjoy it. The main focus of both Parishes Pastoral Councils and the Pastoral Area Council has been collating the results of the questionnaire and discerning where to from here. We are indebted to Michael Dodson and Richard Ward for their hard work in progressing this. They have put in MANY hours on it. See what has come up so far in Michael's report.

Lots has been happening across the area and we report on some of these in Recent Events. We also give you advance notice of some other events that are planned. You are invited to become involved fully in the life of our parishes. And remember that if there's something you fancy joining in on in the "other" parish, you are always most welcome to come along.

May the God who sent his only Son into the world, bless you and your families abundantly this Christmas Season.

*Anna and the Editorial Team*



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# Reflections on Church

## Models of Church

I am an advocate of small local groups, based on my own experience in my previous parish, where a few men formed a prayer group in 1985. Our leadership was shared, flexible and informal, and the format comprised hymns (unaccompanied) followed by voluntary spontaneous prayer, then a period of discussion based on a Gospel reading or family/work relationships, issues and ethics. As a group we took on small community or parish projects, working bees, etc. As individuals we were all involved in parish ministries. These were also occasional subjects for prayer or discussion. The venue was a movable feast dictated by family circumstances. Twenty-six years on the group is still going strong. To me it encapsulates a model of Church and its value to me in terms of personal sustenance and growth over the years has been inestimable.

All the same, I recognise the value of Sunday Mass with all the formality and good order necessary to a large crowd. At its best the elements of music, language and action combine to produce superb interactive theatre, culminating in the mystery of Eucharist as a manifestation of God's love. It is no surprise to me that modern secular theatre had its origins in the morality plays produced by the church in mediaeval Europe.

Peter Ryan's suggestion of possible venues for Mass celebration in future

is a welcome reminder that the church is primarily a human community, and that buildings exist to safely house people and not as entities to be worshipped. By coincidence, on the same Sunday that I read Pastoral Pages, I heard for the very first time a hymn entitled, as I thought, 'There is a barn in Gilead'. It brought immediately to my mischievous mind a vision of Old Testament barns chock full of grain and other goodies under the baleful eye of a judging God. The corollary was a vision of our own St Patrick's. Later, through the good offices of Google, I ascertained that there was no barn in Gilead, but the hymn was in fact 'There is a balm in Gilead', evidently of African-American origin. A beautiful song effusing hope of healing and encouragement. Good news indeed. Further good news, I get my hearing tested next week. God works in mysterious ways.

I suspect that the shape of the church in 2031 will reflect the state of our wider economy and the environment as much as the demographics of our priesthood and laity. Hopefully we will be humbler and wiser people, limiting our consumption to needs rather than wants, using the contents of our metaphysical barns to promote good health, education and general goodwill - more inspiration and less aspiration.

God bless.

Peter Ness

## A Difficult Question

What will our church look like in 2031?

Some years ago a priest related to me an experience of preaching. A woman approached him afterwards: "Thank you, thank you Father. That was just what I needed to hear".

Being a young priest he just had to ask: "Now what exactly meant so much to you?"

"Well, when you said that is the end of the first part of my homily and now for the second part. I knew that was my life to a T."

Off she went really pleased leaving his ego somewhat deflated!

Laughter bubbles up in me even today remembering his story. I can be ego-centric or pious or intense and need to examine the virtue of humility from time to time.

This month I spent a day with women parishioners reflecting on my relationship with God. During the day I wondered about meeting Him face to face on Judgement Day. How could I speak to, or plead with God? An image filled my mind. All those around me, good, imperfect, loving women were beside me. They were speaking for me. "God forgive her she didn't know what she did." "God accept her because of our love for her, even knowing her faults as we do." "God receive her so she will speak for us when we meet you face to face."

I find it hard to comment upon models of our future Church given to us. I

just hear the call to **build community, to constantly build community.**

Michele Ness

*[Ed: After all, Jesus said "All will know you are my disciples if you love one another" – Jn 13:35 and we often hear the quote about the early church "See how they love each other".]*

## The Church and Us

Some of us may wonder where the Church is heading in our times – forwards or backwards. We wonder whether the recent changes back to the older wording in the liturgy is fiddling while Rome is burning. Some of us even ponder whether we are Catholics not because of the Church but in spite of it.

It may help to get things into a more immediate focus. The Church is not the Pope or the Curia – the Church is us, the billion Catholics throughout the world. Closer to home, the Catholic Church is St Patrick's and Our Lady of Fatima – our faith in Jesus Christ and our love for each other. It is the feel-good spirit which fills our churches on Saturday and Sunday, uniting us in our fervour and inspiring us to spread the light of Christ around us.

There have been times in the past where Rome has put its feet wrong – abuses which led to the Reformation and the Counter Reformation which followed, the divisions which created three popes at once, the over emphasis on authority, rules and regulations which largely led to the changes of Vatican 11, to quote a few. But the gates of hell have never prevailed; the

Catholic Church regains its balance and carries on, sustained by the faith of Catholics which has endured for 2000 years.

The Catholic Church is you and me, and will be as strong in our pastoral area as we make it.

Bill Lambert

## Beginnings of Faith

Our Parishes coming together in various ways has been in itself a Journey. None more so than recent research by the Pastoral Area “Pukekaraka group” to gather information on the early Missionaries who came to Otaki and established a Mission there in 1844.

We have found they were no different from ourselves, as today we face change in how we do things. A few Marist Priests and Brothers covered an area from Taranaki and as far South as the Waitaki River!, offering the Sacrifice of the Mass and giving Communion, administering to those in need.

