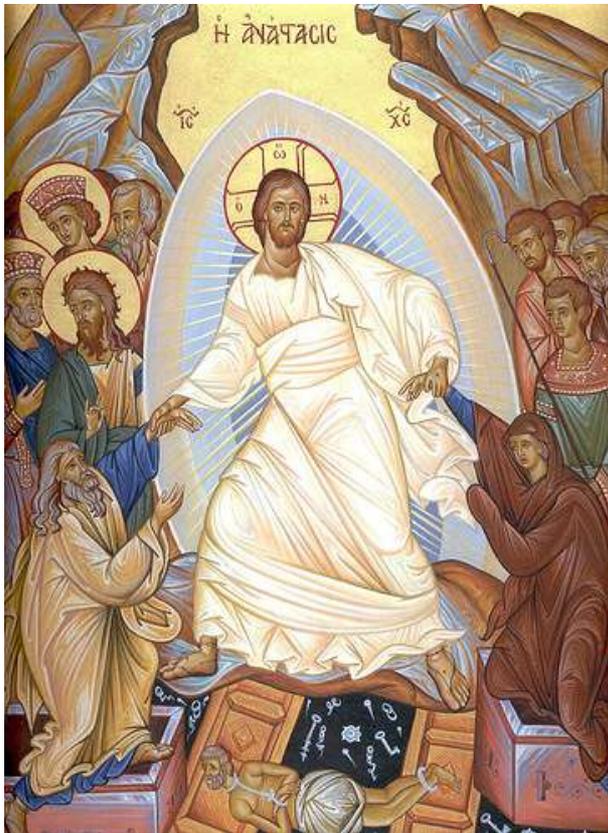




# FOOTPRINTS

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

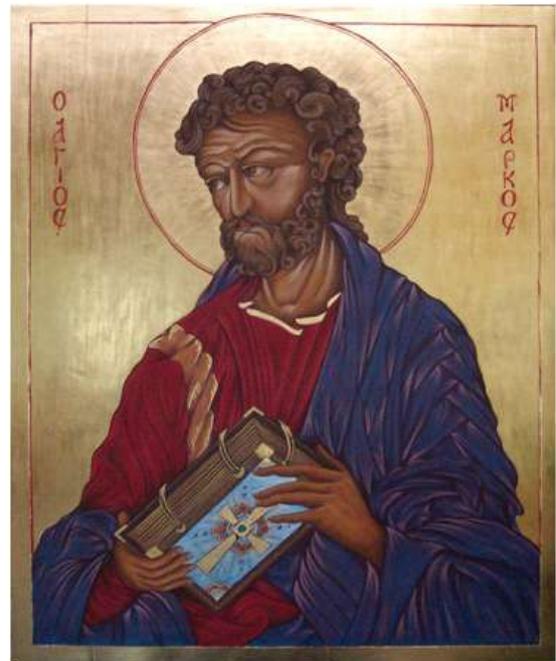


**Easter Sunday of the  
Resurrection of the Lord**

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



MAGAZINE OF  
ST. MARK'S  
PARISH  
PAKURANGA  
AUCKLAND



**January-April 2018**

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## A Word from our Parish Priest



### Easter Message

On Easter morning, "the stone was taken away!" By God's power, Christ's grave was opened. By God's power, the stone that holds you and me buried can be taken away.

What are these stones that weigh us down? First, the stone of selfishness, being concerned only with our own good. The risen Christ will help us roll that stone away by becoming interested in doing what pleases God and what helps our neighbour.

There is the stone of greed and the stone of gluttony. How these weigh down both our body and our soul! The stone of indifference or lack of love, keeps us from trying to please God, keeps us from trying to do good to our neighbour. On this glorious day of the resurrection when we re-live the story of God's love for us, we can break out of this indifference with the strength of our risen Saviour.

What stone would you like to have taken away so that you can come forth with Christ? With the help of Christ, throw it off and Easter will be meaningful for you. The main reason for our joy on Easter, is that Jesus rose from the dead and that He promised we will rise with Him.

May our heavenly Father bring us all to the glory of the resurrection!

Fr. Oliver Aro



### The Icon of the Resurrection

The icon on the cover depicts Christ having kicked down the gates of Hades and pulling Adam and Eve out of the tombs. Christ is flanked by saints, and Satan, depicted as an old man, is bound and chained.



## Come Follow Me.....

is one of the common passages in the scripture I am conscious of, in my participation of Jesus' mission. I am called and I follow. Following the Lord, demands openness to accept the unexpected consequences of His call.

Let me introduce myself; my name is Rev. Fr. Oliver P. Aro, M.S.P. I'm a member of the Mission Society of the Philippines. A missionary institute of the Society of Apostolic Life established by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. I was ordained a Deacon on the 25th of July 1996, and on the day of my Baptism, 2nd of January 1997, I was ordained a priest at the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Cebu, Philippines.

The Mission Society of the Philippines made me the Director of the Missionary Spirituality Formation of Seminarians, as my first assignment. After three years of formation work, I was sent to the missions of Papua New Guinea in 2000. In 2005, the M.S.P. Superior sent me to the the Maori Missions in the Diocese of Auckland, New Zealand, in which Bishop Patrick Dunn posted me to Sacred Heart Parish, Dargaville.

In 2008, I was appointed District Moderator (Local Superior) of the Mission Society Philippines for the New Zealand District. The Bishop moved me to Holy Cross Parish, Papatoetoe. The role of the D.M. is to look after our missions in Australia, Pago Pago, the Cook Islands and New Zealand.

In 2011, Pope Benedict XVI appointed me to be the Superior of the Missio Sui Iuris of Tokelau. However, in 2016, Pope Francis changed the jurisdiction of the Church of Tokelau. He entrusted the Pastoral Care to the Archdiocese of Samoa. This new status of the church of Tokelau ceased my responsibility to the mission.



In mid-2016, the M.S.P. sent me back to the Auckland Diocese and to temporarily reside at St. John's Parish, Parnell, supplying parishes in need of a priest. In early 2017, the Bishop assigned me to be the Parish Priest to the Parishes of Thames, Coromandel Peninsula and Hauraki Plains. Then, late last year, another evolution of parishes in the Diocese of Auckland occurred. It challenged my commitment and value of obedience. The Bishop shifted me to St Mark's Parish, Pakuranga.

