



# FOOTPRINTS



Sunday 8th May 2016  
Mothers' Day

Come... **“Holy”** Spirit...  
fill our hearts  
enkindle in us the  
fire of Your love...

**Pentecost** is the  
Birthday of the Church

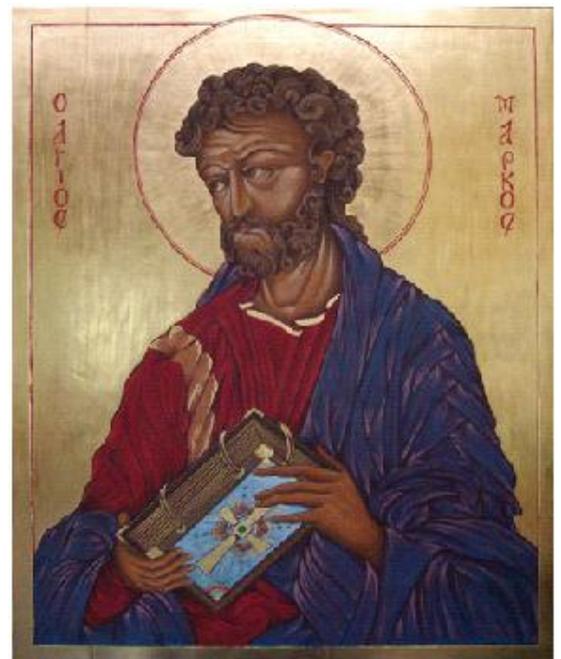
What does 'evangelise' mean?  
“To give witness with joy and  
simplicity to who we are and  
what we believe in.”  
Pope Francis



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MAGAZINE OF  
ST. MARK'S  
PARISH  
PAKURANGA  
AUCKLAND

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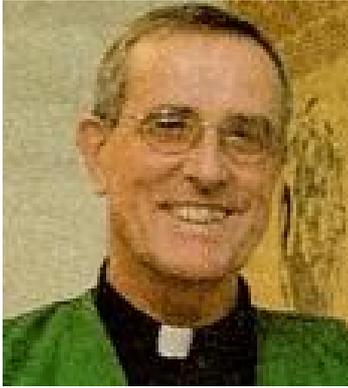
April - June 2016

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## A Word from our Parish Priest



Another six months and 2016 will become 2017. Amazing isn't it how fast the days, months, years roll by. We need to make time for ourselves and reflect on what we have experienced over the last few months, and see where God figures in all we have experienced. We might say, well, we have celebrated Ash Wednesday, and the period of Lent, and Holy Week and Easter. God was very evident in those celebrations. Then we had the Ascension and Pentecost. Yes, God was very central in those celebrations also. That's great. But, what about now, as we "celebrate" the Weeks of ORDINARY Time?

Is this the 'dull' time in the Church calendar with a few highlights thrown in? We need to spend time thinking about this. In the ORDINARY Time of the Church Year, God does EXTRA-ORDINARY things for us. Do you believe that? Each day God has a message for us. What is that message? Loud and clear He says to each one of us: I LOVE YOU. What is my reaction? Do I say to God, "yeah, and I love you too" and just carry on with life? I think we need to do more, right? It takes work to grow a love relationship.

To grow deeper in love with our God, we need to experience His Love and Mercy and then to live this love relationship every day. God is asking us to let the world see that we really and truly love Him. How can we do that? For starters, by living out the spiritual and corporal works of Mercy. We need to develop our prayer life. Prayer isn't just words and nice thoughts. Prayer is action - living in love with God and with others. St. Ignatius gives us some great challenges to guide us in this area. Prayer is a pathway to freedom and love. (Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius: The Contemplation to Attain Love). This is why I said that the Ordinary Time of Year opens us up to see the Extra-ordinary presence of our God in every moment of our lives. We come to experience God in the SACREDNESS OF THE PRESENT MOMENT. "God brings everything God has and pours it into the relationship, and you bring everything you have and pour it into the relationship, until you commingle, and you become one with the Divine."

How do we go about doing this? Set aside some quality time each day and recall the gifts of your life: your birth, your baptism, family, children, grace, qualities and talents - anything and everything you have to be grateful for. In gratitude, offer all these back to God. You also need to see the Divine presence in you, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, made in the image and likeness of the Divine. God is trying to help us see ourselves the way He sees us already. Yes, we are made in His image and likeness. We are to be "God with skin on" (9/11 quote from a lady in the Pierre Hotel, New York.)

As I began this 'word' - time is rushing by. But, we also know that God is very patient, and He is very persistent - that each of us come to know Him fully active and present in our lives. May this 'Ordinary Time' become a real Extra-Ordinary experience for each one of us. God is with us. Always. Keeping you all in prayer that we may all continue to be the Light of God shining in St. Mark's Parish and beyond.

Peace and Blessings.

Fr. Emile

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**In this issue....**we remember Annette Shanaghan and ANZAC Day; we celebrate Pentecost and St. Mark's Day and there are some sacred moments not to be missed.... Finally, we leave you with this comforting scripture; 2 Corinthians 5:1

**"For we know that when this tent we live in - our body here on earth - is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home He Himself has made, which will last forever."**



## Missionaries of Mercy



Suzanne Aubert and Antoine Marie Garin S.M. are both Saints to be recognised because in their lives they both demonstrated a great deal of mercy.

This is poignant because this year has been proclaimed as an extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy by Pope Francis. As a priest, Antoine Garin S.M. displayed many spiritual works of mercy because he instructed the ignorant in the ways of God, advised the doubtful, consoled sinners, comforted the afflicted (he once described himself as a chemist and a doctor, among many other vocations). He forgave offences willingly and he bore wrongs patiently. Praying for the living and the dead was a regular part of his priestly life.

Suzanne Aubert came from the same part of France and also knew Bishop Pompallier. She too, had studied healing in France and she too was called to the mission field, far from home. Feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned were activities that consumed her life; she was New Zealand's "Mother Teresa".

There are two things in the life of Antoine Marie Garin that make him extraordinary. The first is that he is incorrupt. Many saints have also been spared decay after death. St. Anthony of Padua's tongue is incorrupt, as is St. Vincent de Paul's heart. St. Catherine Labouré is absolutely a "sleeping beauty" and the list goes on.

