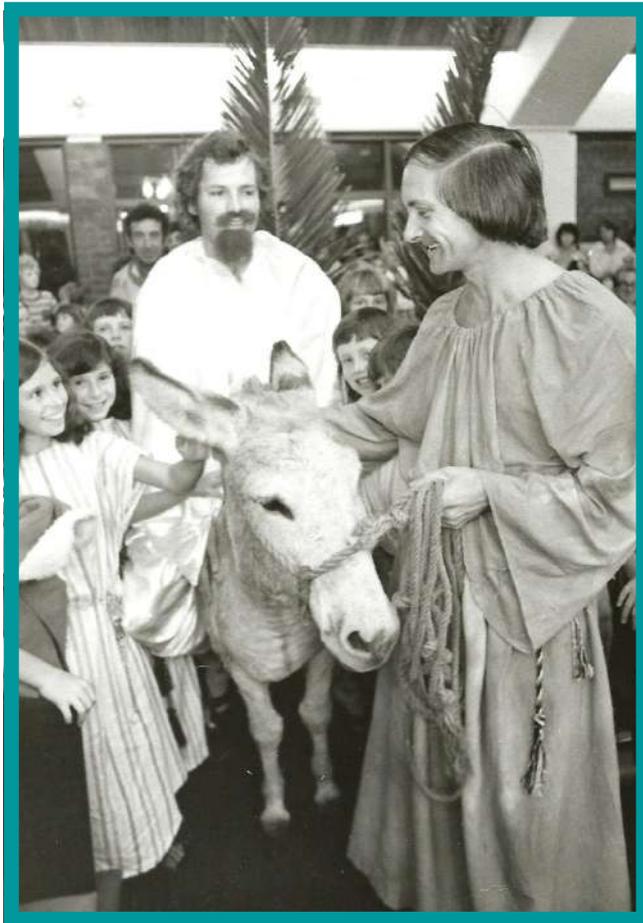




# FOOTPRINTS

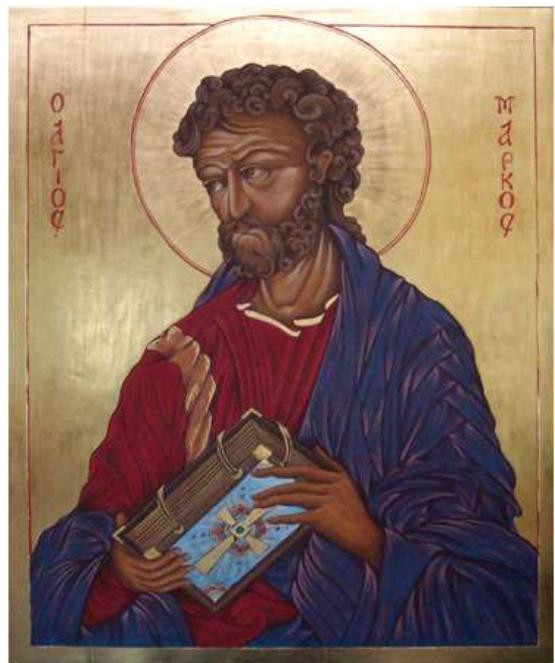


## Passion Sunday - a drama in St. Mark's Church

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

### Easter Message

Last month, we felt the impact of the Christchurch incident on our nation. Everybody was shocked with this unexpected event that happened in our peaceful country. The Prime Minister described it as “the darkest day of our land.” Everyone in this country felt the grief of the loss of lives and supported the families of the victims, through prayers and monetary resources.

We can also liken this to the shock that Mary Magdalene experienced at finding the tomb empty. Like the local leaders in Christchurch, they immediately reported the incident to the right authorities, while Mary sought the leader of the Apostles, Peter, and told him the devastating news. They had taken Jesus away and she did not know where they had put Him.

It was sad to see the mosque stained with the blood of innocent people but their families had bodies to mourn and bury. It was extremely sad to see the innocent Jesus suffer and die on the cross, and then find Him missing from the tomb. They were supposed to go and prepare the body of Jesus as their last act of loyalty to the One who meant so much to them. Now all hope was lost. Jesus was gone.

