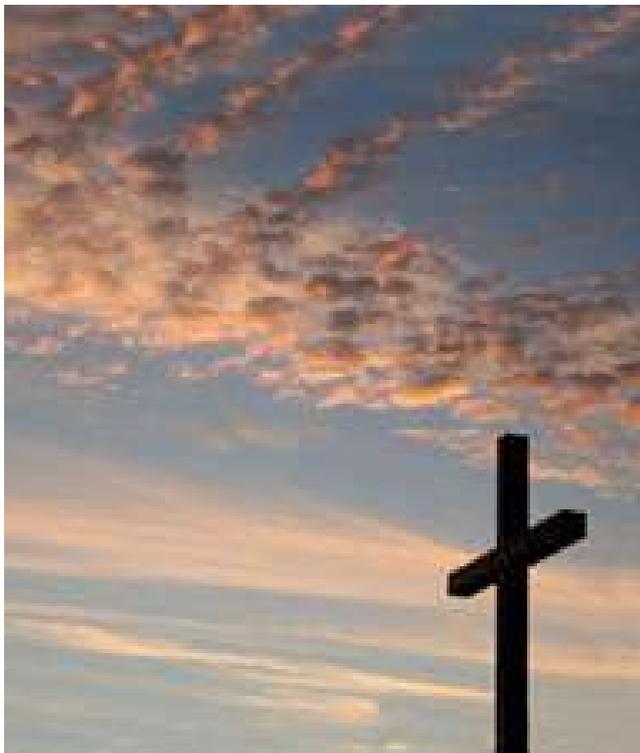




FOOTPRINTS

**The Most Important Day in
the Church's Calendar ...**

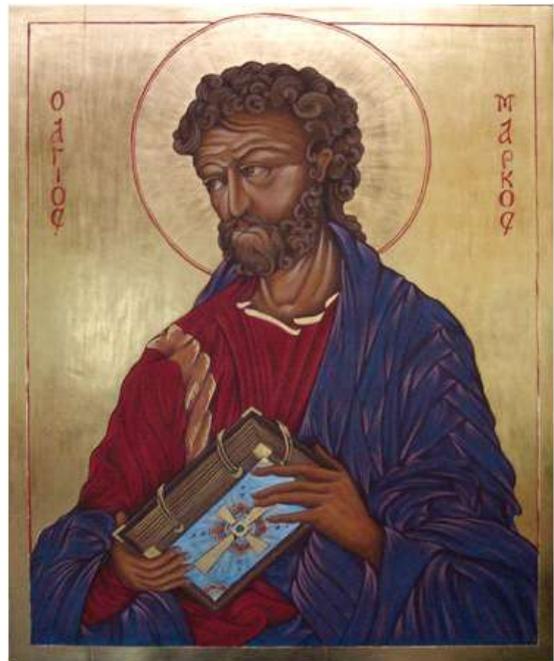


**Easter Sunday of the
Resurrection of the Lord**

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**



January-April 2017

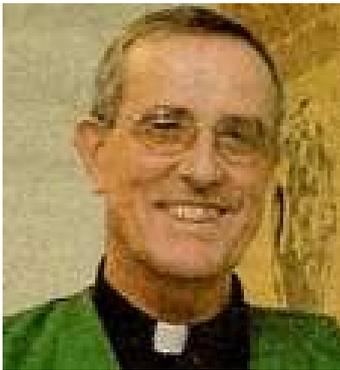
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A Word from our Parish Priest



Sitting in St. Peter's Square a few years ago, Pope Francis told the crowd that there were three words everyone needed to make part of their lives. The words are: PLEASE, THANK YOU, I'M SORRY. He repeated these words and then asked the gathered crowd to say them. There was a mumble from the crowd, and so Pope Francis put his hands to his ears and said: I didn't hear you; say them again. This time, the crowd shouted the words, and Pope Francis smiled and encouraged everyone to make these words a daily part of life.

Reflecting on the months that have flown by already in 2017, how many of us can truly say that we have used these words in our family conversations, at work, in our prayer? These 40 days of Lent leading up to the Resurrection time, have big spaces for these words, right?

We have all had the opportunity of saying THANK YOU to Father Carlo for his years here at St Mark's, and for the many blessings he has poured out upon us all. Now we have Father Austin with us, and we thank God for him as he shares his faith and love and service with us all. 'PLEASE' is a word my parents hammered into me and my brothers from an early age. When we turn to God asking for His help in a particular situation, we always should use the word 'please' right? It's a word that comes from the heart. It shows that we really trust God - that He hears and answers our prayer. The third word, 'I'M SORRY' is one that probably is not heard/said often enough. Saying 'I'm sorry' is not a sign of weakness. It's recognising the good in the other, and also for the one saying it, recognising the opportunity to grow and change.

As we come to Holy Week, these three words, PLEASE, THANK YOU, I'M SORRY can make such a huge difference to our way of living the Christ life; of telling Jesus that we truly love Him and Thank Him for giving His life for each and every one of us; that we truly are sorry for our sinfulness, and ask Him to please be patient with us as we try to live the resurrection life every day of our lives.

Father Austin and myself hold you all in our prayer, especially at this time, thanking God for all that you do in the building up of the Body of Christ here at St Mark's and beyond. May this Holy Week truly make all of us holy as the Lord our God is Holy. Thank you for all your loving support. Thank you for your powerful witness to faith. Wishing you all a Blessed and Joyful Easter.

In this issue ...we celebrate the "RISEN LORD" and remember that he appeared, complete with wounds in His hands and feet, ate fish and walked through walls. Here is a true story: my brother, who at the time was living in Bermuda, sneaked back to N.Z. to surprise my Mum. He camouflaged his identity by pretending to be a floral delivery agent. He wore a cap, sunglasses and overalls. He even used a van. When he knocked at the door, Dad only looked at the flowers. He said, "My wife is up the road. I'll show you which house." As they walked, my brother spoke. Immediately Dad recognised him. They arrived at the house, and when Mum came to the door, again focused on the flowers, my brother spoke, "Hi Mum." She too, knew his voice immediately. She leaped in the air with joy!!! Mary Magdalene was in the garden, and in her state of mourning, she did not see the Risen Lord...not until He spoke!!!



Haere Ra Fr. Carlo

After a farewell Mass on Sunday, 29 January 2017 at 10.00 am, many parishioners packed into the Parish Centre to thank and farewell our much loved Assistant Priest, Fr. Carlo Cruz. The event was organised by the Parish Council along with the support of many who brought along an amazing array of international foods for a shared meal. Parish Council member, Paul Oliver was Master of Ceremonies and many people spoke: May Frost thanked Fr. Carlo on behalf of the Childrens' Choir, Josephine Chin represented the Chinese Group, Trish Vaughan spoke for the Parish Team, while Fr. Emile, Rob and Mary Pepping, Mike Lobo and Malcolm Martis offered their thanks and best wishes to Fr. Carlo for the future. Two waiata were sung to Fr. Carlo including 'Mo Maria.'



There were performances by the Youth for Christ Youth Group and a Filipino Folk Dance by members of the parish. After a three tier cake was cut, there was a speech by Fr. Emile and he presented to Fr. Carlo a book of photos and messages written by parishioners along with a monetary gift from donations given by members of the parish.

St Mark's Parish was Fr. Carlo's third appointment and he came to our parish from St. Joseph's Takapuna at the start of 2015 and leaves to go to St Joseph's but further up the North Island to St. Joseph's Kaitaia in the Far North which is the region of New Zealand where Bishop Pompallier first arrived in 1838. Fr. Carlo in his farewell speech spoke about his time at Pakuranga and his move. "I'll be leaving this place with a grateful heart. It has almost been three years and it has gone so fast. What's in store for me in Kaitaia? I have no idea. I have never been to Kaitaia but I believe God's sending me there for a reason. If I followed my humanity I would not leave, but this is my vocation and my life. I was ordained, not for the parish of St. Mark's Pakuranga or the parish of St. Joseph's Takapuna but for the Diocese of Auckland, so wherever the need arises, I am happy to go there."

Father Carlo was recognised for the work he had done with the youth. He had walked alongside them in their faith journey and in their formation and quite literally when in March 2015, he completed the Caritas Challenge Walk with the youth striding from St. Mark's Pakuranga to St. Patrick's Cathedral in Wyndham St, Central City.



