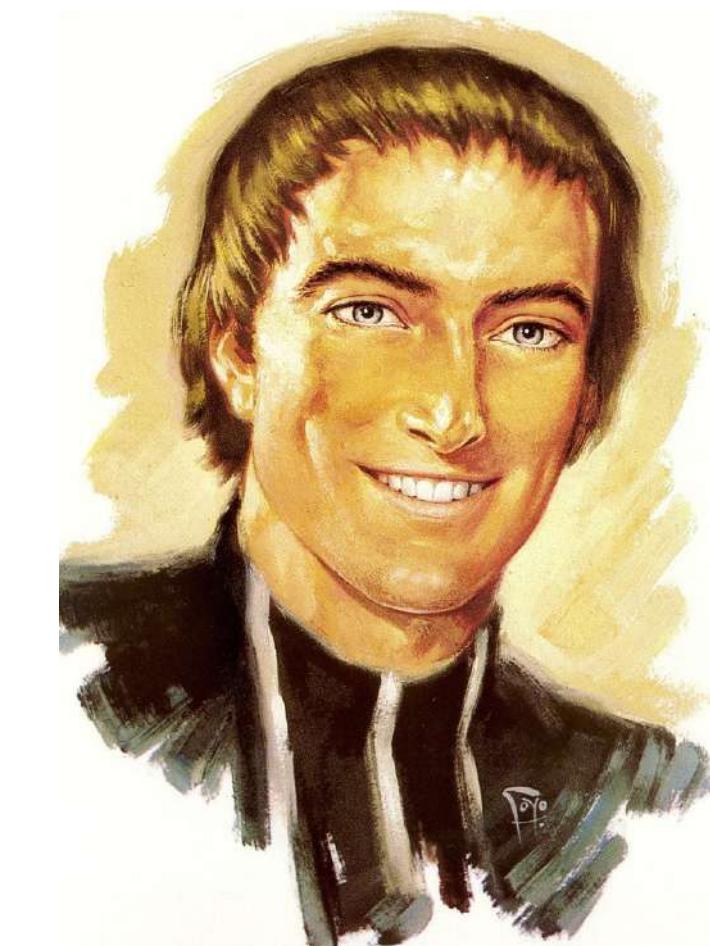




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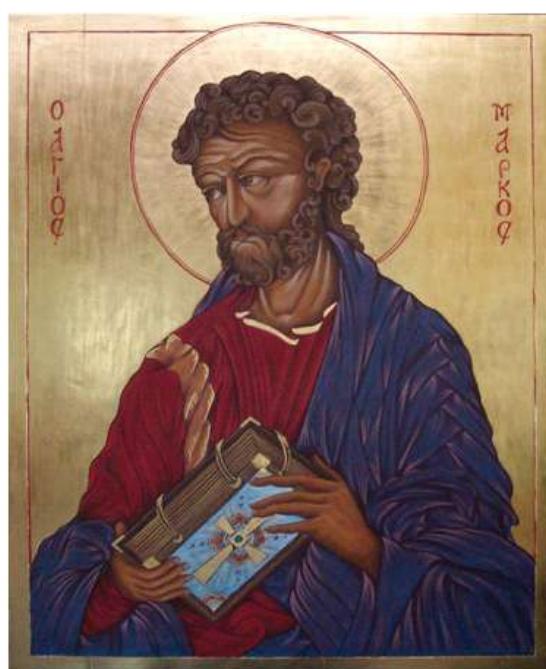


The Saint who inspires our
Seminarian, Martin Wu, has his
relic embedded in our altar.
St Marcellin Champagnat
please pray for us all.

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



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A Word from our Parish Priest



The challenge to spread the Good News is the task of all the baptised. The People of God, by our common priesthood, are called to participate in this endeavour; to share our faith and experience of God. As members of the Church, this is our mission; we are challenged to fulfill this as an absolute priority.

The multicultural reality of the Parish of St Mark's, is a venue for using the many potentials of its members, to be carriers of Evangelisation through the Word of God. We are "to promote a loving, caring, Christ-like community which accepts all people and is inspired to spread the Good News of Christ."

A coach was asked, "How much does professional rugby contribute to the physical fitness of the people in this country?" "Nothing," the coach replied. "Why not?" "Well, you have 15 men in each team down on the field desperately needing a rest and 20,000 or more people in the grandstand desperately needing exercise." It's not unusual to find a small group of diligent Christian workers struggling down on the field, while others in the congregation act like spectators, sitting down with their drinks, hotdogs, and junk food.

God never intended for His church to be operated as a sports event. It does not call for the job to be done by the pros, while the others sit as observers. In the game of life, we all have our positions and spiritual gifts, which we must use for the benefit of all. Proclamation is the task of everyone. That is why, in his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul spoke of the Church as the "Body of Christ." Each part counts. No one claims importance over the rest. Each member functions and contributes to the common good (1 Cor 12:7).

St. Mark's Parish is a fertile ground for evangelisation. The existence of people from different cultural backgrounds, orientations, and economic realities is a rich opportunity to appreciate the individual task of the baptised, to proclaim the Good News. You and I are proclaimers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with joy in our hearts.

Rev. Fr Oliver P. Aro, MSP.

Saint Mark's Mission Statement

To promote a loving, caring,
Christ-like community which accepts all people
and is inspired to spread
the Good News of Jesus Christ.





Please Pray for Our Seminarian



Martin Wu

I am Martin Wu a 6th year seminarian for Auckland Diocese.

I was born in Hong Kong and have lived in New Zealand for most of my life.

I have worked mainly in technology and social services but was bored.

I consider myself a pretty ordinary Catholic. I love the Church, but was searching for something more in my life.

World Youth Day 2008 was probably what really got me going after countless hours of prayer and phone calls. From then, I just had the leap of faith, remembering to “just go, be not afraid!”

I love working with young people. And I can see now more than ever why Jesus loved the young.

Two saints I have admired since I was young were Don Bosco and Marcellin Champagnat. They have been my powerhouse for work with the youth. I think it's because both saints knew the secret key to youth/children ministry. It's LOVE.

Thanks to Holy Cross Seminary.



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



Above: Kelly An, Fr. Oliver and Brenda Scott at the Easter Vigil Mass.