On the other hand, in this narrative, you will notice the beautiful primacy given to Peter. He was the first to be told about the missing Body. Then he was the first to see that the clothes were not there. He was at odds to understand what he saw. The other disciple, went in and saw that the clothes were not there. He saw and believed.

The whole point of the Gospel of John, is that seeing is believing. For that other disciple, no proof of Jesus rising was needed, to see was enough for him to believe. To see nothing was to believe everything.

The news of the Christchurch tragedy united the whole country in showing sympathy and support for the victims. I think this is good news, because we are united, in denouncing this incident which terrorised and disrupted the peace and harmony of our nation.

For the disciples, such devastating news of the missing body turned out to be good news, in that it shook the world to its foundations. Christ was risen! This was the greatest news ever told. Christ rose from the dead!

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**In this issue....**there is much to celebrate. We have wonderful wedding anniversaries, great parishioners, generosity, the 40th Jubilee of St. Mark's School, Confirmations and the high point in our Church year: the death, and rising from the dead of Jesus the Christ. All those involved in the production of this magazine greet you with the joys of EASTER!!!



# Father Oliver's 22nd Ordination Anniversary Mass

**2nd January  
2019**



*St. Mark's Parish thanked the Lord for our Parish Priest's vocation with a Holy Mass at 11.00 am followed by lunch in the Parish Centre.*

**Continued on  
Page 4**



# Father Oliver's 22nd Ordination Anniversary Celebration 2nd January 2019



By Mike Lobo

Father Oliver shared with me his desire to honour God on his 22nd Ordination Anniversary. He said to me, "My Ordination was not just for myself, but for the people of God." With the help of a number of others; A Call to Sing - the Choir, along with speeches from Mannix Lopez and Roger Tendoro. Other parishioners, Priscilla, Philomena, Lucy, Adylene, Grace, and many others helped to organise this.



*Above: "Call to Sing" Choir.*



Father's main concern was that it needed to be a Parish event based on community building rather than just participation from one community or just having a party. 'Community Building' is Father's main thrust in building St. Mark's to be a good place for people to be.

We also heard that Father, a Marine Engineer / Psychologist, was working in the shipping industry when he almost got shipwrecked. He made up his mind, that day, to encounter Jesus through the Eucharist and the rosary, in a deeper way. That led to his decision to enter the Seminary, after he heard a clear call. Graduating in 1997, as a priest, he spent time in Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and the Island of Tokelau.

Father Oliver was promoted, by the Holy See, to the position of Monsignor and Bishop. He turned down both appointments and kept working as a priest but he did participate in the Conference of Bishops in the Pacific.