Travelling from Otaki on foot, horse, horse and cart and later train, the priests would sometimes arrive at an area such as Kaikoura, and would provide other Sacraments for people already prepared by a local Catechist. They would stay in the homes of families or on a Marae. A priest's visit would bring the community together. One such priest was Father Francois

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Fr Melu and friends

Melu sm, who was sent from France specifically for the Maori Apostolate. He arrived in NZ in 1885 and was first based at Turakina. In 1890 he was appointed to Otaki. He travelled the Kapiti/Horowhenua area regularly.

Father Melu was instrumental in building some of the many churches we have in Kapiti and Horowhenua.

St. Stephen's Church Kuku 1891 and the first St. Patrick's Church in Amohia Street, Paraparaumu in 1896. He opened Sacred Heart Church Te Horo in 1911.

The O.P. Lynch family of Lynch's Crossing (now closed) at Waterfall Road were a prominent and generous family in Paraparaumu. A son, Halley Lynch was the prime mover in building Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Paekakariki at considerable cost for that time.

During his time, Fr. Melu built 17 churches in all. The Ministry he and others carried out provides a foundation for what we are doing today.

Ann Scanlan — prepared as part of the Pukekaraka Day on 12th November 2011

*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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## Christ/Mass Day

This is a day which appears to mean less and less to us and not just because we are getting older or the fact that our wages or pensions don't appear to purchase even one reasonable present these days. No it is the ever lengthening list of reasons why Christmas is no longer Christ's Day.

Xmas, as it is quite commonly referred to these days, was once a religious holiday when most businesses and people came to a halt and families strived to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, by sharing a church service, a family meal, a time of rest and recollection. Now we have allowed sport of all sorts to dominate our major feasts. We strive to get as far away as possible from family and the name of Jesus Christ is more often heard as a blasphemy than a pious recollection. Businesses and Councils have backed those people who need to flood their houses and streets with coloured lights and signs of all sorts of things from racing cars to aeroplanes, to Goofy and the Seven Dwarfs - anything except the angels and Christ figure or Christian blessings which are being commemorated - to increase their take of revenue.

Ask most children and parents what this mad season is all about. Santa Claus, presents, holidays, alcohol and insurmountable debts are most likely what you will hear about. I ask the question "Are we Christians doing enough to prevent or help prevent this growing tide of consumerism and anti Christian practices? I think not. Many of us just join the flow

and are content with Christmas cards of anything but Christmas. We allow our teenagers to take part in dubious gatherings without asking questions about drink or drugs and often our own example in these areas leaves a lot to be desired.

Can we therefore accuse those of other faiths, our sons and daughters, our families, if we ourselves take part in the above and make no effort to stem the downward trend?

But you say "Everyone else is doing it." I know, but a small pebble in a huge pond still creates a ripple, a stone, a wave! Could we make a start this Christmas? Remind your family and yourself what it is all about.

Try an old fashioned Christmas celebration, Christ and all!

The greatest present is to have Jesus in your home.

Patrick Haughey



I always wanted to be a procrastinator; never got around to it.

I always win. Except when I lose, but then I just don't count it.

I don't have a big ego. I'm way too cool for that.

I'm willing to admit that I may not always be right, but I am never wrong.

I've always wanted to be somebody. Next time I'll be more specific.

## *Fr Jim's Been Thinking - Eucharist*



On Sunday, 30 October 2011, 17 young parishioners completed their initiation into the Church when they celebrated their first Holy Communion. Naturally this was a time of real joy for them and their families and helped me re-experience the presence of God-with-us! Recent discussions in our Faith Sharing Group have centred on what the meaning of Eucharist would have had for Jesus. This has, in turn, made us aware that his perceptions have been embellished by the Church in the light of his death, resurrection and ascension and the dawning appreciation of Jesus' divinity.

It seems to me that these embellishments have now become so entrenched that the meaning of what Jesus did at the Last Supper is no longer apparent. This assertion is evidenced by the quite recent adoption of the word Eucharist to name the rituals through which we remember what Jesus celebrated with his friends. Eucharist should not be "translated" as the Body and Blood of Jesus as so many of us have. Eucharist is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word *berakah* which means *thanksgiving*. The Gospel stories show us that during his life Jesus grew into and became immersed in the love of God. Jesus was so totally appreciative of the goodness of God that he was driven to respond *berakah* whenever he experienced the great gifts of God's love and was determined to instil a similar appreciation in his listeners.

Jesus' vision was founded on the Hebrew traditions of the Passover, Exodus and Covenant. These great events in Jewish history have as much meaning for Jesus and the Jews as the death and resurrection have for us. Do we, like the Jews before us, invest our faith foundations with human perceptions? And in so doing diminish the Divine purpose?

Our Sunday liturgies, just like Jesus' actions at the Last Supper, have four essential constituents:

- we listen to the Word of God – the basic component;
- we take of our goods – bread and wine – and offer them to God;
- we thank God – *berakah* – and remember what he did by consecrating our gifts to God;
- we celebrate with table fellowship and commune with Jesus.