This is a new challenge for my missionary priesthood. I know that each parish has its own unique reality. May my humble experience in the ministry and the Christ in me, become the material for our journey in faith. Let us share our gifts and experience of God, so that the vibrancy of this parish will remain, in spite of our multicultural reality. I am looking forward to come to St. Mark's Parish in February 2018. May my leg have found the familiar ground where I could grow more and bloom where I am planted.

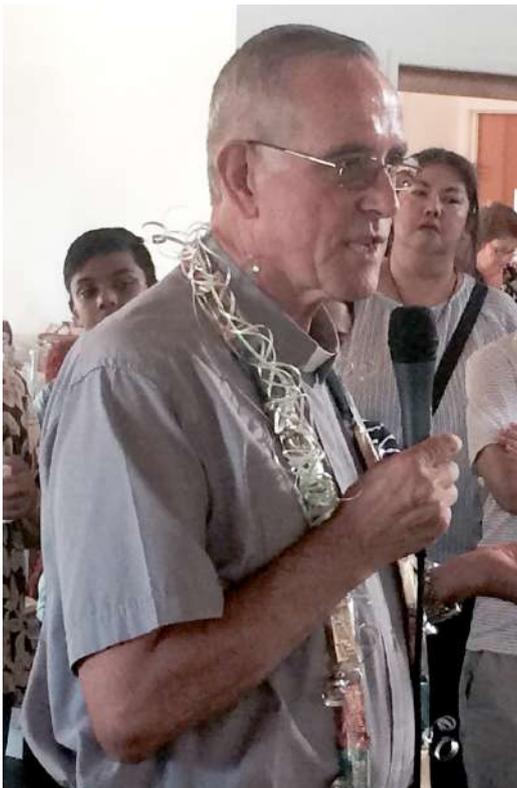
***Rev. Fr. Oliver P. Aro, M.S.P.***



## Time To Say Thank You and Farewell

On 21 January our Parish gave our beloved Fr. Emile a fitting farewell as he heads north to continue his priesthood. We are hoping to have him back for his 50th year of Priesthood in 2020. Paul Oliver was the MC.

- Llewellyn McGivern opened the event and spoke about Fr Emile's history and thanked him for his love and devotion to our Parish over the last three years.
- Ethan Karl spoke on behalf of the Children's Choir.
- May Frost supported by "Fiji and Samoa Airlines Team" presented a Pasifika Dance with Fr. Emile and Fr. Austin joining in!
- Speeches were made by Megan McColl and Catherine Rivers on behalf of all parishioners and St. Mark's School.
- The Youth for Christ presented a musical piece.
- The LifeTeen Youth also presented a musical piece.
- Mike Lobo and the Malaysian/ Singaporean Group had their turn.
- A lovely speech was made on behalf of Kurt and Tiana Meyer, who were overseas at the time.
- The Chinese Group presented a Chinese dance to Fr. Emile.
- The Cake was cut and delicious food, brought by all, was consumed.





A letter from Kurt and Tiana Meyer.

Dear Father Emile,

It is difficult to find the right words to express the great sadness we felt when we received the news that you would be leaving St. Mark's Parish and the even greater disappointment when we realised that we would not be back in New Zealand in time to attend your farewell by the St. Mark's community.

We were certain that Bishop Pat had made a mistake and had actually meant that your time at St. Marks had been extended by at least another 3 years or longer should you choose and that you had misread the message. Unfortunately we now know that is not the case and we will no longer have the great privilege of you as our Parish Priest.

Over the last three years you have made a great impact on us all, individually as well as collectively and we cannot thank you enough for your spiritual leadership and guidance as well as your personal friendship. Your energy in all activities has been inspirational and your sense of humour has lifted us, sometimes in moments of worry and concern. Your never failing, welcoming comments have always been enjoyed and to witness you in silent prayer at the back of the church each week day morning has given us a sense that there can be peace in the world and all will be well and Tiana always felt a special moment just to touch your shoulder as she passed by.

Your light hearted reference to Tiana determining the colours to be worn at each Mass will be missed. We will also miss your blessings on our birthdays and anniversaries, and on any other occasion when we approached you for a special blessing when we felt the need for strength and perhaps comforting from the Lord.

There are many developments within St. Mark's that you have given so much support and encouragement. We will forever remember the strength you brought to the Columbarium project that led to its completion. The Manger scene at the front of the Altar each Christmas will be etched in our memories.

We thank you for sharing with us your many personal experiences in developing countries and the challenges you encountered. Your recall of the horrific experience of "9/11" in New York gave us an unprecedented insight into the massive tragedy and personal suffering by so many. There is also little doubt of the personal impact it had on you.

Your calm approach, even in cases of personal emergencies, was well reflected in your telephone call to us letting us know that you had a seriously bad foot injury and would be taking the train to the Middlemore Hospital A. & E. Department. Our reaction was worse than yours and you were instructed to stay put, until we could get to the presbytery in 5 minutes and rush you to Middlemore for urgent attention. Thankfully you listened to our instructions or else you would have faced the wrath of Tiana.



We know that the St. Mark's Pasifika Group very much appreciated your support and the acknowledgment that you gave to the Group's fundraising and providing an annual social occasion for parishioners, friends and family.

We thank you for giving your time to join us for family group lunches, dinners and especially for our Home Mass which is the highlight of our family group programme. You being with us on each occasion has made it so very special and we cannot thank you enough.

Your photography skills will also be remembered and we are so grateful for the beautiful photos you have given us of magnificent sunsets that you have captured.

There is so much more we would like to recount of the wonderful relationship we have experienced with you over the last three years but suffice to say you have impacted upon us and the great memories will be everlasting. We hope that we have the opportunity to visit you in Okaihau and will certainly intend to make plans for that to happen.

A simple "thank you" just does not seem sufficient to express our feelings and gratitude but hopefully knowing that it comes from within our deep emotions will give a full reflection of the meaning of the "Thank You" from us that we wish to extend.

May God bless you.

As we say in Rarotonga..Kia Orana e Kia Manuia (meaning May You Live Long)

Much love,

Kurt and Tiana

*The Dynamic Duo:  
Father Austin and  
Father Emile.*





### Images from the Day



**Thank you Fr. Emile  
for being the  
Shepherd of  
St. Mark's.**



**God zegene je  
Fr. Emile (Dutch).  
God bless you Fr. Emile.**



## Parish Council Report

Dear All,

On behalf of St Mark's Parish Council, "Blessed Easter Tidings to you All."