*Above: Sele Patterson, Father Oliver and Mike Lobo.*

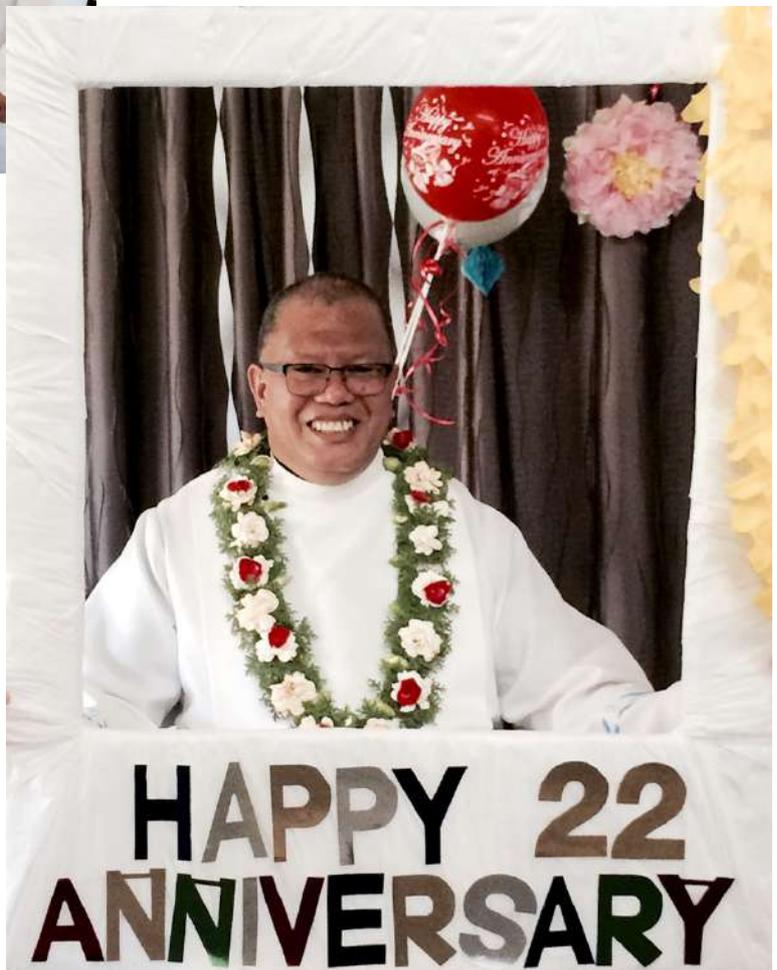


Our Parish Priest is a humble man, with a purpose to grow every parishioner to be a good, well informed and community building Catholic. Look out, St. Mark's, we are on a timeless journey to love the Lord more, to support each other more and to build our Parish. The occasion was attended by 300 people and we all had fun, with plenty to eat and drink and even some dancing. We are looking forward to a new phase in our parish life.

St. Mark - Pray for us.



 Happy 22nd Ordination Anniversary to you,  
Happy 22nd Ordination Anniversary to you.....





# The Parish Thanks and Farewells Fr Austin Fernandes Saturday 26 January 2019





**Farewell to Father Austin from the Parish Office**

**On behalf of the girls in the office, I would like to thank you, Father, for your help and company over the last two years. We have had lots of fun and lots of help and have enjoyed working with you, Father. We will miss you but wish you well in your new Parish in Kerikeri.**

**We gave you the well-earned name of "The Singing Priest" as not a day went by without a song or three! They ranged from Elvis to Psalm refrains and Hymns that we were trying to find a title for.**

**Thank you for your cheerful Spirit and welcome approach to everything. Nothing was ever too much trouble for you!!!**

**May God continue to guide and watch over you forever and especially in the next year. We are going to miss you Father.**

**God bless you and keep you.  
Trish Vaughan, Julie Hee and Mary Zaloum**





Dear Father Austin,

On the day before we departed for our annual holiday in Rarotonga you gave us the very sad news that when we returned to New Zealand in February that you would no longer be at St. Mark's as you had received advice that Bishop Pat Dunn had approved your transfer to Kerikeri as the Parish Priest. Our first reaction was that we must stop going to Rarotonga for the Christmas season as this was the third time that a priest from St. Mark's has been transferred while we were away. The parishioners from St. Mark's might start to blame us and demand that we stay put.

Father Austin, your time at St. Mark's parish has been a memorable one for us and we are sure that all parishioners share that same view and you will be sorely missed. We congratulate the parishioners of Kerikeri in gaining a Parish Priest who will bring dedication, understanding, an outreach, emotion, humility, a sense of humour and a connection with parishioners of all age groups.

We thank you for the inspiration that you have given us and the calming effect that you have had upon us when we arrive for Mass each day and notice you at the back of the church in quiet prayer and contemplation. It has given us confidence that your communication with the Lord is of ongoing continuation. We thank you for the private blessings that you have given us when we needed comfort and strength from the Lord and our Holy Mother. We also thank you for the birthday and anniversary blessings that you bestowed upon us that always gave us an uplifted feeling.

We thank you for joining us in our Home Masses, in our Family Group gatherings and the occasional morning coffee at "Palmer's". With your hectic commitments and busy schedule throughout the parish we appreciate that giving us your time was not always easy, but you still managed it.

We appreciated you participating in the Fia Fia Nights hosted by the Pasifika Group, but we must express disappointment that you failed to show us your Pacific Island style dancing skills. We are sure that you had hidden abilities in that area.

Father Austin, we wish you all the very best in your new parish and please be assured that you will always be remembered by us and will continue to be in our prayers. We have been told that the presbytery in Kerikeri has 9 bedrooms and if that is correct you might have to withstand an invasion from St. Mark's parishioners.

