



FOOTPRINTS

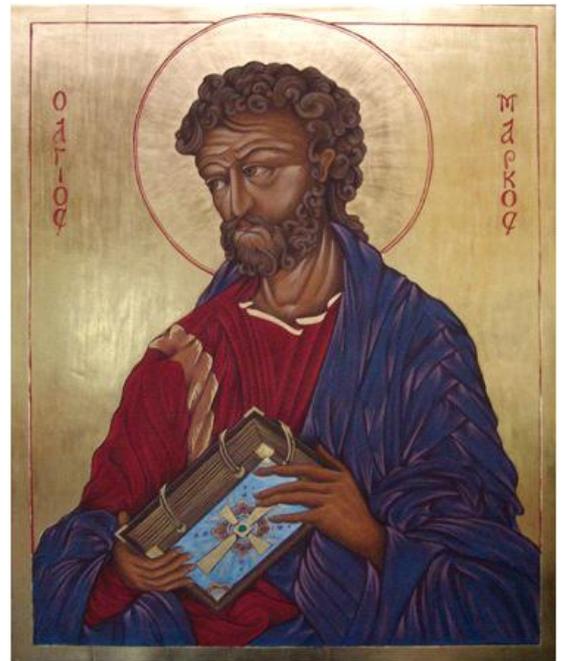


**Monsignor Raymond Green
Founding Parish Priest of
St Mark's Parish
celebrates 60 years of
Priesthood and his
90th Birthday this year.**

**The Feast of the Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary, on the
15th August, is the Patronal Feast Day
of New Zealand.**

**What does 'evangelise' mean?
"To give witness with joy and
simplicity to who we are and
what we believe in."
Pope Francis**

**MAGAZINE OF
ST. MARK'S
PARISH
PAKURANGA
AUCKLAND**



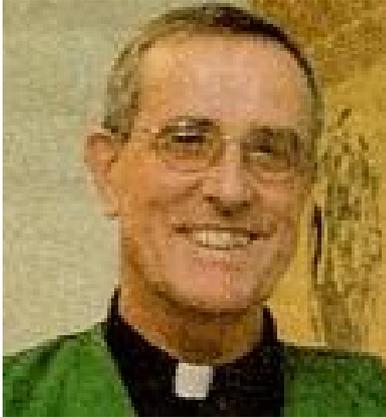
July - September 2016



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A Word from our Parish Priest



As we distribute this copy of Footprints, I guess many will quickly flip the pages to look at the photos that are included. That's understandable. The visuals make a huge difference. Just look at the young kids sitting at home, or in restaurants, quiet as a mouse, holding an iPhone or iPad, totally fixed on the story telling process. As we follow the stories of our Olympic reps and the joy they experienced in taking part, and for so many of them, winning medals, the photos give impact to the stories. Same for those celebrating their anniversaries, for our children receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time, and our St. Mark's Youth, celebrating World Youth Day. So much life, so much to be told and experienced.

As we reflect on the Year of Mercy, what picture do we have of our Merciful God? Yes, the one we have in the foyer - what does that say to you? Then we have that painting of the Prodigal Son - and read of the father's mercy for his son who came back. But, on a more personal note - how do you picture God in your life? Have you ever shared that with anyone? In these months leading up to Advent and Christmas, it would be wonderful if each person, each one of us, would decide on how we see our Merciful God, how we experience the mercy of our God in daily life.

Why not discuss this at the family table after the Sunday meal? God's Mercy does not run out at the end of the Year of Mercy. In fact, we come to see it more clearly as we open ourselves up to experience God's Mercy. We need to remember all the good things God has done for us and has given us. If we search our lives we can, and will, find numerous occasions on which God has shown us in many different ways his love and concern.

We read in Psalm 103: Bless the Lord, my soul; all my being, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, my soul, and do not forget all his kindness; he forgives all my sins and heals all my sickness; he redeems my life from destruction and crowns me with love and compassion. And to this we say, Thank you, Lord. Amen.

Fr. Carlo and I thank all of you for your witness to life and faith, and for all you do to build up the Body of Christ here in St. Mark's Parish. You are "God with skin on".

Peace and Blessings.

Fr. Emile

In this issue....we congratulate Mons. Ray Green, our Founding Parish Priest, on some great milestones this year. We take a look back to the beginnings of our Parish of St. Mark's. We rejoice in the Sacramental life of the Parish and we remember a Foundation Parishioner and hear from our Youth and much, much more....

May Our Lady of the Assumption always bring blessings our way!!!



OUR FOUNDING PARISH PRIEST CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD.



Present to celebrate with Monsignor Ray Green on the actual anniversary of this Ordination to Priesthood (22.07.1956) were the Bishop of Auckland, Bishop Patrick Dunn D.D., the Parish Priest of Christ the King Church, Rev. Peter Tipene and the Deacon Jana Nair and also Rev. Michael Endemann the Parish Priest of St. Patrick's Parish, Panmure. Parishioners of St. Mark's Parish, Pakuranga and other Parishes of Msgr Green's life were present also.

Msgr Green will be 90 years old in October 2016, and he presided over the Anniversary Mass on the 22 July 2016. He still celebrates two Masses every week at the Parish of Christ the King in Owairaka, Auckland where he is Emeritus Pastor. He was ordained by Archbishop Liston at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Auckland, 60 years ago.

It is much more than a job. It is a vocation of love, with, in, through and for God. It is a life of service and so the fact that this humble man is still serving at this great age and after so many years, is truly remarkable. Bishop Patrick Dunn noted that countless numbers of children were baptised, funerals presided over and marriages witnessed by Mons. Green in 60 years of service. He dedicated his life to God and all of us.

Mons. Green began as an Assistant Priest at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish Epsom, where he ministered as chaplain for the Carmelite Monastery and at Green Lane Hospital. He rode a bicycle to the hospital to serve the patients, particularly the dying. One night at 2 am, Mons. Green related, that the nurse at the hospital wondered who would die first, the patient or the young priest!!!!