We thanked Father Carlo for all he had contributed so selflessly during his time at St. Mark's. During his farewell Fr. Carlo said, "I'll be missing each and every one of you. I'll be praying for you." We will miss him and I am sure we will be praying for him too.

'Kia tau te Rangimarie o te Karaiti.'



Above: Josephine Chin extends her best wishes and thanks to Fr. Carlo.



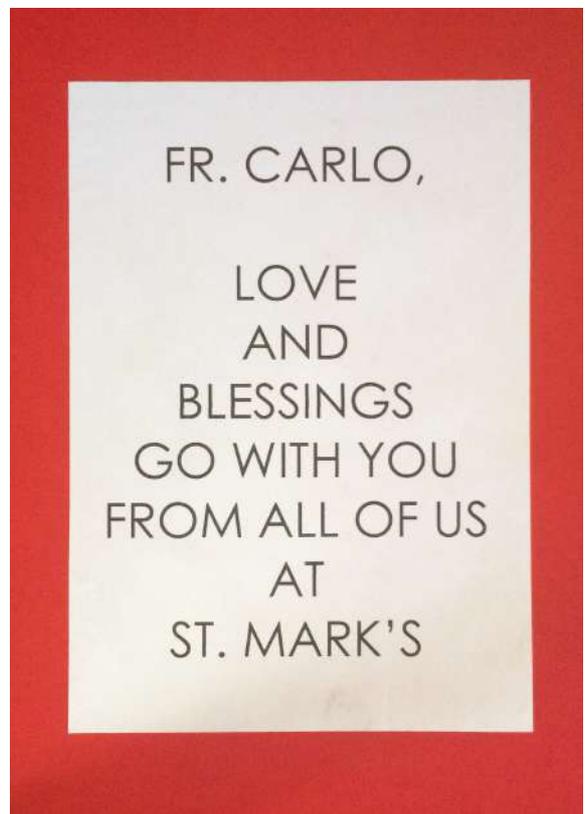
Above: 'Angel' May Frost pays tribute to Fr. Carlo on behalf of the Childrens' Choir.



Above: Fr. Carlo blesses our much-loved parishioner, Con Fitzgerald.



Above: Walter and Elsie Erceg thank Fr. Carlo.



Above: The cover of the book presented to Fr. Carlo by Parish Priest, Fr. Emile.



Above: A dance filled with energy, movement and precision was performed by the YFC Youth Group.



Above: Fr. Emile, Fr. Carlo and M.C. Paul Oliver



Above: Fr. Carlo photographed with the YFC Youth Group.



Above: A graceful Filipino Folk Dance performed by three parishioners.



Above: Fr. Emile presents Fr. Carlo with the book containing pictures, messages and monetary donations from the St. Mark's community.



Above: Fr. Carlo cuts the three tiered cake made for this very special parish occasion.



Introducing Our New Assistant Priest

Kia Ora! to all. I am Fr. Austin Fernandes a priest of the Auckland diocese, ordained on 16 July 2016. I am from India and lived in Mumbai for the major part of my life. I am the youngest in the family of four, two sisters and a brother. I migrated to New Zealand in the year 2003. Professionally I am a Production Engineer or should I say was a Production Engineer. I did all my engineering studies in India. I worked in New Zealand for six years and in the year 2009 joined the seminary to study for priesthood.



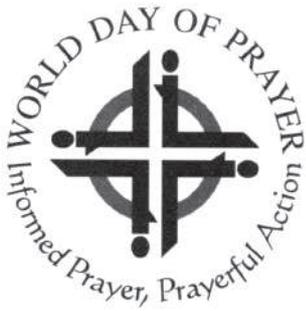
Above: Fr. Austin's Ordination at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

My faith story goes like this. While I was working I always wondered and questioned what my purpose, my role in life is. Yes, I had a well paid job and the job was satisfying. Everything was going well but there was a sense of emptiness. All through my life my dreams and ambitions kept on changing. When I was a child I wanted to be hero, when I started work I wanted to become the manager, the CEO of the company, when I was of responsible age I thought of getting married and settle down in life. Everything kept on changing until one fine day when I did my three day retreat. A retreat is a place where one spends time with God. Talks were given by renowned speakers on the Word of God. We were advised to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament and were asked to make a good confession. On the last day of the retreat Mass was celebrated and there was the laying on of the hands over our heads. At that instance I saw a white light hovering above my head through my inner eyes and I felt a lot of peace within me. I chose to go for the retreat not because I wanted to but because my mum kept on nagging me. So just to stop her from bothering me I went for the retreat.

And everything changed from that day onwards. The experience of that retreat changed my perspective towards life. My attitudes, my career and my ambitions were not at all important to me now. Little by little I started surrendering my life to God, gave up my job, joined the seminary and went on to become a priest. I had absolutely no clue in my life that I would become one. This is just a small snippet of my wonderful story. There is more to it than meets the eye. But for now I think this is sufficient for you all to know something about me. When we will journey together we will know more about each other and I am pretty sure that together we will make our journey more interesting. On the lighter side, let us be kind to one another because what goes around comes around. Warm regards and God bless
Fr. Austin.



Above: Fr. Austin Fernandes.



World Day of Prayer An Ecumenical Service

This year, St. Mark's Parish hosted this service which has its origins in the 1800's and which became an International Movement in 1927. Last year it was estimated that 22,415 services were held and involved an estimated 1,048,092 people.



At our Church of St. Mark, Toni McLeod and Gerry Tvrdeich organised a wonderful day of prayer and hospitality. One of the members of a local church commented, "It was the best I've ever been to."

The theme for 2017 was "Am I Being Unfair to You?" It was prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee, the Church Women United of the Philippines. St. Columba Church, All Saints Church, Trinity Methodist Church, Our Lady, Star of the Sea Church, St. Peter's Anglican Church and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church joined with St. Mark's Parishioners on Friday, 3rd of March 2017 for our Ecumenical Service.

St. Mark's School children took up the collection which came to \$743.00. They also did a liturgical dance and took up some of the gifts which were placed on a table in front of the altar. A parishioner from the Catholic Church in Howick read the Gospel and our Parish Priest, Fr. Emile M.H.M., gave the reflection on that reading which was Matthew 20:1-16. Linda Chan played the organ, John Wong was the projectionist and Elizabeth Bauld and some of her Choir led the singing.

A lovely lunch followed; Megan McColl and Maureen Bell organised this, with participants who brought a plate. In 2018, the host Church will be St. Columba.



Above: Participants at the World Day of Prayer (left to right): Susan Lagman, Aracelli Villalobos, Priscilla Cefre and Levinia Kotey.



Above: On this table is a pitcher of water, leaves, oil, a cloth, a cross, a candle, scales (made by Ray Anderson), tinned fish, rice, fruit and the Service booblet.



Saint Marcellin Champagnat s.m.



The year the French Revolution began in 1789, a child was born in Le Rosey, near Lyons, France. The day was May 20th; he was to become a saint. He was the ninth child of a farmer who taught him to build in stone and to roof a shed. His mother and aunt gave him a firm foundation in faith and holiness. The child's name was Marcellin Champagnat.

He became a priest and within months he had founded the Marist Brothers. Concern for the education in faith of young people led Marcellin to recruit his "Brothers."

Key dates:

1769	20 May	Birth
1816	22 July	Ordained a Priest
1817	2 January	Foundation of Order of Marist Brothers
1817	30 March	Brothers placed under the protection of Mary
1851	20 June	Legal recognition of the Marist Brothers by the French Govt.
1955	29 May	Beatified by Pope Pius XII
1999	18 April	Canonised at the Vatican, by Pope John Paul II

SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT'S FIRST CLASS RELIC IS EMBEDDED IN OUR ALTAR AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH.

2017 MARKS THE 200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ORDER OF MARIST BROTHERS, BY SAINT MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT.

In Auckland we have three colleges which are owned by the Marist Brothers: Marcellin College, St. Paul's College and Sacred Heart College.