The second thing is his connection to this Parish of St. Mark's. If you check our history you will see that the areas of Otahuhu, Howick and Panmure were home to the "Fencibles". Their first Parish Priest was Antoine Marie Garin S.M. Incidentally, his last Masses for Howick and Panmure were said on the 14th April, 1850. He wrote in his French language to his Mother, "Ma tres chere Maman"... , of the heart-wrench he felt especially farewelling the children of the schools he established in the Parishes from which St. Mark's Parish was founded. "I arrived at Panmure, where the school children came to meet me, and accompanied me to the Chapel where I spoke to them as I had done to the others. What tears some of these children, and above all one of them, made me shed! This last one uttered even loud cries, and his mother did the same."

The 14th April, (39 years later) was the day he died, and may well one day be his "Feast Day". For this reason a Mass was celebrated at St. Michael's Remuera, to begin the process that may one day lead to his recognition as a Saint of the Universal Catholic Church. The first prayer cards were blessed and distributed at this Mass. The presider was the longest serving Assistant Provincial Priest to the Society of Mary, Dr. Mervyn Duffy S.M. Concelebrating were many Diocesan and Marist Priests including Chris Skinner s.m. the Composer who sang a hymn especially composed for this Mass. The great support the people gave Antoine Marie Garin S.M. is testimony to the devotion that still follows him.



# ANNETTE CLARE SHANAGHAN

12 October 1937 - 12 March 2016

*Eulogy written by Liz Bauld*

Andrew, Gerard, Julia and Catherine - thank you for the honour of being chosen to give this Eulogy. My eulogy will focus on Annette's pastoral work and involvement in St Mark's Parish.

Annette and her late husband, Paul, were foundation members of St Mark's which was established in 1971. Right from the beginning, Annette and Paul were involved in parish life, keeping the accounts for the Planned Giving programme. For many years Annette was also involved in the Education in Faith programme teaching Christian Doctrine to children who did not attend Catholic schools.

Their home was always open to visits from the resident priests and Annette recently related the story to me of coming home one day to find the late Monsignor Lyons with Gerard's bike wheel in the kitchen sink! Annette said Mons Lyons seemed surprised when she suggested the kitchen was not the place to be repairing bikes! But pastoral care for Annette involved care of the priests' needs as well and in fact she worked for a time as housekeeper at the presbytery.



For twenty years Annette held the position of 'Coordinator of Care' at St Mark's - a role that was established under the late Father Brian Kelly. This involved all aspects of pastoral care from arranging for Holy Communion to be brought to parishioners who couldn't get to Mass to organising rosters for baking for funerals and providing meals for families in need. In true fashion Annette refused to have her name and position listed on the weekly church newsletter!

She was still bringing Communion to elderly parishioners as late as last year when she herself was unwell. Once when I was recovering from knee surgery she travelled all the way out to Whitford to bring me the Eucharist. And if a parishioner had suffered an illness or family bereavement a beautifully worded card would arrive from Annette on behalf of the parish.



When Sister Marie was no longer able to undertake her duties as Sacristan, Annette took over this ministry in addition to her pastoral care work. Annette was meticulous in her duties and took special pride in keeping the altar and church in beautiful order. Woe betide the altar server who spilt candle wax on the carpet! On more than one occasion I arrived at the church in the morning to find Annette on her hands and knees with a warm iron and brown paper removing wax from the carpet! She was also quick to remove the stamens from lilies before they left a stain and even laid a sheet of acetate over the altar cloth so that the candle wax wouldn't leave a mark.

And she was an expert at preparing the Thurible for funerals with strict instructions to the undertakers as to how it was to be used! Another of Annette's duties was organising people to lead the Monday Morning Liturgy of the Word and she herself was on the roster until last year. I would often arrive at the Church early on a Monday morning to take the Liturgy and find Annette just leaving - we used to joke that Annette actually lived at St Mark's Church such was her dedication to her ministry. Certainly, you would always find her in the Parish Centre after 8.30 Mass on a Sunday arranging cups of tea for the recorders and often she would not get home until late in the afternoon from having taken Holy Communion to parishioners.

In March 2013 Annette, along with another parishioner, Bernie Danson, was awarded the Papal Benemerenti Medal in recognition of her long service to St Mark's Parish. In her typical reserved fashion, Annette did not want this award publicised and she and Bernie were duly presented with their medals in a small ceremony in the Parish office. However, a photo did make its way into the parish magazine "Footprints" via Fr Raphael Lobo!

My own relationship with Annette began through St Mark's Choir. Many of you will be aware that Annette had a beautiful singing voice. She was, in fact, trained by Sister Mary Leo and she used to tell me that her one claim to fame was that Kiri Te Kanawa sang at her wedding! Annette was a valuable member of our choir until quite recently and even when her illness prevented her from attending evening practices she would be emailed the list of hymns and join us on a Sunday. The "Hymn of Commendation" which the Choir will sing today was sung by Annette as a solo at a funeral as recently as last year.



*Above: Bernie Danson and Annette Shanaghan wearing their Benemerenti Medals immediately after their presentation by Fr. Raphael Lobo.*

I must mention Annette's dress sense. Annette was always beautifully attired and usually in liturgically appropriate colours. Violet and purple were her favourite colours - and also midnight blue, which I am wearing in her honour today.



As Catherine has explained, Annette was first diagnosed with Lymphoma in November 2007. She was stoic throughout the gruelling chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment which would have killed a lesser mortal but as Annette would keep telling us, "You can't kill weeds!"

The fact that she was able to resume her parish work afterwards is testament to her amazing strength of will although the effects of the chemotherapy, in particular, were debilitating and left her with little or no appetite. Still she went into remission and confounded the medical experts by continuing to survive beyond the life expectancy she had been given and she would remind everyone that God wasn't ready for her yet.



It was only when the illness was re-diagnosed in October 2015 and she was hospitalised in November that she finally relinquished the last of her pastoral duties and this only when she was unable to drive!

Annette, you have surely deserved your eternal rest. I am also sure that when you reach the pearly gates you will arrange an appointment with St Paul to discuss his attitude towards women. We will miss you greatly but know we have a great advocate in heaven.