From there he was appointed Curate at St. Peter Chanel Parish, Whakatane with a special assignment to form a new parish of St. Gerard's, Kawerau. He was then appointed to St. Andrew's, Tuakau with chaplaincy to the Marist Brothers' Juniorate.



At this time, Meremere Power Station was being built and he looked after the construction staff on site. Father Green's first appointment as a Parish Priest was at Tuakau.

The following appointment was to Sacred Heart Parish, Ponsonby where his duties included teaching at St. Paul's College, Diocesan Director of Vocations and assisting St. Mary's, Avondale, with Sunday Masses. Thames was his next home where he worked in the Parish of St. Francis of Assisi and which included the whole Coromandel Peninsula.

Right: The 500th Baptism at St. Mark's Parish on 27 May 1979. In the foreground, is the Christened child, Danjel Hall. He is being held by Angela Steur, who was the first to be baptised in this Parish on 7 February 1971. A very happy Fr Green and parents, Greg and Maryanne Hall look on.



It was during his appointment as Assistant Priest at Panmure, that Bishop Delargy asked him to found the parish of the yet to be built, St. Mark's Church Pakuranga. At that time, 45 years ago, the site of this large Church of Pakuranga with it's school, was merely a farm with a derelict farmhouse and an old cowshed.

This humble priest, who had formerly been a plumber, began Masses for the people of God in Edgewater College Hall. All the chairs had to be put out, and returned after every Mass. Everything required for the Mass had to be brought to the college. They were some of Mons. Green's best days. The church was not a building but "the body of Christ". The sense of community was strong. On other feast days, Masses were celebrated in the Anglican and Methodist Churches of Pakuranga.

To save money, Father Ray Green (as he was then known) moved from his rented



The St. Mark's site was originally a Dairy Farm.



The old farmhouse after it was cleaned and repaired.



accommodation in Pakuranga into the old farmhouse, which long-time parishoner, Veronica Smith, said wasn't fit for human habitation; It had brambles growing through the walls and vermin!! The cowshed was transformed under Fr. Green into a beautiful Chapel which always had a Bethlehem - Christmas feel to it.

The Parish of St. Mark's began in 1971 and so in 2021, we will be "Golden". Eventually the Church building was opened in 1974, and then the School; (which proved to be a formidable task), a Parish Centre followed and finally the Presbytery. Modifications have been made to the Church recently.

It was at St. Mark's Parish that a young seminarian, Patrick Dunn, spent six formative months with Fr. Green. As we all know, he is now our Bishop of Auckland.

While at Pakuranga Father Green was invited to preach at St. Kentigern's College by the then, Presbyterian Minister and his wife. He began meetings at the Baptist Church and also was invited to preach for the Bretheran Church.

His final appointment was to Christ the King Parish in 1983, where he was Parish Priest for 28 years. In this time, a motorway was planned right through his church and school and so this experienced priest once again guided a parish through the daunting task of rebuilding a church, presbytery and a school.

Monsignor Ray Green has been much more than a 'good and faithful servant'. He has been a long serving Priest Extraordinaire!



The exterior of the cowshed.



The Cowshed Chapel. People who were privileged to attend Mass in this Chapel had fond memories of a very strong faith community.



Monsignor Green speaking at the function after his Jubilee Mass.



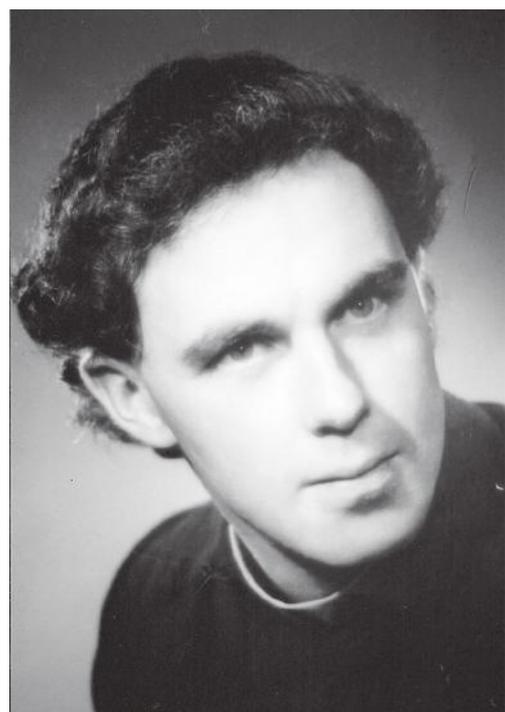
Father Green's Homily at the St. Marks 40th Anniversary in 2011

It is very fitting that we come together in the Easter season. You know, without a doubt, this is the great feast of the year. Christmas, unfortunately has taken over and everybody thinks of Christmas as being that wonderful time but Easter is the time. When we look back over that Easter season, Holy Thursday, when the apostles gathered together with Jesus and He fed them with his body and blood. Just as we are gathered here today, to be fed in the same way. And then Good Friday, He died on the cross for us, because He knew that He had been sent by the Father to do exactly this and it was through that act that we will have eternal life, otherwise we would not. Then, of course, the crowning glory of it all on Easter Sunday when He rose from the dead. And all this was to show us that He loves us and that God has a plan for us.

And I guess that as I look back over those forty years of this church that has been built, I look back beyond that, to when the parish first started when the Bishop said to me, "I appoint you as Parish Priest of Pakuranga." We had nothing. There was an old farmhouse and the farmhouse was in bad repair. We had to do it up so that we could live in it. The only habitable rooms were the kitchen and two bedrooms - one for the housekeeper, Veda Parven and one for myself.

