

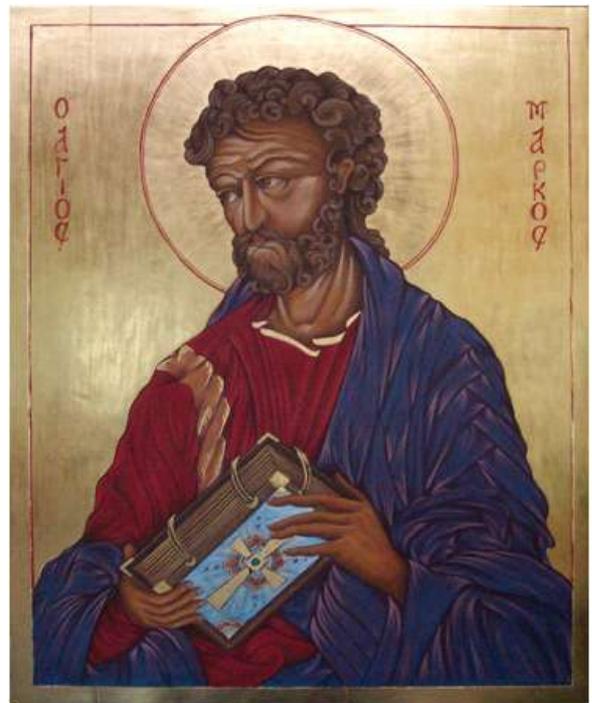


FOOTPRINTS

**Celebrating Fr. Austin's
1st Anniversary of
Priesthood - 16 July 2017**



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



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



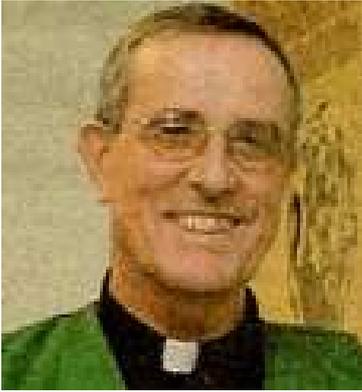
May - August 2017

Email: ourevangelist@gmail.com

**Online Edition:
<http://www.pakuranga.catholic.org.nz/footprints/>**



A Word from our Parish Priest



As we continue our journey through 2017, we will notice that another six months and we will be in 2018. Tempus fugit. Reflecting on the months since the last issue of Footprints, it has been such a wonderful celebration of Life. Jesus has given us constant reminders that He is there for us in every moment of every day. The Holy Week celebrations were so life-giving. Our Good Friday - most of the day was spent in Church. The Seven Last Words from the Cross truly made it clear to us that Jesus was doing all this for each one of us. The reflections shared and the music for that time - really wonderful. The Stations of the Cross and the Veneration of the Cross - really sacred time. Going up to venerate the Cross drew us all so close to Jesus, to thank Him for giving His life for us.

The Easter Vigil was really special - it is every year. But this year we had a family Baptised, Confirmed and they received their First Holy Communion. A whole family making this journey together. Also, Heath, received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion after journeying through the RCIA programme with his mentors. Thank you, Heath, for this great witness to faith. Celebrating the Rising of Jesus from the dead, is always a call to each of us, to rise with Jesus and live our faith each day. Father Austin and I thank you all, our Parishioners, for the great example you give of being a faith-filled Community. The missionary journey continues, as we saw, through the Easter period to the Ascension of Jesus to the Father, and Pentecost. Each one has received the gift of the Holy Spirit. We have to claim that gift daily, and share it with others. There are empty seats in our Church for Sunday Masses - you can invite people to come and celebrate.

Our St. Mark's Youth and our St. Mark's School are also showing us what can be done with such great energy and enthusiasm. Thank you, Youth for Christ and Life Teen - you are very special. The children from St Mark's School show us the hunger for growing in faith. The classes that come to the Mass on Tuesdays are a joy to see, and hear. Thank you to the Staff for this wonderful encouragement you give these children.

Just looking at the title of this piece - A WORD - I've gone over that by a few words!. So, I'll end by saying THANK YOU to all of our Parishioners for your generosity and joyful spirit. You truly are "Jesus alive, in the world today".

May God's blessings be with you all.
Fr Emile.

In this issue ... we reflect the joys, celebrations, solemnities, sacraments and sacred moments of our large and vibrant Parish. Thank you to everyone who shares their insights and important days. May the Lord bless you.



