



FOOTPRINTS



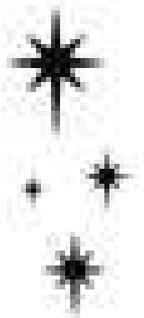
Luke 2:7

“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

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



MAGAZINE OF
ST. MARK'S
PARISH
PAKURANGA
AUCKLAND



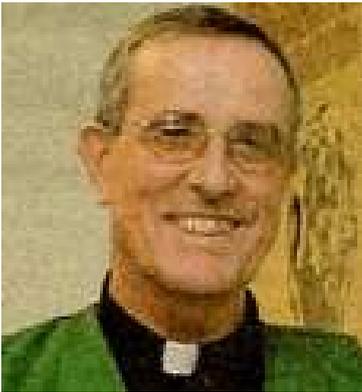
October-December 2017

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A Word from our Parish Priest



Sitting here in my room at the computer, I look out the window and see bright sunshine and the feijoa trees flowering. Birds are sitting on the fence staring at me, probably asking why I'm not out enjoying the sunshine, or, more likely, how about some food! So much for us to be aware of as we begin each day.

And, at this time, as we come to the end of the year, we get more to focus on - Advent, Christmas, and then 2018. The Gospel reading for the 1st Sunday of Advent helps us focus on how we need to be living each day. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus says, "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you will never know when the time will come." When I was part of the Parish Mission Team in New York, Jaime often reminded us all of the "sacredness of the present moment." Every second of the day (86.400 seconds) is precious, is sacred, because Jesus is there with us and for us, leading us all on the way to the Father in the Kingdom. Something to keep in mind, to focus on, as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

This is a good time to thank all who serve in the parish. Yes, we do make time to celebrate the Altar Servers and the Volunteers, the Choirs. Some of what they do, we see and hear. Then there are the "quiet" ones who go out to visit the sick and homebound, praying with them and bringing the Sacrament of Holy Communion to them. So faithful. The Church cleaners and flower arrangers, the sacristans - well done. Those who are shepherding others in various ministries, and give of their time for the formation periods and meetings in the evenings. All helping to build up the Church in today's world. St. Mark's is truly blessed to have all of you living the Gospel message through example. Our St. Mark's Youth for Christ - the Church of the future - for all you do and for your witness to faith - you share your energy and joy in all you do here, and for that we are truly grateful.

St Mark's School, also, is a wonderful presence here. To see the children at Mass with their parents and brothers and sisters, brings hope and joy to us all. We are family, and we share responsibility in growing in faith together.

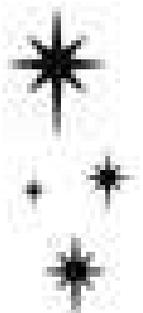
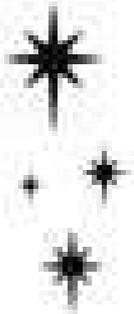
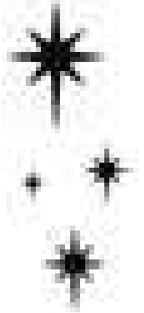
So, I end here because some may be saying I need to change the heading of this piece! Wishing you all every blessing, and thanking you all for the blessings you bring to this parish. May we be united in prayer as we continue our faith journey together, wherever we may be.

In this issue, we thank the many contributors, the proof-readers and all who help us to bring this magazine to fruition. We look forward to Christmas, preparing the "highway of our hearts" to welcome the "little Lord Jesus." We will meet Him at the end of our days, and certainly on the last day of the planet, but we meet Him in every Mass....let us come in the spirit of the prayer before Holy Communion...."Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof; but only say the word, and my soul will be healed..." for that is why He came!

Robert and Mary Pepping



Christmas at St. Mark's School





St. Vincent de Paul



Above: Margaret and David Stark.



Above: Patrick Sih.

St Mark's S.V.D.P. Food bank made 30+ Christmas Hampers on Monday, 11th December, and delivered them to families referred from Citizen's Advice Bureau, Budget Advice, Te Raphiti Mental Health Highland Park, Auckland Hospital Mental Health, S.V.D.P. Southern Regional office, Otahuhu, and the Parish.

This included 55 adults and 80 children. Thanks to generous donations, families received a Christmas card with a \$50.00 Countdown food voucher, and single people, a \$20.00 voucher.

This is often a very difficult time for struggling families now and when children return to school in the new year with all the extras required at that time.

We would like to thank Fr. Emile and Fr. Austin for their ongoing support, the volunteers, and to all the parishioners, for their ongoing generosity.

God Bless you all, Margaret and David Stark.



Above: The St. Mark's St Vincent de Paul Group in the Parish Centre to put Christmas hampers together.



‘Meet the Candidates’ Evening



This opportunity, to meet the prospective members of Parliament prior to the General Election, was provided by the Justice and Peace Group. Held on the 4th of September in the Parish Centre, it was ably facilitated by Andre van Heerden and allowed parishioners to hear for themselves where these candidates stood on issues raised by our New Zealand Bishops.

Candlelight Rosary



Above: Susanna, Nora and Rosemary are ready with prepared candles and holders.

This annual Diocesan event was again held at Sacred Heart College on 1st October 2017, to pray for vocations to the priesthood. The evening began in the College’s Chapel with Bishop Patrick Dunn who then led the prayers of the Rosary in procession around the College grounds. It concluded in the Chapel with Benediction and the singing of New Zealand’s National Anthem.