It has been another very busy time for our Parish Council. After getting through the Christmas period and organising the various Christmas Parties we arranged a fitting farewell for Fr. Emile and have welcomed Fr. Oliver into our Parish. I can assure everyone, that after our first initial meeting this year with Fr. Oliver and Fr. Austin that there are many exciting projects and plans in place, in order to enhance our wonderful parish this year.

You will all be aware of the additional Mass times that have been introduced from 12 March and these are detailed in the newsletter.

We will also be looking at ways to enhance our speaker and screen visuals in the Church.

An annual meeting to present to all parishioners our plans and progress will also be arranged and an invitation will go to all parishioners.

Encounter with Youth...and ways of enhancing and communicating with our youth are being thought through at present.

Simon O'Connor re Euthanasia Bill.....we are exploring the possibility of having Member of Parliament, Simon O'Connor, presenting to our Parish on the Euthanasia Bill.

Fire Drill...we are currently planning for our Fire Drill due to Diocesan requirements.

The Columbaria is now fully functional and Stage 1 is completed, so we are very grateful for this.

We as a Council will continue to keep you updated as we progress throughout this year.

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





## R.C.I.A (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

A Catechumen is someone who has been through an Inquiry period, then welcomed into the community, through the Rite of Welcome & Acceptance, and later on the Rite of Election (which also takes place at the Cathedral).

These Rites mark the different stages of their journey of faith.

They then enter into a period of deeper conversion through the scriptures, and more spiritual preparation for the reception of the sacraments of Christian Initiation which takes place at the Easter Vigil - the climax of our Catholic faith!

*Above: After the Rite of Election, which was held at St Patrick's Cathedral on the 18th February is from left, Kelly An, Rosemary Palmer and Brenda Scott.*



*Above: Catechumens Brenda and Kelly rejoicing with Bishop Patrick Dunn D.D. in the Cathedral Square.*





## Three Children that God used to bring Peace to the world....

**"At Fatima," Pope Francis said on May 14th, 2017, "the Virgin chose the innocent heart and simplicity of little Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia, as custodians of her message....."**

**With the Canonization of Francisco and Jacinta, I wanted to propose to the entire Church, their example of bonding with Christ and their evangelic witness, and I also wanted to urge the entire Church to take care of children.**

**Their holiness is not the consequence of the apparitions, but of their faithfulness and the ardour with which they responded to the privilege of being able to see the Virgin Mary.**

**After the encounter with the 'Beautiful Lady' - as they called her - they frequently recited the Rosary, they did penance and offered sacrifices to bring about the end of the War, and for the souls most in need of divine mercy."**

In 1916, Lucia and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta were leading the sheep to pasture when three times an angel appeared to them and begged them to pray and make sacrifices to pay for sins that upset God.

On May 13, 1917 the Most Blessed Virgin appeared to them at the Cova da Iria, a plot of land that belonged to Lucia's family. "Do you want to offer yourselves to God to endure all the sufferings that He wishes to send you, in reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and in supplication for the conversion of sinners?"

"Yes we do."

"You will suffer greatly, but God's grace will be your comfort. Say the Rosary every day to obtain world peace and the end of the war."

Jacinta could not keep herself from telling what she had seen and heard. When Lucia's family heard about it, they refused to believe the apparitions were real.





Maria Rosa dos Santos, her mother could not accept it. Fascinated people heard about it and came to visit - trampling the family's crops and Lucia was blamed. The Parish Priest said, it could well be a deception of the devil!!!

Lucia decided not to go and meet the 'beautiful woman' again.....because she was afraid of the devil; but on the 13th July, she was moved by a mysterious force and she came and took her cousins to the Cova da Iria. The beautiful Lady was there as she promised. For the third time she asked the children to pray the rosary, and whenever possible, as a family. They were shown a vision of hell, the terrible fate for sinners who are not sorry, and she said hell could be avoided by devotion to her immaculate heart - this would also bring peace between countries. She said, a new war would break out and persecutions would come from Russia - which would spread across the world. She said, if her requests were heard, "Russia would be converted and there will be peace."

The children were taken forcibly, by the Government to Vila Nova de Ourem, where the District Administrator tried to get them to tell the secret the Lady had given them. He threatened to throw them into boiling oil if they refused him. They were terrified, but did not speak. The Administrator was amazed by their courage, and returned them to their home on August 15...two days later.

On the 19th, Our Lady appeared to them again and said there would be a miracle in October. "Pray, pray a great deal," she told them, "and make many sacrifices for sinners. For many souls go to hell because they have no one to make sacrifices and to pray for them."

Years later, in 1946, someone asked Sister Lucia: "What do you mean by sacrifice?"

By sacrifice, Our Lady has said she means "the faithful performance of the duties of one's state." (In Sister Lucia's book, *Calls from the Message of Fatima*, she explained that many people give to the word 'penance' the sense of great austerities - and as they feel neither the strength nor the generosity for that, they become discouraged and give in to a life of luke warmness and sin.)

On October 13th, the heavenly apparition revealed her name: Our Lady of the Rosary. She asked that a chapel be built in her honour, and again emphasized the saying of the Rosary. Lastly, with great sadness, she added: "May no one further offend God Our Lord, who is already greatly offended!" As the apparition rose into the sky, Lucia called out, "Look at the sun!!!" The miraculous sign was taking place. The heavy rain stopped, the clouds parted, and the sun appeared. Everyone could look at it, without being blinded. The dance of the sun was recorded by 70,000 witnesses, in a radius of 40 kilometres around Fatima....and at the end of the miracle....people noted that their clothes...drenched by the rain.....were completely dry!

On April 4, 1919, Francisco, overcome by the Spanish flu died and Jacinta died from the same disease in February 20, 1920. Lucia alone survived, as Our Lady had prophesised, to carry the message of Heaven, given to her.

In June 1921, she met Bishop da Silva, the Bishop of Leiria, who became a second Father to her. To protect her from curious people, he sent her away to study at the school run by the Dorothea sisters in Vilar, a suburb of Porto.



On June 15, Lucia at only fourteen years old, left Fatima for good. Kneeling one last time at the Cova da Iria, she cried and begged forgiveness from Our Lady, for she did not feel able to offer her the sacrifice of going away. The Blessed Virgin appeared to her then, and encouraged her, "I will never abandon you" as she had promised on June 13th, 1917. "My heart will be your refuge and the path which will lead you to God."