Fr Frank Andersen msc writes:

"Only the Word of God can build Christian community. That crucial turning-around of the human heart, so necessary for true community to happen, can be achieved only by allowing the Word to dissolve the barriers of the mind. Unless I submit my defences to the assault of God's Word, then I am not willingly vulnerable to repentance, conversion and growth. Without such personal submission, community cannot grow. Conversion of hearts and minds, a conversion that is personal, continuous and conscious, is proof that the Word is "alive and active" in any community". *EUCCHARIST Participating in the mystery; 1998 P96*

And so while the words we use in our liturgies should indicate we are a world-wide community, any words we adopt to promote a deeper appreciation of the mystery we celebrate are to be embraced.





Pastoral Pages - Spring 2011

# Pastoral Area News

## Kapiti Pastoral Area Council

*This report covers news from both Parish Pastoral Councils as well. This has been the main focus for both PPCs.*



The KPAC met last week with members of the two Parish Councils and the two Finance Committees, to consider what model of future Church would best serve our Pastoral Area.

Robust discussion revolved around the responses to the recent questionnaire. A temporary priest may be available (not confirmed) but if so, he will have other duties in the Archdiocese, and it seems that Lay Pastoral Leaders are in short supply also. Our attention should accordingly be fixed firmly on the training of lay parishioners.

It seems clear also that there will be three weekend Masses and one Vigil Communion service over the two parishes, with two weekday Masses and Communion Services on other days in each parish.

The training of Lay Parishioners is to begin in earnest in both parishes with:

- a. **RCIA** to be led by Eddie Doran from Paraparaumu. There are already applicants for this ministry, and more will be sought.
- b. **Proclaimers of the Word** – there needs to be a common procedure adopted by the two parishes with training into the meaning of the ministry.

- c. Training in **Baptism and Confirmation** is already well established in both parishes and they are both working together extensively in this regard. Merle Whiteman has commenced training in Waikanae with Helen Goodman and Mary Byers involved in Baptismal preparation.
- d. Training is a necessity for **Ministers of the Eucharist** willing and able to lead **Liturgies of The Word with Holy Communion**. A number of applicants will be sought and selected for this ministry.
- e. **Bereavement Support** is a ministry already staffed mainly by St Vincent de Paul members and Paraparaumu's Family Ministry, for whom additional training and instruction will be undertaken. Merle Whiteman will also be assisting here.

Training for these ministries involves Recruitment, Renewal and Retirement. Recruitment begins with discussion and information lectures about the topic to which all who are interested will be invited, followed by selection of suitable candidates, followed by more intensive training from time to time (Renewal) and, after a further period of time, the exit or Retirement from the ministry in a proper and orderly manner.

Reconciliation will remain as it is meantime, as will baptisms.

Anointing Masses are likely to be rationalised across the Pastoral Area.

More intensive training for Liturgy of The Word with Holy Communion will be left till early next year.

A suitable model is now to be prepared and submitted to parishioners by the end of November.

*Michael Dodson, Interim Chair of the KPAC*

## Our Pastoral Area School

Yet another successful and action packed year is nearly at an end. A special thank you to all those in the Kapiti Pastoral Area who pray regularly for the school. It was a special opportunity to meet with key parishioners from both Our Lady of Fatima and St Patrick's at the Stewardship conference. A time to share dreams, ideas and practical everyday actions that will help us all to work together to be Jesus to our community.



We have just completed a computer network upgrade of the school funded by the Ministry of Education and the Catholic Schools' Board. This gives us a future proofed system to support our digital learning in the classrooms.

Our points of difference with the local state schools are our special catholic character, our family-sized school and culture and our developing digital learning infrastructure. Not to mention the uniform and our wonderful self-managing children who engage with their learning everyday.

Now is a good time for parents to be discussing enrolments for 2012.

We have a significant number of new entrant enrolments already for next year.

There are a number of categories which make children eligible for enrolment as a preference Catholic student at our school:

- a child has been baptised or is being prepared to be baptised in the Catholic Church;
- a child's parent/guardian has already allowed one or more siblings to be baptised in the Catholic Church;
- at least one parent/guardian is a Catholic. Although their child has not yet been baptised, the child's participation in the life of the school could lead to the parents having the child baptised;
- with the agreement of the child's parent/guardian, a grandparent or other significant adult in the child's life, such as an aunt, uncle or godparent, undertakes to support the child's formation in the faith and practices of the Church; or
- one or more of the child's non-Catholic parents/guardians is preparing to become a Catholic.

I am happy to meet with any parents wanting to explore the option of an enrolment at St Patrick's. We have time for a question and answer session followed by a tour of the school.

*Martin Elms, Principal*



## Youth



The end of the year is fast approaching. Planning is underway both for Christmas parties for the various groups and for the annual end of year G.U.Y.S. camp.

Fun Time, J-Team and Bible Study continue to meet regularly. The G.U.Y.S. Youth Group has gone into hibernation for Term 4 while the youth concentrate on their up-coming exams, for which we wish them all the best.

The Youth Music Group is a fantastic addition to Youth Ministry on the Coast. They play once a month at the Saturday Vigil Mass plus played at the Otaki Youth Mass and the First Communion Mass in October. They will play also on Sunday 4 December at Paraparaumu when the G.U.Y.S. Campers join St. Patrick's Parish for Mass.

In September Youth Ministry held its annual Leadership Retreat in Otaki which was attended by 17 youth and adults actively involved in youth ministry. They met to receive formation, build relationships across the ages and grow in their understanding of their roles in Stewardship and Leadership as Disciples of Christ. Special thanks to Fr. Bill Warwick, Joe Green, Sr. Helen O'Sullivan and Debbie Matheson for their leadership and input during the weekend.