Above: Bishop Patrick Dunn and Fr. Andrew Matthew in Sacred Heart College Chapel.



A Foundation Parishioner - June Barrett

(16 October 1927 - 5 November 2017)

by Paul Barrett

June Barrett was born Florence June Welsh on 16 October 1927, in the small town of Rawtenstall in Lancashire, England. June's parents were theatrical producers during the 1920s and 30s when music hall entertainment enjoyed booming times throughout the British Isles. Born as she was into the hectic swirl of show business, trains, hotels, boarding houses, and music halls, her curly head was patted and ruffled by notable comedians, dancers, acrobats, and singers who all came under the critical eye of her father and theatrical agent James Welsh, and his wife Ellen, herself a class dancer.

June's father shifted his business to Liverpool when she was 6 in time for her schooling through Catholic schools culminating in a scholarship in 1938 to the prestigious convent college Broughton Hall.

With England at war, and the main ports including Liverpool targeted in air raids, June had first-hand experience of the mass evacuation of the school children to the countryside, her destination being North Wales. Mum often told the story of homesickness with her and her friend deciding to run away at night through the local cemetery. Of course Mum's great story telling ability always had all the children and grandchildren enthralled.

The air raid sirens that had everyone running to shelters either at school or at home were a standard part of life, and we always remember vividly hearing of the bomb that wiped out all their neighbours houses with all that was left standing one half of June's parents' house, where June and her mother were taking shelter under the stairs. They were pulled out just in time before the rest of the house collapsed. June's father came home to find the house gone and none the wiser as to his family's welfare.

After the war June worked in the Post Office and then took a job as a shorthand typist for an importer of fine wines and spirits. She first met Joe, brother to church group friends Maude and Margaret Barrett, when they asked her join them as hostesses at the catholic seafarer's club at Atlantic House in the city. To quote Joe's memoirs "She was drawn to his athletic Irish looks which in short time sat well with her mother as did June's presence with Joe's mother." They were married with full Nuptial Mass in old St Nicolas Church, Liverpool on the 20 Sept 1954, a marriage which lasted for 62 years. As Dad also stated in his memoirs "you were always number one with me June, no matter what". Michael came along in August 1955, followed by Paul in June 1957. They spent summer weekends touring the countryside on the family's motorbike with sidecar.





After a particularly severe winter in 1964 which took away June's Mum, Mum and Dad decided to emigrate to NZ with our family. Our worldly goods were packed up and we had an amazing 6 weeks on the *Ellinis* sailing through the Suez canal to NZ, docking in November 1965 and then settling in Pakuranga, Auckland. Purchasing a section at 66 Edgewater Drive, the family settled in, followed closely by the arrival of Brian in November 1966. They were busy days for Mum establishing life in a new country with a new baby.

The years rolled on spending time following Joe and the three boys around their various sporting events, interspersed with many social gatherings with the extended family. Sunday afternoons at the Barrett's were legendary for a BBQ, backyard cricket, raucous sing-alongs of all the old Irish songs, and a liberal dose of Dad's potent home brew.

June held various jobs over the years including a clerk at the TAB (where she was robbed at gunpoint), weekend reception work for St Andrew's Rest Home, plus giving her time generously to wherever her skills were required at St Mark's Catholic Church where she and Joe were founding members.

June's endearing nature and ability to converse with people made her many dear and lifelong friends. She loved sitting at Pakuranga Plaza and talking to whoever passed by, always with a compliment close at hand. She had a lovely way with people.

It's fair to say Mum had her share of significant health issues ranging from broken ankles, prolapse, a major scare with cervical cancer of which she was given a 30% chance of survival, and many others, all of which failed to hurt her amazing resilience that saw her through to 90.

The last few years of June's life were spent at the Ambridge Rose Manor after suffering a stroke and the onset of dementia. We would like to thank the staff there for the wonderful respectful and dignified care she received. We are indebted to you.

Mum, you were immensely intelligent, creative, warm, and loving. We will miss your sense of fun, your stories, your generosity and kindness to all you met. You will always be in our hearts.

Editor's Note: June Barrett was the secretary of the first Liturgy Committee at St. Mark's Parish. The family were very supportive of founding Parish Priest, Fr. Ray Green; they would set up and put away the seating required for Sunday morning Mass in the Edgewater College Hall.



Above: June and Joe Barrett on their Wedding Day in Liverpool, England.



On Using Our Gifts and Being a Gift to Others

(Father Emile Frische)

There is no time like the present. Now is the important time. Now is the time, to use the words of Jesus in the Gospel parable, when we are either good or faithful servants or we are wicked and lazy servants. That future judgment, good and faithful or wicked and lazy, all depends on now, on how we serve now. The future reward, to use the words of Jesus in today's parable, "Come share your master's joy" or "throw this useless servant into the darkness outside" depends on how we serve now.