But then the parish started to grow and we needed an Assistant Priest and the first Assistant Priest was Father Joe Stack. But we didn't have any room for Joe; he had to live with his mother at Ellerslie and commute every day. We had Mass at Edgewater College and the Edgewater College days were difficult days but I must say that one person stood out in particular and that was John Geaney. John looked after the church as it was at Edgewater College; he made the altar and John could do more with one arm than the rest of us could do with two.

But that was typical of the people that gathered around us and worked so hard for the building of this church and I see many of them now in the front row. Although my eyesight is not the best these days, I can only see them vaguely, but nevertheless I can see them and I can understand. You know, when I look back and I realise that people are important. And the people that founded this parish, and the priests too, that worked in this parish, Fr Joe, worked so hard. He and I used to fill up our cars with bits and pieces and take it to Edgewater College because we had to take everything with us. And when the new church was built, he was greatly relieved and also too we bought a house. The Dulux Factory was extending in Panmure and they had to get rid of a house and we bought the house and we put it on the property here and the housekeeper lived in the new house and Father Joe and I lived in the old farmhouse. But they were very happy days indeed. Father Joe was a wonderful man and very helpful to me.



A young Fr. Joe Stack.



And after the church was built I decided I would take a sabbatical and I went overseas. My sister and her family were living in England at the time and I decided to go over and visit them and the Bishop said to me, "Who will I appoint as Acting Parish Priest?" And I said there was only one appointment you can make as Acting Parish Priest and that is Father Joe Stack. And Father Joe, although he had only been ordained a few months, was very good and took it over. There were many, many things that I could see in Father Joe. When he was left in charge, I can remember when I came back though, he telling me the story of how a lady went into labour one Sunday here at 10.00 o'clock Mass. Father Joe panicked, he ran down into the church and pulled out Margaret Stark out of her seat. She was a nurse, grabbed her and I suppose Margaret was wondering what it was all about. But that was Father Joe. They were so wonderful and helpful to me. I certainly could not have done anything without them - and without the people. Because the people were important. And after all the church was built on people. Oh we have to have a building of course to gather together, that's part and parcel of it all. But people are the important element of all this.

And you know I look back in the early days too, even after we had built the church, we still had the cowshed down there and that was made into a chapel and we used that chapel for weekday Masses before the church was built. And I can always remember the cowshed there. We had one Sunday; we had Father Joe Foley out here for supply. Father Joe had a wonderful sense of humour as those who know him would know. But as he is walking toward the cowshed, the people were counting the collection there and said, "You know they used to milk cows, now they are milking people." But that was sort of typical of what was happening.

And also too, my Assistants at various times, Father Dennis Farrell. I can remember one Sunday out here, I had an inner ear problem. I suppose people thought I was drunk because I just couldn't stand and Father Dennis rang my ex house keeper Veda Parven and told her to come down and get me out of it. She did and she took me into her house and looked after me till my ear came right. But again, my Assistants loved the wonderful work they did.



This is an aerial view of the site where St. Mark's Church was built, before any work had commenced. The earthworks in the background are preparing the first sections in the Cascades Road, while the road in the foreground is Pigeon Mountain Road. The location of St Mark's Parish is in the centre of this photograph.



Then of course I had another wonderful Assistant too, our present Bishop. I can remember when he was made a bishop he said to me, "You know, you trained me." and he said "Any mistakes I make, I can blame on you." Of course when I look at him, I think I have done a good job. But I could go on and on and on about these wonderful people and the wonderful jobs they did in bringing this parish together. You know, when we built the church, we also had to build the school and I fought to have the Sisters of the Mission here, Sister Barbara. I remember, when we were talking about building the school, I went to the Director of the Sisters of the Mission and said "Could we have Sister Barbara here to open the school?" And she said, "I can't do anything about it - she's under contract." But I'd already seen the one in charge of that contract and he was willing to forgo that contract so that she could start our school.

And as I look around, I can say how I am so grateful to those people who helped me over very, very difficult times and they were difficult times at that stage but they were also very, very happy times. And I guess that's what the parish is all about. I also make another point; in parish life - this is the church, and we see the church throughout the world; the church we see is under attack time and time again because there is one element - Satan. And Satan is doing his best to destroy the church and he puts into every parish - divisions.

Right: The newly built original church of St. Mark's Parish.



And I would say to you today in this your parish of St Mark's of Pakuranga, that you have wonderful priests here at the present moment. They're not infallible; they will make mistakes; we all make mistakes; you make mistakes; I make mistakes. But we must be together; we must show togetherness in Jesus Christ and I ask you to get behind your priests because you have two wonderful priests here at the present moment and help them because the priesthood is not always an easy life these days but it's a wonderful life and as I look back over the years, I can only thank God for the fact that I am still alive and that I am still able to offer the sacrifice of the Mass and this I hope I will do until the day I die. If somebody would have said to me that I would have been here for the 40th anniversary, I wouldn't have believed them. But still, I am here and all these wonderful people in front of me are here too, and all I can say is, "Thank God for all of them and thank God for you people." And I ask you to be true christians and followers of Jesus Christ and remember the Easter story - that Christ has risen from the dead to show each and everyone of us what life is all about and that eternal life is the aim that we look forward to. There are many people who were at the opening of the church in 1974 but are not here today and many priests too that are not here today either. We thank God for them and we thank God for his wonderful mercy and we thank God for his salvation. May God bless each and everyone one of you and may you continue to see your faith grow in Christ and that your faith will be deep and aware.



Kid's Fun Day

By Eleina Martin (Macleans College)

On the 19th and 20th of July, St Mark's Youth held a Kid's Fun Day. The purpose of this Fun Day was to raise funds for attending a national youth conference. There were many youth who volunteered for this event and we were all excited to help out and take care of the kids. Since the arrival of kids started at eight in the morning, most of us were here by 7 a.m. preparing for the fun day.