Once again the G.U.Y.S. camp will be held the first weekend in December at Palm Grove. This year we have been

forming closer ties with Plimmerton Parish and we hope to have a number of their youth join with the youth from Horowhenua and Kapiti Pastoral areas. It is a great opportunity for Catholic youth to gather and grow in their knowledge of God through fellowship with their peers. It is open to all youth in school years from 8 upwards. Registrations close mid-November.

Finally, we are busy planning for 2012. There will be some changes to the groups in when and how regularly they gather. As with life in general, nothing stays the same and our aim is to meet the changing needs of our youth and continue to grow youth ministry in a sustainable way for a strong and vibrant future. Please keep an eye on the parish bulletins for future information.

As always, we thank you for your prayers and financial support and ask that you continue to pray for our youth.

All enquiries to Debbie  
[kapiti.youth@gmail.com](mailto:kapiti.youth@gmail.com)

Jacqui McLaughlin

## Adult Faith Exploration



The first Kapiti CaFé (Catholic Faith Education) programme has just reached its conclusion, and for all involved, and that was quite a team, the rewards that were forthcoming were many and varied.

For seven Tuesdays from 13th September the foyer of Our Lady of Fatima church was transformed

magnificently to resemble a café setting, with up to 16 tables all with white tablecloths, flowers, candles and supper. The setting was stunning; the work that had gone in behind the scenes was tremendous. Kathy Campbell and Pat and Joyce Haughey put in a wonderful effort in organising this superb Pastoral Area initiative. The sessions were hosted by Bob Houston of Waikanae. He entertained and challenged the gathering on a variety of issues. Sr Barbara was an able substitute once. Lively discussions followed with a number of people relating personal stories of faith and their relationship with God. The DVD featuring David Payne formed the framework for the evenings and people really enjoyed this presentation. The evenings commenced at 7.15 and, as promised, they were exiting the Church foyer by 9pm. People had been

promised a night of enjoyment and fun, combined with faith exploration and fulfilment; a number of the gathering commented how much they had enjoyed the evening and that they would be back next week.

From an organisational point of view, the fact that numbers stayed consistently high, in the region of 70 to 80 each week, was most rewarding when one considers that people were prepared to give up seven Tuesday evenings to attend the programme.

Beside the spiritual enrichment and sharing, perhaps the greatest reward was the social aspects of having the gathering all interacting with each other.

Perhaps the greatest compliment to the Programme comes with people now asking, "Where are we going from here, what's next?"



First night at the CaFÉ

## Pukekaraka Day

Well, 'Pukekaraka Morning' actually.



On Saturday 12th November about 50 parishioners from our two parishes gathered together at Pukekaraka, Otaki to remember, celebrate, and reflect on our Pastoral Area's Faith Journey.

The morning began with a bi-cultural Mass. The prayers of the faithful recalled those who have gone before us bringing Catholicism to this region, and those of our own forebears who passed their faith on to us. We also remembered those generations who will follow and add to the story of our faith journey on the Kapiti Coast.

Irene Mackle, (Otaki), gave us an overview of Pukekaraka including the history and significance of various sites on the church grounds and some of the colourful people who faced tremendous odds in bringing the faith to the Maori people from Hawkes Bay to Wanganui to Kaikoura. What incredible priests. By rights we should've included some French in our mass to honour those Marist priests who came from France to the mission station at Otaki!

Participants had an opportunity to see these historic places for themselves as well as reading about our history on displays set up in the wharenui.

The morning concluded with a rosary recited in the historic old church. Irene had explained stories behind many of the artefacts so it was a privilege to sit amongst them. The

decades of the rosary\*, especially created for this occasion, was a moving opportunity to journey from Jesus' birth through acknowledgement of Mary's role as mother of us all, recognition of the missionaries who set out, much as the apostles had done, to the ends of the earth to bring the Good News, gratitude and celebration of our ancestors who carried the faith through the generations to us here now in the Kapiti Pastoral Area, and finally, looking ahead to the future, recognising that we are in yet another period of change facing the unknown ahead of us. (See photo p.19)

Comments included "What a pity more people didn't come. They've really missed out on something special." "Thank you Pukekaraka Team for a moving experience." "When's the next one?"

This group originally formed with a view to enabling the two parishes to come to know each other as we faced the challenges of forming a Pastoral Area. Going back to our roots, which started at the Pukekaraka Marae, made this a logical venue for these days. Since the Pastoral Area is now well established and there is a huge amount of goodwill from both parishes to pull together to face this challenging time of change, this group now feels it's probably timely to disband.

Our thanks to those who have participated in the days and so made them the successful events they were. Special thanks to Fr Michael for his support of both these initiatives.

\*Copies available from Anna 9026330.

Andrea, Ann, Anna, Des, Marguerite,  
Maureen, Peter



## Social Justice

This combined group put on a very successful “Meet the Candidates” evening earlier this month, as part of our preparation for the coming elections. All those standing for the Otaki electorate were present and answered questions from the floor as well as ones submitted prior to the meeting.

Planning is underway for events next year.

If you would like to become part of this group, which answers Christ’s call to consider the needs of others less fortunate than ourselves, contact Peter Ryan 9026330 (Prm) or Des Horan 9048086 (Wae).