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## Grammy & God

*Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Proverbs 16:24*

A little girl gave a wonderful explanation of the final years and death of her Grandmother. She said to her mother after the funeral: Mom, you always said that Grandma walked and talked with God.

What I think happened is that one day God and Grandma went for an extra-long walk and they walked on and talked on, until God said to Grandma, 'You are a long way from home and are so tired, you had better just come home with me and stay' And Grandma went.

Submitted by Marian Peterson

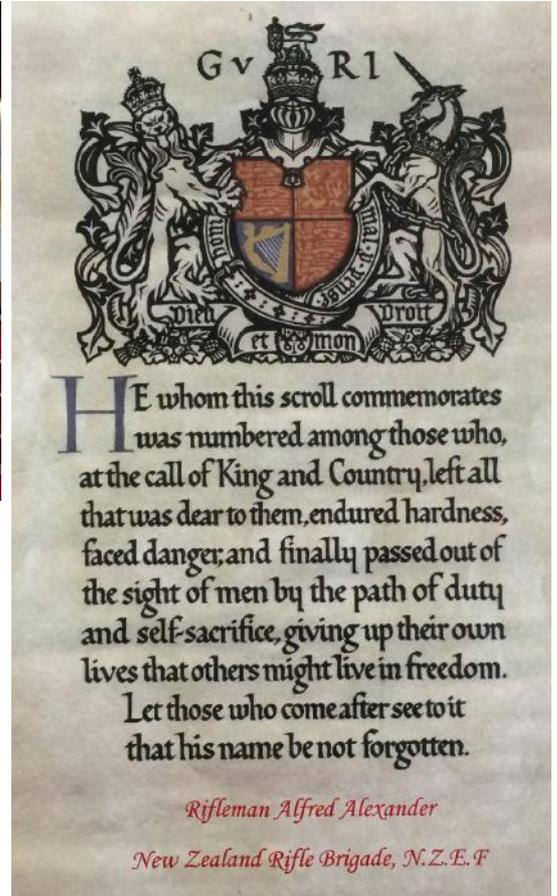


# ANZAC DAY 2016



*Above: David Stark, Deacon Chris and Fr Emile on the sanctuary during the ANZAC Day Mass.*

*Right: At the end of the First World War, relatives of the fallen received a Memorial Scroll. This scroll for Alfred Alexander McNeil was given to the family of Malcolm Dobb's uncle.*



*Above: Malcolm Dobb (left - 13th intake 1953) and Peter McPhillips (right - 2nd Intake 1951) after the ANZAC Day Mass. Both wore their Compulsory Military Training medals from the 1950s.*

*Right: Parishoner Colin Pratt with a photograph of his father William Joseph Pratt and his uncle, John Clement Pratt in their Australian Army uniforms.*





# PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ON PENTECOST SUNDAY, PRAYED AT ST. MARK'S



That the Holy Spirit will bring comfort  
to all people who are sick, lonely  
Lord hear our prayer

Kia tau ki a tatou katoa  
Te atawhai o ta tatou Ariki, a Ihu Karaiti  
Me te aroha o te Atua  
Me te whiwhingatahitanga  
Ki te Wairua Tapu  
Ake, ake, ake

Amine

## FOR PEACE

Mapag-isa nawa ng Banal na Espiritu  
ang mga lahi at mga bansa ng mundo  
at wakasan ang alitan, poot at diskriminasyon.

We pray to the Lord.

## FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER

Que o Espírito Santo renova a face da terra e faça-a um lugar aonde os pobres  
sejam alimentados, os doentes curados e os estranhos bém-vindos.

## WE PRAY TO THE LORD

For those who minister to this community

Kattarikkeu servae sayeum anaitthy thirichobae  
anga thavar kellekeu Parisutha avian thairiathae  
Koditthu avarkallae maelleum vallerkkkkka vendremendreu  
I Erava unmae mandrotakindrom

We pray to the Lord.



FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE:

Figalelei ko Gagaj ma na se otomis haharangi huag lelei ma furmaria.  
Ou koloria ma hanisi la noh ma kikia ma irisa e te ne ava,  
ka irisa la taupiria aea , ou garue ma au ag nonojo ma maeavhanisi.

For the Church, -

Povitr Atmeachie podven, Sonvsarantlea  
Softlea Zatinchea, bhasanche ani  
Sonvskruytayechea lokank, Somzota  
Toxem povitr Sobhen Xubhvortoman  
Porgattlea puro mhonn Deva lagim  
magum-ya .

We Pray to the Lord .

FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Semoga roh kudus akan membawa semua mendiang tersayang, ke hidupan yang selama-lamanya, di hadirat Tuhan.

We pray to the Lord



*Above: This group of parishoners came to celebrate Pentecost in their cultural dress, reflecting the multi-cultural nature of the Parish.*

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WE PRAY TO THE LORD



## **Pope Francis speaks: The Church must bring Jesus to a humanity in crisis**

Pope Francis puts his certainty of faith down to his grandmother, from whom he first heard the Christian proclamation; to a life changing encounter with Christ at age 17, through a unknown priest who heard his Confession; to his daily praying of the Rosary to his 'Mother', Our Lady and to allowing himself to be held in God's gaze even when he nods off after a tiring day, while in prayer before the Tabernacle. These are just some of the personal insights that Pope Francis shared with over 200 thousand people who stretched from St Peter's Basilica down to the banks of the Tiber and millions more who joined him via TV and radio to celebrate a Prayer Vigil for the Feast of Pentecost with New Movements.

He also told them "today mankind is in crisis, this is why the current crisis is a profound one.' Where the death of a homeless man or a starving child does not make news headlines but a drop in the stock market is treated like a national tragedy. This, he said, is also why we must not isolate ourselves 'in the parish, among friends, in our movement, with those who think like us ...". "The Church must go out to the outskirts of existence itself."

Convoked by the Pope as part of the great events for the Year of Faith, the Movements - over 150 in total - filled the square bring half of Rome to a standstill from early afternoon. They heard testimonies from members of the various realities from Renewal in the Spirit to the Focolari Movement, St Egidio Community, Communion and Liberation and the Neocatecheumenal Way to name but a few.