Supporting the work of the Salesians in Bangalore Province, India

On the 19th of March, Fr. Antony Vailatt SDB, visited our parish to share about the work of the Salesian Society in Bangalore, India. After concelebrating the 10.00 Mass, Fr Antony presented to a group of parishioners the work the Salesians are currently involved in: sheltering, feeding and educating children in their orphanages, running a seminary and providing homes for the homeless.

As there is now a contact in New Zealand, monetary donations can be deposited into a New Zealand bank account and receipts for tax refunds provided. The New Zealand contact is Fr. James Adayadiel SDB who resides at St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Church at 2134 Great North Road or P.O. Box 19207 Avondale, Auckland, 1746. MOB: 021 295 9745 or by email: adayadiel@gmail.com

Our last Parish Priest, Fr. Raphael Lobo, was a Salesian Priest from this order in India.



Youth for Christ Report

*By Ging & Red Encabo, Gigi & Rennel Bulay
(St Mark's CFC - Youth for Christ Coordinators)*

Last 29 January 2017 at 10.00 am Mass, we saw about 20 youth leading the community in singing during Mass. It was a memorable day as it was Fr. Carlo's last Mass at St Mark's before moving to Kaitaia. Most of these youth were the same youth who presented a dance number during Fr. Carlo's farewell celebration. A few weeks after, our youth had their second St Mark's Youth Gathering for the year last Friday, 10 February. There were 58 youth and another one, Fr. Austin, who gathered to praise God through music and share their experiences with God through their Household group. It was awesome to see a group of young people in the band, playing lead guitar, bass, keyboard & drums. These young people must be preparing and practicing a number of times to lead the youth in praise and worship through songs. What a wonderful way to end the week, especially for the youth who just started the school year. That night we also said our farewell to JP Guiang as St Mark's CFC - Youth for Christ leader as he tackles a new role in Youth for Christ and St Mark's Parish Council. We also welcome Patrick Iyog as JP's replacement and Angela Lopez as Eitienne's replacement. Both Patrick & Angela had been serving in the youth ministry at St. Mark's since 2010. We thank JP & Etienne for their selfless service to our community for more than 5 years as leaders.

The youth activities did not stop there, as 13 young girls gathered last Sunday, 12 February to listen to Emma Sullivan's reflections and sharing on a very interesting topic - LOVE. Thanks Emma for the wonderful time, that you as girls shared together, considering this month we are celebrating Valentine's Day. The week after, 17 February, about 15 youth gathered once again to practice for the choir service for the 19 February 2017 6:30pm Mass. There were 30 youth who led the St. Mark's community in singing to glorify God as their expression of thanks to all the wonderful things that they receive from God. It was a wonderful way to end the weekend for most of these youth which somehow prepares them for another week in school.

But youth activities during the weekend of 17-19 February was not focused on Choir service only. We had about 5 household groups that gathered in homes, supervised by Youth Parents/Coordinators, sharing their life journey in Christ. In CFC - Youth for Christ Program, each youth is assigned to a group called a household. The household is a support group for the youth to help one another in their faith journey and with the challenges that our youth face today. Youth Parent Coordinators will be there to guide and support them as well. Each household is composed of 6-10 members. Of those 5 households that met during the weekend, 3 groups were males and 2 groups were females. Please read article "A Life in a Household" by Lance Encabo on page 17.

We would like to continue to encourage our youth to participate in the life of our community and inspire them to share their God given talents. We also would like to request the youth parents to help us in our journey to encourage our youth. Without your support, it would be impossible for us to continue this ministry in our community.



Celebrating a Fine Century *and Devotion to God*

Good health and being as sharp as a tack belies the age of a centenarian who astounds all those who meet her. Rosemary (Rose) Boyer celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday January 15 and a highlight was making her way to the front of the congregation at St Mark's Catholic Church. In front of the crowd, Mrs Boyer revelled in the singing of Happy Birthday, and a special blessing and big hug from Father Emile.

Mrs Boyer now lives at Ambridge Rose Manor in Pakuranga and the staff love her company and stories. Her long life started when John and Mary Collins welcomed their daughter into the world at Mosman, Sydney in 1917, *and into the Catholic Church.*

When Rose was 10 the family moved to Suva in Fiji, *her father's birth place.* "It was the Great Depression and my father lost his job in Sydney and he thought if he went back to Fiji he could easily get a job, which he did ." Rose went to a Catholic convent girls' school, St Joseph de Cluny with about 100 students. "There were about 20 girls in a class and we had good teachers because they came from Ireland or England. "I always liked arithmetic and geography but I didn't excel in English."



Above: a gorgeous photograph of the very young Rose Collins.

Her storytelling ability has not been affected by her perceived underperformance in English. The family never had a car and Rose and her two sisters walked to and from school every day. The girls had chores, including sweeping and dusting the house every morning before school. There were no work saving devices and brooms were the only implements used for the job. Life was good for the teenagers in Fiji and they spent their free time playing tennis and fishing with their father in a little rowing boat. Large kingfish were often served for the family dinner.

One sister is still alive at the spritely age of 97 and she lives in Havelock North and the other sister died at the age of 93. Some of the older parishioners may remember Mary Thomas, Rose's older sister who was a member of the St Mark's Parish from the time she moved to Pakuranga around 1968, until her death in 2006 at the age of 93.



Right: Rose and Jim on their Wedding Day in 1942.



Above: Rose, with Fr Emile and her son James, is congratulated by the parishioners at 8.30 am Mass.

Rose's first job was as a bookkeeper for Sir Henry Scott, a significant political and legal identity. "There was a large ledger and everything had to be handwritten and balanced every month." The Collins sisters didn't discover boys until they left school and Rose met her future husband at the local church social group - over ping pong, housie, and euchre and bridge card games.

In 1942, Rose and James (Jim) Boyer were married and the couple had to make do during war times. "I couldn't have a bridal gown because you couldn't get any veils or dresses with the war on," Mrs Boyer says. "The men wore white because it was too hot for black suits in Fiji." Mr Boyer served in the Fijian army, protecting the home front from a worrying potential invasion by the Japanese. Mrs Boyer remembers rushing to put the company's precious books in the safe when there was a warning about a Japanese attack.

In 1942, Rose and James (Jim) Boyer were married and the couple had to make do during war times. "I couldn't have a bridal gown because you couldn't get any veils or dresses with the war on," Mrs Boyer says. "The men wore white because it was too hot for black suits in Fiji." Mr Boyer served in the Fijian army, protecting the home front from a worrying potential invasion by the Japanese. Mrs Boyer remembers rushing to put the company's precious books in the safe when there was a warning about a Japanese attack.

We consider ourselves so very fortunate that we have gotten to know Rose over the past 6 years as we have served her Holy Communion each week at the Ambridge Rose Manor Rest Home. We enjoy and look forward to our weekly visits with Rose when we discuss many topics of interest including local and national politics, community events, our different experiences in the Pacific and learning of her early life and hardworking years.

It is hard not to be impressed with her sharp mind and her total enjoyment of completing massive complicated jig saw puzzles. Rose is an inspiration with her positive and determined attitude and her very deep commitment to the Catholic faith.



Above: Rose, seated between Tiana and Kurt Meyer.

It is difficult to accept that Rose is 100 years of age because of the amazing energy that she continually displays coupled with her bright and happy personality. Her smiling welcome gives us a lift and we consider ourselves blessed to have come to know Rose and to be able to spend time with her each week.

Kurt and Tiana Meyer



The couple had their first child in 1943, a baby girl Mary, who died at five weeks. They had four more children and it was quite tough for mums then. Nappies were washed with scrubbing brushes and wash boards, which demanded a daily 5am start. Mrs Boyer did most things by herself with some help from her mum, and her father walked the babies every Sunday while Mrs Boyer attended church.



Above: Rose holding her youngest great-great grandchild, Madeline Rose.

Mr Boyer worked in a well-known grocery business, Burns, Philp and Mrs Boyer started a Christmas cake business to supplement the family income. Each year, cooking started in the home kitchen in September and the small oven could only handle one to two cakes at a time. Asbestos mats were in the bottom of every cake tin and not one ever burned. In the last year of production, Mrs Boyer made 1,100 cakes.