With love and wishing God's blessing upon you.

As we say in Rarotonga,  
Kia Orana e Kia Manuia, (meaning "May you live long and enjoy good health")

Kurt and Tiana Meyer.



# Images from the Day





# Joseph John Desmond

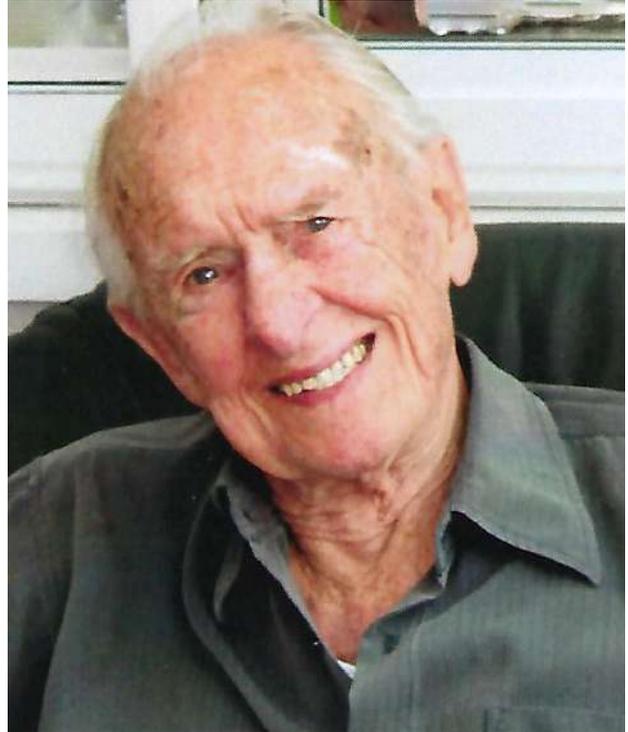
## “Joe” - Foundation Parishioner

13th February 1932 - 16th February 2019

A Eulogy written by Mike Hammond.

My wife Helen and I live in Pakuranga Park Retirement Village adjoining St Mark's Church and School property. We take Holy Communion to a number of residents, as do others. That is how I came to know Joe. Taking Communion to any one is a privilege and in Joe's case it was a special blessing for me, for despite his difficulties in communication as a result of his first stroke, Joe, on receipt of the Sacrament, was so filled with the Holy Spirit and so thankful, so prayerful, that it was humbling.

The nursing staff in the Village spoke so highly of him. One story they tell is that not so long ago, Joe would disappear and they would find him sitting quietly in this church. His Faith was such that he called the Church his second home.



In time one got to know a little more about Joe's life; his deep involvement and commitment to the St Vincent de Paul Society, which provides help to anyone in need. We learnt through those who had worked with him in earlier times, that Joe was a pillar and powerhouse, a driving force in getting the human and material resources together to expand Vinnies' services. The Mangere Bridge St Vincent de Paul shop, and the Otahuhu facilities are just two assets that he largely made happen.



*Above: Mary and Joe Desmond on their Wedding Day.*



People have told me that Joe was a natural born leader, enthusing people so that the St Vincent de Paul Society could function for the benefit of the needy. I heard that when he was a young man it was the St Vincent de Paul Society that saw Joe through a rough patch. Something he clearly never forgot and endlessly he repaid that help.