After two readings taken from St Paul's Letter to the Romans and the treatise of St. Irenaeus, there were two testimonies. John Waters, an Irish journalist, spoke of his leaving the faith, in search of a freedom that "makes us feel all-powerful and deeply powerless," typical man of today who "seeks to dominate everything and that's why he feels isolated and alone" . He then recalled being brought to " his knees" by alcoholism, from which he was saved thanks to some friends who helped him rediscover the faith of his childhood. "Now", he concluded "I am not only John, but one with the One who created me and I could not be free in any other way."

The second testimony was that of Paul Bhatti, former minister for minorities in Pakistan, who thanked Pope Francis for being able to "share the pain and hopes of the Christians of Pakistan." He recalled the mission of his brother Shahbaz, who was killed by Islamic extremists on 2nd March 2011, his commitment to the poor, the marginalised, the weak who "are the body of the persecuted Christ." At the same time, his brother never stopped dreaming of "a Pakistan free and open to all communities and minorities", in dialogue with Muslims, who "bear witness to the love of Jesus."

Pope Francis began by wishing everyone his signatory "Good evening". He said "I am very happy to meet you and that we are all coming together in this square, to pray, to be united and to wait for the gift of the Spirit. I knew your questions beforehand so I thought about them - this is not without some thought! First, the truth! I have them written here. But that first one, 'how were you able to achieve certainty of faith in your life, and what the path can you indicate to us so that each one of us can overcome our fragility of faith?' Is a historical question, because it is about my history, my life , no?



I have had the good fortune to grow up in a family where the faith was lived in a simple and concrete manner, but it was especially my grandmother, my father's mother, who marked my journey of faith. She was a woman who explained everything to us, who spoke to us of Jesus, who taught us the Catechism ... I always remember that on Good Friday in the evening, she would take us to the Candle-light Procession, and at the end of this Procession, we would arrive before the recumbent Christ, and my grandmother made us - us kids - kneel down and she would say: 'Look, He is dead, but tomorrow he will Rise up!.' I received my first Christian proclamation right from this woman, from my grandmother, right? That is something beautiful! The first proclamation is in the home, within the family, right? And this makes me think of the love of many mothers and so many grandmothers in the transmission of the faith. They are the ones that transmit the faith.

Even in the early days, because St. Paul said to Timothy: 'I remember the faith of your mother and your grandmother.' To all the mothers who are here, to all grandmothers, I ask you to think about this! Transmitting the faith. Because God puts people alongside us who help our journey of faith. We do not find our faith 'in the abstract', no: it is always a person who preaches it to us, who tells us who Jesus is, who gives us the faith, who gives us the first announcement. And so it was in my first experience of faith.

But...there is a very important day for me: 21st September 1953. I was almost 17 It was the 'Day of the Student,' for us the start of Spring - for you the start of Autumn. Before going to the festival, I went to my parish. And there I found a priest I did not know, but I felt the need to confess. And this was for me an experience of encounter: I found that someone was waiting for me. I do not know what happened, I do not remember, I do not know if it was that priest who was there, whom I did not know, why I felt this urge to confess, but the truth is that someone was waiting for me. Someone was waiting for me for a long time. And after the confession I felt that something had changed. I was not the same. I felt a voice call me: I was convinced that I had to become a priest. And this experience of faith is important. We say that we must seek God, go to Him to ask for forgiveness ... but when we go, He is waiting for us, He is the first one there!

We, in Spanish, we have a word that explains this well: 'The Lord always there primerea' is first, is waiting for you! And it is a really great grace to find Someone who is waiting for you. You go to Him a sinner, but He is already waiting to forgive you. That experience that the Prophets of Israel said that the Lord is like the flower of almond trees, the first flowers of Spring. Before any other flowers appear, there He is: He who waits. The Lord is waiting for us. And when we seek Him out, we find this reality: that He is waiting to welcome us, to give us His love. And this creates wonder in the heart of those who do not believe, and this is how faith grows!

With an encounter with a Person, with an encounter with the Lord. Some will say, 'No, I prefer to study faith in books!' Ah, yes it is important to study. But look, that alone is not enough! The important thing is our encounter with Jesus, our encounter with Him, and that gives us faith, because it is He who gives us Faith! While you were talking about the fragility of faith: how do we overcome it. Fragility's biggest enemy curiously enough, is fear. But do not be afraid! We are weak, we know it but He is stronger! If you are with Him, then there is no problem! A child is fragile: I have seen many today. But they are with their father, their mother: so they are safe!



We too are safe with the Lord, we are secure. Faith grows with the Lord, out of the very hands of the Lord. And that makes us grow and makes us stronger. But if we think that we can make it on our own, ah, think of Peter, what happened to him, 'Lord, I will never disown you,' and then the cock crowed three times and he had, no? We think, when we have too much faith in our own abilities, we are more fragile, more fragile. Always with the Lord, speaking with the Lord, with Him in the Eucharist, in the Bible, in prayer ... Even as a family, with our Mother, even with her because she is the one that leads us to the Lord, the mother who knows everything about the Lord. So let us pray to Our Lady and ask her, as our Mother, to make us strong. That is what I think about the fragility: at least, in my experience. The one thing that makes me stronger every day is to pray the Rosary to Our Lady. I feel great strength because I go to her and I feel strong".

Moving on to the second question, the Pope discussed the challenge of Evangelisation for the Movements, of how to 'effectively communicate the faith in today's world'. Pope Francis said "I will say three words only. First: Jesus. What is the most important thing? Jesus . If we push ahead with planning and organisation, beautiful things indeed, but without Jesus, then we are on the wrong road. Jesus is the most important thing. I would like to take the opportunity now to make a small, but fraternal, reproach, among ourselves, alright? All of you in the square shouted out: 'Francis, Francis, Pope Francis' ... But, where was Jesus? I want to hear you shout out. 'Jesus, Jesus is Lord, and He is in our midst.' From now on , no more 'Francis', only 'Jesus'. Alright?

The second word is prayer. Look at the face of God, but above all - and this is related to what I said before - know that you are being looked at in turn. The Lord looks at us: He looks at us first. And this is my experience , this is what I experience in front of the Tabernacle when I go to pray in the evening, before the Lord. Sometimes I nod off a little bit, no?, It's true, because the strains of the day's work makes you fall asleep. But He understands me. I feel so much comfort when I think that He is looking at me. We think that we have to pray, talk, talk, talk ... No! Just let the Lord gaze at you. When He looks at us, He empowers us and helps us to witness to Him.