At Porto, Lucia received a new name: Maria das Dores (Mary of the Sorrows). "Dores," as she was called, was not allowed to speak about the apparitions, or about her village or her family, which caused her many humiliations from her classmates, who did not understand. She accepted all this, and repeated the prayer she had learned from Our Lady: "O Jesus, it is out of love for you, for the conversion of sinners and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary." There she was no longer the famous seer of Fatima, but an ordinary student. She became respected and loved, by the students and teachers.

Lucia was a talented student and she wanted to go to High School, but that meant she had to reveal her identity. She wished to study, so she could spread the message of heaven even more. She was kneeling at the Tabernacle, when Jesus spoke to her, "Do not be sad," He told her, "you will not study, but I will give you My Wisdom. The message is entrusted to the care of My Hierarchy."

Eventually, Lucia made her perpetual profession on October 3, 1934. Shortly afterwards she was sent to Pontevedra, during the first months of the Spanish Communist revolution, and then she returned to Tuy. She said God had prepared another sort of martyrdom for her, "He had reserved for me," she would later say, "another martyrdom, which perhaps was not easier, the slow hammering of renunciation that crucifies and immolates."

During the years of the Second World War, food became scarce, and the sisters suffered from hunger. However, Portugal continued to be spared from the scourge of war, as Lucia had written to the Holy Father on December 2, 1940: "Our Lord promises, in taking into consideration the Consecration that the Portuguese Bishops made of the nation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a special protection of our country during this war, and that this protection will be the proof of the graces He would grant to other nations if they were similarly consecrated."

On October 31, 1942, Pope Pius XII Consecrated the Church and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, mentioning Russia indirectly. On May 4, 1943, Sister Dores wrote: Our Lord "promises the end of the war is coming, considering the act that His Holiness has deigned to make. But since it was incomplete, the conversion of Russia will be later."

On March 25, 1984, Pope John Paul II, in union with all the Bishops of the world, renewed this Consecration. Sister Lucia wrote then, that this act had been made in the manner in which Our Lady had wanted.

Bishop da Silva, requested memoirs from Sister Lucia. Between 1935 and 1941, she wrote four. Everything about Fatima was revealed, with the exception of the third part of the secret. In 1943, the prelate wished that she would put this third secret into writing.



Very upset, Sister Lucia appealed to Our Lady, who, on January 2, 1944, gave her permission for Sister Lucia to write it down - but it could not be divulged before 1960. After this date, many people asked for the third secret to be known, but Sister Lucia would say: "If only people lived what is most important, which has already been said! They are only concerned with what remains to be said, instead of doing what has been asked for: prayer and penance!"

On the 21st May 1946, Sister Dores had the joy of making a pilgrimage to Fatima. "The crowds ran after me, searching for the supernatural that they did not find in this world. I therefore want my steps to leave a trail of light to show them, by faith, the path to Heaven." In 1947, she requested of Pope Pius XII her desire to enter the Carmelites, to be sheltered from "the immeasurable flood of curious and indiscreet eyes." He discerned this to be God's will, and she entered the Carmelites on Holy Thursday, March 25, 1948. On May 31, 1949, the feast of Mary, Mediatrix of all graces, she made her solemn profession and received the name, Sister Maria Lucia of Jesus and of the Immaculate Heart.

With her joyful appearance, her big smile, and her ready sense of humour, she delighted the sisters during recreation.

She returned to Fatima when Pope Paul VI and later Pope John Paul II, went there on pilgrimage. In the year 2000, when the Beatification of her cousins Francisco and Jacinta was announced, her heart pounded with new fervour, so much had she longed for this event. Eventually her health declined to the point of a wheelchair, but not her serenity or good humour!

On the morning of the 13th February, 2005 she received the blessing of Pope John Paul II, sent by fax, that she was able to read herself....and that evening, as her Mother Prioress held a crucifix...and the Bishop of Coimbra and the entire community looked on....she died peacefully.

The Government of Portugal declared a National Day of Mourning on the day of her funeral, which was celebrated at the Cathedral in Coimbra on February 15, 2005. A Diocesan inquiry for her beatification was formally completed on February 13, 2017.

More information can be obtained from Saint Joseph de Clairval Abbey website: <http://www.clairval.com/>  
or by emailing [abbey@clairval.com](mailto:abbey@clairval.com) from whom much of the above was resourced.

THE ALLIANCE OF THE HOLY FAMILY INTERNATIONAL  
*Welcomes the Visit of the*  
INT'L CENTENNIAL  
PILGRIM IMAGE OF  
OUR LADY OF FATIMA  
Theme: "The Urgent Call for Prayer and Reparation:  
The Appeal of Our Lady of Fatima"  
**St. Mark's Parish**  
334 Pakuranga Rd, Manukau 2140  
February 15-16, 2018 (Thursday-Friday)

**Thursday, February 15**

6:30 pm Welcoming Procession to the altar  
Imposition of Scapular, Rosary &  
Crowning of Our Lady  
St. John Paul II Consecration Prayer

7:00 pm Holy Mass  
Family Consecration to the Two Hearts  
Investiture of the Brown Scapular

8:00 pm Talk: "Answering the Urgent Call for Prayer  
and Reparation by Living the CARE Elements:  
Confession, Adoration, Rosary & Eucharist."

**Friday, February 16**

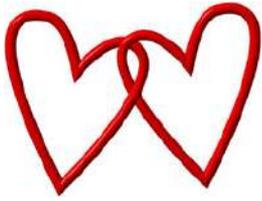
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Investiture of the Brown Scapular

7:00 pm Talk: "Answering the Urgent Call for Prayer  
and Reparation by Living the CARE Elements:  
Confession, Adoration, Rosary & Eucharist."

Our Lady of Fatima with her Immaculate Heart  
blessed by Pope Francis on January 11, 2017

AHF@holymfamily433  
YouTube AHF: Fatima 100years  
Alliance of the Holy Family International

**Click on this link to hear the talk given by the Sisters who brought the Pilgrim statue blessed by Pope Francis to St. Mark's Parish [https://youtu.be/P01I4nI\\_gYo](https://youtu.be/P01I4nI_gYo)**



# 65th Wedding Anniversary 10 January 2018



*Right: Father Austin witnesses the renewal of vows of Maria (Rita) and Adrian (Eddie) Pepping on the 10th of January 2018 - the actual day of their wedding - 65 years on.*



*Left: Father Emile, former Parish Priest, congratulates Mr and Mrs Pepping on their long marriage. All three of them share a common Dutch heritage.*



# Wedding Day 10 January 1953

*Right: Adrian and Maria Pepping on their Wedding Day. They were married at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Panmure by Parish Priest, Fr. S.G. Gardiner.*





## St Patrick's Day - Homily from Deacon Chris Sullivan.

Today is a very special day for all the Church and especially for those of us whose ancestors came from Ireland, because it is St. Patrick's Day, a day which is celebrated with parades and partying by Irish people all around the world, even those who are not very religious.