As the kids arrived everyone was really excited to greet the kids, make them feel comfortable and in general have a great time with them. After a couple of icebreakers the youth and all the kids attended morning Mass. Throughout the day there were games and sessions where the kids learnt about how Jesus made them different and unique and how Jesus loves them and is their friend. The kids even made a Kid's Fun Day banner which they made by themselves under the supervision of the youth. A very enjoyable part of the day was the movie. The youth supervised the whole Kid's Fun Day, making sure that the kids had fun and felt included in every activity that happened.

Although the kids were tired by the end of the day they were happy as they had a lot of fun. We were tired too but it did not stop us from feeling grateful for having such great two days. We gained a new perspective on children who made us reminisce and relive our childhood all over again. For all this we can be forever grateful as we continue serving God.

By Erica Lim
(Sancta Maria College)

Kid's Fun Day was a huge success. It was great to see the children come out of their shells and really open up to us volunteers! From the time of being dragged in two directions to when we all went to Mass together, I enjoyed it all. Though the two days were definitely a test of patience and 'keeping calm' the experience was amazing and seeing the smiles on the kids' faces for those two days, made my day.





The “Our Father”

by Pa Michael Ryan M.H.M.

It may come as a surprise to you that in the early days the OUR FATHER was a very tapu prayer. It belonged to the 'Secreta', the secrets of the Church, a treasure which was reserved exclusively for the baptised. It had the same sacredness as receiving Holy Communion. It was not said in public nor taught to those outside the Church. The learning of it to speak aloud or chant it was part of the preparation for Baptism. We still sing or say it the end of the Baptism ceremony.

To us, who rattle it off day after day, it seems extraordinary that it was considered such a privilege to pray the Our Father. You can tell it was sacred from the wording used to introduce it at Mass - WE DARE TO SAY - When we recite it at Mass we stand in respect. We have the audacity by saying this prayer to approach closely to the divine, to enter into an intimate relationship with the One we are speaking to.

Over familiarity - saying the Our Father very often and very fast is not the best - it can be a bit of a mockery. I find that there is a danger of being self centred when you pray the Our Father - we should adopt the spirit of a child talking to its papa. Just take notice of the seven petitions as you say them.

You cannot say the Lord's Prayer and even once say "I".

You cannot say the Lord's Prayer and even once say "My".

Nor can you pray the Lord's Prayer and not pray for one another.

For when you ask for daily bread you must include your brother.

For others are included in each and every plea.

From the beginning to the end of it, it does not once say "Me"

Jesus spoke a language different from ours and expressed himself in a way different from ours. For that reason I have at times tried to translate that prayer in a different way, so it touches us again, so that we get closer to what lies behind the words. And this is what I have come up with:

Our Father - **YOU ARE A LOVING FATHER FOR EVERYBODY.**

Hallowed be your name - **WE WANT EVERYONE TO RESPECT YOU.**

Your kingdom come - **ESTABLISH YOUR WAY.**

Your will be done on earth - **MAKE THE EARTH A NEW HEAVEN.**



Give us today our daily bread - **GIVE US TODAY THE FOOD WE NEED.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us - **FORGIVE OUR MISTAKES, SO THAT WE CAN FORGIVE OTHERS WHO OWE US ANYTHING**

Lead us not into temptation - **HOLD ON TO US, WHEN OUR FAITH IS TESTED.**

And deliver us from evil - **SET US FREE FROM THE POWER OF EVIL**

Jesus wanted us to identify with what the Father is about. Jesus' mission here was to establish the ways of the Father. He wanted to give a new face to this world. On the other hand He was also so aware of our side, of the needs of the world, its hunger, its need for mercy and that willingness to be reconciled with one another time and again. In those last two lines we learn that He knew and experienced fear, fear of failing, of giving in during the darkest hour of his life when He felt that power of evil. So I think it is true, that this prayer reflects his life and his life reflects this prayer.

The Gospel indicates that the 'Our Father' is not just any prayer. 'One of the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, just as John taught his disciples'. This disciple is not satisfied praying in the way that John does. This nameless disciple, nameless because he stands for all disciples, wants to pray in a way that marks and identifies him as a disciple of Jesus. He wants the kind of prayer that reflects Jesus' prayer-life, Jesus' relationship with God. This follower wants to share in that relationship, which allows us to call God 'Father' - in the way that Jesus calls him his Father. There may be other religions that call God 'Father', as some source of life, some life-principle, but not in the way Jesus called God his Father, a way we share through faith and Baptism.

This disciple too wants to share Jesus' spirituality and mentality, his hopes for the world and the community, his fears. The 'Our Father' comes closest to what Jesus believed in and what Jesus worked for. And that prayer is meant to shape our outlook and mentality as followers of Jesus. As long as it simply remains a prayer to be rattled off, a prayer we don't really identify with, a prayer that sounds foreign to us, then we have not caught on to what really moved Jesus and we could question what kind of followers we are. That prayer defines the attitudes a follower of Jesus has to life, to the world, to our brothers and sisters, to God.

St. Cyprian commented: "The new person who has been reborn (in baptism) says "Father" at the beginning, because he is beginning to be a son; whoever has believed in the name of Jesus and has been made a son of God should begin to give thanks and profess himself to be a son by calling God his Father.



Live Mercy With Me *World Youth Day - Auckland 2016*

by Raewyn Tan

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Matthew 5:7

To be honest, the weather did not look promising. Grey, gloomy, windy and rainy - great weather for staying indoors and watching a movie! Not exactly ideal if you are spending the day outside. I guess this was a test of our faith - how much did we believe that God would look after us and give us good weather? Well, the Lord really did show mercy on us and blessed us with fine weather while we were walking in the city.

"Live Mercy with Me" was the theme of 2016 Auckland World Youth Day Experience held over 30 and 31 July organised by the Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry. A group of 40 attended from St Mark's Parish for the programme on Sunday, which began at St Patrick's Cathedral. Following testimonies, singing and photos, we made the journey down to the Victory Convention Centre as part of the WYD tradition to make a pilgrimage walk (well, we couldn't be in Cracow, but Auckland would suffice).