The Parable of the Talents taught by Jesus is urging us to be ready for the master's return. Jesus is that master who went on a journey when he ascended to heaven. Whenever he comes again we will stand before him with our talents. The talents were not distributed to each servant equally in the parable. One servant received five talents, one received two talents, and one servant received one talent. Why? Jesus said they were distributed to each according to his ability. The first two servants produced a different number of talents but there is no differentiation in the words spoken by the master to the one who produced five talents and the one who produced two talents. The master says exactly the same thing to the servant who produced five talents and to the one who produced two talents,

"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy." There is not even one word different in the response of the master to the servants even though one had produced three talents more than the other. The reward they receive is equal because they have been equally conscientious. Too bad that the third servant was wicked and lazy and did nothing and suffered the consequences. It wasn't that he was terribly bad. It was what he should have done and did not that was his sin. Now is the important time. Now is the time, to use the words of Jesus in the Gospel parable, when we are either good and faithful servants or are wicked and lazy servants. The Lord does not give us a blueprint for every hour of every day just as the servants in the parable were not told what to do with their talents. But the Lord expects us to use the gifts we have received. It is up to us to figure out what is best with what we have received. We are not expected to produce the same fruit as our neighbour, what we are expected is to produce fruit for the kingdom. Yet not knowing when Jesus will come again is not an excuse to do nothing as Paul also reminds the Thessalonians when he writes, "let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober." Now is an exciting time. God has given us talents. He trusts us how to use them. We get to figure out and decide how best to use our talents for the kingdom.

The parable also wants us to know that what we have received from God is not something small. Pope Benedict lists these talents or riches as the Word of God, Baptism, prayer, forgiveness, the Eucharist, the Kingdom which is God himself present and alive in our midst. The third servant buried his treasure because he had a wrong attitude to God; He did not have a relationship with God; in the parable we read that he even was afraid of God.

Now is an important time, now is an exciting time. If, God forbid, we have buried a talent, now is the time to dig it up so that we can hear the Lord say to us, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy."



Blessed Moments...

On the 26 November, Linda Tocker's granddaughter, Ava Flathaug, was baptised by Fr. Emile in St. Mark's Church.



Above: Fr. Emile baptises Ava Flathaug.



Above: Ava Flathaug, Linda Tocker and Lucas Flathaug.

*Below:
Back row: Lucas Flathaug.
Middle row: Mya Coromandel, Adrienne Flathaug, Emily Spence, Kirsten Flathaug, Rachel Murray, Jessica Jones, Fr Emile Frische.*

Front row: George Marshall, Ava Flathaug, Olive Marshall.



Baptism

Silver Jubilee

Right: Monsignor Bernard Kiely was ordained by Bishop Denis Browne on 19 December 1992. His first parish was St. Mark's. We congratulate him on his Silver Jubilee.





Friendship Group Christmas Luncheon

Our group has finished the year with our annual Christmas luncheon at the Howick RSA. A lovely time was had by 39 of us. There was a lot of chatter, music and gift sharing. Our hamper was won by our lovely Veronica Smith. Enjoy this with your family Veronica.

I would like to thank this lovely group for your love and support this year during Grant's illness and supporting me after his passing away. We will be up and running again on the last Thursday of every month next year. If you would like to join us and need more information please phone me 021 901 379. Have a wonderful Christmas with friends and family.

Megan



Above: Megan McColl and Veronica Smith.





Altar Servers' and Youth Christmas Party

On Saturday 18th November, the annual Christmas party was held for the Altar servers and the Youth of St Mark's at the parish centre.

The day started with an opening prayer by Fr Emile. The next thing we did was introduce ourselves to each other. Angela and Patrick, who are the youth leaders, asked us to mix and mingle so we could make new friends. Later, we played a few games. My favourite game was fruit salad.



After that everyone was hungry so the Parish Council team provided us with a scrumptious meal which included sausage rolls, savouries, chips, lollies, donuts and juice. The best part of my day was when Santa came into the room. Everyone was so excited to see Santa. Each of us was given a chance to pick a gift of our choice.

We all had a great time at the Christmas party and on behalf of the Altar servers I would like to thank the Parish Council and youth leaders for organizing such a memorable event.

By Abigail



The Coming of the Columbarium...





The Blessing and Opening of St. Mark's Columbarium

All Souls' Day - 2nd November 2017

by Lorraine Anderson

How wonderfully appropriate our Columbarium should be blessed and opened on All Souls' Day. Bishop Denis Browne concelebrated the 9am Mass with our Parish Priest, Father Emile. The Bishop reminded us of a French tradition of Catholics honouring their beloved ancestors and past family members on All Souls' Day.

At the completion of the Mass, he invited the congregation to the Columbarium to witness the blessing and the interment of the ashes of two long serving members of St. Mark's Parish, i.e. Nola Treacy and Mary Desmond. This was followed by a lovely morning tea in the Parish Centre, where lots of wonderful memories were shared and love and support was given to the families of Nola and Mary. Some of those family members had travelled a distance to be present.



Above: Steve Desmond carries the ashes of his mother, Mary Desmond, while Brian Tracey carries the remains of Nola Tracey, his wife from the Mass to the Opening and Blessing of the new Columbarium.



Above: Former Parish Priest, Raphael Lobo, who visited the Columbarium after parishoner, June Barrett's funeral.

The satisfaction of all the hours of hard work, over the last year, by the team who consisted of Brian Treacy, Father Emile, Peter Roylance and Ray Anderson was evident.

Father Raphael Lobo was the first to put forward the idea of the Columbarium as he was very mindful of the need for an affordable final resting place for St. Mark's Parishioners; a place close to the Church where family members could visit the place of interment of their loved ones.