Kelly's Selection

My journey was incredible! The knowledge that I got was far above any expectations I had. I learned so many new things about my faith, and I am looking forward to learning so much more as time moves forward. The RCIA process has been wonderful. I feel blessed to have my teacher Rosemary and my sponsors Genevieve and Patrick, who guided me along this path. Everything from my first RCIA class, the retreat night, to the Chrism Mass has been a wonderful experience.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation truly gave me an understanding of what a loving and forgiving God we have. The highlight of my journey has been Holy week and the events leading up to receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in His real presence at the Easter Vigil. It was an amazing feeling to receive the sacraments at the Easter vigil because in one way it felt great to receive the sacraments and in the other way it felt good to end one journey and then start a new journey. I would tell anyone wanting to come into the Catholic Church, joining RCIA will give you a real understanding of how patient, caring, and forgiving our God really is!

God bless,
Kelly.



Brenda's Selection



My journey has opened my eyes and my heart. It has taught me calmness and patience and how things have their own way of working out. I love the community, the people I have meet along the way and continue to. I want to thank Rosemary and Niran for their care, wonderful knowledge and spending time away from their families to help and teach me during he RCIA course.

God bless,
Brenda.

Treasure
By Rev. Oliver Aro M.S.P.

Many people today concentrate their efforts and resources on a life that is convenient and comfortable.

As a priest, I am saddened to see that people are so focused on earthly matters and they have no time for heavenly things.

Jesus reminds us that the treasures of this world are all passing away.
None of all those things will accompany us to the grave.

If you don't believe in eternal life, then this is irrelevant for you.
The Gospel reminds us to be wary of the promises of this world.

They are relevant as long as we are still alive.
What happens when we die?

I think this is a precious question that we should ask ourselves.
Our life should not stray from the right path.

We must lead on to heaven where God dwells.....

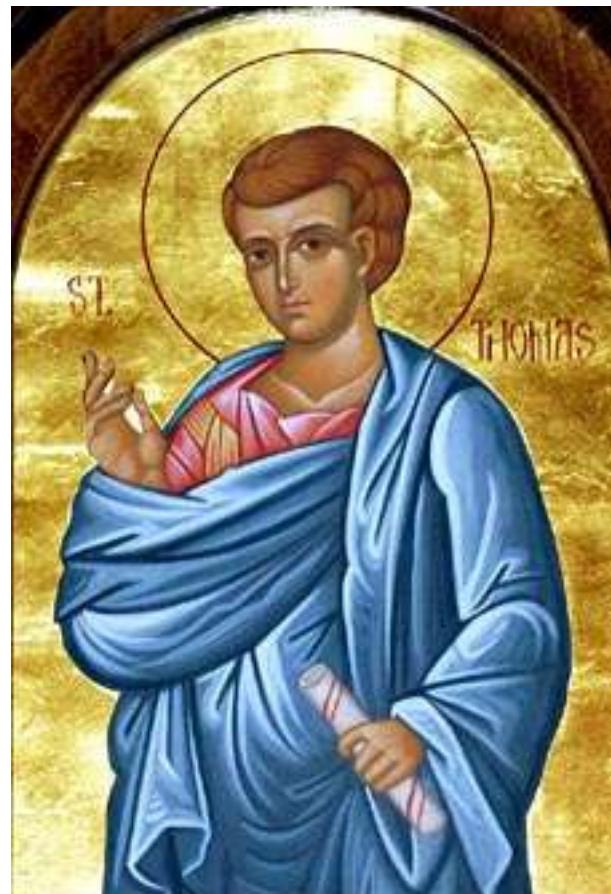


Who was Thomas the Apostle?

by Father Austin Fernandes

As I reflected on the part of the Gospel featuring Thomas, there was one question that kept popping out in my mind. Where was Thomas when Jesus appeared to the disciples the first time? Why was he not there with the twelve? The Gospel clearly mentions that the disciples had locked themselves in the house for fear of the authorities, so, where was Thomas? Wasn't he afraid of the authorities? To answer these questions we need to know something more about the character of Thomas.

Thomas has a very distinctive role in the Gospel of John. Although he is portrayed as the doubter, Thomas was courageous and a faithful follower of Christ; a man willing to stand by Jesus in dangerous times. If we recall, when Jesus wanted to visit Lazarus who was dead in Judea - a few miles from Jerusalem, the worried disciples wanted to keep Jesus from going there, for fear He would be stoned, Thomas was the only one who said to the others, 'let us also go, that we may die with him.'



Moreover, Thomas was bold enough to ask questions. He constantly sought the Truth. He was like an inquisitive child, quite blunt in his approach. Just before the Last Supper when Jesus said to his disciples that, 'in my Father's house there are many dwellings and I am going to prepare a place for you, so that where I am there you may also be and you know the way I am going,' Thomas was the one who objected and said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, how do we know the way?' His question provided Jesus an opportunity to teach one of the most profound truths of Christianity when Jesus said, 'I am the way, and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but through me.'

Thomas was a struggler and seeker of the Truth. So, when the disciples said that they have seen the Lord, he dismissed their account by stubbornly saying, 'unless I see the mark of the nails and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe,' - a very strong headed personality. And then we see the intervention of Divine Mercy - and what Jesus said earlier in the Scriptures, 'the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.' In his mercy Jesus came again to show himself to the disciples but this time exclusively for the sake of Thomas and lovingly said to him 'give me your hand; put your finger in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' And Thomas took the leap of faith and made his profession, 'my Lord and my God.'



The opposite of faith is not doubt; it is fear. Real faith knows and embraces doubts and scepticism and overcomes it. Pope Benedict XVI says 'in Thomas we can recognise the doubts and uncertainties of so many Christians today, the fears and disappointments of many of our contemporaries, and with Thomas we can also rediscover, with renewed conviction, faith in the risen Lord.' St John Paul II writes, 'humanity itself must be pervaded by the Spirit of the risen Christ because it is the Spirit that heals the wounds of the heart, pulls down barriers that separate us from God and divide us from one another and at the same time restores the joy of the Father's love.'

Let us not be bogged down by our fears like those disciples who locked themselves in the Upper Room but be curious like Thomas, ask questions and seek answers, search and seek the Truth because behind every closed heart that genuinely seeks the Truth we may see Jesus standing right within and hear his voice saying to our troubled conscience, 'peace be with you. Do not doubt, just believe.'

Your Path

by Father Austin Fernandes

Matthew 7:6, 12-14

In this Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples and us, about the two ways of life. The easy road, that leads to destruction and the hard road that leads to life. The narrow gate is a biblical metaphor used for entering the kingdom of God. Jesus is reminding the people about the Exodus Covenant that God made with them.