EASTER TRIDUUM AT ST. MARK'S



THURSDAY OF HOLY WEEK





EASTER
TRIDUUM
AT
ST. MARK'S

FRIDAY
OF THE
PASSION OF
THE LORD



VENERATION
OF
THE
HOLY CROSS



EASTER
TRIDUUM
AT
ST. MARK'S



THE VIGIL
MASS OF
EASTER
SUNDAY



SACRAMENTS





*Back Row (Left to Right): Joe Yip, Salome Yip, Genevieve Tham, (Patrick's wife), Rosemary Palmer, Patrick Sih, James Green-Thompson.
Middle Row: Bardo Li, Helen Chen, Fr. Emile & Heath O'Malley.
Front Row: Phoebe Li & Zenobia Li.*

Thoughts from our new members of St. Mark's Parish, now in full Communion:

“It was something I could never fully explain, something I could never just ‘say’ or ‘write down’. Being baptised was an experience I will never forget, It felt right, it felt like it made me whole. Receiving the Lord and feeling Him within me for the first time was an overwhelming feeling of joy and compassion. My heart was aflame, it burned so intensely that my hands wouldn't stop shaking. One day I'll feel that feeling again when my very own children are baptised - one day. Thank you all and God bless.” - Heath

“ We were very happy to be baptised as a family.” - The Li Family.

(Phoebe and Zenobia Li are twins who are 10 years old and attend St. Mark's School.)



THE BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST ~ 18 JUNE 2017

Shana Llorando from the Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry Team.

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (also known as Corpus Christi), when we acknowledge the institution of, and the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. In today's Gospel, Jesus proclaims that He is the 'living bread', and that 'whoever eats this bread will live forever'. He wasn't speaking in symbols or metaphor; he was telling the TRUTH! Understandably, the Jews were shocked at this statement, quarrelling with each other and asking themselves, "how can this man give us His flesh to eat?"

As we can see later on in John's Gospel, many of Jesus' disciples stopped following Him because of this claim. Yet Peter and the apostles stay with Him, saying "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." The belief of Christ's true presence in the Eucharist is something that sets us apart from other faiths and Christian denominations. It is a weighty belief to grasp when we stop to think about it...if we do at all! When we go up to receive the Eucharist, do we truly believe that we will receive Jesus' Body and Blood, not just bread and wine? Do we know the magnitude of this belief and the implications it has in our lives?

Because of this belief, we are called not only to be present and participate fully in the Mass, but also to be present and participate fully in our Church, which has Jesus at its centre. The truth, goodness and beauty of the Catholic Church, whose source and summit is the Eucharist, calls us deeper in faith to love her and find life in her. The Eucharist and our Catholic faith is not just a jacket we wear on Sundays; it is our heart, integral to each and every moment of our lives. It is who we are.

Yes, that last sentence is the truth too. St. Paul writes in our second reading that because 'we all partake of the one loaf', we are 'one body'. That means through the Eucharist, we are all united as one body, one Church, one family! Jesus also says that He gives us 'life' through His Body and Blood, and this life is not ours to keep; we become His hands and feet in the world, to share this life, and love and serve Him and each other. Do we truly believe this too?

World Youth Day Auckland 2017 takes place on the 15th and 16th of July, with the theme 'Young People, You Are the Church of Today'. Through this theme, we want to invite young people to fall in love with Jesus and the Church, to see its truth, goodness and beauty because here is where we find Jesus truly present! We also want our youth to know that we ARE the Church! That by remaining in Jesus and Him remaining in us, we become His hands and his feet, working with everyone to bring about His Kingdom.

The Gospel chosen for World Youth Day Auckland 2017, is the Parable of the Sower and the seed. May we have the ears to hear and the eyes to see this tenet of our faith, the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. May this seed fall on the good soil of our lives and may our participation in the Mission of the Church encourage and inspire us to continue the sowing of this very good seed everywhere we go.