(Continued on page 16)



All

Souls'



Day



A special thanks goes to Brian Treacy for his initial, generous financial contribution which provided funding for the concept drawings and the final plans, that were presented to the Parish.

The team would like to acknowledge the generous donation made by the St. Mark's Pasifika Group for the Grotto of Our Blessed Mother, and to Richard Shirley for donating the Statue of Our Lady which provides a place for prayer and reflection within the Columbarium.

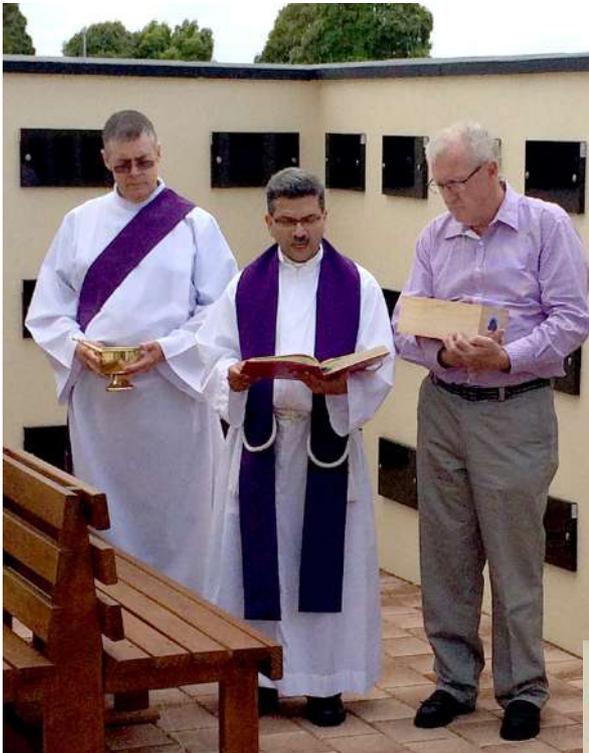
Many thanks, from the team, to those who bought a niche, which financed the construction of the Columbarium.



With our prayers, may they rest in God's peace...



The Interment of Marie Rose Oliver Sunday 10 December 2017



Above: Deacon Chris Sullivan, Fr. Austin Fernandes and Tony Oliver.



Above: Family and friends gather in the Columbarium.



Above: Fr. Austin Fernandes blesses the niche.



Above: Tony Oliver, husband of Marie, places her ashes into the niche.



Above: Ray Anderson secures the plaque.



The Legion of Mary

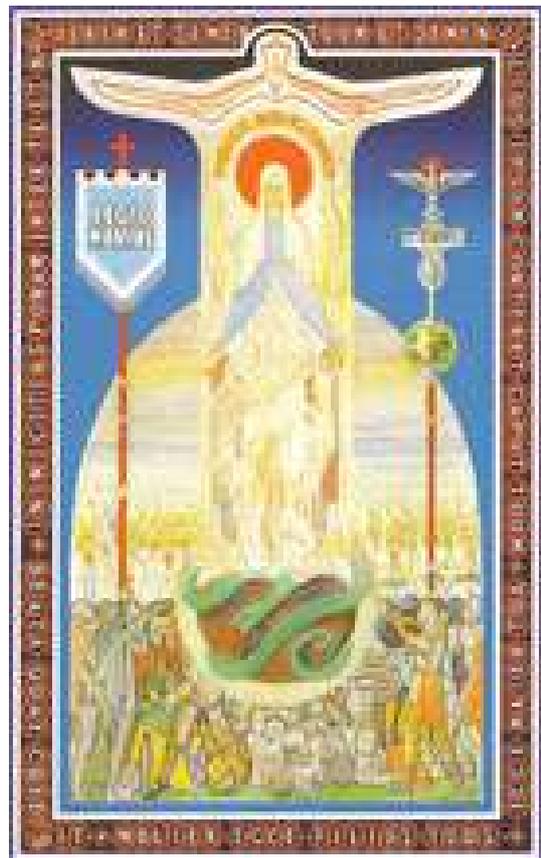


The Legion of Mary held a DVD Presentation at the Parish Centre during October, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of the apparition of Mother Mary in Fatima.

We also set up a 'New Members' recruitment and 'Statue Booking' table. The Mother Mary and Sacred Heart Statues are almost fully booked for next year!

Thank you for all your support! If you would like to Join us as a member of the Army of Mother Mary, please feel free to contact Us.

Hata: 021 022 04171





St Mark's Youth Diocesan Awardees

By Ezekiel Bulay (Sacred Heart College)

In October 2017, two of the St. Mark's CFC - Youth for Christ leaders, Donamae Dela Cruz & Sean Llido were nominated to the Tu Kahikatea Awards. These awards are based on one national criteria but are promoted, decided and awarded locally by the Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Ministry Team and/or commission. The awards are about recognising the gift that youth and young adults do to the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and thanking them for the outstanding contributions they make to their community. They are named after the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference statement - Tu Kahikatea: Standing Tall - A Framework for Catholic Ministry with Young People in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Donamae & Sean are two of the long serving members of the St. Mark's Parish who dedicated their time and gifts to the youth ministry of our parish. Donamae preaches The Word of God and Sean leads the youth and congregation in praise and worship on the guitar during the 6:30 pm, third Sunday Mass.