Because the question was on the testimony of faith, right? Prayer ... first, 'Jesus', then 'prayer' and feeling that God is holding me by the hand. And the importance of this is to allow ourselves be guided by Him. And that's more important than any planning or calculations. We are true evangelisers when we let ourselves be guided by Him. Think of Peter ... maybe he was taking a siesta after lunch and had the vision, the vision of the tablecloth with all the animals and that Jesus was saying something but he did not understand. Then, some non-Jews came to call him to go into a house, and he saw how the Holy Spirit was there. Peter was guided by Jesus in that first evangelisation of the Gentiles, who were not Jews, something unimaginable at that time. And so it has been, throughout history, throughout history. Be guided by Jesus. This is our leader: Jesus is our leader.

And third, 'witness.' We have Jesus, then prayer - prayer, letting oneself be guided by Him - and then witness. But I would like to add something. This allowing ourselves to be guided by Jesus opens us to being surprised by Jesus. When people think of evangelisation, they think of projects, strategies, making plans? But ... they are only tools, small tools. The important thing is that Jesus, and being guided by Him, and then come the strategies.



But that is secondary. Witness, the communication of faith ... but the faith can only be communicated through witness and that is through love. Not with our ideas, but by living the Gospel in our own lives, which the Holy Spirit breathes within us. It's like a synergy between us and the Holy Spirit, and this is witness. The Church is brought forward by the Saints, who are the ones who really give this witness. And like Pope John Paul II and Benedict XVI said, the world today has so much need of witnesses. Not so much of teachers, but of witnesses. Less talk, speak through the way you live: the unity of your life, the consistency of your life! Consistency of life means living Christianity like an encounter with Jesus that leads me towards the other and not as a social fact, but ... is this how we are socially? Are we Christians? Closed in on ourselves? No, not that. Witness".

The third question regarded how we can live as a poor Church, for the poor. How does the suffering of others question our faith? How can we all, as Movements, Lay Associations, offer a concrete and effective contribution to the Church and society to address this crisis that touches the public ethics, this is important! - the model of development, politics, in short, a new way of being men and women?

Pope Francis responded "I will pick up again from the subject of witness. First of all, the main contribution we can make is to live the Gospel . The Church is not a political movement, or a well-organised structure: it is not that. We are not an NGO, and when the Church becomes an NGO it loses its salt, it has no taste, it's just an empty organisation. And this - be clever! Because the devil deceives us, because there is the danger of hyper - efficiency. One thing is to preach Jesus, effectiveness, being efficient is another thing: no, that's another value. The value of the Church, basically, is to live the Gospel and give witness to our faith. To be the 'salt of the earth, light of the world', is called to make present in society the yeast of the Kingdom of God and do it first with our witness, our witness of fraternal love, solidarity, sharing.

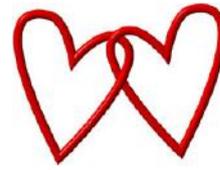
When you hear some say that solidarity is not a value, it is a primary attitude that needs to be done away with... there's something wrong! Today people are only concerned with worldly efficacy. The moments of crisis, such as the one we are experiencing - as you mentioned before, 'we are in a world of lies', no? Lies, it is a crisis - this time of crisis, but ... let's be careful, ok? It is not only an economic crisis, it is a cultural crisis. It is a human crisis: what is in crisis is mankind! And what can be destroyed, is mankind! Mankind, the image of God! For this is a deep crisis. In this time of crisis we cannot worry only about ourselves, close in on ourselves in loneliness, discouragement, in a sense of helplessness before our problems.

Please do not close in on yourselves! That is a danger. But ... we lock ourselves up inside our parish, among our friends, in our movement, with people who think the same as we do ... But, what is happening? When the Church becomes closed in on itself, it gets sick. Think of a closed room, a room locked for a year, when you go, there is a smell of damp, all these things here, that's not right. A Church that is closed in on itself is just the same, it is a sick Church. 'The Church must go out from herself. Where? Towards the existential outskirts', even if that means risking accidents along the way, in the outward journey.

**(Continued on Page 16)**



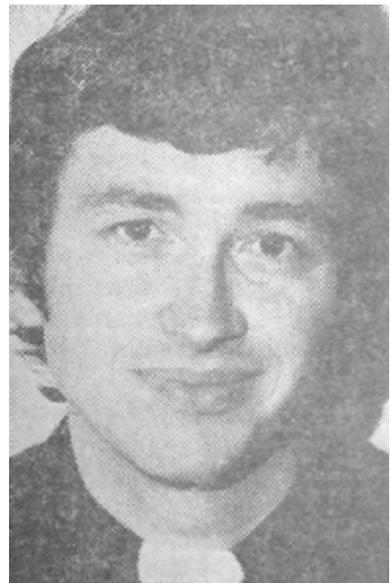
# St. Mark's Moments.....



*Joe and Veronica Maloni, long time parishoners, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with a morning Mass at St Mark's, followed by a blessing from Fr Carlo on 19 April 2016.*



*On the 24th April 2016, Bishop Patrick Dunn, D.D. of Auckland, celebrated his 40th Anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood.*



*Prior to his Ordination, Bishop Pat served as a Deacon at St. Mark's with Fr Ray Green. He was also a Co-Parish Priest with Fr Chris Hamblin from 1985-1986.*



*Above: Kyle and Olu De Rozario on their wedding day, 7th January 2016. The Celebrant was Monsignor Bernard Kiely.*



*Above: Irwin and Evie Green-Thompson celebrated their 24th Wedding Anniversary with their family on the 25th April. They were married in St Anne's in Durban, South Africa.*



*At the Bishop’s Forum for East Auckland held at St. Mark’s in May, Bishop Dunn said, “This makes the Mission of spreading the Gospel challenging and critical at this stage.” He quoted Pope Francis as saying, “It’s not an era of change, it’s a change of era. It’s a whole new age and we are the ones that are at its crossroad point. It’s a privilege.....”*



*Above: Fr Carlo in a bit of a bind at the St Mark’s School Fair.*



*Left: Nathan Oliver, son of Manuel and Yafeelaine Ramos was baptised by Fr Emile on Sunday 5 June 2016. The Parish rejoices in this Baptism.*

**(From Page 13)**

To those who worry about what can happen to the Pope responds : "I prefer a thousand times a Church damaged by an accident, than a sick Church closed in on itself". "Faith" he added, "is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do the same, help others to encounter Jesus."