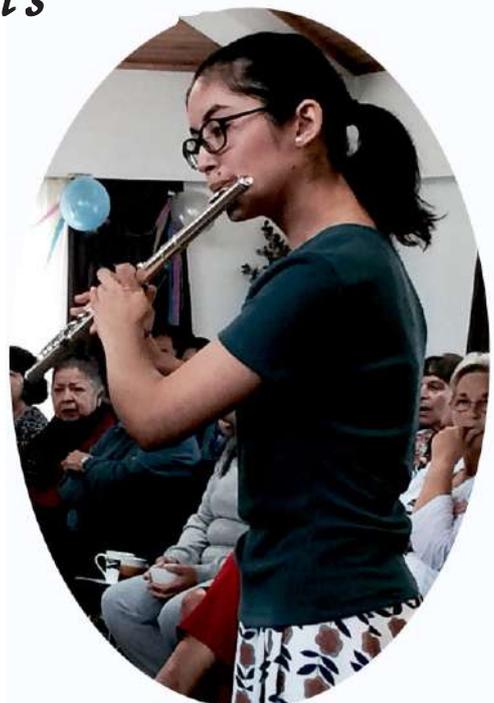


*Saint Mark's
Day*

26 April 2017

*(was celebrated on
7 May 2017)*

*St Mark's Day is
also Fr Austin's
Birthday*





Blessed Moments

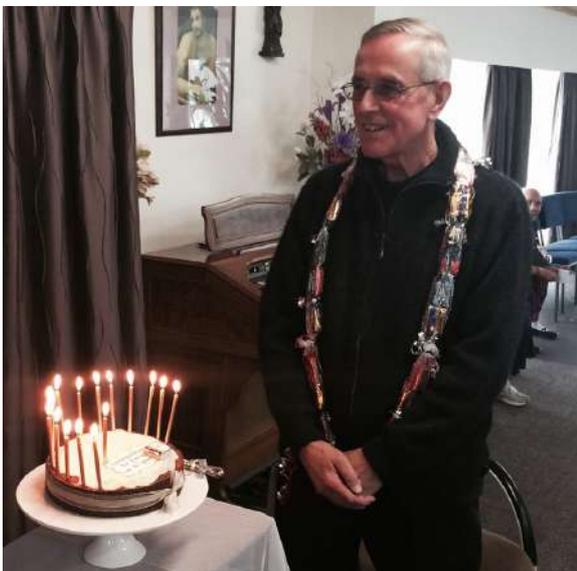


Above: Married Couples with Father Austin and Father Emile at the April Marriage Anniversary Mass.

Right: After Holy Communion, on the 18 June, Mrs Rae McKeown received a blessing for her 93rd Birthday. Also celebrating birthdays were Christy, Fiona, and Chloe (with her Dad).



Right: Crystal celebrated her 7th birthday with Fr Ezio Blasoni at St Mark's on 23 July 2017.



Above: On 18 June, the Parish surprised Father Emile, remembering his 47th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood.



Above: Celebrating Fr. Peter Choy's 70th Birthday are former Priest of St. Mark's, Fr Francis Poon (centre) and parishoner and seminarian, Martin Wu (left).



Parish Council Report

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.

We organised and held the annual St Mark's Feast Day Celebrations in early May 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 acknowledged Fr Emile's 47th ordination anniversary recently in June with a few speeches and a fitting cake.

The New Roof (roof repairs) on the Church, Parish Centre and Presbytery have all been completed and the first stage of the Columbarium is taking shape and there have 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 as 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 Masses; overseeing fire safety needs; and also youth safety. Part of this Health and Safety Management going forward will be for planning around our heavy Mass presence over Easter and Christmas especially traffic flow and reducing risk.

Other initiatives that we are currently or have been supporting is the Community Clean Up Day overseen and led by Rosa Chow; the Special Children Fun Day planned for September this year; and various Youth activities occurring in our Parish.

It was also great to provide our support to the new 6.30am Mass on Tuesday Mornings... I for one have taken up this opportunity and indeed it is a fantastic way to start the day spiritually!

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



A Report from the St. Mark's Parish Facilities Group

18 July 2017

It has been a very busy time these last five months and we would like to thank all the parishoners who generously contributed to help us finance and complete all the urgent and large ticket maintenance programmes and improvements on the church and parish centre this autumn in readiness for winter.

We are happy to say that these major programmes were completed on budget and to a high professional standard. We have been able to address the following with your help.

1. Repaired and resealed the church, parish centre and parish house roof areas to prevent future leaking. Four coats were required on the church, three on the centre and two on the house.
2. Updated and increased the power capacity (new board) for the parish centre, so overloading will no longer occur, and in the future, heating can be installed.
3. Revised and brought all electrical infrastructure within the centre to required compliance standards.
4. We are currently installing new signage, sensor lighting and monitored security cameras around the church, parish centre, car parking areas and columbarium, to disincentive people from breaking in to vehicles or causing damage.
5. The columbarium is now nearing completion with plastering, painting, paving and landscaping only left to be done; we hope to have this completed in the next couple of months. Many thanks to Ray Anderson for the many hours given to this project.

Thanks you all very much for your help and patience.
Facilities Committee.



It has never been a more exciting time to be a young Catholic in New Zealand

Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry hosted a dinner with 66 young people representing 33 different groups and Bishop Patrick Dunn at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre on Wednesday 2nd August. During the evening, young people were placed at tables with other young people in the same age group as them and were asked to discuss and respond to three questions from the Synod Survey. This event was in preparation for the Synod of Bishops that Pope Francis has called for on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment which will take place in October 2018.

Bishop Pat went around each table interacting with the young people, interested to hear their thoughts and views. At the end of the night each table shared their responses to each question with everyone gathered at the event.

It was very inspiring to see so many Catholic young people gathered together who cared about their faith and wanted to make a difference for the young people in our world.



Above: Emma Sullivan sits two places to Bishop Pat's right.