The essence of this event is to meet with God and other people. Hence, there is the symbol of the cross, which symbolises Jesus and a full circle pictured inside Him, which symbolised the youth also in previous editions of the WYD.



What greeted us at the Victory Convention Centre was what many of us had been looking forward to: food. ACYM had kindly provided us all with a sausage sizzle to keep us energized for the remainder of the day, which was much appreciated as the weather got chillier. After we had eaten, we headed inside for the rest of the programme and kicked off the rest of the afternoon with praise and worship. Honestly, it was as if angels were singing. Correction: it was angels singing. And dancing. It was pure joy.

The afternoon then continued with animation performances from some of the youth groups and talks with Bishop Pat Dunn, Helen Robinson from Auckland City Mission and Michael Stuart from Caritas New Zealand. A lot of focus was put on social justice in New Zealand, particularly the Living Wage and poverty. For people in this country, and all around the world, inadequacy is a reality people have to live with every day, not just a news article that is broadcasted to fill in the news hour. Being the year of mercy, we were asked to show acts of mercy - look after the less fortunate, care for the homeless, visit the people in prison, and most importantly, show kindness.

Our very own Shana is part of ACYM, and she has done this Parish proud by sharing her love, talents and gifts with everyone. She also led the singing of Matt Maher's beautiful song "Lord I Need You" and it was so awe-inspiring to be in the presence of youths from all around Auckland who shared the same faith and were praising our almighty Father with all our spirits.

A special part of the programme was when we were invited to come forward and have our elders and youth ministers pray over us. The lines were as long as the queues in this city's morning traffic on the motorway. How amazing is that, for someone else - who probably doesn't even know you - to reaffirm you, say words that you actually needed to hear and to pray with you and pray for you? How often do you meet someone new and they say something that touches you because what they said was so meaningful and genuinely out of love? That, brothers and sisters, is how our awesome and wonderful God works through people.

The day finished with Mass celebrated by Bishop Pat Dunn. The Auckland WYD Experience gave us a glimpse of the official World Youth Day celebrations in Krakow, Poland. We can only imagine what the youth that have flocked to Poland have experienced. Panama City 2019 here we come.



FOUNDATION PARISHONER - JOE BARRETT

Eulogy by his Son, Paul Barrett

Dad was born Patrick Joseph Barrett on 17th February 1922, in County Mayo, Ireland to Nora and Patrick Barrett. Dad was the eldest of six children, Patrick, Jack, Maureen, Theresa, Margaret and Kevin. The family emigrated to Liverpool England when Dad was four years old.

Times were tough for the family, his mother worked very long hours and his father abdicated his parental responsibilities, which lead Dad to leaving school at age 14, despite showing great aptitude for his studies, to help support the family finances. First working for an optician as a delivery boy, he left to join the Merchant Navy (fudging his age to be accepted) training at Gravesend Sea School. He sent money back to his mother to support the rest of the family.

At the outbreak of war he became part of the supply chain, carrying troops and supplies to support the war effort. He often talked of his memories of being in convoys and seeing ships going down around him, also of the time their ship broke down and they were left behind, sitting ducks. It was during the war that Dad first visited New Zealand to carry troupes to the Middle East.

After the war he continued on, and between sailings would attend dances at Atlantic House in Liverpool where he first spied June. Their romance blossomed resulting in their marriage in September 1954, (a marriage that lasted 61 years). He always put June forefront in his life. He was totally devoted to her and loved her completely.

Dad didn't think a seafarers life was compatible with married life, so he left the sea and started working for the Post Office as a lineman. Michael came along in August 1955, followed by Paul in June 1957. After a particularly severe winter in 1964 which took away June's Mum, Dad decided to emigrate to NZ with our family. Our worldly goods were packed up and we had an amazing six weeks on the Ellinis sailing through the Suez canal to New Zealand, docking in November 1965 and then settling in Pakuranga, Auckland.

Purchasing a section at 66 Edgewater Drive, the family settled in, followed closely by the arrival of Brian in November 1966. After June and his family, the love of Dad's life was coaching soccer. Initially with Mt Wellington, and then as a founding member of the Pakuranga Town Football Club, he coached Michael, myself and Brian and his teams were always very successful. He was extremely competitive, and this was reflected in the results he achieved. He influenced many young lives through his coaching.

Following the marriage of Paul, Mike and Brian, and the arrival of grandchildren which coincided with his retirement from the Post Office, his life entered a new phase in which he excelled. Dad's ability to create simple games in the back yard of Edgewater Drive, that entertained all the children who visited, reached a whole new level. For Kristen, Hayley and Luke and Briahna and Simone, he was the perfect Poppa. He always had time, always wanted to play, he never left the backyard first, or asked for the game to finish. He would push the swing all day if he had to.



Time with his grandchildren was of paramount importance to him and the people they are today are a reflection of him. He also loved his family. Spending time with his brothers and sisters, Jack, Margaret, Maudie and Bob and their boys, Kevin and Erin and family, was hugely important to him. Sunday afternoons at the Barrett's were legendary for a BBQ, backyard cricket, raucous sing alongs of all the old Irish songs, and a dose of Dad's potent home brew.

Dad was the epitome of a good man. I am immensely proud of him and so privileged to be his son. He reached far beyond the people in this room and far beyond any words could reflect. We are grateful for his life.



Above: Joe Barrett has always been involved in St Mark's Parish Community. It was Joe and his sons who assisted in putting out all the seating at Edgewater College Hall and then putting them all away at the conclusion of Mass. Originally the Catholic Church planned to construct a church in Edgewater Drive and another on the present site. Hence many parishioners at that time purchased properties in Edgewater Drive in order to be close to the Church. At Father Green's request, Bishop Mackey eventually permitted him to only build a church on Pakuranga Highway.