## Mission Gala and Sister Fran

The gentle presence of Sister Fran from Papua New Guinea was a wonderful opportunity for the parishioners of St Patrick’s Paraparaumu, together with the parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima Waikanae, to meet and discover where and how the funds we raise are used in the Mission field of Papua New Guinea. Sister Breda, Sister Fran and Tony spent the month prior to our Mission Gala visiting and talking to many parishioners, the local radio stations and Kapiti Observer, the sponsors and the organisations associated with the raising of the funds. They visited Caritas, the Marist



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Messenger office, and the Editor of Welcom. In Kapiti they met with Mayor Jenny Rowan, together with Councillor Louella Jensen, who were immensely interested in the Mission work of the Sisters and the dedication over many years of local citizens who give freely of their time, skills and possessions to ensure the success of this historic event.

Everywhere Sister went she was met with warmth and people were interested in her simple yet eloquent words about her work and the needs of her people. The stories that she told, illustrated by her photographs, portrayed a very real story of humanity spanning many miles, helping one another and demonstrating to our Sisters in Christ human kindness and compassion

Sister Fran's presence among us, together with the generous support of our community, we believe did much for the success of our 2011 Gala, which we hope to build on in the years ahead.

A special celebration was held after the Gala and a presentation made to Sister of a photographic record of the events before and during the Gala for her to take back to her people. Those fifty parishioners who attended were deeply moved by Sister Fran's hymn of thanks and her promise to go back to her people and keep in touch with us in the future.

A heartfelt thanks to all those who helped to make this Gala such a memorable event and a great success.  
(See photo p.19)

The total raised was a little over \$17,000.

Joan O'Dea and Tony Bevin

# Obituary: Florence Kane RIP

I first met Florence some eight years ago soon after we first arrived in Waikanae and joined Our Lady of Fatima Parish. We belonged to the same Lenten Group where we enjoyed many lively, stimulating and informative conversations. In fact, so much so that some of us decided we wanted to continue and keep our group together. We began to meet regularly to study the following Sunday's scripture readings. It was through these meetings that I began to get to know and love Florence.

Florence loved her church and parish and served it faithfully over many years. She had a deep faith and a love of people. Florence was a woman of many gifts and she used those gifts with great generosity of spirit and humility of heart never seeking position or power but simply seeking to serve. Florence loved people and her gift of hospitality was second to none and enjoyed by many. She had such an ability to put people at ease, to include everyone and make everyone feel so welcome. Her lovely welcoming smile and the obvious pleasure she took in the company and conversation of others will always be remembered.

But Florence was strong and held strong views. She hated injustice in all its forms with a passion. She served with the Parish Justice & Peace Group for many years and when she saw a need she endeavoured to act. Florence was a doer. One of her achievements



was the regular food collection she initiated and led within the Parish to support the Otaki Food Bank.

Some months before Florence became ill she told me that God was speaking to her about the pursuit of holiness and living holy lives. To me, the pursuit of holiness is an act of worship and it has been said that worship is expressed through love and service. If that is so, then Florence undoubtedly knew the meaning of holiness.

We meet many people throughout our lives – some impress us, some don't; some we remember and some pass us by. But some, perhaps just a few, we can call "kindred spirits" and to me Florence was my kindred spirit. I learnt so much from her simply by observing the way she lived and listening to her conversation. She achieved so much in the time that was given to her and she has inspired me to make what's left of my life count for something.

Thank you, Florence for everything.  
Rest now in the peace of your loving God.

Clare Borst

# Recent Events

## Thank You

to the wonderful ladies who share their gifts and talents with the parishes each week by creating such wonderful and inspiring flower arrangements!



## The Women's Breakfast

The Womens' Breakfast this year was held in October with over seventy women attending from both Waikanae and Paraparaumu parishes.

The speaker was Sister Judith, who gave a very personal testimony on her introduction to L'Arche and meeting John Vanier, the founder of this movement.

The women that attended were, as usual, very appreciative of this annual event, which was hosted by the Kapiti Mens' Group.

As can be seen from the photo on the next page, the women who attended enjoyed themselves enormously.

So did the men that served them!

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The women chatting before their Breakfast



Sister Fran and Gala helpers



Parishioners saying the “Pukekaraka Rosary” in old Otaki Church



## Days of Reflection

### For the women ...

On September 3rd the women of Waikanae and Paraparaumu Parishes got together for a Day of Reflection to engage with the theme *Coming home to God*. Jesus, as recorded in John's Gospel says, 'Make your home in Me just as I make My home in you'. We explored what home with God is like by making comparisons with what our earthly home means for us. Home, we decided, was a place of safety and love and where we are best known. Does that resonate with our at home-ness with God? This is the God that waits for us, that goes looking for us and the one who knocks on the door of our hearts.

We are made in the image of God: but what image? Who is the God who is calling me to be at home with? We spent time with new or surprising images of God that were especially made for our 'God shaped space' within. Many women came to a deeper place in God as they abandoned an 'unhelpful' image of God to one they could be at 'home' with.

In the third session we pondered what our response is to the God who became flesh and blood and moved into our neighbourhood. As we encountered a loving and generous God who sought our company, we committed ourselves to discovering and honouring God's face in others. Our union with others is essential to our union with God, and our union with God is essential to our union with others. Each one, properly pursued, leads to the other.

Heather Sangster-Smith

### For the men ...

The men had their turn on 15th October, when Fr Michael led 20 men from Waikanae and Paraparaumu parishes for a Day of Reflection with the theme *Tending the Soul*.

Fr Michael took Abraham as a model and led us to consider the tension between his roles as pilgrim and patriarch. The pilgrim is the "archetype of change". The Second Vatican Council spoke often of the "Pilgrim Church" – a term that seems to have lost favour recently.