Pope Francis wants to hear from all young people, "your voice, your sensitivities, and your faith - even your doubts and criticism." The Bishops of New Zealand have opened a survey which closes 27th August for ALL young people (you don't have to be Catholic or Christian, just a young person between the ages of 16-29) to express their views: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8TZT3W8>

I would like to encourage all young people in our parish to attend the awesome diocesan events that the Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry are putting on for us. Their next event 'You are Called! -Vocations Festival' will be held on Sunday 20th August 2-5.30pm at Christ the King, Owairaka. This festival will be about young people finding their place in the world today and answering Christ's call to follow Him in their lives (the Vocational Discernment part of the Synod): <http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/youth-young-adult-ministry/vocations-festival/> It has never been a more exciting time to be a young Catholic in New Zealand so make your voice heard, get involved and stay connected!

Emma Sullivan



First Place in National Photograph Competition.

The photograph below, titled 'Sending Forth' was created by Kyle Guarin. A delegate from the St. Mark's CFC - Youth for Christ, Kyle submitted the photograph in the photograph competition organised by the 2017 CFC YFC Youth Oceania Conference. This was held in July this year in Wellington. Kyle's entry was awarded 1st place. Congratulations Kyle.



The meaning of the photograph, 'Sending Forth.'

Across cultural barriers, borders and distances, despite differences in age, language and gender, a YFC member has a role to proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ. Along with his fellow YFCs, he allows God to prepare him, direct him and lift him up before he is being sent forth to evangelise. He uses his talents, time and treasures to make Jesus known to those who have never even heard of his name. With his free will, he is moulded and made as a disciple first because he can only give what he has, the Christian faith. Being a YFC is being a missionary, by living a life that is in accordance with the will of God.



T.G.I.S.

St Mark's CFC - Youth for Christ Fundraiser Event

By: Ezekiel Bulay

On the 29th of April 2017 St Mark's CFC - Youth for Christ hosted an event dubbed as TGIS (Thank God it's Saturday) in the Sacred Heart College Auditorium as a fundraiser for the Youth for Christ Oceania Conference from the 14th to the 16th July 2017.

The youth of St. Mark's prepared for this conference where around 600 youth from all over Oceania came together to learn and share their own faith. Youth from Australia, Solomon Islands, American Samoa, Papua New Guinea and all parts of New Zealand gathered down in 'Windy Welly'.

TGIS was an enjoyable night which was led by the Geez Band. The most challenging part about this night was sparking up the dance floor. We as the youth tried our best for a couple of minutes to get people off their seats and come join us on the dance floor. We even started a party train going but no one would hop on. (I guess our generation now is quite different than what it was before). And so we tried and we tried and we tried to keep the dance floor active by dancing and having fun ourselves. After a few tries, I looked around and the dance floor was full of both the young and the old. The young jumping up and down hitting the dab, and then the older generation doing the classic line dance led by Auntie Brenda. I took a look and watched the mums doing this line dance that I've been always wanting to learn ever since I laid eyes on it. So I decided that this was the day I would learn it. After minutes and minutes of trying there was a point where everything clicked and there I was, dancing with the older generation. Although I wasn't the best at this dance, it felt like I was dancing like an angel but in reality I must've looked like a baby elephant.

The band played all the classics, the older generation, which kept the dance floor active. For me personally, I love this kind of music. It's nice and groovy and keeps me on my toes and gives me the motivation to just dance, to dance with everyone and have fun. The sight of seeing all of these people, both old and young, having a blast during this night put a big fat smile on my face. To have the feeling of joy and fascination under the roof of the beautiful facilities is a feeling everyone would love to encounter.

The work we had done to raise funds for the July youth conference in Wellington was so fulfilling. All the youth were looking forward for the upcoming event after the fundraiser. At this Oceania Youth Conference, we all faced the same feeling of joy and fascination, the feeling of God dwelling in each and everyone of us, the feeling of the Holy Spirit guiding us through our journey during this weekend down in 'middle earth'.

This fundraiser was attended by around 650 people and it was a huge success. And on behalf of all the youth of St. Mark's Parish, I thank all those who helped out and supported us. A huge thank you to Sacred Heart College for allowing us to use such amazing facilities.



A big thank you also to all the organisers, parents, sponsors and the St Mark's community for the donations, prayers and love. Through God's grace, this event has helped not only the youth but also all those who attended this eventful night and enjoyed the company of all those gathered. We also thank the Geez Band and for the music they rendered and for their God given gifts and talents. But most of all we thank the Lord up above for blessing us with this opportunity and loving each and everyone of us, unconditionally. I pray that this experience will be worth while and will bring us closer to our Lord Jesus Christ, and as a result be able to share the same experience to other youth not only at St. Mark's Community but also in our schools.

And with this May God be praised.