In 1959, after several years of managing Fiji's Sigatoka hotel, the family moved to New Zealand for the boys' schooling and the Boyers bought the dairy across the road from Otahuhu College and called it Jim's Tuck Shop. They regularly sold super-thick milkshakes to a young David Lange who was a student at the school. They owned and operated the dairy for 18 years and lived behind it, developing flats that are still there today. *Rose and her husband Jim's special Saint throughout their married life was St Joseph and they were delighted when they moved to Otahuhu and found their local Church was devoted to St Joseph.*

Right: The card from Queen Elizabeth II suitably framed.



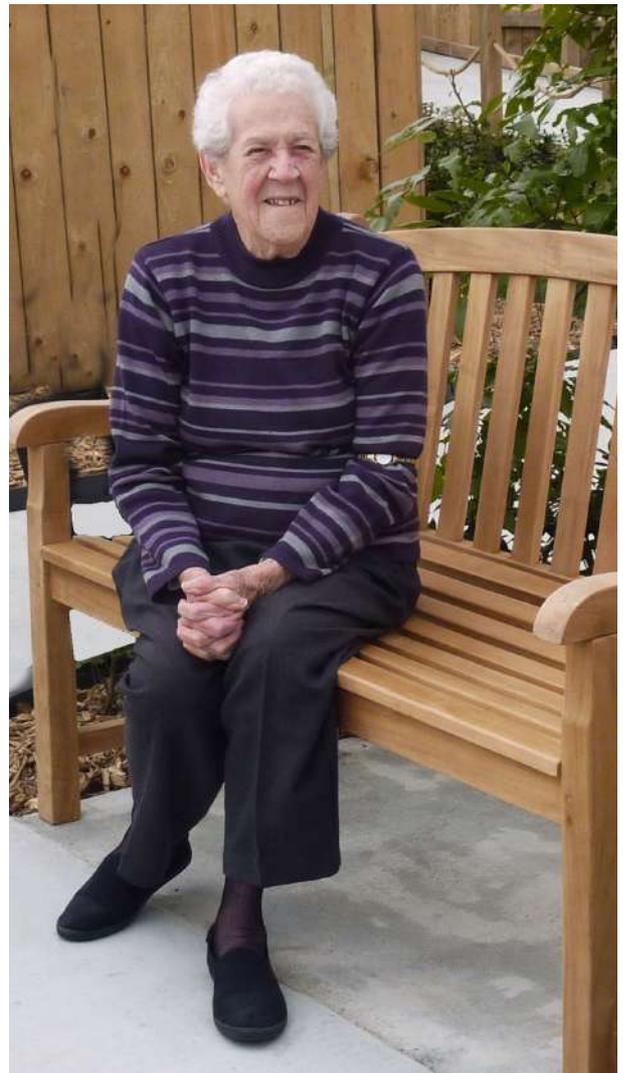


Above: Rose surrounded by her family.

In 1977, Mr Boyer died and Mrs Boyer spent time with family living in various locations in the greater Auckland region. At the age of 60 she surprised her family by taking driving lessons and eventually obtaining her driving license for the first time. In 2002, she moved with her daughter to Abercrombie Street, Howick.

.....Her weekly routine includes shopping, library trips, going out to restaurants and for coffee with her family and attending St Mark's Catholic Church....

At age 95, on the 12 of December, 2012, Mrs Boyer moved into Ambridge Rose Manor. She was delighted that shortly after settling in there, she was visited by the late Annette Shanaghan from St Marks Church, who gave her Communion at the retirement home weekly. Although she is still able to attend 8.30 am Mass on most Sundays with her son James,



Above: Rose at the opening of Ambridge Garden.

Rose considers the opportunity of being able to receive Communion at Ambridge a very special part of her week, and is very grateful to Kurt Meyer, his wife Tiana and Pricilla and her delightful group, who share the weekly service and have continued with these weekly visits. The social interaction is also something she really enjoys. Her weekly routine includes shopping, library trips, going out to restaurants and for coffee with her family and attending St Mark's Catholic Church.



Right: Rose cutting the Centenary Birthday Cake

Since moving to Ambridge Rose she has kept a strict daily routine which she attributes to her continuing to remain alert and interested in the world around her. Her day begins at 6.00 am and after preparing herself for the day, she enjoys time for contemplative prayer before breakfast.

She enjoys keeping up with world events through news programmes on the television, views the occasional 'soap' and is still an avid reader. Afternoons are spent completing 1000 piece jigsaws.

At her 100th birthday party the family celebrated her great age and accomplishment of five children, 11 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. The youngest of her great-great grandchildren, Madeline Rose, was born on the 5th of January this year.



The St Mark's Parish Centre provided a perfect venue for the event, attended by around 60 family, friends and staff from Ambridge Rose Manor. Rose chose a chocolate mudcake for both her celebratory cake in the afternoon and for the cake she shared with her fellow-residents back at Ambridge Rose.

Messages from Queen Elizabeth, New Zealand's Governor General and various government ministers were well-received. Mrs Boyer is still waiting for a card from the Prime Minister but maybe he can be forgiven as he only started his new job just before Christmas.

*This article is by permission of the Editor of the **Howick and Pakuranga Times** newspaper along with added information (in italics) and photographs from the family.*



Above: The beautiful Birthday Cake for Rose.



Amirtha and John Francis



Helen and Bosco Pereira



Olu and Kyle De Rozario



***Wedding Anniversary Mass
January 2017***

Shown on this page are some of the couples who celebrated their Wedding Anniversary in January. These Masses are celebrated on Wednesday evenings at 7.00 pm each month. If you would like to attend and have not been contacted, please call either Hazel on 576 7692 or Yasmina on 533 3107.



Ryan and Joanne Van Heerden



Lindsay and Lorraine Stanfield



Be the Light of the World and the Salt of the Earth

By Fr. Austin Fernandes

In Greek mythology there is a beautiful story of a young man named Narcissus. He was so proud of his beauty that he was cold and indifferent to the young ladies who loved him. The gods were angry with him because of his attitude and so punished him by forcing him to love his own reflection in a fountain. He was obsessed by his own reflection. He desired and longed for it. Narcissus could not leave the fountain and was changed into a flower that bears his name.

This story tells us something about ourselves. We are all created in the image and likeness of God. We are at the apex of God's creation. Our life is a gift from God. A gift ceases to be a gift unless it is shared. Our lives are not about us alone. God has put us in this world at this particular time not merely to fall in love with our own beauty, our gifts of nature and grace, our intelligence and freedom, our faith, hope and love but to go out and share these with others.

In the Gospels, Jesus tells his disciples and us that we are the salt of the earth; we are the light of the world. These two images have something in common. On their own they cannot do anything. Salt is salt and light is light. Salt when added to food makes the food tasty. Light when it illuminates help us to find things or find our way. Salt and light are there for others. In a simple way Jesus is telling us that from the church to the world, from the sanctuary to the city, from the sacred music of the liturgy to the screams of pain and sufferings of the world our task is to permeate slowly and steadily by being the light of the world and the salt of the earth with what Jesus called, 'our good works.'

The demands that Jesus places are quite challenging. It is listed in the Book of Isaiah; share your bread with the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked. In some way or the other we all do that in our own little ways. The question that always pops up in our minds is, how much we can give, how far we can take this. Each one will have to discern and decide for themselves.

The key to this discernment and decision is to realise how graced and gifted we are, how much has been given to us by a loving Lord, to contemplate on the Cross and the mystery that we celebrate at every Mass. Christ completely emptied himself on the cross. He did not hold anything

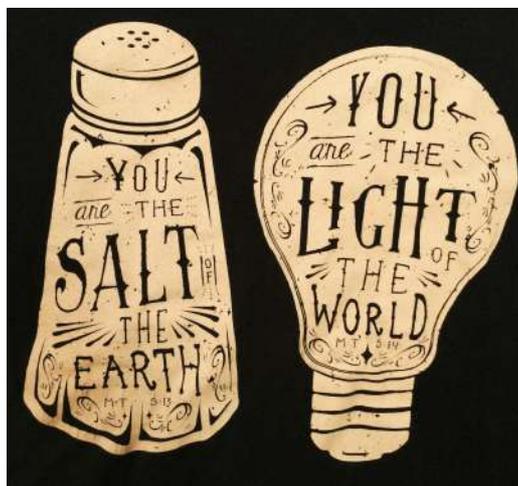


Image from Lifeteen

back. Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends. At every Mass He gives us His Body, 'Take this and eat of it,' He says. And when we receive the Body of Christ we unite ourselves with Him. Nourished and graced by the Sacrament we in turn become the body of Christ for the world. What we have freely received we need to freely give.