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

by Paul Oliver

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St Mark's,

The last few months have again been a very busy time for our Parish Council and we have been partaking in a number of initiatives on behalf of our vibrant Parish since my last update.

Both Health and Safety and Risk Management have been a key focus for us we begin the process of integrating and implementing the key requirements as part of the wider Auckland Diocese directive. These include such key areas as implementing emergency evacuation processes for all Masses; overseeing fire safety needs; and also youth safety.



Our Year of Mercy Activities have also been a primary focus for us and a number of our council members have been assisting in the overseeing for the upcoming Fun Day at the North Shore Events Centre in September.

We have also been working on the feedback received from all parishioners as a result of our recent Suggestion Box initiative and hence to address and highlight areas of concern or improvement proposals.

Our Parish website has also been updated and can be viewed at www.pakurangacatholic.org.nz ; and finally we have set up some sub committees within the Parish council team to focus on areas such as Health and Safety, Communication, and Events Management.

In closing as we head towards the latter part of this year we will be heavily involved in a number of further initiatives including the always eagerly anticipated Christmas Function held annually in our Parish Centre for all Volunteers.

With God's Blessings,
Paul Oliver
St. Mark's Parish Council



Saint Monica **(Feast Day was on the 27 August 2016)**

Saint Monica, who prayed tirelessly for the conversion of her son (Saint) Augustine, is a model for all mothers. While her commitment to prayer and the strength of her faith are of course important, it is her ordinariness which makes her most appealing as a model. Beyond this though, besides being a model of faith, her love and ceaseless prayer for her son also reflects God's own love for us.

In the words of Pope Francis in "Amoris Laetitia":
"The love of parents is the means by which God shows His own love". God our Father, never ceases waiting for us, longing for us and loving us.

On this day we pray for all our mothers, that they may be blessed by the devotion, love and charity which they have for their children.

Saint Monica - pray for us!



"I asked God for strength that I might achieve. I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health that I might do greater things. I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy. I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men. I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life. I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for. Despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all, most richly blessed."



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

"The Glory of God is Emile Fully Alive"

by Fr. Emile Frische M.H.M.

This statement was made to me in 2004 as I was sitting in the office of a counselor, helping me through the after-effects of 9/11. My doctor Ed sat before me one day and said to me: "Emile, listen to me, and listen to me good - I have some wisdom to share with you, and it does not come from me. This comes from a guy who lived hundreds of years ago, and this is what he is saying to you right now: 'The Glory of God is Emile Fully Alive.' Don't deny God His Glory."

I was an angry person in the weeks after 9/11. It was a struggle for me to be the compassionate face of our God to the people I was called to serve. Nine months of "hell" down at that site in Manhattan didn't give me much encouragement to see the glory of God! Those were lonely months.

Now this good Dr. Ed was telling me that the 'Glory of God is Emile Fully Alive'. Over the course of the next five sessions or so, Dr. Ed encouraged me to look deep within myself to find the good moments in each day. He was like a dentist slowly pulling teeth - telling me it was all for my good.

For me to become, again, fully alive, I had to make a daily decision to see God in the eyes of each person I met along the way. I was forced to open up to others - allowing them to minister to me, to love me. I was learning to love the 'me' I had left on the agonising mess of the rubble in lower Manhattan. Oh man, it is so good to be alive! It's even much better to be "fully alive"!

"The Glory of God is (your name) Fully Alive."

What does Irenaeus mean by "fully alive"? He means that God is glorified when man and woman are fully alive in Christ. He talks about the 'great exchange' how the Son of God became the Son of Man so that man and woman could become sons and daughters of God. To have that life of Christ in us means to be fully alive. As Christ himself tells us in John 10.10: "I came so that they may have life, and have it more abundantly." To have the abundant life is to be fully alive in Christ. To live abundantly in Christ, is to allow the power and grace of God to so fill our whole being, that the glory of God shines through us.

As I look around this Parish, as I see you, the Church, the People of God gathered here at St. Mark's for Mass and for meetings, I see the glory of God shining through you - because you are fully alive, today. We need to remain FULLY ALIVE every day of our lives, because God deserves the glory. Right? How do we do that?



God continually, in our groups or in Church, calls us to a conversion of heart. No matter what the year, we are called to make this journey EVERY day of our lives. It is a life changing experience where we hear God saying to each and every one of us: The Glory of God is ... fully alive. This means that we need to live the values of our conversion experience so that it makes a difference in our lives, in the lives of our parishioners, in the life of our Church communities. This is what we believe, isn't it? This is our mission - of renewal in the church and change in the world. It begins with you and me. We are called to make a difference in this world of ours. We can do this. We MUST do this. St. Paul tells us: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Remember the words of the Gospel: "Holy Father, I pray not only for these, but also for those who WILL BELIEVE IN ME THROUGH THEIR WORD, SO THAT ALL MAY BE ONE that the world may know that you loved THEM even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me." WE are the Father's gift to Jesus. Y O U are the Father's gift to Jesus.

Jesus continues his prayer to the Father by saying: " I have made known to them your name and I will make it known, THAT THE LOVE WITH WHICH YOU LOVED ME MAY BE IN THEM, AND I IN THEM." Is this what I experience today? We are told that God gives us the graces we need to make a difference in the world everyday. We do that by believing in His Word and by living out that Word every day of our lives. We are on a mission of transforming the world - this IS indeed, a Holy Adventure. We are called to look BEYOND what is familiar to us, and to invest ourselves in the lives of others and walk this journey with them. This is what we profess in our faith as we hear God say: Love one another as I have loved you.

This is a real request from God to us all today. It's not to remain on advertising leaflets, and not be in our hearts. I have experienced this 'God love' through the love of many people in all the places I have served as a priest. Their love, your love, is empowering me in my priesthood to be more fully alive. I am called to love you as God loves so that you also may be fully alive and be on fire for the mission.