Pope Francis' Five Finger Prayer

Using the fingers on your hand, start with the thumb and pray these intentions in this order:

1. The thumb is closest finger to you. So start praying for those who are closest to you. They are the persons easiest to remember. To pray for our dear ones is a "Sweet Obligation."
2. The next finger is the index. Pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. They need the support and wisdom to show direction to others. Always keep them in your prayers.
3. The following finger is the tallest. It reminds us of our leaders, the governors and those who have authority. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is the ring finger. Even though it may surprise you, it is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for the weakest, the sick or those plagued by problems. They need your prayers.
5. And finally we have our smallest finger, the smallest of all. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. When you are done praying for the other four groups, you will be able to see your own needs but in the proper perspective, and also you will be able to pray for your own needs in a better way.



Pentecost Sunday



Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and enkindle in us the fire of your love.





Marie Rose Oliver



Marie Rose Oliver, a parishioner of over 40 years with St Mark's Parish, passed away on 18th July and her funeral was celebrated at St. Mark's Church by Fr Austin assisted by Deacon Chris Sullivan.

Marie is the loved wife of Tony Oliver and mother of Paul Oliver (Parish Councillor) and Michael and Louise and mother -in-law to Faye and Karina. She is grandmother to Rachelle, Monique, Luke, Caleb, and Lara.

The Oliver family would like to extend their thanks to all Parishioners for their kind words, flowers, and cards on the passing of their beloved mother.... Marie will be forever resting in the newly constructed Columbarium when completed.



In loving memory of

Grant John McColl

(Husband of Megan)

12th March 1950 - 17th May 2017





“We are called to be Saints”

says Pope Francis

We are called to be saints, just like the multitude of witnesses before us, so as to be heralds of hope for the world. That was Pope Francis' message during the catechesis portion of his Wednesday General Audience, in which he reflected on the Saints as witnesses and companions of Hope.

Pope Francis at his General Audience in a sunny St. Peter's Square said the Saints who have gone before us show us the path of Christian hope and teach us to follow in their footsteps. Taking the Letter to the Hebrews (11:40-12:12a) as his guide, the Pope said the saints are "those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith".

He spoke about three important moments in the life of the Church in which the "great cloud of witnesses" is evoked: in the liturgies of Baptism, Matrimony, and Holy Orders. He said the saints are called upon in these moments because "they have passed along our same path, have known the same toil, and live forever in the embrace of God."



"God never abandons us," he said. "Whenever we are in need, one of His angels will come to pick us up and console us. 'Angels' sometimes have a human face and heart, because the saints of God are always here, hidden in our midst." Pope Francis went on to assure his audience that the Christian ideal is attainable, as the lives of the saints have shown. He said, "It is possible to be saints because the Lord helps us." Being a saint, he said, means doing your daily duties, like "praying, working, taking care of the kids", but "doing all with a heart open to God".

In conclusion, the Holy Father said living a saintly life is "the great gift that each of us can offer to the world." "Our history needs 'mystics', that is, people who reject every dominion and aspire to charity and solidarity: Men and women who live by accepting even a portion of suffering, because they take upon themselves the difficulties of their neighbor. Without these men and women, the world would be without hope."