St. Patrick was originally from England, but he was captured by slave traders and forced to work as a slave in Ireland where he suffered greatly from cold and hunger, looking after animals. After 6 long years as a slave, he escaped but was captured and held for a brief time in France, where he learned about French monasticism.



One might wonder what on earth God was doing by allowing poor St Patrick. to suffer so much, but his time in Ireland taught him the Irish culture and language and his time in France introduced him to the life of French Monks and both of those experiences would be very valuable to him in his later ministry in Ireland. The same happens in our own lives, God often uses the suffering we have experienced, to prepare us to be effective in ministry to others.

Finally free, he studied in France, where he was made a Bishop. His great desire was to proclaim the good news of the Gospel to the Irish. One night he had a dream that all the children of Ireland were stretching out their hands to him. St. Patrick was convinced that God was calling him to go to Ireland as a missionary, so the Church sent him there.

St. Patrick knew the language and the customs of the Irish people and he loved them, so he was a very effective missionary. He was courageous and humble. He used the example of the Irish Shamrock plant, which has three leaves, to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity, where three distinct persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, like the 3 leaves of the shamrock, are united into one single God. He founded 300 Churches and baptised more than 100,000 people.

St. Patrick was so effective in converting Ireland to the Christian faith, that Ireland became a strong Christian country. In later centuries, the dark ages ravaged and destroyed Europe and it was Irish monks who restored the faith and learning to Europe. Much later, the Irish Church sent many missionaries all over the world, including to New Zealand where the Irish influence was instrumental in forming the Church in this country. Let us pray to St. Patrick, that he will intercede with God for us, that we may be courageous and humble as he was, in spreading the good news of the Gospel.



# 70 Years of Profession and Service



*Long time and esteemed member of St. Mark's Parish, Sister Marie Fauvel R.N.D.M., celebrated 70 years of Profession on the 5th of January 2018. The Sisters gathered with the Sisters of St Joseph in the Mission Bay Chapel for a Mass full of Jubilee Celebration. After the homily, Sr. Marie renewed her vows. Following the Mass, Sr. Carmel Cole, Province Leader of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, spoke of Sr. Marie's generosity in serving for 70 years. The Josephites provided a wonderful morning tea in the Dining Room.*



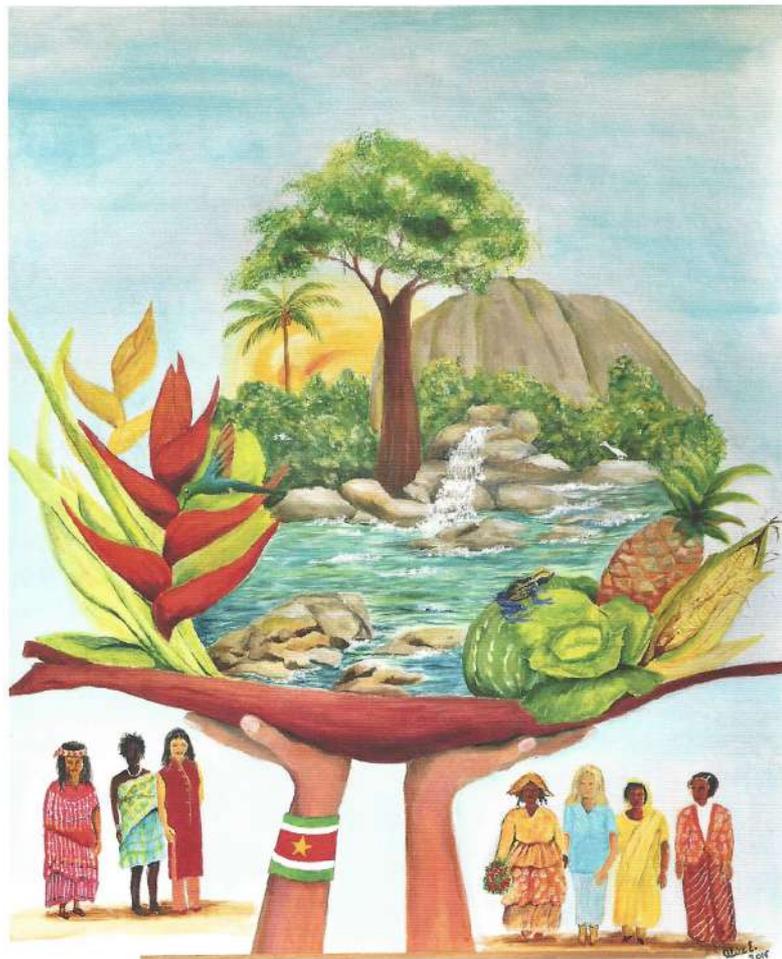
On Friday, 2nd March 2018, an Ecumenical Service was hosted by All Saints Anglican Church in Howick. Other local churches involved were: St Columba Presbyterian, Trinity Methodist Church and the Catholic churches of Our Lady, Star of the Sea (Howick) and St. Mark's (Pakuranga).

This International Day of Prayer supported a small country in Central America, Suriname, with a theme of "All God's creation is very good". Our Parish Priest, Fr Oliver Aro and the Minister from All Saints' Church, supported those involved with their presence and prayer. Parishioners representing St. Mark's were: Gerry Tvrdeich, Toni MacLeod, Linda Chan, Henny Gussenhoven, Tiana Meyer, Eny Santoso (Siska) and Levinia.



## World Day of Prayer

*Ecumenical Service, Friday 2nd March 2018*



**All God's creation is very good!**

*Prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee, Suriname.*

*Adapted for use in New Zealand by World Day of Prayer Aotearoa New Zealand.*



## Former Parish Priest of St. Mark's Parish receives Award in New Year's Honours



Fr. Barry Scannell S.M. was the driving force behind the immense restoration project which gave the people of the Archdiocese of Wellington back a safe and beautiful St. Mary of the Angels Church in Boulcott Street.

The project itself was complex and necessary due to structural deficiencies identified after the 2013 Seddon earthquake, and the fundraising needed for the project was very challenging.

We congratulate Fr Barry on being appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the community and heritage preservation. A well-deserved tribute!