They were to be a people consecrated to God, and the consecrated meat that was sacrificed in the temple, was to be consumed by them and not given to hostile Jews and gentiles.

Participation in holy and sacred things makes one holy and sacred. We are all called to live and grow in holiness. The choice that we make in life determines whether we belong to the kingdom of God or to the kingdom of Satan. Living a good moral life is not easy. It disturbs us.



We have to discern every time and choose to do good. It requires effort on our part and grace and help from God. And that is why Jesus clearly says that the road that leads to life is narrow and hard...and one has to find it. It is a path of grace and this path of grace is available to all. May we find it and walk on it, so that we may have life evermore.



First Holy Communion

Many parishioners assisted this year in preparing the children during the Sacramental Programme, including Patricia Murti, Cheryl Van Heerden, Levina Kotey, Grace Rowland, Lorraine Anderson, Phyllis Horan, Linda Priestley and Eva Frederickson. Congratulations to the following children who made their First Holy Communion on the Feast of Corpus Christi:

Saturday 2 June
5.30 pm Mass

Donnell	Balili
Amber	Chan
Lyonel	Concepcion
Kyle	Damodara
Luis Aron	Evangelista
Hayden	Kwan
Patrick	Malden
Jaden	Pineda
Caitlin	Rayner
Jacob	Tigley
Shreyas	Vangala
Srinita	Vangala
Crystal	Young
Fiona	Young
Margaret	Young



Sunday 3 June
10.00 am Mass

Carole	Chen
Makee	Enricoso
Fredrick	Furivai
Mario	Furivai
Allen Jeffrey	Gulanès
Ezabella	Lanuza
Lucas	Masaryk
Ryan	Massey
Lucas	McGinty
Brooklyn	O'Brien
Thomas	Petrov
Sam	Pienaar
Emma	Priestley
Yoshua	Quedi
Bailey	Robson
Rodrich-Rock	Salazar
Ishara	Samarasinha
Wen Jun Fiona	Sheng
Ashen Upeksha	Withana





Saturday 2 June 2018 - 5.30 pm Mass



Sunday 3 June 2018 - 10.00 am Mass





Communion in the Hand

by Fr. Mervyn Duffy SM

In the period after the second Vatican Council there were many changes in the celebration of the Mass, including: the use of English rather than Latin, the dialogue mass with the people responding to the words of the priest, the sign of peace, and the possibility of communion under both kinds. At that time there was a call by a number of bishops' conferences and liturgists for the reception of communion in the hand. As the Congregation of Divine Worship described it "in recent years a fuller sharing in the eucharistic celebration through sacramental communion has here and there evoked the desire to return to the ancient usage of depositing the eucharistic bread in the hand of the communicant, he himself then communicating, placing it in his mouth."

The reference to "ancient usage" was the result of historical and liturgical studies that had found evidence of this practice in the early church. For example, in the fourth century, when instructing those to be brought into the Church at Easter, Bishop Cyril of Jerusalem wrote: *So when you approach do not come with your wrists extended or your fingers parted. Make your left hand a throne for your right, which is about to receive the King, and receive Christ's body in the hollow of your hand, replying 'Amen'. Before you consume it, carefully bless your eyes with the touch of the holy body, watching not to lose any part of it; for if you do lose any of it, it is as it were part of your own body that is being lost. Tell me, if someone gave you some golden filings wouldn't you keep them safe and take care not to incur a loss through mislaying any of them? So shouldn't you take much greater care not to drop any crumbs of what is more precious than gold or gems?*



***Make your left hand a throne for your right,
which is about to receive the King***

In 1969 the Congregation of Divine Worship surveyed Bishops throughout the world and discovered that two-thirds of them opposed the introduction of communion in the hand and a third were in favour of it. Their decision was not to change the traditional practice for the universal Church, but to allow national churches who asked for the exception the option for communicants to receive in the hand. Receiving communion in the hand was permitted in different parts of the Catholic Church at differing times. The option is still not available in some countries.



The New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference requested that permission and were granted it on 24 April 1974. A programme of instruction and preparation followed, with the practice being introduced in mid-1975. My recollection is that this was done well in the parishes of New Zealand and most communicants adopted the newly available option. Around the same time, the introduction of the practice of receiving communion standing, and the removal of altar rails from most churches, encouraged the reception of communion in the hand.

The New Zealand General Instruction of the Roman Missal (2010) describes the present arrangements: It is not permitted for the faithful to take the consecrated Bread or the sacred chalice by themselves and, still less, to hand them on from one to another among themselves. In the dioceses of New Zealand, standing is the most common posture for receiving Holy Communion, though individual members of the faithful may choose to receive Communion while kneeling.

When approaching to receive Holy Communion, the faithful bow in reverence of the Sacrament that they are to receive. If Communion is given only under the species of bread, the Priest raises the host slightly and shows it to each, saying, The Body of Christ. The communicant replies, Amen, and receives the Sacrament either on the tongue or, where this is allowed, in the hand, the choice lying with the communicant. As soon as the communicant receives the host, he or she consumes the whole of it.



The consistent concern of the bishops has been that the presence of Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist be recognised and reverenced. Part of the dynamic of liturgy is doing things together in the same way, such as standing for the proclamation of the Gospel. This desire for unity needs to be balanced against a respect for the freedom and choices of the individual. The General Instruction is clear that, where the option for receiving communion on the hand is available, the choice of how to receive the sacrament lies with the communicant.

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Sacrament of Confirmation

We congratulate and pray for the young people in our community who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday night of 5th April 2018 from Bishop Patrick Dunn.



Donnell Balili
Amber Chan
Carole Chen
Lyonel Concepcion
Eugene Cruz
Kyle Damodara
Makee Enricoso
Maree Enricoso
Luis Aron Evangelista
Fredrick Furivai
Mario Furivai
Allen Jeffrey Gulanes
Erik Homena
Adam Johns
Matthew Johns
Kwan Hayden
Ezabella Lanuza
Patrick Malden
Lorenzo Marcelo
Emelia Nishanti Martin
Lucas Masaryk
Ryan Massey
Lucas McGinty
Brooklyn O'Brien
Lucius Qi Chian Pang

Marcellinus Qi Herng Pang
Thomas Petrov
Sam Pienaar
Jaden Pineda
Ashen Pituwala Withana
Emma Priestly
Gabrielle Puthur
Leander Puther
Yoshua Quedi
Caitlin Rayner
Clyde Recato
Kylah Recato
Bailey Robson
Rich-Ann Salazar
Rodrich-Rock Salazar
Ishara Samarasinha
Wen Jun Fiona Sheng
Emmanuel Yi Mong Tsang
Samuel Tan
Shreyas Vangala
Srinitha Vangala
Crystal Young
Fiona Young
Margaret Young









Come Holy Spirit, fill
our hearts....