Fr Michael challenged us to ask ourselves these questions:

- what were my childhood dreams?
- what does the pilgrim in me want?
- where does he need to go?
- what changes does he seek?

Each of us considered these questions individually for about 15 minutes and then joined in small group sharing – a rich experience.

In the second part of the session we considered Abraham as Patriarch and took the same approach to these questions:

- what does fathering involve for me?
- how has God surprised me in my care for others?
- where are the places of blessing for my soul?
- in my role as father / mentor / patriarch where have I met God?

The day was a rich one and this provides only a snippet of what was on offer. It was also good to share on a deep level with men from both Waikanae and Paraparaumu.

Our thanks to Fr Michael for giving up his time to stimulate and challenge us so well.

Peter Ryan and Glen McCullough



## First Holy Communion Mass

On Sunday 30th October, parishioners celebrated Mass at St Patrick's with 17 young children from across the Pastoral Area as they received Eucharist for the first time.

There was a combined Passionist Family Group and First Communion morning tea afterwards. During this, one grandparent, who did not know any of the communicants and who normally chooses not to attend this sort of Mass, shared how he was pleased to have been present. He enjoyed sharing in the joy of the parents, communicants and fellow parishioners. He was appreciative of the commitment of the teachers and parents to instil and nurture our catholic beliefs into the lives of the communicants. A highlight for him was seeing so many different parts

of the community involved in both the celebration and the teaching, especially Trish McQueen and the Youth Music Group.

The joint delivery of the Children's Sacramental Programmes this year has highlighted the benefits of collaboration. It made a huge difference to have a larger group of people available to deliver the programmes. This ensured that no one person was indispensable or overburdened. The support from the retired priests, along with the Liturgy and Music Teams from both parishes, was greatly appreciated by the joint parish Sacramental Leadership Teams. Thank you to all involved for your active, intentional discipleship and ministry.

Another sharing is from parents of one of the first communicants who write that "we have been recipients of Catholic educations"; however





that was a long time ago! We enjoyed helping our daughter with the children's programme and, as parents; we particularly appreciated the rehearsal Mass. The way that Father Michael took us systematically through the stages of the Mass, explaining as he went, the symbolism of the words, the

candles, the altar, the priestly garments etc. was enlightening. His teaching rekindled our awareness of the beauty and mystery of the Mass. Our special thanks to all the teachers for their dedication, commitment and high level of organisation."

Debbie Matheson



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# Saints

*With All Saints and All Souls celebrated recently, we pause to reflect on sainthood and its relevance to us in Kapiti in 2011.*


Which Saints are your special friends?

Did you hear the story of the overweight man who couldn't mount his horse? While struggling, he prayed, "All you saints of heaven, help me!" He then leaped up onto the horse, flew over the saddle and tumbled down the opposite side. "All right," he said, "only half of you help me next time!"

Growing up Protestant, I didn't understand why the Catholic Church would make such a big deal out of declaring that some dead people were Saints and that we should honor them, have statues of them, and pray to them. Actually, Catholics are not supposed to pray "to" any Saint (not even to the Blessed Mother of Jesus), but we do ask them to pray WITH us and FOR us (as in the Hail Mary: "pray for us sinners...").

Do you ask your friends here on earth to pray for you? And with you? How much better it is to have friends in heaven who are praying with you!

The canonization of a Saint is the Church's official assurance that here is a person who has arrived in the full glory of unity with God in heaven. The canonization process reaches this conclusion after extremely careful scrutiny and investigation and undeniable proof that the Saint's



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prayers have produced miracles. You might already know this, but do you also know the friendship of your patron Saint?

Rev. 7:2-14 depicts the communion of saints. All friends of Jesus share in this communion. Any friend of Jesus is your friend, especially those who live in heaven. St. Teresa of Avila said, "Those who love you for his sake... will never desert you," (The Way of Perfection, Chap. IX, 3). Only friends in heaven can love us perfectly.

However, to feel their friendship and become aware of their love and their caring support, we must first develop an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit, for it is in God's Spirit that our relationships with the Saints exist.

Someone once asked me to identify a Saint to match the name that her granddaughter had already chosen for her Sacrament of Confirmation. Thank God there was no such name in the list of canonized Saints, because she had missed the point entirely! I advised her to tell her granddaughter to read about various Saints and pick one that she'd like to have as a personal friend.

Which Saints are your special friends? Develop (or improve) your connection to them. Read about them. Read their own words in books or search for information about them on the internet. Ask Jesus to introduce them to you. Through the Holy Spirit, tell them what's going on in your life and what extra help you need in your spiritual growth.

Even if you're not aware of what the Saints in heaven are doing on your behalf, know that they ARE doing something – especially if it will help you grow in holiness.

Terry Modica



Alarm clocks are devices for waking people who don't have children.

### Waikanae Charismatic Prayer Group

meets every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:30pm in the Foyer of our church in Parata St. All are welcome to come, praise & worship and be blessed. Contact Billie 902 3868 or Glen 2931747

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# *Points to Ponder*

## **God's Unlikely Spokespersons**

— hearing God's voice through others  
God has an immense sense of humour. This is not a negative reflection on his holiness and majesty, but a recognition of the amazing way he works in human affairs. Simply stated, he is seldom impressed with our definitions of what is important.

God tends not to recognise our stereotyped explanations of the way we think that God should act. In the past he chose a mere shepherd, in the form of Amos, to be his spokesperson, used the pagan king Cyrus, to execute his justice, called a maiden to give birth to his Son and used fishermen to establish his church. Henri Nouwen observes that 'the most unlikely people are chosen by God to make us see'.