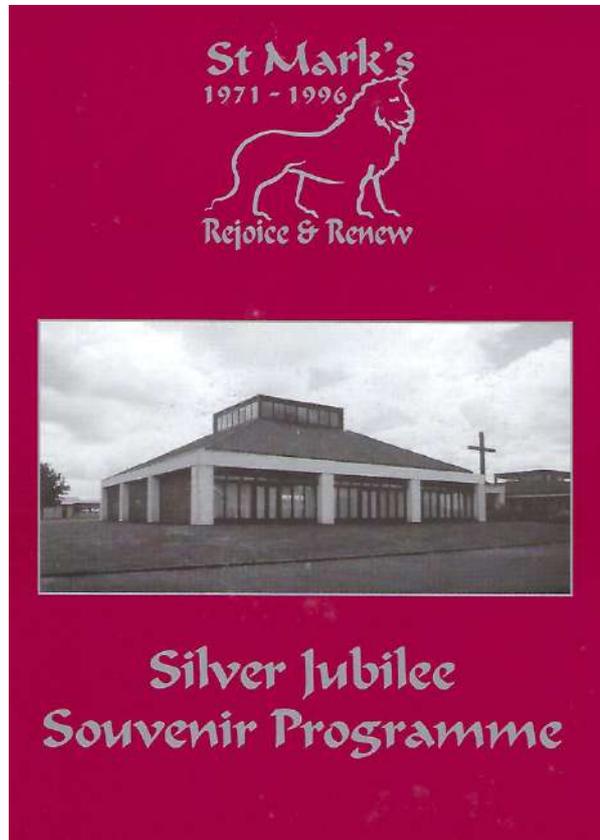
From involvement in the first Parish Council back in 1971 to being on the St Vincent de Paul South Auckland Council Joe's leadership made difficult and near impossible projects happen. In talking to those who knew him, I suspect that it was Joe's sense of humour, his wit, his eloquence, that drew people to him and enabled them to do things they would not otherwise have undertaken.



*Above from left to right: Tony, Michael, Andrea (on Tony's knee), Natalie, Kerry, Steve and Paul.*



*Above: Joe Desmond and the Founding Parish Priest Fr. Ray Green at the Silver Jubilee.*



*Above: St. Mark's Silver Jubilee Booklet produced by Joe Desmond.*



In case you didn't know, Joe not only spoke well but also, like his wife Mary, had a great singing voice. How do I know? Well, a few years ago, his neighbour in the Village used to hear him in full voice, whilst in his bathroom practicing melodies for the choir he belonged to.

It was always a pleasure to meet Joe, for although he had speech difficulties during the time I knew him, he always greeted one with enthusiasm, so we were very sad when we heard he had been admitted to hospital. In his last days we saw Joe on a couple of occasions. On our second visit he regained consciousness for a moment and I like to think he knew who we were, as there seemed to be a twinkle in his eye as much as to say 'good to see you, but don't hang around because I'm off to see Mary'.

God Bless you Joe.  
 Joe, you gave so much of yourself to the benefit of us all. Thank-you.  
 Joe, Rest in peace.



*Above from left to right - Joe, Sister Kath (D.O.L.C. - Home of Compassion - Suzanne Aubert's Order), Phil and Fred (Dad's siblings)*



*Above: Joe and Mary with members of the Sunnyhills Tennis Club.*



*Above left to right: Back Row - Michael, Joe, Mary, Andrea, Kerry, Tony (Jeremy on knee) and Di (Matthew on knee). Front Row - Paul, Natalie, Janet and Christopher.*



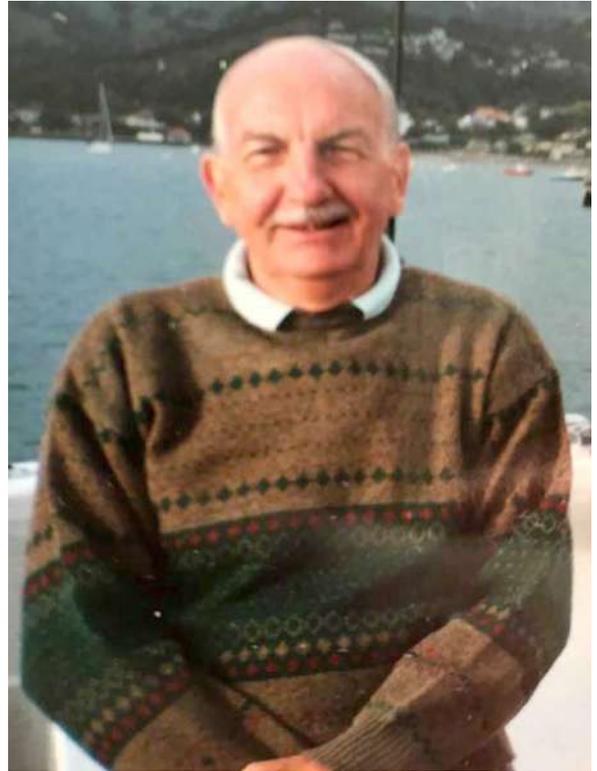
## **Derek Blackburn's Story.....**

*3rd April 1934 - 7th January 2019*

**A eulogy by his daughter, Angela**

Derek George Blackburn was a father, a grandfather, a great grandfather, a loyal friend, a servant of God and Defender of the Catholic Faith. Of course, Derek's life has not ended. It continues in a different form in everlasting life with God in Heaven.