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile. We make a living with what we get but we make a life by what we give. In fuller awareness of our Christian mission, let us then resolve to be the true salt of the earth and the true light of the world.



St Mark's Youth Gathering - A Life in a Household.

10 February 2017

By Lance Encabo (Sacred Heart College)

On the 10th of February, the St. Mark's Youth for Christ group of our parish gathered on a bright Friday evening for our monthly Chapter Prayer Assembly (CPA). This was not the first CPA of the year. We had one earlier in the year in the first week of January. However, a few like myself were unable to attend as we were still on holiday.

This CPA was not like any other; it was one where we laid the groundwork for the year. I was also very surprised with the turnout, with over 60-70 youths attending, and nearly 40 of them being brothers (respect boys!). We started off the night with some opening remarks, welcoming everyone and explaining what we would do that evening. We then proceeded to teaching of songs, where we taught everyone two new songs, which we would use in our worship later on in the night.

From there, we then announced the changes that would happen in our chapter. We farewelled our stalwart Chapter head JP Guiang, as he was appointed the new cluster head for Cluster 1, meaning he would not only have to lead our group (East), but he would also be responsible for Central and South chapter. We also congratulated Patrick Iyog for being appointed our Chapter Head, and we wished JP and Patrick all the best in their new roles. We then had worship, where we sang songs and praised our Lord while the band was playing music. We thanked Ito Magbag for leading this worship.

Our youth group has little groups, which we call "households" where 6-8 brothers or 6-8 sisters get together once a month to pray, read the bible and have fellowship. This CPA we introduced households to everyone, and our ex-Chapter Head JP led this session entitled "What is a household?" where he explained what households were. JP then announced the households for the year. Once we got into our little groups, we went into our own part of the parish where we would have our first little household meeting. We talked about the highs and lows of our week, our prayer life, highlights of the holidays, and organised when our next household would be.



Once our mini households were finished, we went into the Parish Centre for some announcements about our big events during the year, especially our Oceania Youth Conference in Wellington this July. We hope you can get behind us in our fundraising efforts and join us for our exciting dance concert this 29th April! You will hear more about this when we announce it during the Masses. Once we finished all of our announcements, we ended the night with a closing prayer and grace, before we got into the main event, the food. After a long night, where I'm sure many of us were very hungry by the end, we had a hearty meal at the end which I'm sure all enjoyed.

For the final item of the night, a few of the boys from Sacred Heart performed the school haka, as our farewell for outgoing chapter head JP. I was honoured to lead the haka, and I thank the boys for doing such a stirring haka when we only planned it 20 minutes before. Thank you to all the youths for attending this CPA. I hope I get to see all of you again at our next CPA! Till next time!

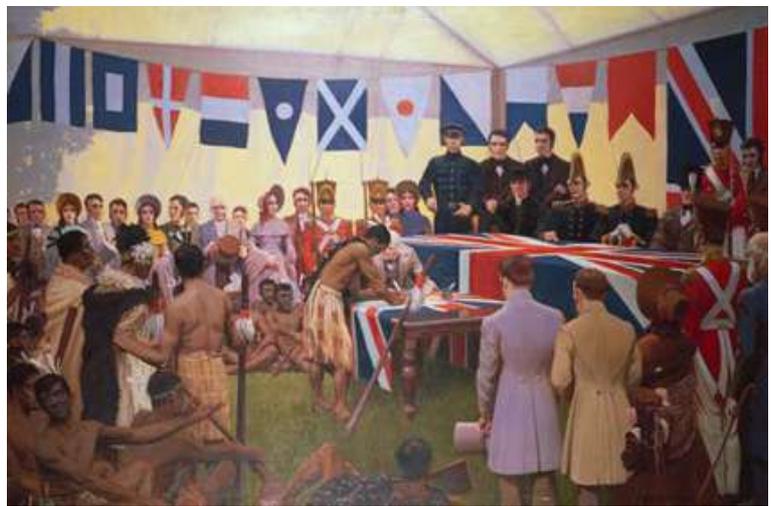


Homily from Mass at St. Mark's on Waitangi Day

by Fr. Austin Fernandes

In the late 1830s British migrants came to New Zealand to settle here. The Maoris were generous enough and were willing to share their possessions with these early settlers. Lieutenant Governor William Hobson had the task of securing British sovereignty over New Zealand. He took the help and advice of James Busby a British Resident in New Zealand and the Treaty was prepared in just a few days. Missionary Henry Williams and his son Edward translated the English draft into Maori overnight on the 4th of Feb. The Treaty is a broad statement of principles on which the British and Maori made a political compact to found a nation state and build a government in New Zealand.

But there were discrepancies in the Maori and the English version of the Treaty. In the English version, Maori concede the sovereignty of New Zealand to Britain; Maori give the Crown an exclusive right to buy lands they wish to sell, and in return, are guaranteed full rights of ownership of their lands, forests, fisheries and other possessions; and Maori are given the rights and privileges of British subjects. In the Maori version the word 'sovereignty' was translated as 'kawanatanga' - meaning governance. The English version guaranteed 'undisturbed possession' of all their 'properties' but Maori version guaranteed 'tino rangatiratanga' meaning 'full authority' over 'taonga' - treasures which may be intangible. Hobson and others stressed the Treaty's benefits while playing down the effects of British sovereignty. About 500 Maori debated the document for a day and night before it was signed on 6 Feb 1840.



Our first reading today describes the outpouring of the Spirit. When the Spirit of God touches our hearts it removes all the hardness and bitterness in our hearts. A healing process begins. The Spirit of God softens our hearts and makes them receptive in a way that from it mercy, compassion and forgiveness flows. These Godly attributes allow fair judgement to prevail in the land, in the society that we live. The effects of which bring about peace and security for all. This is what happened when God poured out His Spirit on the land of New Zealand.

Over 130 years, different understandings of the Treaty have long been the subject of debate. From the 1970s many Maoris came together and called for the terms of the Treaty to be honoured. In 1975 a commission was set up called the Waitangi Tribunal to look into the alleged breaches of the Treaty by the Crown. To date, more than 2000 claims have been lodged with the tribunal and a number of major settlements have been reached. May the Spirit of God be active in our lives and also among our leaders who govern our country and may we respond generously so that peace, security, uprightness and justice prevail.



The Treaty for All of Us

by Deacon Chris Sullivan

Waitangi Treaty educator Dr Susan Healy gave a wonderful workshop on the Treaty of Waitangi to a group of 35 parishioners after Mass on Sunday 12 February. She was introduced by Fr Emile who concluded the workshop with a prayer and blessing of the food enjoyed as a shared lunch.

When the European settlers arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand in the 18th and 19th centuries, they were welcomed by the Maori people, the tangata whenua (people of the land). Maori have always been very spiritual and they welcomed the Christian faith introduced by the missionaries. The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of our country. Our Catholic Bishops have described it as a sacred and binding covenant between Maori and the Crown, which we all have a duty to uphold.

Susan explained the history of the treaty, the earlier declaration of independence by the Maori tribes, the concern of Maori that there needed to be a government to make sure that the rule of law was respected by all, and the desire of the British Crown to have an agreement with the Maori tribes to establish such a government. The Treaty guaranteed Maori the continued possession of their lands and waters.



There were two versions of the Treaty, one in English and one in Maori, and there are significant differences between them. In the Maori version, the tribes did not give up their sovereignty (tino rangatiratanga) to the British but did accept British governorship. Bishop Pompallier wrote in his diary that Maori "had not the slightest intention of ceding their sovereignty." Bishop Pompallier, the first Catholic Bishop of our country, attended the treaty discussions at Waitangi. He advised Maori to be very careful to make sure that the treaty would really protect Maori interests and he secured a verbal agreement from the British governor Hobson that granted religious freedom in this country. It is to the Treaty that we owe our freedom of worship today!