Cardinal John Dew.



ST MARK'S PAKURANGA  
50th JUBILEE



1971 - 2021

PREPARING THE WAY

## Preparing the Way for Passion Sunday



*Cutting palms were 8 year old, Kylie, and his friend Aaron, along with other adults who volunteered their time to ensure there were palms for 1,800 people. (David Ben is in the background.)*



## Loved By Many

# Nivea Annamaria Elena Pisani



*5th August 1933 to 12th February 2018*

*By her Daughter, Shirlene.*

Our mother, Nivea Annamaria Elena, was born in Pola, Italy on 5 August, 1933. Growing up, Mamma's family spent time living in Rovigno and Africa before later settling in Trieste, Italy. Nivea, had an interesting and happy life growing up with her Papa Giuseppe (Beppe), Mamma Rosalia (Lia), older sister Mariuccia and younger sister, Genevia (Decd).

Mamma lived through the Second World War, experienced the family being displaced and her father spending time in a concentration camp in Africa. When Mamma finished school at age 15 years, she worked in an upmarket toy store, Paganis, in Trieste. Mamma saw our Papa (Mario) at regular Friday and Saturday night dances in Trieste. Mamma loved dancing and always fancied Papa, but much to her dismay he danced with lots of the other girls too. But he eventually asked Mamma for a dance. They started courting and she finally got her man.

She often told us stories of how her Papa, our Nonno Beppe, would set a curfew for her and Mariuccia to be home by 10 pm and how they were having too much fun and were very often late and how their father would be waiting for them to walk in the door.

Mamma & Papa married on 25 April 1954 and she worked full time at Paganis' toy store until she had her first (bambino) baby Fulvio in 1955.



On the 16th October 1955 at 6.30 pm, Mamma & Papa (with bambino Fulvio) immigrated to New Zealand. They were sponsored by the Gruden Family. Sig Gruden had been a Sargeant of the Italian Police in Opicina, Trieste where Papa worked. They had paid for their own cabin for their journey on the ship Flaminia from Trieste to Australia but were not given what they had paid for. Papa was put in a cabin with a group of men he never knew, and Mamma, with baby Fulvio was separated from the love of her life and was put in with other women and children.



Their ship voyage saw them leave Trieste on the 16th of October 1955, and docking in Melbourne on the 14th of November. From there they flew to Sydney and then Wellington, arriving three days later with a debt of £120 to start their new lives. It was a long trip for Mamma being separated from Papa and with a new baby to look after. However Mamma handled everything with elegance and grace.

They settled in Petone renting from a Greek family one of their bedrooms. Papa worked at Austin's car factory as a welder & the same time Mamma got herself a job working at Wills Tobacco Factory in Petone to help save for a deposit on her and Papa's very first home at 37 Elizabeth Street in Moera. Mamma was very fortunate to land a job as she had never learnt the English language and was self-taught with the help of Papa and just listening to others.



*Above: Nivea and Mario, pictured in Trieste, when they were engaged.*

After moving to Moera, Papa went to work at Lever Brothers where he studied for his engineering degree as he worked his way up from Fitter & Turner to a Draftsman in the drawing office then to Manager of the drawing office when he graduated as a Mechanical Design Engineer. Mamma supported and encouraged Papa all the way, and she went to work at UEB packaging until she fell pregnant with our sister Patricia. When Patricia started school, Mamma went to work at Griffins Biscuits until Shirlene was born. When Shirlene started school, Mamma went back to work at Griffins in Waiwhetu, Lower Hutt.

Early in 1973 the family relocated to Dunedin as Papa had taken on a position as a Director in at Millers Mechanical. Again, Mamma found herself a job, now working at Cadburys. During all Mamma's working life she had many fun times and made many great friends whom she was still in contact with up until her passing.



*Above: The day of departure from Porto Trieste.*



Mamma and Papa worked and saved their entire lives to give their 3 children the best possible start in life. They showered us kids with love, they supported and encouraged us through all stages of our lives and always told us how proud they were of us. They had never been able to afford to return to Trieste to visit their loved ones until 1980.

It was 25 years since they had left Trieste and Mamma, Papa and Shirlene embarked on a trip of a lifetime. Mamma & Papa decided to sell up in Dunedin and move up to Auckland where Papa had been offered another job prospect. When they settled in Auckland, Papa decided that Mamma had worked long enough and so she retired from paid employment and could now spend many hours enjoying her gardening, fantastic Italian cooking, dancing out or at home, knitting, sewing, watching her favourite TV shows, enjoy precious time with her daughters, and indulge herself in her faith. Nivea and Mario were fortunate to be able to make several more trips back to Trieste and several trips to Australia to visit Fulvio & Kathy and their 3 grand-children.

Mamma's world crumbled, and life changed dramatically when in January 1993, her beloved Mario and life partner died prematurely at only 64 years of age. With the love and support of her family, especially Shirlene, and Patricia who lived with her for over a year, had helped Mamma through her grief. But life went on and drawing strength from her faith, Mamma was healing, and so Patricia decided it was time and she moved back to Wellington.



*Above: Mamma & Papa with their first baby, Fulvio, on their first Christmas in New Zealand after their arrival.*

Three days later in June 1994, tragedy struck again. Her beloved daughter Patricia had unexpectedly passed away. It was almost insufferable for Mamma to bear, but again her faith pulled her through. A few years passed and again Mamma was struck with another tragedy when her baby grand-daughter Claudia, Shirlene's baby girl, was unexpectedly called to rest.

During the last 5 years Mamma has lost so many dear Italian relatives and during the last 10 years has lost so many dear friends here in New Zealand. Mamma was very family orientated and made several more solo trips and two trips with Shirlene to Australia to visit Fulvio, Kathy and her grand children and great grandson Tyler.

But with her recent health issues it was unfortunate that she could no longer travel, but with the benefits of technology Mamma was able to skype or video message with the Aussie mob and had the pleasure of seeing and talking with her new great-granddaughter, Blaike.



Mamma brought joy and happiness wherever she was and always tried to see the good in people. Mamma was fortunate to be able to spend so much precious time with Shirlene. Earlier on she enjoyed going on trips with Shirlene when she was a Company Rep. and travelled for work. More recently, Mamma immensely enjoyed meeting up with friends for coffee and dance group pals and at Christmas parties and formed some very special bonds with some very special people, who are here at St. Mark's today.

Some of you may recall Mamma's surprise 'Birthday Party' last August where everyone wore funny coloured wigs. Mamma had the time of her life and told Shirlene it was the best day ever, only second to her wedding day.