...and kindle in
us, the fire of
Your love...





Pope Francis on Pentecost

By Sr Bernadette Mary Reis, fsp



The Holy Spirit changes hearts.

"The rush of violent wind" (Acts 2:2) that accompanies the Holy Spirit's descent on the Apostles is an image suggesting change and force, Pope Francis said in his Pentecost Sunday homily.

In his homily on Pentecost Sunday delivered before thousands of the faithful gathered in St Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis focused on the action of the Holy Spirit expressed in the Scripture readings from the Acts of the Apostles, St Paul's letter to the Galatians, and St John's Gospel.

The Holy Spirit changes hearts.

The Spirit transforms the hearts of the timid disciples from fearful men, "huddled behind closed doors", to bold men who "bear witness to [Jesus]" (Jn 15:27), the Pope said. His action frees hearts, impels service, guides people in new directions, and makes "the lukewarm thrill to new dreams. That is what it means to change hearts", Pope Francis said.

The Holy Spirit gives life

Pope Francis suggests that since the Holy Spirit provokes change that we turn to Him for a "powerful 'jolt'" when "we are in need of real change". He is "the power of God" and the "giver of life". "How good it would be for us each day to feel this jolt of life! To say when we wake up each morning: 'Come, Holy Spirit, come into my heart, come into my day'", the Pope said.

The Holy Spirit changes situations

The Holy Spirit "penetrates the most unimaginable situations", Pope Francis continued. He does so today just as he did in the Acts of the Apostles, in which He is the "main character". He drives Philip from Jerusalem to Gaza, then to Azotus, then to Caesarea (Acts 8:26-40), "in constantly new situations to spread God's newness". Paul is "compelled by the Spirit" (Acts 20:22), traveling "far and wide" to bring the Gospel, the Pope said.

The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church

Pope Francis recalled that as the soul of the Church, the Holy Spirit renews her with hope, fills her with joy, and causes her to blossom with new life. Even after 2000 years, "the Spirit reminds the Church that...she is always the youthful bride with whom the Lord is madly in love".



St. Vincent de Paul.



These photos depict our parishioner, Jo Yip, receiving acknowledgement from Father Oliver and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, for the nearly 20 years he has quietly picked up food from the City Mission (every 2 weeks) for the Society which supports the needy. This was presented at the end of the Saturday Vigil, 5.30 pm Mass, on the 19th May 2018.



*The hand of Christ
blesses the cup*



*The hand of love
offers the cup*



*The hand of suffering
receives the cup*



Fifty Years of Blessings The Golden Wedding Anniversary of Steve and Marie Halbauer.



On the 13th of April 2018 we had our Golden Wedding Anniversary, which makes us feel truly blessed. Having come from very diverse backgrounds, we were brought together by God's plan. When we look back on our life, we see incidents (some major world events and some seemingly very insignificant events), which lead us on a path that gave us a life filled with many blessings.



St. Joseph Chapel of the Sisters of Nazareth.

Sixty five years ago, the world was a very different world from what it is today. At that time, it would have been thought impossible that a small country like Hungary would challenge the mighty military power of the Soviet Union. It would have also been thought highly unlikely that the British Protectorate of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, that was formed in 1953, would 11 years later be dissolved, and Northern Rhodesia would become Zambia. Yet, both these world events had to happen for both of us to land up in South Africa.

We were rather lax in our religious life at the time that we met. It is not that we did not have faith, it was just that we took everything for granted. As an example, we asked our parish priest to marry us on Easter Saturday. I think our priest must have thought we were out of our minds. He did not say this to us but was very patient in marrying us on this Holy Day, and even joined us at our wedding celebration.



Marie and Steve's Nuptial Mass at St. Joseph's Chapel in South Africa.



We were married at the beautiful St. Joseph Chapel of the Sisters of Nazareth, Nazareth House, Yeoville, Johannesburg. The sisters even arranged the flowers in the church as they said "You only get married once....we hope, we hope". They may have prayed very hard for a couple who was marrying on Easter Saturday.

The number of blessings (luck some may call it) we had, cannot be counted. Often at times in our life when we really needed a break, unexpected "luck" would come. We have three children and seven grandchildren. We have taken some paths in our lives that were fraught with risk. We adopted our son at a time when we were struggling financially to support our two daughters and having only one of us working while the other was doing full time university. We built houses, when we had barely enough to support ourselves. We moved from South Africa to New Zealand, and somehow all our children landed here with us. Yes, we were very "lucky".

We thank God for all those blessings. We thank God also for looking after our children and grandchildren who are continuing to have "luck" and success. May God continue to bless us, our family and our friends. We are grateful for the St Mark's community where God has led us and wish them all the blessings as well.



Above: Steve and Marie on their Golden Wedding Anniversary Day.



Above: Steve and Marie's three children join them to celebrate this significant milestone.



Above: Marie and Steve pictured with our Priests of St. Mark's Parish.



Pope Francis: The Church, like Mary, is woman and mother.

Pope Francis institutes the new celebration of Mary, Mother of Church.

The Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, was observed for the first time on Monday 21 May 2018; this movable feast day is set for the first day following Pentecost. In his homily during Mass at the Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis said the first virtue of a mum is tenderness.



"The Church is feminine," Pope Francis said in his homily on Monday, "she is a mother." When this trait is lacking, the Pope continued, the Church resembles merely "a charitable organisation, or a football team"; when it is "a masculine Church," it sadly becomes "a church of old bachelors," "incapable of love, incapable of fruitfulness."

That was the reflection offered by Pope Francis during the Mass celebrated in the chapel of the Casa Santa Marta for the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. The feast is being celebrated this year for the first time, after the publication in March of the decree *Ecclesia Mater* ("Mother Church") by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

Pope Francis himself decided the feast should be celebrated on the Monday immediately following Pentecost, in order "to encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety."

To learn more, click on this link for a video from Sr. Sian Owen on the new Marian Feast
<https://www.facebook.com/cdacatechist/videos/1885572915067866/>



Parish Council Report

Dear All. On behalf of St Marks Parish Council, blessings to you all. It has been another very busy time for our Parish Council.