Sadly, we frequently fail to hear God's unlikely mouthpieces for we regard them as socially unacceptable and therefore as not credible and worthy of our attention. Yet from someone young in the faith we can hear wisdom, from secular prophets hear legitimate criticism of the church, from the poor hear God's cry for justice, and from those who have suffered much, we can frequently hear words of graciousness and forgiveness.

It is therefore important that these voices be heard, including God's unlikely spokespersons, if we wish to hear all that God may wish to say to us. The difficulty is usually not a lack of voices but a discernment to hear that which we most urgently need to hear.

Charles Ringma - "Dare to Journey with Henri Nouwen"

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## Carrot, Egg or Coffee Bean?

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She didn't know how she was going to make it and how she wanted to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling! Every time she solved one problem, a new one arose. Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water. In the first, she dropped a handful of carrots, in the second a few eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil without saying a word. In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners.

She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me, what do you see?"

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," the daughter replied.

The mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. The daughter did and noted that they got soft. Mother then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, daughter observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, Mother asked her to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled, as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What's the point, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity- the boiling water- but each

reacted differently.

The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak.

The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior. But, after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened.

The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. **"When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?"**

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity, do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength? Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a break-up, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and a hardened heart? Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavour. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hours are the darkest and trials are their greatest do you elevate to another level? How do you handle adversity? **So, which are you...a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?**



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Paraparaumu: 902 5815

## **A Mother's Tip**

*How a young mother of 5 gets her kids to pick up after themselves*

Here's a tip from a mother of five  
aged between 7 - 19, a relief teacher,  
farmer and artist. She'd become tired  
of cleaning up after her kids.

Solution? A24 Hour Box.

Anything left lying around is put in  
the box. If it's still there 24 hours later  
it's disposed of - no excuses.

'When I started the system, every day  
the box was very full. Now it only ever  
has a few items - which are disposed

of if they remain past the grace time.'  
If the parents maintain the system, the  
children will learn.





“Joe Castillo drew this during a chapel service. He told the Gospel story - each part of Jesus’ life - and he was drawing the story as he told the story. We didn’t realize until the end what the entire picture was. A rare talent!” The longer you look at this picture, the more you see.

When you think you’ve found all there is to see in the face go to this link and be TOTALLY AMAZED. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRjDQhNmzK0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRjDQhNmzK0)

# Practical Social Justice

## Grains of Hope: Reaching Out to the Poor in Botswana

The Grains of Hope Trust has been established in the Kapiti Pastoral Area to assist Sister Angela in developing a day care centre for the benefit of a number of orphans and vulnerable children in the Metsimothlabe, Gaborone, Botswana area.

There are reportedly over 90,000 orphans in Botswana, which was one of the worst affected countries on the African continent ravaged by the AIDS epidemic.

These children and other similarly neglected children are often left to fend for themselves, left to play on their own without loving care, attention or regular meals.

We all know that a growing child not stimulated by a mother's love, regular nutrition, education and interaction may never be able to achieve their full potential in life.

However, by ensuring such children are able to attend the centre run by the Catholic Cross and Passion Sisters in Botswana, we will be able to ensure these little ones are given as much love, care, early childhood development, social interaction and teaching as is possible during their most formative years –

from birth to 6 years old.

This will change their lives.

Please contact any member of the Coordinating Group if you feel called to help.

We need all the help that you can provide. This is a brand new project for the Parish, and we are really keen to build up a regular amount that we can send to Sister Angela on a monthly basis, so if you can help financially even in a small way that would be wonderful. Your prayer support too is vital for the success of the project. Please add Grains of Hope to your prayers. It will be very much appreciated.

The Coordinating Group is:  
Mike and Veronica Redman, John and Corrie McCardle, Frits and Margaret Bergman, Margaret Reidy, Sheila Phillips.

*[Ed: What a wonderfully practical and tangible outreach, inspired by Mike and Veronica's trip earlier this year.]*