Pope Francis continued "we live in a culture of confrontation, no?, A culture of fragmentation, a culture of what we don't really need. A culture of the disposable. But,- this is part of the crisis - just think about the elderly, who have the wisdom of a people; think of the children who are ... The culture of waste. But, we have to bring about encounter, we have to make our faith a culture of encounter and of friendship, a culture where we find brothers and sisters, we can talk even with those who do not think like us, even with those with which have a different faith, who do not have the same faith as our own.

But everyone has something in common with us: they are made in the image of God! They are children of God!. Being open to an encounter with everyone, without negotiating the faith we belong to. And this is important: with the poor. If we step outside ourselves, we find poverty. Today, and it breaks my heart to say it, finding a homeless person who has died of cold, is not news. Today, the news is scandals, that is news, but the many children who don't have food - that's not news. This is grave. We can't rest easy while things are this way!

But ... this is the way things are. We cannot become starched Christians, too polite, who speak of theology calmly over tea. We have to become courageous Christians and seek out those who are the flesh of Christ, those who are the flesh of Christ".

Pope Francis spoke of when he would hear Confessions, he would always ask: "Do you give alms to the beggars on the Street?" "Yes, father". "Ah, good, good". And I was asked: "Tell me, when you give alms, do you look into the eyes of the person you are giving alms to?" "Ah, I don't know, I haven't noticed." My next question: 'And when you give alms, do you touch the hand of the one to whom you give alms, or throw the coin and wipe your hands?' That's the problem: the flesh of Christ, touching the flesh of Christ, to take upon ourselves this pain for the poor. Poverty, for us Christians, is not a philosophical or cultural or sociological category: no, it is a theological category. I would say, perhaps the first category, because God, the Son of God, humbled himself, became poor to walk along the road with us".

The Holy Father continued: "Being a poor Church for the poor begins by embracing the flesh of Christ. If we embrace to the flesh of Christ, we begin to understand something about what poverty is, the poverty of the Lord. And that's not easy. But there is a problem which is not good for Christians: the spirit of the world, the worldly spirit. Spiritual worldliness. This leads us to a certain sufficiency, to live according to the spirit of the world and not that of Jesus". Pope Francis said that in order to address the current crisis that touches public ethics, the development model, politics we must first understand that it is a human crisis, it destroys the man, it has stripped man of ethics. And in public life, in politics, if there is no ethics, an ethics of reference that makes us transcendent, everything, everything is possible and we can do anything we want. And we see this when we read the newspapers, how this lack of ethics in public life greatly wounds all of humanity.

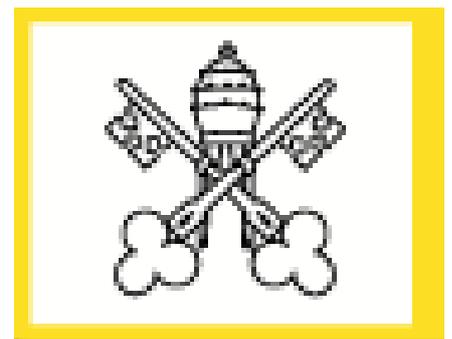


“I would like to tell you a story. I have told this twice this week, but I'll tell it a third to you. It's the story about a biblical midrash, a rabbi of the twelfth century. He tells the story of the building of the Tower of Babel, and he says that to build the Tower of Babel bricks had to be made. This meant making the mud, bringing the straw, mixing them ... then, in the oven, and when the brick was made it had to be hoisted up, to build the Tower of Babel. Every brick was a treasure, for all the work it took to make. When a brick fell, it was a national tragedy, and that worker guilty of breaking it was punished. But if a worker fell, nothing happened: it was something else. This still happens today: if investments in banks, drop a little, it's a tragedy! But if people are starving, if they have nothing to eat, if they are not healthy, it does not matter! This is our crisis today! And the witness of a poor Church for the poor goes against this mentality.”

Pope Francis then turned to the fourth question about how we can help and support our brothers and sisters who still today are persecuted for their faith. He said: "Two virtues are needed to proclaim the Gospel: courage and patience. They are in the Church of patience. They suffer and there are more martyrs today than in the early centuries of the Church. More martyrs. Our brothers and sisters. They suffer. They carry the faith until martyrdom. But martyrdom is never a defeat: martyrdom is the highest rank of witness that we have to give. We are all on the way to martyrdom. [We are ] small martyrs: we give up this, do that ... they, poor things, give up their life, but they give it up - as we heard in the situation in Pakistan - they give it up for love for Jesus, to witness Jesus. A Christian must always have this attitude of meekness, humility, the attitude that they have, trusting in Jesus, entrusting themselves to Jesus. It should be noted that many times these conflicts do not have a religious origin, often there are other causes of a social and political nature and unfortunately, religious affiliations are used like fuel to the fire. A Christian must always know how to respond to evil with good, although it is often difficult".

“We must try to make them feel, these brothers and sisters, that we are deeply united - deeply united! - to their situation, that we know that they are Christians who have entered a state of patience. When Jesus goes to his Passion, he enters [a state of ]patience. We must make it known to them, but also make it known to the Lord. I ask the question again: Do you pray for these brothers and sisters? Do you pray for them? In your every day prayers? I will not ask you to raise your hands. But think well, do we in our everyday prayer say to Jesus: "Lord, look at these brothers, look at these sisters who suffer so much, so much suffering." And they experience the limits, they very limits between life and death. And to us, this experience should lead us to promote religious freedom for all: for everyone!”

“Every man and woman should be free in his religious confession, whatever it is. Why? Because that man, that woman are children of God". And concluding his unscripted response to the questions put before him, on how to be certain in the faith, on how these Movements could live out their mission, about being a poor Church for the poor and about supporting persecuted Christians worldwide, Pope Francis repeated :Never be a Church closed in on itself. Be a Church that goes outside, which is on the outskirts of existence. May the Lord guide us there. Thank you.”