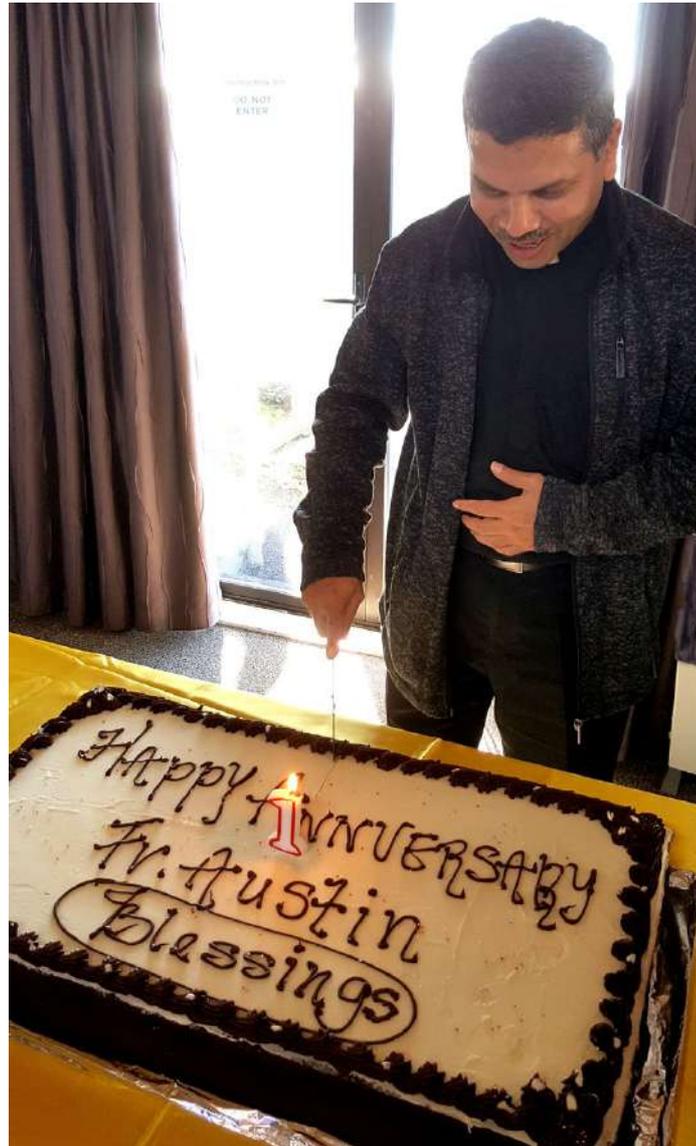
From Vatican Radio



*Happy
"First"
Anniversary
of Ordination
to Priesthood
to*

*Fr. Austin
Fernandes*

16 July 2017





Diamond Wedding Anniversary
Lyn and Naomi Visser
22 June 1957 - 2017



*We have lived our lives with faith and trust in God
who never fails to answer our prayers.
May He guide us and protect us all the days of our life.*

Congratulations to parishioners Lyn and Naomi Visser who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 22 June this year. They were married on 22 June 1957 in Sri Lanka and came to New Zealand in 2004. Lyn and Naomi have two children, four grand children and one great grandchild and are happy to be here with their family. They love St. Mark's Parish and comment that the Priests and people are so very friendly and always bring a smile.



*May God who has given us
sixty years together continue
to watch over us, our home
and family.*



Aaron Chan
 Dayanara Chavez
 Juliana Chavez
 Isobella Ciano
 Joshua Ernstzen
 John-Paul Fifita
 Kayne Gemmell
 Noah Hamilton
 Eula Innocencio
 Christian Jambalos
 Meilaney Lesmana
 Jason Liu
 Jake Maclellan
 Sebastien Ong
 Zoe Ong
 Bao Phan
 Mikel Sierra
 Eliza White
 Felice Yang



First Holy Communion



5.30pm Mass
 24 June 2017



First Holy Communion

10am Mass 25 June 2017

Tristan Apalisok
 Catherine Bhanot
 Hannah Boyes
 Samuel Boyes
 Mathew Calder
 Victoria Chirenje
 Lucas Dawson
 Camryn Davis
 Tiago Das Neves Goncalves

Rico D'Sylva
 Caleb Ensil
 Jose Carlos Espejo
 Edward Hicban
 Dean Hommer Hoo
 Annikah Iosefo-Schuster
 Hayley Ling
 Darius Manu
 Tymara Manu

Kaasia McGrail
 Angel Pallewatte
 Conor Pawadyira
 Elise Segedin
 Alain Talagtag
 Ethan Tigley
 Jamie Vasallo
 Julia Vasallo



We congratulate and pray for the young people in our community who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 26 May at 7.00 pm from Monsignor Bernard Kiely.

The Sacrament of Confirmation



Left: Isobella Ciano on her Confirmation Day with her sponsor, Tina Payne.



Right: Mons Bernard Kiely confirms Caleb Ensil. Caleb's sponsor is Rene Marks.



The Names of those Confirmed in 2017

Tristan Apalisok
 Catherine Bhanot
 Hannah Boyes
 Samuel Boyes
 Matthew Calder
 Aaron Chan
 Megan Chan
 Sarah Chan
 Dayarana Chavez
 Juliana Chavez
 Victoria Chirenjo
 Isobella Ciano
 Lucas Dawson
 Camryn Davis
 Tiago Das Neves Gonçalves
 Rico D'sylva
 Caleb Ensil

Joshua Ernstzen
 Jose Carlos Espejo
 John-Paul Fifita
 Kayne Gemmell
 Noah Hamilton
 Edward Hicban
 Dean Hommer Hoo
 Eula Inocencio
 Elijah Inocencio
 Annikah Iosefo-Schuster
 Christian Jambalos
 Meilaney Lesmana
 Hayley Ling
 Jason Liu
 Athena Lo
 Darius Manu
 Tymara Manu

Jake MacIennan
 Kaasia Mcgrail
 Sebastien Ong
 Zoe Ong
 Angel Pallewatte
 Conor Pawadyira
 Bao Thien Nhat Phan
 Riviera Santillan
 Rain Santillan
 Elise Segedin
 Mikel Sierra
 Alain Talagtag
 Ethan Tigley
 Jaimie Vasallo
 Julia Vasallo
 Eliza White
 Felice Yang





Above: Josephine and Albert William had the joy of seeing their two grandchildren baptised on Saturday 15 July 2017. Maia Ruth West (right) is the daughter of Davina (nee William) and Matt West. Ana Rozario William (left) is the daughter of Kelly and Aaron William. Kelly is the daughter of Hazel De Rozario and the late Mervin De Rozario. Congratulations to everyone on the joy of this day.