# Parish Directories November 2011

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

| Kapiti Pastoral Area Council                            |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
| Area Pastoral Council Acting Chair                      | Michael Dodson  | 293 1624 |
| 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 |
| Board of Trustees Chairman                              | Dave Meyer  | 298 6780 |
| B.O.T. meets at School 4th Wednesday monthly            |   |          |
| Our Lady of Fatima Parish                               |   |          |
| Administrator   | Fr Michael McCabe<br>stpatrickskapiti@paradise.net.nz   | 902 5815 |
| Parish Office   | Secretary: Mary Maloney Hours Mon, Wed, Fri 10:30-1:30<br>our.lady@xtra.co.nz Newsletter deadline Wed. pm | 293 3767 |
| Parish Council Chairman/Secretary                       | Michael Dodson  | 293 1624 |
| Finance Committee Chairman                              | Brian Byers   | 293 7368 |
| Website   | www.waikanae-catholic.org.nz Glen McCullough  | 293 1747 |
| Church Worship Support                                  |   |          |
| Liturgy Committee                                       | Sister Barbara Henley   | 904 6112 |
| Church Flowers  | Barbara Ratcliffe   | 904 1321 |
| Communion to the Sick Co-ordinator                      | Mary Byers  | 293 7368 |
| Rosters Co-Ordinators                                   | Mary Malony   | 293 3767 |
| Music Organists   | Judith Wheeler 293 1129 Maria Vink 905 9190<br>Doreen Hoffmann 904 3276 Patricia Beasley 293 7964         |          |
| Guitars   | Wullie Grant  | 904 8702 |
| Sacristans  | Carla Tolenaar 902 2456 Martha Westerbeke   | 904 2757 |
| Children's Liturgy Coordinator                          | Jenny McGlone   | 904 7451 |
| Sacramental Programme 2011                              | Fiona Green   | 293 1778 |
| Other Parish Organisations                              |   |          |
| Rest Home Liturgy Services                              | Faith Outreach Convener Nonie Hoggard   | 293 3328 |
| Women's Guild   | Barbara Henley  | 904 6112 |
| Meets every 2nd Monday of every month except January    |   |          |
| St Vincent de Paul President                            | Martha Westerbeke   | 904 2757 |
| Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month except January |   |          |
| Passionist Family Groups                                | Phyllis & Jim Power   | 293 2985 |
| Justice and Peace                                       | Des Horan   | 904 8086 |
| Prayer Groups Monday Afternoon                          | Sandra Bater 905 2774 Billie Watson   | 902 3868 |
| 2nd & 4th Wednesday Evening Group                       | Glen McCullough   | 293 1747 |
| Christian Meditation (Tuesdays)                         | Carla Tolenaar  | 902 2456 |
| Scripture Study Group Thursdays                         | Mary Dorrington   | 904 7390 |
| Youth Group   | Sr. Helen O'Sullivan  | 904 6112 |
| Faith Exploration                                       | Sue McGlone   | 293 8536 |
| Bereavement Support (SVDP)                              | Martha Westerbeke   | 904 2757 |
| Communications & Pastoral Pages                         | Glen McCullough   | 293 1747 |

| St Patrick's Parish                      |                                      |          |                    |            |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|------------|
| Presbytery                               | Fr Michael McCabe                    |          |                    | 902 5815   |
| Parish Office                            | Kathleen Beaumont                    |          |                    | 902 5815   |
| Pastoral Council Chair                   | Richard Ward                         |          |                    | 905 4675   |
| Finance Committee Chair                  | Dave Diggins                         |          |                    | 902 1328   |
| Youth Co-ordinator                       | Debbie Matheson                      |          |                    | 0226757357 |
| Trust                                    | John McCardle                        |          |                    | 904 1823   |
| Presentation Convent                     | Sister Celine                        |          |                    | 905 3420   |
| <b><u>Church Worship Support</u></b>     |                                      |          |                    |            |
| Liturgy                                  | Marie Huxford                        |          |                    | 299 0650   |
| Liturgy Roster                           | Tony Whiteman                        |          |                    | 904 1855   |
| Children's Liturgy                       | Alison Boyle                         |          |                    | 904 6834   |
| Music                                    | Bill Borkin                          |          |                    | 904 7464   |
| Altar Servers                            | Rene Barker                          |          |                    | 905 1736   |
| Eucharist Ministers for the sick         | Eddie Doran                          |          |                    | 902 1074   |
| Masses of Anointing                      | Colleen King                         |          |                    | 905 5913   |
| Church Cleaning Roster                   | Parish Office                        |          |                    | 902 5815   |
| Church Flowers                           | Joyce Haughey                        |          |                    | 905 4467   |
| Sanctuary & Brass                        | Nancy Lewin                          |          |                    | 905 6388   |
| Bereavement Mass                         | Marie Huxford                        |          |                    | 299 0650   |
| Reconciliation/Eucharist/Confirmation    | Kath Garton                          |          |                    | 904 9341   |
| Engaged Couples (Foccus)                 | Doug & Mary Fake                     |          |                    | 904 6290   |
| Baptisms & Bereavements                  | Merle Whiteman                       |          |                    | 904 1855   |
| <b><u>Other Parish Organisations</u></b> |                                      |          |                    |            |
| St Vincent de Paul                       | Rebecca Thomson                      |          |                    | 905 4675   |
| Maori Mission                            | Wai Stewart                          |          |                    | 902 4909   |
| Intercessory Prayer Group                | Karen Huxford                        |          |                    | 299 4307   |
| Cath Women's League                      | Fay Doyle                            |          |                    | 902 3017   |
| NCRS & RCIA                              | Fr Michael                           | 902 5815 | Eddie Doran        | 902 1074   |
| Used Clothing                            | Adult Joy Woodham                    | 298 7802 | Child Joanna March | 904 7350   |
| Mission Circle                           | Jean Beaumont                        |          |                    | 902 1446   |
| Passionist Family Groups                 | John & Corrie McCardle               |          |                    | 904 1823   |
| Living Aloners                           | Jan Dowd                             |          |                    | 905 4633   |
| Widowed, Separated, Divorced             | Susan Harwood                        |          |                    | 905 7077   |
| Family Ministry                          | Phil Lawton                          |          |                    | 905 4439   |
| Men's Group                              | Frits Bergman                        | 297 0777 | Pat Haughey        | 905 4467   |
| Justice & Peace                          | Peter Ryan                           |          |                    | 902 6330   |
| Missions                                 | Fundraising for Presentation Sisters |          | Sister Breda       | 905 3420   |
|  | Mission Gala Convenor                |          | Tony Bevin         | 299 6825   |
| Faith Exploration                        | Anna Ryan                            |          |                    | 902 6330   |
| Parish Library                           | Robyn Cranshaw                       |          |                    | 299 0589   |
| 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   |

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