God continues to make the Impossible Dream POSSIBLE, because God believes in each and every one of us. This is our mission, folks. We are missionaries with a purpose - living our sacraments, believing in the power of our sacraments - because we believe in the God who is within us. This is what Pope Paul VI was talking about in his Apostolic Letter - Evangelisation in the Modern World - written in 1975: He defined evangelisation as ' bringing the Good News into all the strata of humanity and through its influence, transforming humanity from within and making it new.' So what he is saying is that we are each called to new life, but there is also a responsibility to evangelise the society to which we belong and the world in which we live.

I believe that this is what we are called to every day of our lives. We are told that because of our LOVE, because of the power of our sacrament, we are to go out and BE the Good News in our homes, our towns, cities, - our country. Again, Pope Paul VI helps us understand our mission here: he tells us that there are three essential aspects to our mission (to evangelise):



First, there is:

a) Witness of Life:

Above all, he says, the Gospel must be proclaimed by witness. The way that we live our lives can make a difference to others and to the world in which we live. St. Paul exhorts us to shine in the world like bright stars because you are offering it the word of life. (Phil. 2.15-16.) However, witness of life alone is not sufficient.

b) Proclamation:

'The Good News proclaimed by the witness of life sooner or later has to be proclaimed by the word of life. There is no true evangelisation if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed.' (Paragraph 22 of Evangelii Nuntiandi)

Why are there not more people filling the pews in our Churches? Is it because maybe, we are not proclaiming what we believe? We have to believe that what we receive in our Eucharistic celebrations IS Good News! And so by inviting others to be there with us, by allowing God to draw us deeper into the worshipping community and inspiring us - we are all called to BE Good News - proclaiming this by our lifestyle that Jesus is real in our lives today and every tomorrow He gives us. "You will know they are Christians by their love". God is Love and LOVERS are what we are called to be.

This brings us to:

c) Service:

A clear sign of evangelisation is when there is service rendered to humanity. I guess this is what we used to call Open and Apostolic. Open to the Spirit of our God showing us what we need to do to witness to His power and presence in our lives. Apostolic, being that we realize the power we have within us, because of our belief in God and in each other, that we follow in the footsteps of the Apostles. We see the example Jesus gives his apostles. If I am called to be Jesus alive in the world today, I too am called to minister to those abandoned - to reach out to all who are hurting and neglected. I am called to be "all things to all people."

We have a long way to go, my friends. There are so many more people out there who need to see the Christ you carry within you, the Christ you celebrate in your families, in your marriage, in our youth. The missionary journey continues. And we hear Jesus saying to us: remember, "I am with you, ALWAYS."

The Glory of God is Fully Alive.



A Prayer For The World

by

Rabbi Harold Kushner

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations. Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.

Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows. Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken. Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly. So that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color.

Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness. So that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors. And let the light of the sun be so strong that we will see all people as our neighbors.

Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty. And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to heaven.

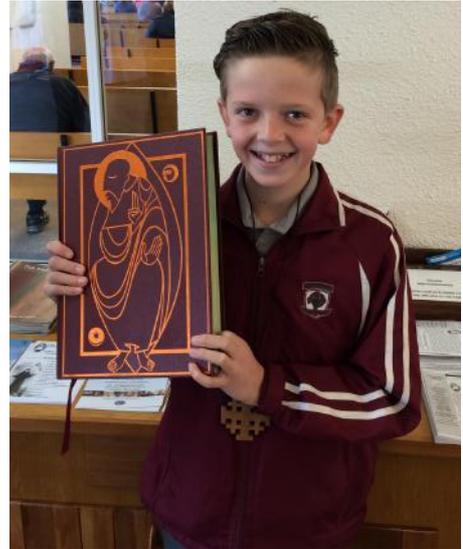
Amen.



BLESSED TIMES



Above: Aaron Dahmen, Dagma Andres-Dahmen and Fr. Emile together on the 7th August; Dagma's last Sunday in New Zealand before heading back to Germany.



On Sunday 21 August at 10 am Mass, Flynn Verner of St. Mark's School was the Reader.



Monsignor Ray Green at his 60th Jubilee of Ordination.



Present at the 60th Jubilee of Ordination for Mons. Green was a group of St. Mark's parishoners: (L to R) Peter Hundleby, Mary Pepping, Robert Pepping, Liz Bauld, Mons. Green, Andrea Den Tandt, Stuart Bauld and Joe Den Tandt.

On the 7 August 2016, we celebrated the Baptism of Leilani, daughter of Kelekolio and Florina Setefano. Also present was Grandfather Mike Setefano, who is holding Leilani in the photo.





The Sacrament of Marriage between Davina William and Matt West was celebrated by Monsignor Bernard Kiely with Father Raphael Lobo concelebrating on the 18th April 2016.

Davina West is the daughter of Josephine and Albert William of St. Mark's Parish. We pray the Lord's blessing on this marriage.





Youth National Conference 2016

By Eliena Martin (Macleans College)

From the 15th to the 17th of July 2016, CFC Youth for Christ had a National Conference held in Ngaruawahia. It was one of the most God-filled camps that I have ever attended as it strengthened me emotionally and spiritually.

On the 15th of July, the St Mark's - YFC boarded two buses along with other Youth for Christ members from other areas. When we arrived, the immediate event after registration was the Praise Parade with Banner competition. Our Chapter (East Side High) were the most enthusiastic bunch. This was followed by an opening praise and worship session which was spiritually uplifting. After dinner and the chorale competition, we had our very first session: Shout for Joy. The lesson that I learnt from this was that no matter what happens, how hard things get, know that we can always find joy in God no matter what.

The next day after the Rosary, Mass, breakfast and another praise and worship session, we each went our separate ways and attended a REJOICE Workshop, where we learnt about different aspects about rejoicing in the Lord, followed by a PRAY Workshop. We found new ways to form a closer relationship with God through one vital way of communication towards God: prayer. After lunch, there was a GIVE THANKS Workshop where it opened our eyes to many different ways we can serve and give thanks to the Lord.