Donamae has been greatly involved in planning, organising and implementing Kids Fun Days at St. Mark's Parish community using the ROCK (Reach Ot Christ to Kids) of the CFC-Kids for Christ Program since 2012. As one of the Youth for Christ leaders, since 2013, Donamae provides big support to other youth in the parish through her small youth cell group called "household". On the wider Youth for Christ community, Donamae is one of the key Youth in running programs for Kids for Christ by allowing kids to experience Christ through games, music, dance, arts and other fun activities.

Sean leads the music ministry of the wider Youth for Christ in East, South and Central Auckland. He had been serving at St. Mark's Parish as Eucharistic Minister and been leading the choir since 2014. He dedicates time in preparing the songs and practices for this service.



Donamae Dela Cruz and Bishop Pat.

On 26 November 2017, Donamae & Sean received an award at St Patrick's Cathedral during the Mass celebrated by Bishop Patrick Dunn. Both Donamae & Sean were the recipients of the Tu Kahikatea Award for Prayer & Worship/Community Life in recognition for their contribution to the St. Marks Youth community. Unfortunately, Sean was not present because he already travelled to Melbourne to be with his family for the holidays who just moved there very recently.

I am confident to say that they both truly deserve this award because as members of the St Mark's Youth for Christ they have served everyone wholehearted for the Glory of God. They have been an amazing influence to all of us. I'm sure they will continue to spread their love and support wherever they go. We, as one St. Mark's Community would like to congratulate and wish them all the best in the coming years.



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.

The Columbarium has now been completed and on All Souls' Day (November 2nd) it was officially blessed and opened by Bishop Denis Browne with two families having the interment of their beloved's ashes. We are so very pleased now to have this as part of St Mark's Parish.

On Sunday 3rd September, the fun day was held on Auckland's North Shore with lots of activities and it was great to see such fantastic support from our Parish. There was a Public Meeting with Pakuranga Election Candidates held on Mon 4th September with invites being made to the local representatives from the National, Labour, Green, NZ First, and Maori parties

Encouraging young people (not just Catholics) to participate in the Bishops Survey was also a key focus. Fr Austin's Ordination (Birthday) Anniversary, 1 year, was also celebrated and held with a fantastic cake, prayers, with Fr Austin's wider family in attendance.

We are now rapidly heading towards our Christmas party season with our Altar Servers/Youth celebration to be held on Saturday 18th November and our Volunteers Party to be held on Saturday 9th December.

Both Health and Safety and Risk Management have continued to be a key focus for us we continue the process of integrating and implementing the key requirements as part of the wider Auckland Diocese directive. These include such key areas as implementing emergency evacuation processes for all 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, were the Community Clean up Day overseen and led by Rosa Chow; and the various Youth activities occurring in our Parish. It has also been great to provide our support to the new 6.30am Mass on Tuesday Mornings which has been up and running for some 3 months now.... A reminder also please that we do have our Parish website fully functioning now and can be viewed at www.pakurangacatholic.org.nz.

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



Christmas Boxes



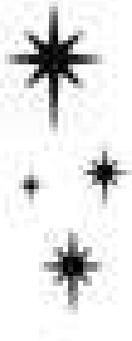
Thank you to everyone who filled these boxes with love and joy for those children with nothing.

We had our best ever response this year and Maureen and I took 241 boxes to the depot in Henderson where they were greatly appreciated. If you are tracking your boxes you will see they have already arrived in Fiji.

Please continue praying for these children and thank you for putting a smile on those young faces.

Thank you to Fathers Emile and Austin for your continued support for this charity.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas. Megan.



Answers to: Who is St. Nicholas?

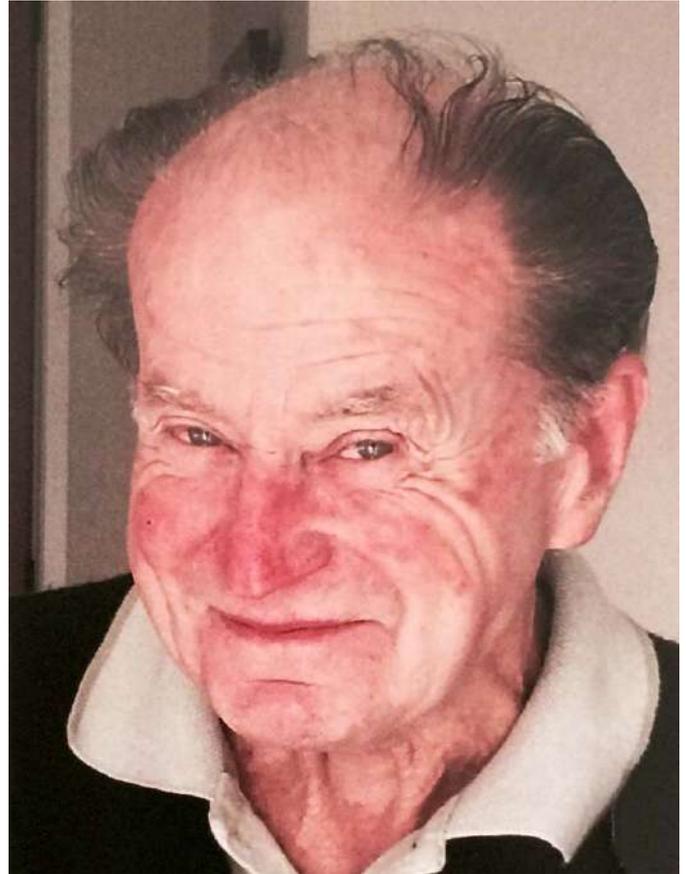
Nicholas was born in Patara, a village in a Greek part of Asia Minor. It is now in Turkey. Nicholas threw three bags of gold through a poor man's window, so his daughters could get married. Nicholas was Bishop of Myra during the 4th century. He attended the first big Bishop's meeting, the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea. Nicholas was buried in Myra, but his tomb is now in Bari, Italy. Bishop Nicholas loved God and cared for people in need. Saint Nicholas Day is December 6th. Three gold balls or an anchor or a ship are sometimes symbols for Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas is patron Saint of children, innocents and sailors.