Mamma was a very strong and loving woman; she had endured a great deal of mental and physical pain and suffering throughout her life, and even after being told the news of her diagnosis, with her continued strong faith in God, she had been able to soldier on.

We miss you so very much and love you so very dearly Mamma. Your memory will live on in our hearts forever. Knowing that you are now reunited with your first and only love and all the loved ones who have passed away. We know and thank God that you are now pain-free and in Heaven.



*Above: Nivea, a parishioner of nearly 40 years; a wonderful, philanthropic woman.*



## Three Key Lessons from St. Joseph

*If the man Jesus learned to say 'daddy,' 'father,' to His Father who He knew as God, He learned it from life, from the witness of Joseph, the man who took care of Him.*

St. Joseph gives us three key lessons as we walk with him to Bethlehem, suggested Pope Francis during his homily for morning Mass at the Casa Santa Martha.

Jesus' father on earth knew:

- how to walk in darkness,
- how to listen to the voice of God,
- how to go forward in silence.

Speaking of Joseph's struggle upon learning of Mary's pregnancy, the Pope said:

*"Joseph fought within himself; in that struggle, the voice of God is heard: 'But get up' - that 'Get up' (which is heard) so many times in the Bible at the beginning of a mission - 'Take Mary, bring her to your home. Take charge of the situation; take this situation in hand, and go forward.' Joseph didn't go to his friends to be comforted, he didn't go to a psychiatrist so that he could interpret the dream. No... He believed. And he went forward. He took the situation in hand. But what must you take in hand, Joseph? What was the situation? What was it that Joseph had to take up? Two things: fatherhood, and mystery."*

Joseph had to take charge of "fatherhood," the Pope reflected:

*"He took on a paternity that was not his own: it came from the Father. And he went ahead with that fatherhood and all it signified: not only supporting Mary and the Child, but also raising the Child, teaching Him his trade, bringing Him up to manhood. 'Take up a paternity that is not yours, but God's.' And this, without saying a word. In the Gospel, there is not a single word spoken by Joseph. A man of silence, of silent obedience."*

Joseph is also the man who "takes in hand" the mystery.

*"Joseph took in hand this mystery and helps: with silence, with his work, up to the moment when God called him to Himself. It is said of this man, who took up fatherhood and mystery, that he was the shadow of the Father: the shadow of God the Father. And if the man Jesus learned to say 'daddy,' 'father,' to His Father Who He knew as God, He learned it from life, from the witness of Joseph, the man who took care of Him, the man who raised Him, the man who carried forward every paternity and every mystery, but took nothing for himself." This, Pope Francis said, is "the great Joseph," who God needed to carry forward "the mystery of leading the people anew to the new Creation."*



# YFC Auckland Discovery Camp

By Adam Martis

The YFC Auckland Discovery Camp was a memorable way to end a wild and wacky 2017 and it was an even better way to boost morale for the upcoming new year of 2018! The camp was held at Sir Peter Blake Marine Education and Recreation Centre from the 15th to the 17th of December.

The theme for this camp was "Look at thy heart and see". It was inspired from the bible verse 1 Samuel 16:7 "But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him." The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Personally, I felt like this camp strengthened and enhanced my relationship with the Lord.



Some of my highlights of the camp were Adoration and Reconciliation, the Creative Workshops and the Affirmation Night. The Creative Workshops were divided into 3 main groups; dance, chorale and drama. I chose to do chorale, which was singing, and I really enjoyed it, as singing is praying twice. Not to brag or anything, but our harmonies were pretty angelic!

Affirmation night was my personal highlight of the camp. Basically affirmation night is where everyone goes around and "affirms" other people and this just makes people feel a lot better about themselves and it lifts their spirits up. Overall I really enjoyed this camp and as I said before I felt like it was a great way to end the year!



# A TRIBUTE TO A LONG-TIME PARISHIONER HAROLD (MAC) NORMAN MACLEOD

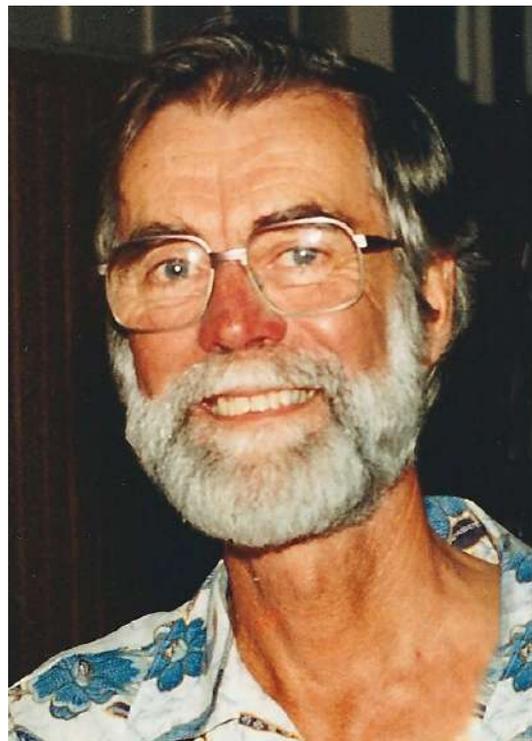
**2nd May 1932 - 7th March 2018**

By Harry's middle daughter, Teresa Ann Jadvick.

Dad's ideas about life and how it should be lived are a legacy he leaves you all here today. We five children are an embodiment of what he wanted to accomplish and what he believed in and held dear.

Our Dad, Harold Norman Macleod was born in Stornaway on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland in the year 1932. His parents, Lillian Martin and Donald John Macleod spent their first eight years in Scotland. Donald was a Naval Officer and away at sea a lot of the time so Lillian decided to return to London with Harold and his sister June.

Lillian raised the children alone in the East End of London and Harold received an education to the elementary level. Lillian also had the insight to send her son to elocution lessons before entering him in to the London School of Art where he studied for four years.



Dad's paintings, drawings, etchings, lithographs and writing, were well reviewed by his peers and we still own many of his original pieces. In 1952 Dad was conscripted to the Royal Air Force and served two years of National Service. After being discharged of his duty, he joined the Merchant Navy as a seaman with the P&O ships. Dad's spirit of adventure had given him the travel bug and he was fortunate to travel the world several times with his post. His appreciation and keen sense of beauty, culture, art and adventure led him to many exotic parts of the world, his absolute favourite being South America.