The additional Mass times have been up and running for some nearly three months now and we have altered some of the times in the evening and these are detailed in the weekly newsletter.

A fire drill was held on Sunday 18 March at 10.00 am Mass. Big thanks to Jun Perez for putting the planning in place and also members of the parish and council members who assisted with evacuation. We learned a lot from this trial and there are now vests located around the church near exits for any future emergencies.

Simon O'Connor re Euthanasia Bill: Deacon Chris has explored the possibility of having Simon O'Connor MP present to our Parish re Euthanasia Bill and this can be done. This is now set down for after 10.00am Mass on Sunday 17 June, commencing at 11.30am.

We have recently welcomed two new Council Members in Rebecca McGinty and Mannix Lopez and this means that we now have a full and complete council of 12 including our Priests, Deacon, and St Marks School Representative.

Youth Encounter- (Friday 13 to Sunday 15 April) Rennel Bulay provided an overview and comments re our Youth Encounter weekend (nearly 50 youth involved). Lots of sharing and overwhelming thanks to Fr Austin and thanks to Malcolm and to Catherine Rivers for attending on Sunday. There was a day gathering of parents and there were activities such as amazing race. The encounter helped our younger servant leaders with spiritual awareness and mentoring youth and included the Rosary

50 Years Celebration- 50 years celebration 2021. A dedicated group to be set up and to include members focused on pastoral year of scripture, enrichment of scripture, a speakers group of discernment, youth lead preparations, and the Year of the Family to enrich family life

We oversaw and held a successful St Mark's Feast Day celebration with a special guest in our Founding Parish Priest, Monsignor Ray Green, in attendance at 10.00 am Mass. We cut a wonderful cake, and had speeches and a wonderful dance item provided by Sydney Causer. Paul Oliver reflected to Mons. Green as a foundation day altar boy and brought back memories of running through paddocks next to the church and our Youth Group meetings in the old cowshed.

Bishop's Forum Info Nights in our Diocese were held on May 15, 22, and 27. Some of our Parish Council members attended the Manurewa meeting on the 22nd May.

A defibrillator purchase jointly with St Marks School and we have arranged a registered nurse in Ruth Cranwell to provide appropriate training.

We also helped oversee Pentecost Sunday with Prayers of the Faithful held in traditional languages and country costumes worn.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we as a council will continue to keep you updated as we progress throughout this year.

With God's Blessings
Paul Oliver (St Marks Parish Council).





Above (Left to right): Rochelle Fernandes, Jason Gass, Raphael Micah Gass (baby), Krystel Fernandes and Ron Pher. Baptism of baby Raphael, on the 22nd of July 2018, by his relative and our past Parish Priest, Raphael Lobo.



St. Mark's blessed moments....

Above: Fr. Austin Fernandes celebrated his second Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on Monday 16th of July 2018.

Above: Elsie and Abeljon Gomez celebrated 18 years of marriage on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 8 June 2018.



Right: Peter Wolfkamp celebrated his 95th Birthday at the 9.00 am Mass on the 28 June 2018. Peter was blessed by Fr. Austin after Mass and is pictured here with his wife, Anneke.



Celebrating
St. Mark's Feast Day
with our Founding
Parish Priest,
Mons. Ray Green.



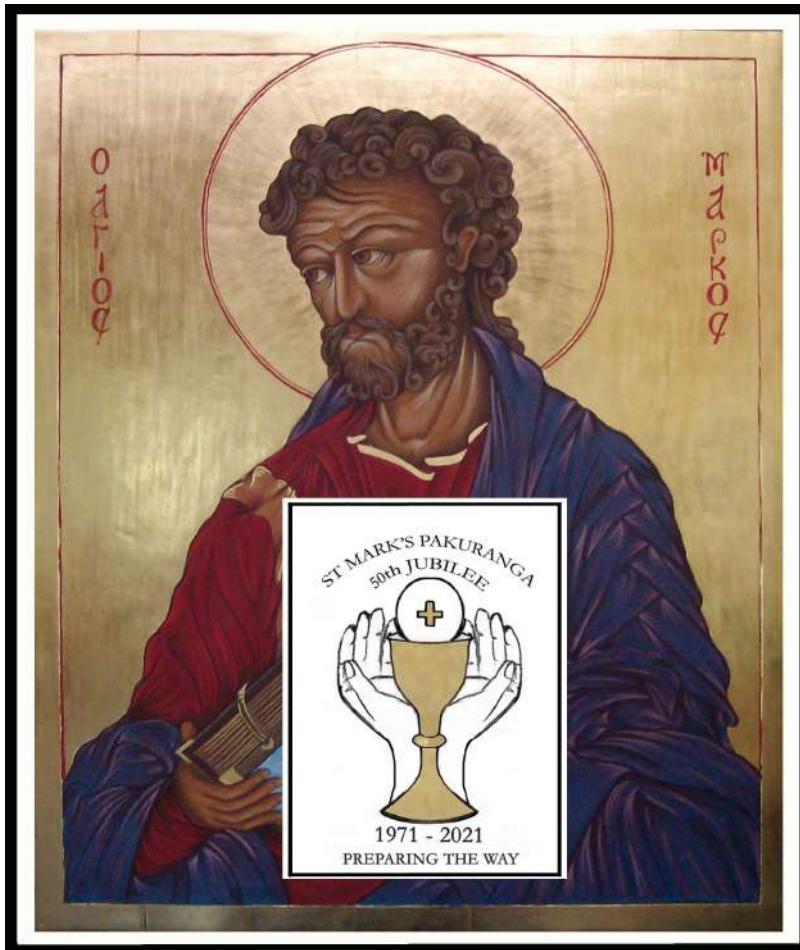


Seen at the
Parish Centre
St. Mark's Day Party





Celebrating “50” Years of St. Mark’s Parish...



...in
early
2021....