Your eternal Light be upon them O Lord, may they rest in Your peace.



*Above: Colin Schmidt
(12 June 1935 - 4 November 2017)
Loved husband of Averille Schmidt and father of nine children. Colin was 82 when God called him home. He worked for the ANZ Bank and was called on to be Treasurer of every Catholic school his children attended in both the North and South Islands. He was also a Minister of Holy Communion in several parishes. A man of very strong faith, his famous quote was, "There is only one God and it isn't the bank."*



*Above: David (Dave) Couchman
(27 April 1941 - 13 August 2017)
A long-time parishioner of St Mark's Parish, Dave was often seen mowing the church lawns and giving out newsletters at the 5.30pm Saturday evening Mass. This was the weekly Mass he attended with his much-loved wife Deanna.*



*Left: Julian Pereira
(5 March 1953 - 3 October 2017)
After Julian and Marjorie's recent move to Blenheim, Julian went to his heavenly birthday, peacefully, aged 64. Before moving, both Julian and Marjorie were active members of the St. Mark's Gospel Choir.*

(Left: Marjorie & Julian Pereira)



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at St. Mark's Atrium

We rejoice in the opening of St. Mark's Atrium on 21st Oct 2017 at our parish centre. We are grateful for the gift of The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) and the support of our parish priests and parishioners from St. Mark's and catechists who donated their talents to help make this possible. St. Mark's Atrium is set up to serve the religious needs of the 3 to 6 year old children and their parents who form part of the CGS community. As the first atrium in Auckland, we also endeavour to use our atrium as a training centre for adult formation courses as part of our evangelization ministry. Very often, parents and adults attending the CGS courses fall in love with their faith again as they encounter God as a child.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a Montessori-based faith formation program for children beginning at the age of three and is rooted in scripture and liturgy. Originated in Rome, it is the result of a long period of careful observation of children across cultures and backgrounds by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi. The themes presented in the atrium are those to which the children have responded with depth and great joy.

During this Advent season, we share about advent being a time of waiting for Jesus to be borne in our hearts and how Mary waited for Jesus. The prayer table has changed from green (ordinary time) to purple (advent) with an advent wreath and Mary with an empty manger added to it. In this time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas, the question we repeatedly ask ourselves in our meditations with the children is "Who is this child?"

May your Advent preparations lead you too, towards a new and deeper discovery of who this Christ-child really is.

Upcoming Events:

1. An invitation to "COME AND SEE" and experience life in the atrium on 16th Dec 2017 from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. Venue: St. Mark's Parish Centre. Please bring a plate to join us in our Christmas celebration.

2. Enrolment for CGS for 3 to 6-year-old children for Term 1 2018 on 16th December 2017 at Parish Centre from 11.00 to 1.00 pm.

3. Adult Formation Course Level 1 Part 1 for 3 to 6-year-old children conducted by the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Association of Australia at St. Mark's Catholic Church on: January 22nd to 27th 2018 (6 days) - Mon to Fri: 9.30 am to 6.00 pm & Sat: 9.30 am to 3.00 pm. To register, please email to: stmarkatrium@gmail.com





LIFE TEEN GROUP FETE GOLDEN OLDIES



A random selection of Senior Citizens from the parish were invited to High Tea on Sunday the 27th of August. In fact, we were thrilled that these vibrant young people showed such initiative to put on an afternoon, just for us.

Right from the get go we felt welcome in their midst. They had decorated the community centre, spread table cloths, welcomed us individually and saw everyone had name tags. Adding to this, members of 'Life Teen' sat with us at table.

The quality and variety of the food was splendid and the entertainment superb. These beautiful young women and men sang, danced and played musical instruments, all the while smiling and happy. They were ably backed by quite a number of generous parents.

St Mark's is a large community with some 1500 people. A huge challenge for us is to Know One Another. This enthusiastic outreach by Life Teen has certainly helped many people, young and old, to know one another. We challenge other parishioners to think of other ways to bring us all closer together.

Sally and Peter Hundleby







Parent Honouring Night

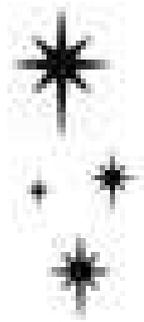
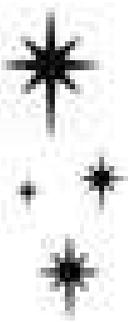
By Adam Martis

My palms were sweaty, knees weak, arms were heavy. There's a stain on my paper already. It's probably Mum's spaghetti. I'm nervous but on the surface I look calm and ready to drop a bomb. Hopefully I don't forget it! Parent Honouring Night. The one night of the year where the children wait anxiously at the side of the stage waiting to deliver a speech, song or dance which would leave an imprint on the minds of their parents for the rest of their lives. This was the agenda for the evening of Saturday 30th of September. Parent Honouring Night.