Susan explained that the British had good intentions in signing the Treaty but that later governments and settlers had not always respected the Treaty provisions which guaranteed Maori rights. Fortunately, recent governments have understood these problems and moved to address them by writing the principles of the Treaty into law and by a process of settlements with Maori to provide some acknowledgment of past injustices done to Maori and some redress for land which was unfairly taken from Maori.

Parishioners helped Susan to role-play the signing of the Treaty with Rosa Chow, two children and a parishioner representing the Maori; Peter Garrick and Peter Hundleby representing the British; and Fr Austin representing Bishop Pompallier. The workshop concluded with singing the beautiful Maori hymn "Mo Maria" composed by Bishop Pompallier and parishioners continued the discussion over a shared lunch. The parish Justice and Peace Group thanks all those who attended and especially Andrea Petch and her family who organised the workshop and Dr Susan Healy who presented it so wonderfully. For more information, please visit the Treaty Resource Centre www.trc.org.nz



THE TREATY OF WAITANGI:

**A literal English translation of the Maori Text
Signed at Waitangi February 1840
and afterwards by about 500 Chiefs**

Victoria, the Queen of England, in her concern to protect the chiefs and subtribes of New Zealand and in her desire to preserve their chieftainship and their lands to them and to maintain peace and good order considers it just to appoint an administrator one who will negotiate with the people of New Zealand to the end that their chiefs will agree to the Queen's Government being established over all parts of this land and (adjoining) islands and also because there are many of her subjects already living on this land and others yet to come.

So the Queen desires to establish a government so that no evil will come to Maori and European living in a state of lawlessness. So the Queen and (those) to be received hereafter and presents to the chiefs of the Confederation chiefs of the subtribes of New Zealand and other chiefs these laws set out here.

THIS IS THE FIRST:

The Chiefs of the Confederation and all the Chiefs who have not joined that Confederation give absolutely to the Queen of England for ever the complete Government (Kawanatanga) over their lands.

THIS IS THE SECOND:

The Queen of England agrees to protect the Chiefs, the subtribes and all the people of New Zealand in the unqualified exercise of their chieftainship (rangatiratanga) over their lands, villages and all their treasures (taonga). But on the other hand the Chiefs of the Confederation and all the Chiefs will sell land to the Queen at a price agreed to by the person owning it and by the person buying it (the latter being) appointed by the Queen as her purchase agent.



THIS IS THE THIRD:

For this agreed arrangement therefore concerning the Government of the Queen, the Queen of England will protect all the ordinary people of New Zealand and will give them the same rights and duties of citizenship as the people of England.

(Signed) WILLIAM HOBSON
Consul and Lieutenant-Governor

So we, the Chiefs of the Confederation and of the Subtribes of New Zealand meeting here at Waitangi having seen the shape of these words which we accept and agree to record our names and our marks thuse. Was done on the sixth of February in the Year of our Lord 1840.

THE IS THE FOURTH ARTICLE:

Two Churchmen, the Catholic Bishop Pompallier and the Anglican Missionary William Colenso, recorded a discussion on what we would call religious freedom and customary law in answer to a direct question from Pompallier, Hobson agreed to the following statement. It was read to the meeting before any of the Chiefs had signed the Treaty.

E mea ana te Kawana ko nga whakapono katoa o Ingarani, o nga Weteriana, o Roma, me te ritenga Maori hoki a tiakina ngatahitia e ia.

Translation:

The Governor says that the several faiths of England of the Wesleyans, of Rome and also Maori custom shall alike be protected by him.

Produced by Treaty Resource Centre, 2007.

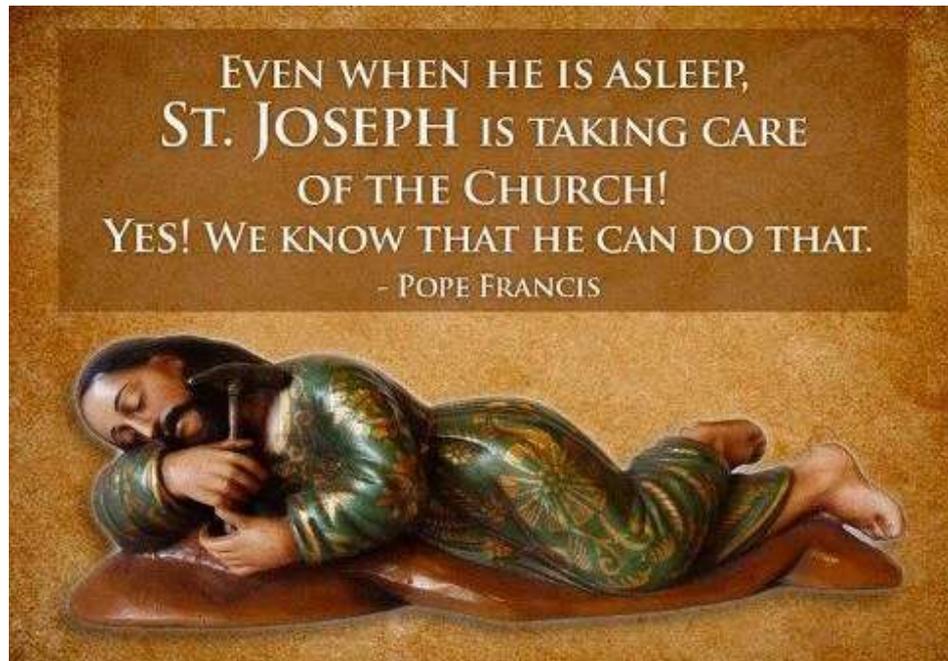


St Joseph the Protector

By Bridget Taumoepeau

Pope Francis has always told us of his devotion to St Joseph. He has a statue of the sleeping St Joseph, to whom he offers petitions, reminding us that God came to St Joseph, a humble and faithful man, in dreams, while he was sleeping.

The Pope's inauguration occurred on March 19th, 2013, the feast of St Joseph, and on that occasion his homily was devoted to the person of St Joseph, especially in his role as a protector - of Mary, Jesus and the church. Francis referred to the importance of all of us being protectors, especially if we are in roles of responsibility. Although we did not know it at the time, this homily foreshadowed much of what was to come in his pontificate. He alerts us to being protectors of creation; to the dangers of hatred, envy and pride; the responsibility of power; the importance of never being afraid of goodness and tenderness.



In referring to his own role as the Successor of Peter, he tells us that authentic power is service and that he, as Pope, should be inspired by the lowly and faithful service that marked St Joseph. That he must open his arms like St Joseph to protect all of God's people, especially the poorest, weakest and the least important, serving with love those St Matthew lists in the final judgement on love.

On May 1st of the same year, the Congregation for Divine Worship issued a directive, *Paternas Vices*, with the authority of the Pope, stating that the name of St Joseph, as in 'Joseph, her spouse,' be included in each Eucharistic Prayer (not just the first as previously), after the name of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Again we are given an indication of how important St Joseph is to the Pope and to the life of the church.

On reflection, this may have been a sign of the Pope's thoughts about the subject for the Synod he was planning - on the Family. St Joseph, who accepted, protected and loved Mary, in what must have been the hardest of times for him; who led the family away from the persecution of Herod; who took on the role of father; who searched for the lost child Jesus; who taught Jesus the skills of carpentry. St Joseph the protector - the loving family man.

In this month of March, when we celebrate St Joseph's feast day, let us pray that we too will be protectors of all - creation, all whom we meet, but especially of our families - so precious to St Joseph and to Pope Francis.

(Printed with permission from the Editor of the Marist Messenger)



St. Joseph's statue on the sanctuary.

The Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This Feast day was a Concelebrated Mass at St. Mark's Parish by our two Priests. St. Joseph's Day is 'the' Feast day of the Mill Hill Order.

About 100 parishioners joined together for this Mass and Cheryl Chan played the organ with a very special St. Joseph hymn at the end of Mass.

A celebration followed at the Homestead Café, which about 15 parishioners enjoyed. The New Zealand promoter of St. Joseph Prayer Groups was the honoured guest of the day. She is Judy Chandler Jones of Waikanae, and was a guest of Evelyn Gillen.



*Above: Some of the members of the St. Joseph prayer group of St. Mark's Parish
(From the left: John and Teresa Wong, Niran Iskandar, Judy Chandler Jones - the N.Z. Promoter of St. Joseph Prayer Groups and Evelyn Gillen).*



Left: Judy Chandler Jones cuts the beautiful St. Joseph Feast Day cake.