**2 years
to go!**

Answers to “WE” are the Church

1. Father Oliver Aro M.S.P.
2. Thames.
3. Father Austin Fernandes was born in India.
4. A dedicated parishioner who studied for 3 years to become a Deacon and serve God's people in our community.
5. Mons. Raymond Thomas Green - he was named Thomas after his paternal grandfather, who was an Anglican at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Remuera, who became a Catholic.
6. Bishop Denis George Browne CNZM DD 10th Bishop of Auckland and now Emeritus Bishop of Hamilton.
7. Paolo de Mello Machado.
8. John Geaney - this Tabernacle, is still the Tabernacle of Repose, for Holy Thursday. He did a lot of building for Fr. Green for Edgewater College Masses and assisted in transforming the cowshed into a Chapel and enlarging the Presbytery.
9. Pat Gaines made our Tabernacle, our Altar, our Lecturn and our Baptismal Font, Peter Wolfkamp crafted candle stick holders, plant stands and did other metal work for our parish, and Ray Anderson transformed our Church as part of the renovations team. He made many fixtures in the Church and was a part of the Team that made our Columbarium.
10. Tony was a young pilot from our Parish who joined VSA (Voluntary Service Abroad) and our community supported him.
11. Papua New Guinea
12. Tony was a pilot who went to the Highlands of Papua New Guinea where he flew all the basic things needed to run the mission stations. He was tragically killed on one of those flights. The beautiful cross was presented to Tony's family in appreciation of all he had done. Tony's family gifted it to St Mark's Parish. He is always remembered.
13. Maureen was a hardworking, faithful woman who dedicated her life to serve her God.
14. Miss Hammond was a foundation teacher of Saint Mark's Catholic School and worked for many years as part of the Parish Team in St Mark's Church office.
15. Mrs Annette Shanaghan....for her tireless service to our community.
16. Mr Bernie Danson
17. Jim and Veronica Smith and family.



Doreen Tucker Foundational Parishioner

by Doreen's daughters, Suzanne and Helen.



Mum...Alice Doreen Vaughan born 28 September 1929 in Wellington. Mum might not like me mentioning her age; it was a matter about which she was rather secretive. She regularly claimed a younger age and it was not an unreasonable stance. Until she had a bad fall in 2011, she was younger than her years, energetic and full of plans and activities. At 80 she travelled around Spain and the UK on her own.

But back to the beginning. Mum recently said to me that she had had a lovely childhood with two parents who loved each other and their children, that she had had a good education and a great brother. Her older brother Ray figured in all her stories of her childhood. He told wonderful, funny, complicated stories and made up all the rules of all the games. As a teenager he designed training programmes for her running and she was able to go out to dances and parties as Ray was willing to accompany her. His death was a great loss to her.

As my Scottish grandmother came from a large family, Mum was also surrounded by aunts and uncles and cousins. She told of visits to her other grandparents in Nelson and to the friend's farm in Hawera. Mum attended St Mary's College in Wellington from the age of five and was a respectable student but spelling was a problem. Once, caught talking in class, Sister asked her what she was saying "I didn't know how to spell huge" Mum said. Sister asked what she used instead. "Enormous," she replied. Mum was somewhat indignant even years later that everyone laughed.

She started her interest in music at school studying for the Trinity exams. When we were little Mum would play the piano after we went to bed, which is a lovely way to fall asleep.

After school she trained as a shorthand typist and worked in various places starting at the Stock Exchange where she earned £2 per week and had five weeks holiday. Mum did a bit of modelling, though did not have the height for the catwalk, but throughout her life she had an interest in clothes and accessories.





She met Peter Tucker on a blind date. A friend had met him and wanted Mum to make up a double date. Mum was unwell with a bad cold but Shelia insisted. Dad it turned out was also under the weather and so Mum and Dad shared a romantic bag of cough lollies at the movies. They married in 1951 and lived in a flat just down from St Gerard's Monastery, which sometimes required a sprint up the hill if she was running late for Sunday Mass.



Uncle Ray bought some land in Crofton Downs, close to where they grew up and Mum and Dad viewed the property and thought it a good idea and so bought down the road at No 57 and built a house. Three children arrived and this was where Vaughan, Helen and Suzanne started life. In those days it was a new subdivision just two small streets surrounded by bush and full of young families.

It was a safe area. The children wandered around and everyone knew everyone else. I remember street parties for Guy Fawkes night and working bees to landscape the new properties. Mum and Mrs MacKay at No 53. jointly bought a car - predictions that this would be a disaster did not eventuate and they happily shared until we moved. Dad and Mr MacKay had a hobby business making children's toy trucks which Mum sold to kindergartens and stores including Kirkcaldie & Stains. When Vaughan was a baby Mum decided to learn Maori, clearly two children under three did not fully occupy her time and energy.

In 1962 Dad was transferred to Auckland with his job. Mum found this a huge wrench moving away from a wide group of family and friends. After many many days viewing houses with three bored children they gave up the attempt to find what they wanted and built another house in Pakuranga. Here the three of us grew up. Mum made friends and there were dinner parties for friends and Dad's work colleagues. Dinner parties in those days were not a casual thing - four courses, best china and cutlery and we got to sample the trial efforts. I recall one event which involved a stuffed salmon, beautifully prepared cooling on the bench. Mum went to dress before the guests arrived and returned to find fish and cat on the floor. This precipitated a mad rush to fix plan B.





Mum used her interest in clothes to dress us and, when we were little and cash was tight, it was from the skin up. I have a distinct recollection of my first pair of store bought knickers. She had a great eye for colour and made us beautiful fashionable clothes, fully lined jackets and, when they were the height of fashion, a pair of hotpants. Her talent for handcraft also resulted in tapestries and embroideries and quilts. When Mum started her first quilts they were to be two single-bed-size ones for Helen and I. Helen subtly suggested that a double might be more useful long term (Helen announced her engagement shortly afterwards).

In all her homes Mum built lovely productive gardens that pleased the eye and fed her family. She had a great knowledge of plants usually by their botanical names. This led to conversations with her daughters like "your "pyrostegia venusta" is looking goodoh do you mean the orange one".

When Vaughan, and then Helen, became interested in sailing Mum and Dad's own interest expanded and they bought 'Rarere' with Wendy and Rex Parsons. Later they bought their own boat 'Amaia' and had many lazy days exploring the harbour.

Mum was a founding member of this parish, firstly at Edgewater College and later when the Mass was held in the cowshed on this site - she has been involved with the Readings at Mass and with Catholic Womens League.

Helen and Suzanne married in quick succession and Mum eventually acquired three grandchildren and, we have it on Mum's reliable and unbiased authority, that they are the most amazing grandchildren ever. She was an involved grandmother, babysitting, playing games even extending to almost understanding the rules of soccer which was a sacrifice when one comes from a rugby family.

When Dad started up the Treeplace Nursery, Mum joined him to work there until retirement and Dad's untimely death at only 63. She had always said that as they had married so young she expected them to be around for their 50th wedding anniversary.