This was the night where the roles were reversed and the parents were treated as Kings and Queens. The special night was put on by the YFC, dedicated to our loving and caring parents. This event was all about "honouring thy parents" and giving thanks for everything they've done for us. The theme for this occasion was Old Hollywood. As the youth arrived with their parents they walked along the red carpet only to be stopped by the paparazzi to take some glamorous photos. There was a star-studded line up of youth all eager to affirm the parents. As the night went on, the stomachs of many started to grumble.



When it came to dinner and dessert, the parents were to remain seated as their children went to serve them food. The night was filled with wonderful music items from the YFC band which proved entertaining to many. As the night progressed, many of the speeches made quite an impression on the parents as their eyes filled with tears. To finish off the night, the youth wholeheartedly worshipped the Lord through song along with their parents. Parent Honouring Night was surely one to remember!





St Mark's Volunteers Christmas Party

By Ezekiel Bulay (Sacred Heart College)

The St. Mark's Volunteers Christmas Party was a day to serve and treat all those who help and give up their own time for the parish community. It was full of fun, friends and most especially food. This was an evening loaded with delicious food such as spring rolls, pork barbeque skewers, chicken, java rice and everyone's favourite, the fresh green salad. Not to mention, we also had fruit salad and ice cream for dessert. We played many games and had a variety of activities. One person from each table was put forward to play one of the most classic games of all time, Jenga! The contestants pulled out their astonishing moves as they all knew there was a great amount of pressure on them and so everyone was able to witness the unbelievable moves made by the volunteers.

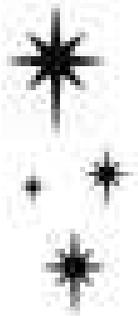
There was also a General Knowledge Quiz full of many different questions, made by Malcolm & Myra, where each table participated. We also sung Christmas Carols, it was as if we were an audience in a X-Factor Show with Mike Lobo taking the stage and singing his heart out. I'm sure everyone had an extremely enjoyable night!

We would like to thank Fr Emile and Fr Austin for hosting this incredible event. Without a doubt all the volunteers had a blast. Another thank you goes to the members of the Parish Council who organised the event, to Paul Oliver, the MC for the night and all those in the kitchen who helped prepare and serve the food. We praise God for this opportunity we were given to spread the Christmas love to all those who help serve in the parish.

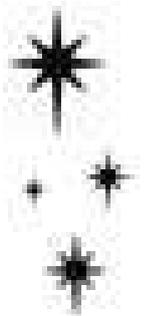
We hope to experience another event just like this because if I were you I really wouldn't want to miss out on something like this. So if you weren't able to experience this amazing event, you better make sure you turn up next year and participate and get to know your fellow brothers and sisters you serve The Lord with.







**Pictures
from the
St Mark's
Volunteers
Christmas
Party**



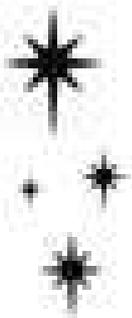
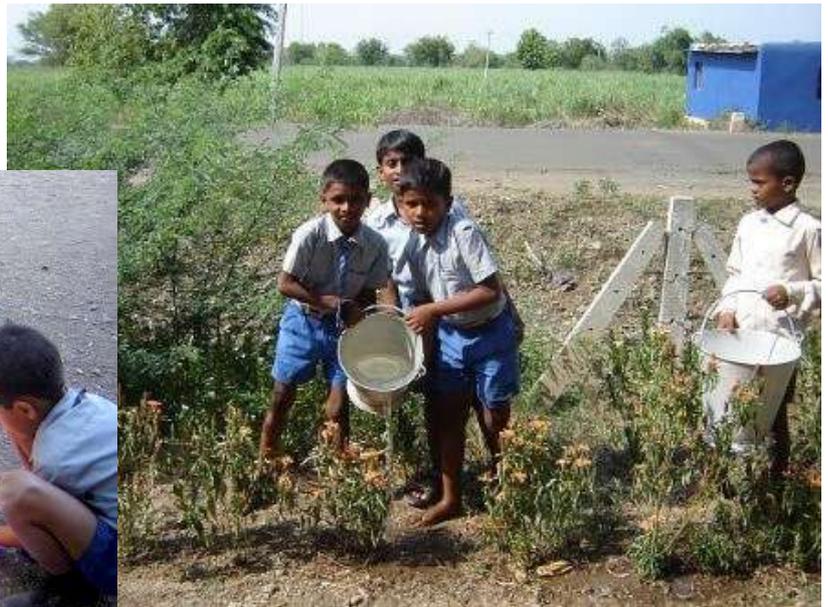


ST. MARK'S SCHOOL MISSION DAY 2017



St Mark's Catholic School was founded in 1979 by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM). Following the charism and traditions of Euphrasie Barbier, the students of our school hold a Mission Day to coincide with World Mission Day, in October each year. This is a day of fun and celebration, entirely run by students. Children helping children.