FAMILY TRIP 2016

By James Bulay and his Bulay Brothers

December 2016 was a very memorable time for us. We were blessed to travel as a family to Israel and we were unsure of what to expect. The trip to Israel was a wonderful experience, learning many things and taking in so many facts. The trip made the Holy Scriptures alive upon reading and when listening to the Liturgy of the Word during Mass. The ability to better understand where things happened, having a better idea of what it looked like, what it felt like and what it smelt like makes the experience unforgettable. We also tasted the local food, like unleavened bread, hyssop, shawarma and pizza. This experience made listening to the word of God during Mass becomes more meaningful.



Luke and James Bulay touch the place where Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

We had a two-day experience in Israel where we visited cities like Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth and Capernaum. The places had very amazing sites to see with a lot of things to do with Jesus. The first place we visited was Bethlehem. Our family travelled for about two hours from Haifa, where our cruise ship docked. We were picked up by a local guide who drove us to the border of the West Bank. This was the border between Israel and Palestinian Territory. We had to meet a local Palestinian guide to take us into Bethlehem who showed us where Jesus was born. We were able to see the place where Our Lady gave birth to Jesus. Surprisingly, it did not turn out to be a manger inside a barn but a manger inside a cave. The guide took us to touch the traditionally known spot where Jesus was born.

After Bethlehem, the Palestinian guide drove us back to the border of Israeli & Palestinian Territory to meet with the Israeli guide. She then took us to Jerusalem to see the Mount of Olives and Garden of Gethsemane. The guide told us some of the history of the walled city of Jerusalem and explained to us the significance of this city and the term "Stone of Foundation".



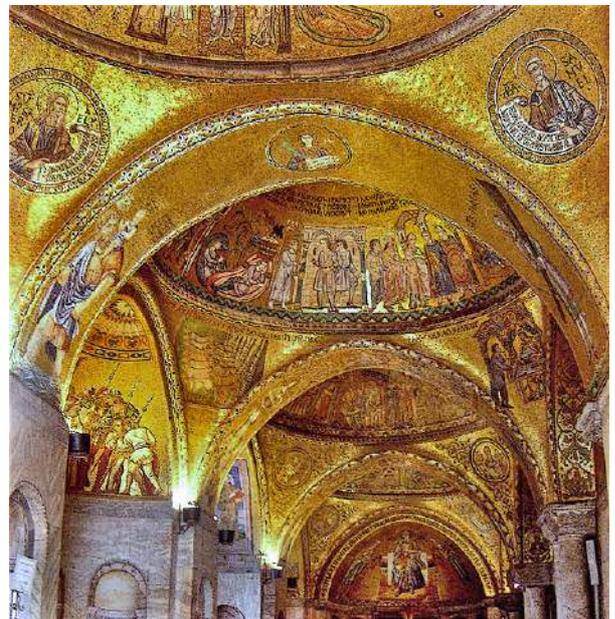
Garden of Gethsemane where the 4 Evangelists were holding the Gospel at the front of the church. The four boys were named after these 4 Evangelist: Ezekiel Mark, John, James Matthew & Luke.... four boys portraying their Patron Saint.



Jerusalem has a very rich historical and traditional background where the three major faiths (Jewish, Islam and Christian) meet together. For the Jews, it is believed to be the place where Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac to God. While in Islam tradition, it is the place where the angel Gabriel took Muhammad to while he slept near the Kaaba in Mecca. From the Stone, Muhammad journeyed to heaven and met Christ with other Prophets like Moses. For Christians, this Stone of Foundation is the place where Jesus was crucified and buried. It is also a traditional belief by the locals that Adam, the first person created by God was buried in this place.

Aside from the Stone of Foundation / Church of the Holy Sepulchre, in Jerusalem, the memorable places we visited were Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Mount Zion, Room of the Last Supper, Jaffa Gate, Via Dolorosa, Western Wall, Arab Souk and Christian and Jewish Quarters. In The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, we learned that the place was divided into four sections and occupied by four religious groups. We visited all these places on the first day.

For the second day, we went to Galilee Shore, Nazareth, Cana, Jordan River, Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes and the Sea of Galilee. We were able to visit the place where Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was going to have a baby and had to name him Jesus. We then visited the Mount of Beatitudes. One of the most interesting places is the Capernaum. The guide showed us the place where Jesus performed a lot of miracles and explained to us how the paralytic man was brought down from the roof by his friend so Jesus could heal him. It is also interesting to see Simon Peter's house and surprisingly, the locals believe that he came from a rich family based on how his home was built.



Mosaics inside St. Mark's Basilica, Venice.

Aside from Israel, we also had a chance to visit St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, Italy. It's so amazing how the wall, ceiling and floor of the Basilica were decorated by mosaics. We also had the opportunity to visit the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. It was the most unforgettable experience for me, James, as I was able to see Pope Francis in person and have the opportunity to have been blessed by him by laying his hands on my forehead - the Filipino way. The journey was inspirational, educational and spiritually fulfilling. December 2016 was a very memorable time for us.



St. Peter's Square, Rome with St. Peter's Basilica in the centre.



*Happy Birthday
to you, Happy
Birthday to you.....*

Above: Happy Birthday was sung in several languages including Dutch. This group's rendition was in Malay.

*Happy Birthday
Fr. Emile*



On 19th January 2017, after morning Mass, many parishioners gathered in the parish centre to wish Fr. Emile a very happy birthday. Theresa and John Wong organised the event with good food, two birthday cakes and performances from the Chinese group.



Above: Led by the 'Arindaos Trio' a group of our community sing 'Happy Birthday' to Fr Emile in Spanish.

Right: The Chinese Performance Group is pictured with Fr. Emile.





On 8 January 2017, we celebrated the baptism of Kendria Kyra Gounder. She is the granddaughter of Denise and Gary Ryan. In the front of the photograph are the parents, Alicia Ryan and Karuna Gounder, while behind Gary, Denise and Fr Emile are the Godparents, Andrea Pillay and Tyrone Ryan.

Baptisms at St. Mark's



Above: On the left is Steven, Maria and baby Anjile Delposo Smith while on the right of Fr. Emile (who baptised these children on the 5th of March 2017) are Ariana, daughter of Jennifer and Troy Loane.



Above: Olympia, daughter of Ava (mother) and Marcin (father) Duda was baptised on Sunday 5 February 2017.



Alonzo, son of Ryan and Ma. Genette Bautista was baptised on 12 March 2017.





LifeTeen 2017: 'UNFINISHED'

by Grace Sih

Camp started with a challenge, presented by our wonderful host, Stephen Estes. The challenge he set was drawn from the gospel of Luke, Chapter 5, verse 4, where it says, "Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Peter, who was a successful fisherman, hadn't been able to catch any fish that day and yet this man Jesus, who had never fished in his life was telling him where to put out his net. This story reminds us that even though we think we know everything about something, that it is God who knows what's best. He knows the plans he has for you and he challenges you to keep persevering, as his work in you is unfinished.

Over the course of the week we were whisked on a journey with Peter the apostle. We did this through a type of prayer called 'Lectio Divina' where we prayed through the scriptures. As we dove into the topics of God's unfinished mercy, love and knowledge we found ourselves falling deeper into the abyss that is the love of Christ.



From Christ being the God who stands with us on the boat in the middle of a raging storm, to Christ being the God who created the stars and is fighting for our hearts, to Christ being the God who loves us unconditionally, wholly and infinitely even if we are not ready to love him yet. We find the God who is not someone distant or faraway but lives in us and walks with us not only in our happiest moments but also through our suffering. This truly was an incredible and unforgettable journey that I will never forget.

Everyone who has ever attended a LifeTeen camp will tell you that it is never complete without...MESSY GAMES. The afternoon was filled with a seemingly simple task, to get as many people covered with mud, soap and scum as possible. Playing human battleship, duck duck goose with flour, tug of war in a pool of mud, having a shaving foam war and of course sliding down the much loved water slide, are only some of the nightmarish activities we did (right, parents?). But all in all, it was an amazing afternoon spent with some of my favourite people in the world, especially because I was able to throw mud on their faces and pour bottles of soap onto their heads!