# High Tea

## by Averille Schmidt

On Saturday, May 28th at 2.30pm approximately 100 parishioners gathered in the Parish Centre to partake of a delicious, homemade High Tea.



St. Mark's Social Group were the hostesses for this occasion, each member setting up a table with their own cloths and best china. Background music was provided by Grace Sih on the piano and Raewyn Tan on the flute; they are two of our very able young parishioners.



After being welcomed, the guests were soon involved in a quiz which generated a lot of discussion. Prizes were handed out for the Lucky Spot and Lucky Ticket. Grace was then said, and tea was served at 3 p.m.

After tea, the guests were entertained by the Speaker, Aaron Dahmen, who both challenged and entertained them. One could have heard a pin drop!



The raffle was then drawn. To complete the afternoon, all prayed the Parish Prayer together and at 4 p.m. we farewelled our very replete parishioners.

St. Mark's Social Group would like to thank all their supporters for helping to make this afternoon such a success.



*Above: Grace Sih, Raewyn Tan and Aaron Dahmen.*

### *A Precip of Aaron Dahmen's Speech*

Aaron described himself as “different, not extroverted nor introverted, not funny yet quite humorous, a passionate footballer, a futsaller, a Radio Host and the Tamaki Youth MP ..... as a member of Youth Parliament in the Tamaki Electorate, I have been privileged to attend numerous events across Auckland.”

Aaron touched on social justice issues and the importance of AROHA - “Let us become one people, one community, united in faith together. But most importantly, let us know that Aroha is not just one, but a culmination of human emotions and characteristics. Let us know that Aroha is made up of love.

Made up of passion.

Made up of commitment.

But especially, Aroha is made up of you.”

He concluded with, “I've been Aaron Dahmen - You've been a great audience - Thank you very much.”





# Will We Make A Difference?

by Fr Emile Frische

Someone suggested that if Jesus had sent his twelve disciples for psychological testing this might well be the reply he would have received: Thank you for submitting the résumés of the twelve men you have picked for managerial positions in your new organisation. All of them have taken our battery of tests. We have run the results through our own computer. After having arranged personality interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant, it is the opinion of our staff that most of your nominees are lacking in background, education and vocational aptitude for the enterprise. They have no team concept.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has no qualities for leadership. The two brothers James and John place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas shows a skeptical attitude that would tend to undermine morale. Matthew has been blacklisted by the Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus, definitely have radical leanings, and registered a high score on the manic-depressive scale. One of the candidates however, shows real potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, and has contacts in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious, and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your controller and right-hand man.

That assessment of the Twelve Apostles gives hope to us because if they could go on to accomplish great things for the Lord then so also can we. We are each called by the Lord at baptism and confirmation to be his witnesses. No one can say they are not suitable. If Jesus could use the apostles with their obvious weaknesses, he can also use us to advance his kingdom. God calls us to make a difference to the world, God wants to use us in his plan for the salvation of the world. Paul, who had been a persecutor of Christians and watched Stephen being stoned to death, wrote, "I am the least of the apostles...I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace he has given me will not be fruitless."(1 Cor 15:9-10)

Will we allow God to use us in his plan for the salvation of the world? Will we make a difference? Jesus called his apostles and they weren't who we might consider to be likely candidates. Their weaknesses are so obvious as we read Scripture. But Jesus knew their hearts and their potential and knew what they could become and do for his kingdom. Jesus knows our potential and what we can do for his kingdom. Let us answer his call.

Today Jesus calls us. Like Peter we lack faith. Like Andrew we have much to learn. Like James and John we are selfish sometimes. Like Matthew we have a past. Like Thomas we doubt sometimes. Seeing that the apostles of limited competence did so much for the Church gives confidence to us. If Jesus could use them he can certainly use us. With the intercession of Jesus for us at the right hand of the Father and by our spending time in prayer with the Lord we too can grow from strength to strength and accomplish great things for God and his kingdom.

Am I listening to God's call?



## Caritas Challenge 2016

By Adam Martis (Sancta Maria College)

On Saturday the 23rd of April, 26 youth of St Mark's Parish participated in the Caritas Challenge. This event was organised to raise money for the people of Cambodia. We started at 8 a.m. with Mass and ended at 5 p.m. The challenge was split up into two activities. The first activity was making rosaries. We worked in sweatshop conditions to experience what the children in Cambodia go through everyday. We were made to sit in the Parish centre for two hours continuously doing nothing but making rosaries. We could not talk to each other, nor have toilet breaks or eat or drink anything.



The second part of the activity was going to the Pakuranga retirement village. At the retirement village we got a chance to interact with the residents and perform songs and dances. We also proudly sang the national anthem to commemorate Anzac Day. The residents appreciated our gesture and felt like part of our community.

The rosaries and bracelets we made were sold after the 5.30 p.m., 8.30 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. Masses. We raised \$603.40 in total. Thank you very much for your kind donations and support.

This year's Caritas Challenge was very different and interesting for me compared to last year. Overall this was an awesome experience and I would gladly do it again.



# CONFIRMATION

We congratulate and pray for the young people in our community who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday night, the 1st of June 2016, from Bishop Patrick Dunn D.D.

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



Kokana Steven  
 Manuyag Jacob  
 Martin Eliena  
 McGinty Finlay  
 McIntyre Chantelle  
 Mendoza Nathanael Caleb  
 Moehler Lorenz  
 Moehler Anna Maria  
 Muggleston Adam  
 Namocot Gilimae  
 Namocot Giliane  
 Neems Ava  
 Ocampo Patricia  
 Perez Valerie  
 Prakash Ronan  
 Robiso Gaudencio  
 Roman-Baza Alicia

Roman-Baza Ines  
 Samarasinha Isabella  
 Santoso Alanna Dee  
 Southon Bridget  
 Spence Tayla  
 Spence Paige  
 Sugiharto Ochre  
 Sugiharto Elizabeth  
 Trathen Richard  
 Trathen James  
 Va'afusuaga Philomena  
 Van Heerden Blaise  
 Veitoyaki Sebasitiano  
 Ventura Jan Jacob  
 Voykovich James  
 West Daniel-John  
 Young Vaelei