On this page are photographs of students of St. Mark's Sister School at Nirmalayin India.





This year thanks to the generosity and support of our parents over \$2000 was raised. A magnificent effort. These funds help the children in our Sister school at Nirmalalaya in the Southwest region of India, MissionNZ and the Pontifical Mission.



At the end of the day Senior Students find ways of collecting any unspent money. A very popular way, over the years, has been to write:

"MISSION DAY _ _ _ _ _"

Followed by the year, then try and fill the chalked writing up with coins. Very clever!!!

A VERY SPECIAL DAY FILLED WITH MANY BLESSINGS.....
ALWAYS REMEMBERED, YEARS AFTER LEAVING
ST MARK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

Keep our eyes pure - so that Jesus may look through them.....
Keep our tongues pure - so that Jesus may speak through our tongues.....
Keep our hands pure - so that Jesus may work through our hands....
Keep our minds pure - so that Jesus may think His thoughts in our minds.....
Keep our hearts pure - so that He may love with our hearts....
Ask Jesus to live His own life..... in us.....

Mother Teresa of Kolkata



ST. MARKS' FIA FIA NIGHT 2017

The Fia Fia Night has almost become a regular St. Marks annual social feature with this being the fifth year in which the St. Marks Pasifika Group has hosted a function that has brought together parishioners, family and friends to enjoy Island style entertainment in a very fun filled and relaxing evening where everyone had the opportunity to display their dancing skills and the chance to win great prizes generously donated by a number of parishioners.

A variety of entertainment was provided by the Pasifika Filipino Group, the Flying Fijians, the Young Samoan Divas and the Tongan Tau'olunga by Ane Vaiangina. The response to each item resulted in the "Gift Basket" being filled with generous cash donations.



Above: Grace Rowlands and Sr Geraldine R.N.D.M enjoying the night and friendship and dance.

Malo



Talofa



Bula

The support shown by all those who attended the Fia Fia Night was simply outstanding and in addition many parishioners who were unable to attend also made contributions to the fundraising effort. The project targeted this year was the replacement of the chairs in the Parish Centre and the Fia Fia Night together with raffles held earlier raised \$5095 gross.

Once again the Pasifika Group is extremely grateful for the continuous support that is received throughout the Parish community and is appreciative of the encouragement and participation of Father Emile and Father Austin.



World Day of the Poor

On 19th November 2017, Pope Francis initiated the First World Day of the Poor. Riches and success are often equated with possessions and the independence that comes from having more than enough to live on. Poverty is usually described as having nothing, or lacking the essentials in food and shelter. But these contrasts collapse when we realise how equal we actually are. We are connected; we share a common home - Earth.

We own nothing. All is a gift. Approaching poverty in this way becomes a very humbling experience. I start to see the sense of looking out for one another; sharing what comes my way, and living responsibly, justly and lovingly. As Christians we cannot bury our "One Talent" - we cannot hide our light. We are called to be stewards of the gifts we have been given - to place it at the service of others our "One Talent" becomes part of a great patchwork that draws the gifts of all together.

Together we overcome the difficulties of each. Those with "Many Talents" risk becoming selfish - trading them for more, becoming richer at the expense of others. Manipulation, exploitation, greedily grasping the little others have.

Blessed are the open hands that embrace the poor and help them - bring hope. Blessed are the hands that reach beyond every barrier of culture, religion and nationality, and pour the balm of consolation over the wounds of humanity. Blessed are the open hands that ask nothing in exchange.. These are the hands that call down blessings upon their brothers and sisters.



Kids' Fun Day



Above: Spot the St. Mark's Parishioners loving the poor with their actions.

The Fun Day for special kids was held on the 3rd of September at the North Shore Events Centre. The Day was also a special day for the parents and caregivers of these children. It was a FUN Day and there were many activities for the children.

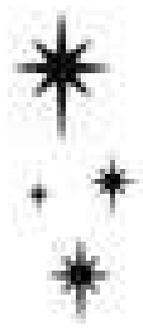
How wonderful that St. Mark's parishioners would travel so far and give up their time to make someone else's life happier. Pope Francis would love this!



Christmas at the Marian Centre, Catholic Kindergarten



Gingerbread Christmas Cookies - have a go!!!



Here is the URL:

<http://www.foodinminute.co.nz/Recipes/Gingerbread-Christmas-Cookies>



Who is St. Nicholas?

Use the Word Bank below to fill in the details about Saint Nicholas



Nicholas was born in Patara, a village in a Greek part of _____. It is now in _____.



Nicholas threw three bags of _____ through a poor man's window so his daughters could get _____.



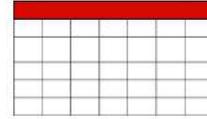
Nicholas was Bishop of _____ during the _____ century.

He attended the first big Bishop's meeting, the First Ecumenical Council in _____.

Nicholas was buried in Myra, but his tomb is now in _____.



Bishop Nicholas loved _____ and cared for _____ in need.



Saint Nicholas Day is _____.



Three _____, _____, or an _____ or _____ are sometimes symbols for Saint Nicholas.



Saint Nicholas is patron saint of _____, _____, _____, and more.



WORD BANK

- 4th anchor Asia Minor Bari Italy children
- December 6 God gold gold balls innocents
- married money bags Myra Nicaea sailors
- ship people Turkey