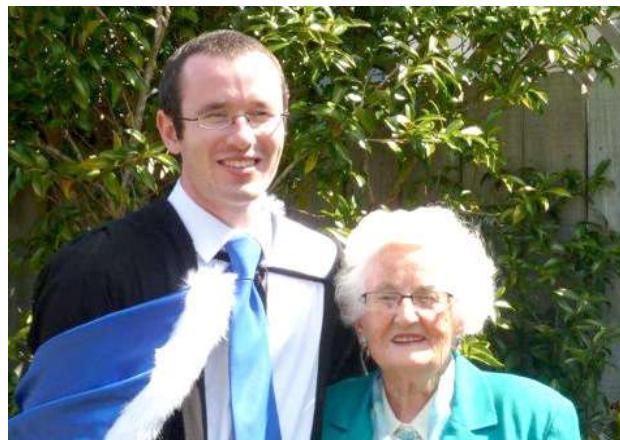


After she recovered from Dad's death she joined Probus and U3A with enthusiasm. Joining groups including Anthropology, Geology, Famous and Infamous and Music, there were meetings at least once a week and the work to prepare for her own presentations..... and she travelled - to the UK to see Vaughan, to Scotland to meet extended family, to France, Spain, Fiji with Alison, to Sydney, Melbourne & Tasmania. She intended a trip to Russia in 2011.

In recent years Mum had great joy in seeing all her grandchildren graduate from university and the marriage of Alice and Dale and great sadness in the death of her son-in-law David in 2011 and her son Vaughan and brother Ray in 2015.

My mother was a smart, social, talented, energetic person always full of plans for the next thing.

I am grateful for her advice, encouragement and wonderfully biased support and we will miss her.



Above: Capping photos of Doreen with granddaughter Claire and grandson Richard.





Full Blast

Youth for Christ National Conference 2018

By Adam Martis (Sancta Maria College)

This is the greatest show! The drums beat, the guitars strum aloud and the keyboard played a tune of excitement as the National Conference for Youth for Christ, New Zealand, officially opened for 2018. On the 6th of July to the 8th of July the East Chapter of St. Mark's had the chance to attend Natcon: Full Blast which was held in YMCA Camp Adair, Hunua. Day 1 consisted of food, fun and festivity as the conference officially opened. Personally for me this day was extremely nerve wracking as I was sharing my story in front of the whole of New Zealand. When I got on stage, the warmth of my YFC family embraced me and I embraced my sharing with humour and joy. Praise God it went well! St. Mark's also took part in the Musical Rendition on Day 1 and we harmonised an angelic version of "Can you feel the love tonight?" I can confidently say that the participants truly felt the love when we performed.



Day 2 consisted of competitions. This turned up the level of intensity as the participants proudly stood by their own chapters with full support and encouragement. The first competition was dance and although our chapter delivered a fiery routine, it was no match for Christchurch who stole the show. Then onto sports! The two sports that the chapters competed in were touch, rugby and volleyball. Unfortunately, we didn't do that well in volleyball but our touch team won with a clean sweep winning the competition and doing so without conceding a single try. Later on in the night we sang our hearts out as we praised the Lord.

Day 3, the final day, this was a sentimental day as it was the last day and an emotional last worship gave us the chance to gather with our chapters, shed tears and show our appreciation and gratitude for them. To say we went full blast would be an understatement. As 'Buzz Lightyear' said "to infinity and beyond" and that is exactly the direction that the participants headed towards at this conference as they journeyed closer to Christ!

There were 47 of us who represented St. Mark's CFC - Youth for Christ to this Full Blast conference.



World Youth Day Experience 2018

By James Bulay (Sacred Heart College)

World Youth Day 2018 was another great experience here in Auckland! The different youth groups from all over the diocese was a true sight of all youth coming together through Christ. We started off with 15 youth from our St Mark's Parish here in Pakuranga meeting at KFC in Ponsonby to have lunch. From there, we went to Sacred Heart Parish nearby, where the main World Youth Day Experience started with opening worship, after which we started our pilgrim walk to Victory Convention Centre. It was raining hard during the 15 minute walk and we were all soaking wet. When we reached our destination, we were treated with sausage sizzle while we wait to get into the convention centre.



As we went to our seats, it went straight into a worship, bringing everyone to the front singing and praising with a live band. It showed me the true meaning of unity. Being able to experience this showed me to be a doer not a watcher. This was an eye opener because Lyn, who was one of the speakers at the event, told a story about the man living on the street. She told us how she cared for him with simple hot pies and drinks and spent a few chats.

She also helped a man who passed out in a mall and nobody ever tried to help. In Lyn's story, she emphasised that as Catholics, we have to be bold in helping others. She reminded us to be Catholic, we have to be faithful, especially when we are called to help and serve. This showed me that these values are what Catholics should embrace in today's world. I need to be bold with my actions to help, be faithful in my belief and be a true Catholic for the world today. I am sure many youth especially myself saw this day as a day to reflect and demonstrate how we should be as youth of today and of the future.



Children's Liturgy

My name is Naomi Visser and I am from Sri Lanka. I teach Liturgy to the children at Sunday Mass. As a teacher, it is my role to deliver God's Word and to lead the prayers.



Left to right: Andrea, Adeline, Naomi & Kim.

Children are taught simplified messages of the Readings of the Sunday Mass. They hear God's Word with greater meaning, which is designed especially for them.

The Gospel is read, and reflected on, through questions and answers. The Creed is said, and followed by the Prayers of the Faithful. Children are expected to listen, to be reverent and to participate in the Mass.

We need more Teachers. You are 'welcome' to join our Team. Your leadership will enhance the growth of faith of our children. Come and talk to any of us pictured above.

St. Mark's School - Catholic Character



Left to right: Beverley Dias, Bruna Bannister, Arminda Wood, POPE FRANCIS, Principal Catherine Rivers and Julie Kippen at the Catholic Education Conference 2018 in Wellington.



Ever been asked a question about your Catholic faith and not known how to answer?



For almost a year, a group of parishioners from St Mark's, Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Luke's parishes have been meeting on Thursday nights here at St Mark's to complete a year-long programme as part of the Holy Spirit Interactive's School of Discipleship.

This programme looks at, and teaches, various aspects of our Catholic faith in a structured way to enable learners to develop their understanding and have confidence in their ability to share that faith with others.