One of these trips brought Dad in to the Port of Auckland, where he met our lovely mother Antonia at a Dance Hall at the Holy Sepulchre Church on Khyber Pass Road. This happened to be the night of Boxing Day 1957. After six weeks back at sea, Dad returned to London and approached his mother Lillian to borrow some money. When Lillian asked what the money was for, he responded "I'm going to pick up my million dollars!" This happened to be our dear Mother. Upon returning to New Zealand, Harry promptly proposed to Antonia. They were married on the 4th of July 1959 and six months later on Boxing Day (again), sailed back to England, where they lived for the next ten years and were blessed with five children .

In Dad's early married life, he was still very adventurous and with Mum's encouragement they took us on many holidays. One particular holiday, we went camping in the Highlands and Lowlands



of Scotland in an old black vanguard car, pitching a tent and sleeping in paddocks with an open fire and Dad teaching us children the joy of painting and drawing.

In 1970 Toni and Harry, returned to New Zealand travelling by ship and arriving in to the Port of Auckland with all of us five children and just £100 in their pockets to start their new life!

Dad worked in various sales roles to support his young family. He became very successful in Real Estate with his eloquent, articulate speech and sharp sense of when and how to 'seal the deal'. Mac was awarded 'Salesman of the Year' for seven consecutive years. Dad helped many, many, young couples realise their hopes and dreams and his driving motivation was always to help them get into a home of their own, as he had done.

Another one of Dad's dreams was to own his own yacht. Through hard work and faith he accomplished this and acquired his first yacht, The Don Juan. His love of sailing enabled him to take our family and friends on numerous trips, full of fun, adventure and shenanigans, to places such as the Great Barrier Island, The Bay of Islands and around the Hauraki Gulf.

One of the things he would always say, after dropping anchor in a sheltered bay and having a few drinks was "Toni this is the life!" It really didn't get any better than this for our Dad; he was surrounded by his beautiful wife, his children, in his own yacht, anchored in a sheltered bay, in a fantastic country. He'd arrived, as they say, his heart was bursting with joy, gratitude, wonder and the enjoyment of life and he was always thankful and humble in praising God for His blessings.

Our Dad was a humble, honest, precise, punctual, practical, pragmatic, personable, generous and kind person. He was a deeply spiritual man, who was devoted to his wife and family and a committed Christian in the Catholic faith. Mac was a parishioner here at St Marks for 38 years and was always very generous to many charities donating to World Vision, Leprosy Mission and volunteering his time to help the blind, on a regular basis. Apart from us five siblings, standing here today, Dad is leaving a legacy of seventeen grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

The Lord our God and Dad's faith were always foremost in his heart and mind and from this faith and love he achieved all he set out to do, in the duration of his life. Harry's love of life and his love of family and family values will pass down to all of you, younger generations, in his family and he will rejoice, looking down on us all here today. United, together, peaceful, prayerful and calm, remembering and celebrating his life. We love you Dad, God Bless you.





## Hannah Banks' Baptism - 30 December 2017



*Above: Joseph Heng, Helen Banks, Bruce Banks, Gianna Banks, Peter Banks, Janice Banks, Baby Hannah Banks, Fr. Emile, Magdaleine Heng, Rosemary Palmer, Rebecca McGinty, Samantha McGinty. Front: Samuel and Michael Banks.*

## Aedan Marcelo's Baptism 11 February 2018

*Below: Aedan pictured with Mum, Aubrey, Dad, Patrick and sister, Francesca.*



## Stella Sacayanan's Baptism 11 February 2018

*Above: Stella held by Mum, Aileen, on her important day, the day of her Baptism.*



## St. Mark's School Dedication Mass

At the beginning of the School Dedication Mass on 20th February 2018, the School and House Captains were announced and blessed by Father Oliver. Parents and Whanau joined us afterwards for a picnic lunch in the school grounds and we were blessed with lovely weather.



*Left to right: Adam Muggleston, Sahara-May Mafi, Eliza White, Kayne Gemmell, Paul Bazar, Mikaela Bangalan, Sophie Tan, Adam Masaryk, Lorenz Moehler and Liliana Cisaria. St. Mark's School and Parish congratulate these students and know they will live up to the responsibilities they have as both School and House Captains.*

### Deputy Head Boy at Sacred Heart College

*Below: Congratulations to our parishioner, Lance Encarbo on his new leadership role, seen here with his family after his Induction on 18 February 2018.*



*Above: Agatha, the daughter of Owens and Kitty Chiu, married Leo Perese on 27 January 2018. Fr. Ezio Blasoni S.M. witnessed the wedding in St. Mark's Church.*



Congratulations to our St. Mark's Seminarian, Martin Wu, as Bishop Pat Dunn officially received him, on the 28th January 2018, as a Candidate for Ordination at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Balmoral. Martin's time there was greatly appreciated and they acknowledged his many gifts for ministry: generosity, compassion, resourcefulness, enthusiasm, faithfulness and creativity. Martin recommences study at the National Seminary, Holy Cross, and God willing, he will be ordained a Transitional Deacon later this year. Let us all keep him in our prayers.



## Another Step Closer to Priesthood...



*Above: Bishop Pat questions Martin and the parishioners. Assisting Bishop Pat is Mons Bernard Kiely who has been a great mentor to Martin, and who served St. Mark's himself as a first year Priest.*



*Right: Martin's family attended the Mass and celebrations afterwards.*



*Above: Martin, Bishop Pat and parishioners from St. Mark's who came to support him.*



*Above: Martin, Bishop Pat and parishioners from Balmoral Parish.*



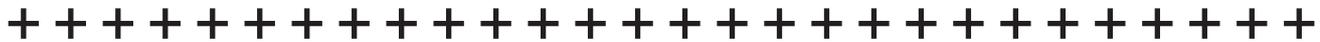


## Mini - Evangelist

On the 15th and 16th of February, St Mark's celebrated two very special Masses to welcome this beautiful statue of Our Lady. Do you know where she came from?



The answer is F \_ \_ \_ M \_



*Here is a small clue for you..... The names of these three shepherd children are Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia. In 1917, these three Portuguese shepherd children said the Virgin Mary appeared to them.*

*Do you know what they said Our Lady told them? Here is a YouTube link telling you all about it.*

<https://gloria.tv/video/794tfLiAqrE84LPgdAngJWEsN>

*Do you know what happened to the sun and why? How many people saw the miracle?*



*Answers to these questions can be found by reading the article on Page 10.*