The next workshop was by far one of the best workshops of the National Conference where the guys and girls were separated and listened to separate talks. In the women's plenary workshop we were told about what it is like to be a Woman of God and why we were made the way we were as well as the temptations we face as women. After band and short film competitions we had dinner which was followed by our second session: No Matter What. This is where we learnt about praying and how we need to find silence not only physically but in ourselves as we talk to God. We learnt how the devil would do anything to take that away from us as prayer is the foundation when establishing our relationship with God. Without which we would just constantly crash and burn.

On the last and final of NATCON 2016, after lunch we had our final session which was Grateful. In this session we learnt about how God has done great things for us and we most of the time take this for granted. This session is a memorable reminder of how we need to be evermore grateful to God as He gave us His only Son who died for us on the cross. After this we had one of the most intense praise and worship sessions where we all felt the presence of God with so much passion it brought tears to our eyes as we can never be grateful and blessed enough to have God in our lives.

In general, NATCON was one of the most intense and passionate God-fulfilling time that would forever be a memorable moment. As for the competitions, we got second place for Band which was an amazing achievement as we all cheered and shouted for them together. And for praise parade with banner competition we got first place which involved everyone showing how united we are as a chapter. But most of all we won a better relationship with God as we praised, prayed and gave thanks to Him which we will continue to do, as without Him none of this would have even happened.



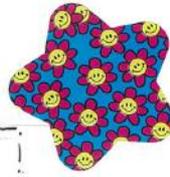
MINI EVANGELISTS

A place where you can have fun, there's always abit of excitement to put a smile on your face & nice teachers that help you learn things that can help you live a better life

Giayee 

A great place to learn about Jesus

Jaimie



St. Mark's is a place where I can set my goals and learn about God

Tayla

Making friends into family

from Leo



 st. Marks

A wonderful place that takes people from all different parts of the world and encourages them to be the best people they can be.

SEAN P

A Place were I can learn about Jesus and a place where you have good friends.

St. Mark's Catholic is a wonderful place to learn and play with friends.

Flynn

A place were everyone is my friend:

#The best school in Pakuranga.

sean



Jan

It is a peaceful and calm place where people from any country are accepted and loved.

Kyle

A time to be joyful and have a fun time during lunch. You can also enjoy learning about God and can pray in school hours.

Sophie C.



LOVE! Family! Hope!

A nice clean friendly safe place that settles you in comfortably. I love how every one welcomes you into the school.

Jayda 

An educational place to learn with awesome teachers!

Einstein



St. Marks Catholic school is where you can achieve your goals and dreams.

Angeline.

St Marks is... My 2nd home, even part of my family. People here are nice.

Kristine

St. Mark's school is taught by caring teachers so we can have a good education.

Rachel



It is a place were you are always welcome and you can make lots of friends.

Preston



A Place where we can learn more about other people, make fantastic friends and learn to make peace. This is a very good environment, friendly place and we can have a lot of fun here!

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL
Phoebe Li

A fun Place to make good friends.

Joe



St. Marks

By Alivia

St. Marks has been in my family for three generations so it means that some teachers know my family. It's really good and all the teachers are kind.

A Place where I can learn and work with my friends and God.

By Louisa McGinty

St Mark's is a school in which the environment is clean and tidy. It's fun to also expect new things.

Faith



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2016

We congratulate and pray for the young people in our community who received the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the weekend of Saturday 2 July and Sunday 3 July.

Anquandah Theone Catherine
 Bangalan Mikaela
 Burnet Oliver
 Cahilig Jorbys
 Calacsan Jessa
 Cisaria Liliana
 Cortez Gian Matthew
 Cranwell Sophie
 Cranwell Stella
 Curlett Jayda
 Dangatan Chloe
 Earl Summer
 Ernstzen Hannah
 Eugenio Ron Derek
 Fernandez Joshua
 Hurren Piper
 King Olivia
 Kokana Amanda Patricia
 Kokana Crystal
 Kokana Steven
 Manuyag Jacob
 McGinty Finlay

McIntyre Chantelle
 Mendoza Nathanael Caleb
 Moehler Lorenz
 Muggleston Adam
 Namocot Gilimae
 Neems Ava
 Ocampo Patricia
 Perez Valerie
 Prakash Ronan
 Robiso Gaudencio
 Samarasinha Isabella
 Santoso Alanna Dee
 Southon Bridget
 Spence Tayla
 Spence Paige
 Sugiharto Ochre
 Sugiharto Elizabeth
 Trathen Richard
 Trathen James
 Va'afusuaga Philomena
 Van Heerden Blaise
 Veitoyaki Sebasitiano

Ventura Jan Jacob
 Voykovich James
 Young Vaelei





Many thanks to Damian and Cath Gillen for providing the photographs.



Supplied by Rev. McDonald using Recolour App.

Happy Feast Day New Zealand

On the 15th of August, we celebrate New Zealand's Patronal Feast Day - The Assumption of Mary into Heaven. In the Magnificat, which we hear proclaimed in the Gospel of that day, Mary refers to the promise made by God to our ancestors - a promise which comes to fulfilment in the birth of Christ. There is a greater promise still - one which is referred to in both of the other readings at Mass, namely the promise of Christ's death and resurrection.

As St Paul puts it: "Just as all die in Adam so will all be brought to life in Christ" For Mary, God's promise goes even further in recognition of her special role as Theotokos - or "the one who gives birth to God". She, who "all generations will call blessed" did not experience the decay of death but rather, was taken up body and soul to heaven following her Son's example. She too sets an example for us through her love for God and willingness to entrust herself to his will.

On this special day, we ask Our Lady to pray for the Catholic Church in New Zealand. That we may be guided and strengthened by her example and love for us. Mary, assumed into heaven, pray for us!

By Holy Cross Seminary.