With eight Modules spread over a year, each module is broken down into five sessions. Most sessions begin with prayer, followed by watching a video presentation of the topic for that session. Learners then break off into small groups to discuss questions based on the topic. After a brief review of each group's discussion and a closing prayer, we've earned our cuppa and supper.

Module Topics:

1. From Death to Life (aka 'what does it mean to be a Christian')
2. Spiritual Growth
3. The Word of God
4. The Holy Spirit
5. The Fruit and Gift of the Holy Spirit
6. Understanding the Faith
7. Leadership
8. Evangelisation

Holy Spirit Interactive is a lay apostolate founded by Aneel Aranha in January 2004. It is dedicated to strengthening the faith of Christians and spreading the Word of God around the world. Based in Dubai, Aneel also travels around the world as a speaker, sharing his testimony as a "Prodigal Son", and his passion for us all to take up the great commission to go out into the world to share the good news. HSI is also developing Publishing, Radio, TV & Film as various ministries alongside developing a range of Christian gifts. Find out more at www.hsiweb.org

"This programme is so well resourced! There are study notes to prepare for each session with and professional videos to present each topic. And if we have any questions we can email Aneel himself!"

"The recent youth surveys and Bishop's Forums showed that there is such a desire for good catechesis. These schools are really relevant and meeting a real need in our diocese."

"Meeting with other Catholics to discuss our faith has really helped me to be more open to sharing my faith with other people."

"The way Aneel shares his faith makes it easy to understand and relate to, especially the way he shares stories from the gospel!"

"I've learned lots from the people in my small group."





Catechism of the Catholic Church

The Morality of Human Acts

No 1756

It is therefore an error to judge the morality of human acts by considering only the intention that inspires them or the circumstances (environment, social pressure, duress or emergency, etc.) which supply their context.

There are acts which, in and of themselves, independently of circumstances and intentions, are always gravely illicit by reason of their object; such as blasphemy and perjury, murder and adultery.

One may not do evil, so that good may result from it.

Immaculate Hearts

By Deacon Chris Sullivan

The Beatitudes taught by Jesus, in his sermon on the mount, sum up the essence of the spiritual message of Jesus. One of them is "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." Today's feast celebrates the very best example of how to live a life with a pure heart, that of the Immaculate heart of Mary.

In the gospel, Mary and Joseph are returning home from Jerusalem and they are hit by every parent's worst nightmare - they lose their child Jesus. But they eventually find him in temple where Jesus explains that he has to be about his Father's business. Mary and Joseph don't understand what he means.

The Gospel leaves us with Mary storing up these mysterious events in her heart, where she ponders them. A pure heart is a heart focused on God, a heart which contemplates God, which ponders on God. A heart which is open to seeing God's presence in our lives, and all around us.... Everywhere....both in the joys and good things of life, and also in the difficulties and suffering.

Most of us don't always have pure hearts, but we can work to purify our hearts by turning away from what is not of God and focusing instead on what is of God...then we will see God.

Jesus is always present with us to help us to do this, we just need to keep turning back to him whenever we stumble, and ask him to help us.... He always will.

And we can always ask our mother Mary, to help us to have purer hearts, so that our hearts may become gradually more and more like her immaculate heart. And she is always with us, and prays for us to help us on our journey.



(From the back page - Page 36.)

This is called The Presider's Seat. It was made by a past student of St. Mark's Catholic School.



7. Do you know who that was?
8. Do you know the name of the person who made the FIRST Tabernacle for our Church? His daughter is still in our parish.
9. Do you know who has made all the beautiful, carved wooden, furniture, Tabernacle, Altar, Lectern, Baptismal font, Paschal Candle holder, tables, Iron work and so many lovely artefacts in our church? (More than one person)

How observant are you..... ?

Have you seen a Cross on the wall between the two Parish Centre windows above the statue of St. Mark?



10. Who was Tony Stevenson?
11. Where did this Cross come from?
12. What is his story?

As you enter the Parish Centre, to the left of Tony's Cross, there is a dedication plaque to Maureen Hammond.

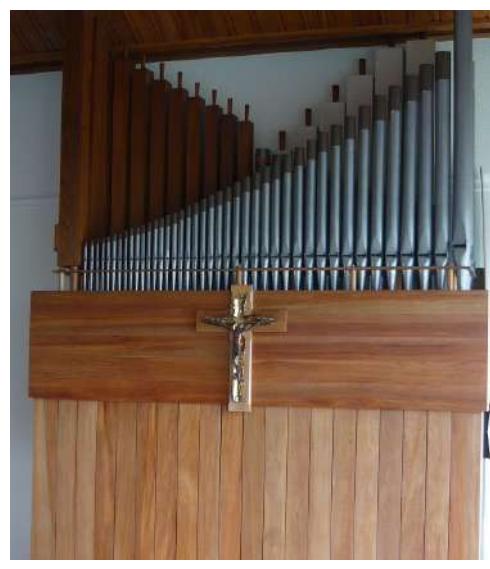
13. Who was Maureen?
14. What was her involvement with St. Mark's Catholic School? St Mark's Catholic Church?

There is a special Papal Award opposite the Parish Office.

15. Who is it for and why did she receive it?
16. There was another recipient of this award. Do you know who that is?

Every Sunday we hear beautiful music played on this organ donated by a founding family.

17. Do you know who they are?



The cross on the front of the organ was gifted to our Church community by Dr Jack and Mrs Rosie Fraser.



Mini - Evangelist

"We" are the Church.....

In the early life of the Christian Church there were no special buildings for people to gather and share their faith and celebrate the Eucharist; that is why, the PEOPLE became known as THE CHURCH. Now BOTH the building and the people that gather are known as the CHURCH.



Pakuranga 1971

St Mark

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Edgewater
College



The beginning of our community as CHURCH was in 1971 when we gathered in the Edgewater College Hall and later we built our Chapel in the cowshed. Our present Church building, was opened and blessed in 1974. How much do you know about our story? There are clues all around our church buildings. Have you noticed them?



Let's start with a couple of easy ones.....

1. What is the name of our current Parish Priest?
 2. In which parish was he serving before coming to St. Mark's?
 3. What is the name of our Assistant Parish Priest? Where was he born?
 4. Who is Deacon Chris Sullivan?
 5. What do the initials "R.T." stand for in the name of the founding Parish Priest of St. Mark's?
 6. What is the name of the Bishop that followed Bishop John Mackey?
- (Continued on Page 35.)**