There are so many memories and moments I've collected from attending LifeTeen camp, that it would be impossible to fit them all in here in less than 500 words, but I have been so privileged to have been able to experience Christ in such a unique and personal way, even more so with teens from our parish and from around the country who continue to inspire me with their passion and love for Christ. I'm so grateful to have found a family in this group and I know we will continue to throw our nets into the deep for a catch and bring Christ's love to full expression in us. Thank you all for your continuous love and support. It means the world to us.



Report on Family Violence Workshop

Following her attendance at the 'Pacific Living Without Violence' course, 'Train the Trainer Workshop', on 17 September 2016, Rosa Chow organised a mini workshop to raise awareness of family violence, which took place at St. Mark's on 26 February 2017.

About 20 people attended the seminar. It started with some statistics that indicated the prevalence of family violence. This was followed by Justin Zeng from Manukau Police speaking on the definition of family violence and the signs, and Nikky Eruera from Victim Support on community resources available to help deal with the issues.

A lot of case examples were presented. The real significance of the workshop was active sharing of personal experience and discussion on views and management of relationship problems. Feedback was very positive with a clear indication that more talks of the kind should be organised.



Nikki and Justin answer questions from parishioners

Fundraising Chinese Dinner

by Rosa Chow

More than 150 parishioners and friends flooded the dining hall of Lucky Star Restaurant in Papatōetoe on 17 December 2016 to enjoy a fun-filled evening with scrumptious food. Games, auctions and lucky draws were on the menu too, but one of the highlights of the night was getting Fr. Carlo to sing.

The dinner was organised by the Parish Council to raise funds for the roof repair of the church. It raised about \$3000 and certainly a lot of eye-brows too as for days people kept talking about the event. We had God's blessings

in the first place and the generosity of everybody including the restaurant manager who delighted the party with his humour and efforts to boost bids in the auction.

The Parish Council is thankful to everyone who donated towards the party and who helped in every way to make the dinner a success.

Xie xie!



Young and old having drinking issues.



Parish Council Report

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St Marks,

The last few months over the Christmas/New Year period 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.

We organised and held the annual Volunteers' Christmas Party in December which again was a huge success. There were approximately 80 parishioners in attendance with a mixture of games, music, and food, and a fun and enjoyable time was had by all. We also organised and held a fitting party for Fr. Carlo's Farewell which again was attended by many and enjoyed by all. The highlight of the function was a fantastic dance put on by our youth. For Fr. Carlo, there were some great speeches and we certainly gave him a fitting farewell with that memorable cake!

The Roof Fundraising has also been a focus with several events held such as the Chinese Dinner which was a fantastic event overseen and arranged by one of council members in Rosa Chow. And as I write this newsletter update work has already commenced on the presbytery with other roof work planned to occur again soon. You will all note the first stage of the Columbarium taking shape and there has been a number of hours spent planning for its construction and uptake.

Both Health and Safety and Risk Management have continued to be a key focus for us we continue 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 asses; overseeing fire safety needs; and also youth safety.

Some of these initiatives will be known to parishioners as various signs go up around our buildings etc. and relative instructions are advised. We also expect to undertake some required fire drills in the not too distant future.

A reminder also please that we do have our Parish website fully functioning now which has been an initiative through our Parish Council and can be viewed at www.pakurangacatholic.org.nz.

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



The Columbarium area is fenced off.



The foundations have been dug out and concreted.



My Journey

by Heath O'Malley
Catechumen in 2017



I must say it has been a very long and rough journey to say the least, but it has been very worthwhile all the same. There have been lots of laughs, tears and sweat that have gone into building my faith, and I am very much grateful to the people who have gotten me this far.

My sponsor is the strongest person I have ever met, stubborn as an ox and has strong foundations in his faith. To me he is the greatest inspiration for me and my growing faith, and every day we find new ways to discuss and strengthen my faith in God. Although there have been times where I wasn't sure I would make it to the finish line, my sponsor promised me that he would drag me to the end if he had to, and to have someone like that in my life is perhaps the greatest gift the Lord has ever given me.

But not only thanks to my sponsor, but to my team that has been with me all the way. I love them so much and am so grateful to them. There are no words that could fully express how much I appreciate all the effort and time they have spared for me, and one day I would love to return the favour.

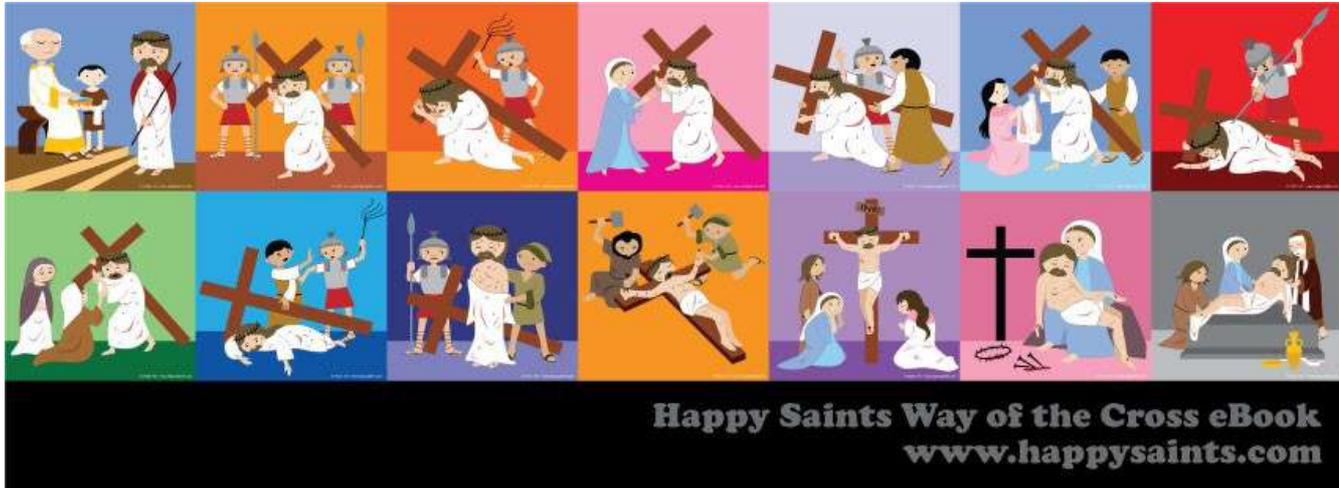
Thank you all who have supported me so far, and I love you all so much.

God Bless.



I am getting ready

I can change to live more like Jesus lived. I have 40 days to prepare for Easter by p_____, p_____ and a_____ . (Answer bottom of page 30)



These are the images for each of the STATIONS OF CROSS. These are also called THE WAY OF THE CROSS or the VIA CRUCIS. Have you prayed the Stations of the Cross before?

If you haven't, this would be a great way to prepare for Easter. There are many websites with a variety of different images and prayers. Choose one that touches you and share it with your family.

How about making a flax or palm frond Cross? Here are the instructions.....

- 1 Gently tear or snap off a palm blade off the palm stalk. The type of palm doesn't matter provided it bends easily; just test its give before snipping and keep testing until you find blades that are adequately flexible.
- 2 Hold the palm blade pointy side up.
- 3 Fold the blade to the right about halfway down to make a 90 degree angle.
- 4 Fold down once. Then, fold down again. You should now have a small square shape.
- 5 Push the pointy end around the back of the square and fold over.
- 6 Take the pointy end on the left, and loop it towards you without making any turns. Then, push then pull the pointy end through the square until it comes out of the square. Pull through all the way.
- 7 Hold onto the square with one hand and tug on the fat and pointed ends to secure it. You should now have a locked 90 degree angle.
- 8 Take the pointy end and turning it towards yourself, push through the square. This is the head and base of the cross.
- 9 Turn 90 degrees to where the pointy end is facing downward and the fat end is facing to your right.
- 10 Flip it so that the fat end is now on your left.
- 11 Take the fat end and loop it away from you into the square. Pull it until it reaches about the same length as the head.
- 12 Turn it over to where the straight fat end faces left again.
- 13 Take the fat end and loop it towards you back into the square. Pull until it is about the same length as the other two parts. Be sure to tuck it inside the other loop so that you can't see it. You're done!