## In Memory of Louise Noble-Campbell

17 February 1922 - 20 May 2016

### A Poem

#### *I AM READY NOW*

*How is it so that as my breath slows and my body is spent that I dream so vividly?*

*So clear are the colours, people and places that have passed in the life I have seen.*

*As I take one last look around, now tired and wanting to sleep, my soul is a blaze with wonder that there is more to love in eternity.*

*I am not afraid of death, though frustration of waiting I have discovered....*

*My soul bursts with energy as I prepare to leave this life...to heaven... to see my beloved.*

*Nicola Shand-Marcusson 2016*



*Above: From the Howick Parish, Louise was well known to many at St. Mark's Parish.*

## Farewell to Majorie and Julian Pereira



*Above: Majorie and Julian have been parishoners of St. Mark's Parish for a long time and have recently moved to Blenheim.. Majorie (Front row - third from the right) has been a member of the Gospel Choir and this group met to farewell her prior to her departure.*



## From the Parish Council

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The Parish Council has been very active these last few months. We meet once per month as a group of around 10, to cover many issues for our vibrant Parish. The council is well led by Malcolm Martis, our Chairman, and guided by our valued priests Frs Emile and Carlo.

Our most important project lately was to arrange a very successful St Mark's Day Celebration in the month of May, with a great turnout of over 100 parishioners.

A wonderful time was had by all with plenty of yummy food; beautiful flute playing; dancing by young and old, and of course, Fr Carlo's famous trivial pursuit quiz which was specifically focused on St Mark! There were plenty of winners too, so it means we have some very knowledgeable parishioners in our midst...On the following three pages are some photos of our parishioners enjoying the Feast Day Celebrations.....

We have a number of key areas to focus on at present, especially in relation to our Health and Safety requirements , our proposed Parish Columbarium, and ongoing maintenance. Updates will be provided on these as we progress throughout the year.

We look forward to continuing to serve our vibrant parish, and very much look forward to our "world famous" Christmas Party for all volunteers towards the end of this year.

With God's Blessings,  
Paul Oliver  
Parish Council Member

### **Christian Funerals and the Cremation of the Body**

#### **ECCLESIASTICAL FUNERALS**

Canon Law (Church Law) - 1176

§1. Deceased members of the Christian faithful must be given ecclesiastical funerals according to the norm of law.

§2. Ecclesiastical funerals, by which the Church seeks spiritual support for the deceased, honors their bodies, and at the same time brings the solace of hope to the living, must be celebrated according to the norm of the liturgical laws.

§3. The Church earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burying the bodies of the deceased be observed; nevertheless, the Church does not prohibit cremation unless it was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian doctrine.



# SAINT MARK'S DAY 2016



**Sunday  
1 May 2016  
(after the  
10 am Mass)**





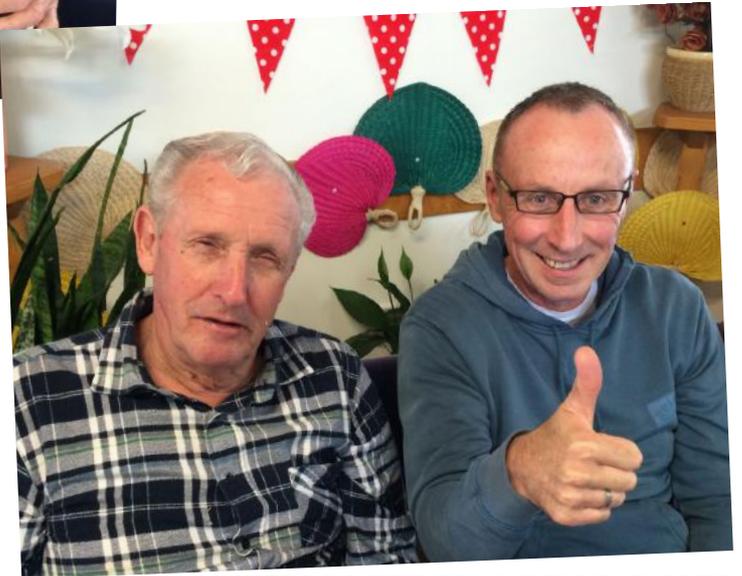
### Fr Carlo's St Mark's Day Quiz

1. Whom did Herod think Jesus was?
2. During the transfiguration, who appeared to Jesus and the three disciples?
3. Look Lord we have left everything and followed you? Which disciple said this to Jesus?
4. Who were the disciples who went with Jesus to the mount of the transfiguration?
5. How many chapters are there in the Gospel of St Mark's?
6. What is the meaning of *Eloi Eloi Lama Sabachtani*.
7. Who helped Jesus by carrying the cross?
8. Complete the quote: "These people honour me with their \_\_\_ but their heart is far from me."
9. Meaning of the word *Ephratha*?
10. What was the value of the perfume that the woman used to anoint Jesus?
11. Which prisoner was released instead of Jesus?
12. What is the name of the place where Jesus was crucified?

(Answers on Page 27)



*Above: Emma (left) and Raewyn playing a duet "Bei Mannern, weiche Liebe fuhlen" by Mozart. Emma also played "Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben" from Bach's St. Matthew's Passion.*



**ANSWERS TO THE ST MARK'S DAY QUIZ**

1. John the Baptist come back alive from the dead.
2. Moses & Elijah.
3. Peter.
4. Peter, James & John.
5. 16.
6. My God, My God why has thou forsaken me.
7. Simon the Cyrene.
8. Lips.
9. Open up or be opened up.
10. About 300 Denarius.
11. Barabas.
12. Golgotha or Place of the Skull.





## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DAY IS.....



....an opportunity to celebrate, share and affirm success, reflect on who we are in the community and commit to being a witness to the Good News of Jesus.

**EVERY DAY**, Catholic Schools throughout New Zealand open their doors and welcome around 66,000 students, providing them with an excellent education in a Catholic environment.

Four of these schools, Sancta Maria Primary and Intermediate, Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Mark's School, gathered to share in Eucharist, catch up with friends and make new ones and enjoy lunch and play-time together.

**WHAT A CELEBRATION!!!**

**WE ARE RICHLY BLESSED**