Right: Fr. Austin Fernandes pours the waters of Baptism on Ana's forehead.



Isabel's Baptism was on the Feast of the Transfiguration, Sunday 6 August 2017. She is the daughter of Uwe and Catherina Ying Jun Hagemeister.

Baptisms at St. Mark's

Right: A sign of the cross with holy Chrism Oil was given to Isabel by Fr. Emile Frische MHM

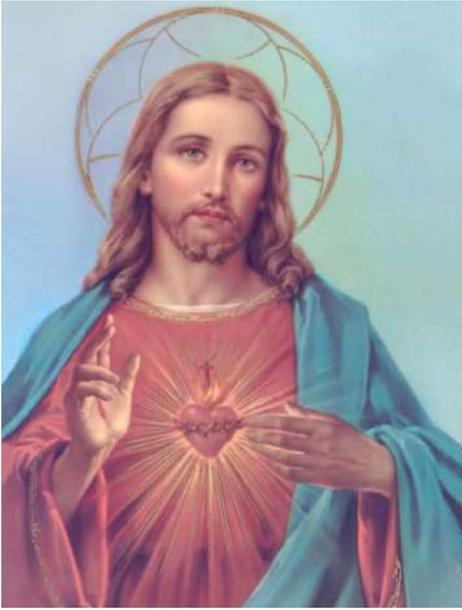
"As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life."





Devotion of the Sacred Heart and Divine Mercy in Our Church

Susanna Lai



As seen from these two images, Jesus' left hand is pointing to His heart, His right hand is raised up to give us His blessing.



The Lord tells St. Faustina, "I have opened my HEART as a living Fountain of Mercy. Let all SOULS draw life from it. Let them approach this Sea of Mercy with great trust" [Diary, 1520]. "

"On the cross, the fountain of My Mercy was opened wide by the lance for all SOULS ---no one have I excluded!" (1182). "I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the Fountain of Mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You" " (327). Where the lance is piecing Jesus' heart, blood and water flows out like a fountain of his love and mercy towards us. He invites us to be immersed in it. The more we trust, the more we receive his mercy. The heart of Jesus is like the mother of mercy.

The Chinese Prayer Group began praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Litany of the Sacred Heart and Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1998. In 2009, we began to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every Friday after the morning Mass.

In 2016, we began the Divine Mercy Group, reciting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy each weekday after Mass. In June 2012, we started the Litany of the Sacred Heart and Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus every first Friday after evening Mass with the help of our projector operator, Leon Guerrero. In 2016, we also extended this service to every first Friday after morning Mass with the help of John Wong as the projector operator.

"Promises of Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary on behalf of those who has devotion to his Sacred Heart", one of these promises is that "I will grant the graces of final penitence to those who communicate (receive Holy Communion) on the first Friday of nine consecutive months."

2017 is the fourth year our church has celebrated the Divine Mercy Sunday service with the help of Deacon Chris Sullivan. We look forward to meeting everyone at next year's Divine Mercy service. A video of this year's service can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hqjSXRxa1A>



Take Up Your Cross +

by Father Austin Fernandes

'Whoever does not take up his cross and follows me is not worthy of me.'

I was an altar server when I was a little boy. Every Friday during Lent we had the 'stations of the cross.' One Friday I was assigned with two older buddies for the service. It was my first time to serve. The two older buddies told me that I would be carrying the cross and they would carry the candles. I happily agreed. It was a heavy metal cross which I had to hold on a pole. At every station I had to hold the cross high up until we moved to the next station. The cross was heavy and at every station my arms began to ache. By the end of the 3rd or 4th station I soon realised why my older buddies had told me to carry the cross. While most of the people were praying at every station, I was praying for the service to get over. 'Whoever does not take up his cross and follows me is not worthy of me.'

Yes, we all have our crosses and most of us want to get rid of them as soon as we can or to find ways that could ease our burdens because we all like to live a comfortable life and work pretty hard to achieve it. But God in his love and mercy has better ways and his ways are the best. So he provides us with crosses, numerous crosses on our journey called life and the necessary grace to carry them. Each one will have a different cross; some may be heavy, some may be light. The cross is provided so that we come closer to Him and may experience the love of God which we often fail to realise. Most of the time we focus on our crosses rather than asking God, "What are you teaching me in this situation?" It is not always readily discernible at first, but it will be revealed little by little in time to the one who consents to the situation. When we focus too much on our crosses we become self-centred rather than God centred.

Openness to God's crosses and embracing them, frees us from pride, sweeps aside the attitude of self-sufficiency and the pretence that 'I am the sole master of my life.' In its place comes dependency, humility and confident submission. Jesus Himself has shown us the way when He embraced his cross in obedience to the will of the Father. His focus was not on Himself but it was other centred; centred on the Father, 'Not my will but yours be done.' When we start looking at what God wants for our lives, rather than what we want for our lives, we will start living a life of joy. No cross - no resurrection, no cross - no glory. The Cross will always be a challenge. Recognising our cross and embracing it is the key to this life of joy and peace. It enables us to come out of ourselves and our limits so as to be more fully open to life.

The woman at Shunem (2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16a), was very much open to this kind of life. She was a wealthy woman and had no crosses, yet she went out of her way to make the life of the prophet Elisha a more comfortable one, for which in the end she was rewarded, with a child. Happy events are invitations to give thanks to our God. Sad and sorrowful events are invitations to faith, hope and conversion. Openness to God's crosses unifies life and enables us to transcend the hard knocks that come with living.

'Whoever does not take up his cross and follows me is not worthy of me.'



Step out and Vote

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops' 2017 Election Statement

“Nothing else will change the world but people who fight for justice and human dignity. Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes...” POPE FRANCIS

Politics is never far from conversations in family homes and with colleagues at work. Our fast approaching election this September comes against a backdrop of a rapidly changing world. Once we divided the world into democracies and dictatorships. Today that neat division no longer exists. Terrorism, cronyism, corruption, fake news, WikiLeaks and the galloping gap between the rich and the poor all undermine people’s faith in politics and traditional political parties.

We urge you all to pray about, reflect on, discuss and debate what kind of society New Zealand can be in the eyes of God. Faith has a vital role in the public forum. Stand up, uphold the common good of our nation, choose wisely, and your vote will be a blessing for our nation.

Bishop Patrick Dunn
Bishop of Auckland
President, NZCBC

Bishop Colin Campbell
Bishop of Dunedin

Cardinal John Dew
Cardinal Archbishop of Wellington
Vice-President, NZCBC

Bishop Steve Lowe
Bishop of Hamilton

Bishop Charles Drennan
Bishop of Palmerston North
Secretary, NZCBC

Fr Rick Loughnan
Diocesan Administrator
Christchurch Diocese



PRO-LIFE POLICIES

We hope for positive, pro-life attitudes and policies. Love and care for the unborn, the vulnerable, the disabled, the elderly and the different, are marks of a compassionate society, as are wellfunded palliative care services. Legalisation of assisted suicide undermines trust in the medical profession and puts vulnerable groups in our society at risk.

BICULTURAL NEW ZEALAND

We embrace the bicultural nature of Aotearoa New Zealand.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

We delight in the cultural diversity of contemporary New Zealand and we wish to welcome to our shores not only those people whose skills are deemed to be of immediate benefit to our economy, but also those for whom their homeland has become unsafe, including refugees and asylum seekers.

MIGRATION

We envisage a nation that strives to welcome and appreciate migrants as an integral part of our nation.

SAFE SOCIETY

We want Kiwi children and mokopuna to grow up in a safe society. Moves to legalise ‘soft’ drugs and other substances – which wreak havoc in particular sectors of our society – are a deeply cynical and cheap way of side-lining a complex social ill that needs to be addressed creatively and resolutely. Drugs such as ‘P’ are rife in some areas, destroying individuals and family life. This curse needs to be tackled full on.

CARING FOR OUR PLANET

Care for our common home, Mother Earth is a centre stage global challenge. Pope Francis’ encyclical ‘Laudato Si’ has become an authoritative reference point in this quest.

FAIR TAX STRUCTURE

We appreciate the work ethic of so many of our fellow citizens.

MENTAL HEALTH

The wellbeing of all New Zealanders is of concern to everyone.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

We support efforts to bring about affordable housing. Excessive rents and inflated house prices are leaving families homeless and young couples despondent. Without effective policies to support regional and provincial economic development and consequent employment we miss opportunities to alleviate this problem, which is worst in our biggest cities.

PRISON POPULATION

We are deeply disturbed by the growing prison population in New Zealand.



MINI EVANGELISTS

Sunday the 21st of May was the **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**. Following Easter Time we celebrated **FOUR** significant Sundays in a row. Can you remember what they were? Here are a few clues

Sunday the 28th of May

What is the name of the day when Our Lord went to heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father?



A _____ S _____

Sunday the 4th of June

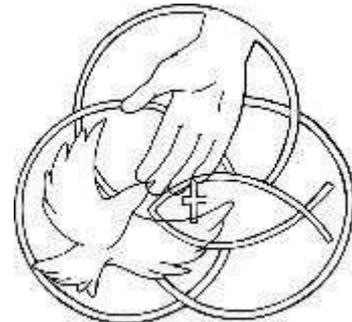
THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH

P _____ S _____



Sunday the 11th of June

T _____ S _____



Sunday the 18th of June

Feast of C _____ C _____



Sunday the 25th of June and its Vigil Mass

Our Parish was blessed with a **FIFTH** special Sunday as 43 of our young parishioners received their First Holy Communion.