Dad was the fourth child and second son of George and Rachel Blackburn born on 3 April 1934 in South Shields, Durham. He was baptised in the Anglican Church. Dad was born in the Great Depression and grew up while World War II was raging. He talked of rations and the need to be resourceful but despite this, he recounted that he had had a happy childhood. He fondly remembered his mother's excellent cooking and how he particularly enjoyed dripping with bread before dinner was served. In 1940, the family moved to Bournemouth for the warmer climate.



When Dad was seven years old, his sister Mona asked him if he had said his nightly prayers. When he responded "No", Mona spoke sternly to him and reminded him never to forget. That experience, together with being in the choir in the local Anglican Church, was the start of his relationship with God.

When he asked the Anglican Vicar what happened to the unused blessed wafers he received an evasive answer and the seeds of doubt were sown: "Did he belong to the true Church?". He attended a Catholic Mass a few years later and saw the opening and shutting of the tabernacle before and after communion and Dad knew that the Catholic Church was his true home. So began his conversion to the Catholic Church in 1955.

In 1948, the family moved to Durban in South Africa and Dad enrolled in Durban High School. After matriculating, he worked for five years as an articled clerk. Dad's parents owned a small hotel and Dad drew the short straw often having to give up his room so a paying guest could stay. He recounts memories of the challenges of sleeping on the covered verandah particularly in the driving rain! He also recalled that the February heat in Durban was sometimes too much to bear.



Dad completed his articles in 1957 and travelled to Lusaka to live with his sister Rita and her husband George. He got a job as an accountant and set his sights on the 1958 SA Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Rome. The tour also took in the sights of several European countries. Viewing the body of St Bernadette and visiting Lourdes were special moments. A photo of the tour group was hanging next to his bed for the remainder of his life.

In 1958, Dad made two important decisions; to join the Third Order of St Francis and to start giving blood. He continued giving blood for the next 49 years. I estimate that Dad would have given over 150 pints of blood in his life. In 1963, he proposed to Stella Graham, our Mum, and they were married on 28 December 1963 in Luanshya. Clive, was born in October 1965 followed by Colin in September 1968.



In 1970, the family left Zambia and travelled to Durban in South Africa where Alan was born in November of the same year. Three months later they moved to Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia where I was born in December 1973. The boys attended boarding school at Christian Brothers College in Kimberley South Africa and this was the start of many long car journeys to and from South Africa. Dad volunteered for the police reserve and worked as a Company Secretary. Dad and Mum were heavily involved in many facets of Church life.

In May 1987 on a fateful trip to South Africa, the family had a car accident and Mum died. This was an extremely difficult time for Dad. He later met and married Mona and the involvement with the Catholic church continued in earnest. I recall they were hardly ever at home in the evenings and weekends attending meetings or working in the parish office.

I left for New Zealand in May 1994 and Dad decided to leave Zimbabwe to join us in 1998 following a short stay with Clive in Tenerife and Colin and his wife Janet in South Africa. He fondly recounted memories from that time.

Dad's life continued in New Zealand and by all accounts it was a happy time. He welcomed each of his grandchildren as they were born. When I gave birth to Theresa he said that he was very pleased as it meant he would be needed for a little longer. Dad was a vital and valued member of our family. He was determined that he would not become a burden and a major highlight was finally receiving New Zealand Super.



He made a surprising discovery a few years ago that his name Derek translated in Hebrew to "The Way". Dad was very proud of this. It was a wonderful discovery in the context of his faith. He maintained a healthy lifestyle but always in moderation. The phrase "Enough for the day is the evil thereof" was frequently heard.

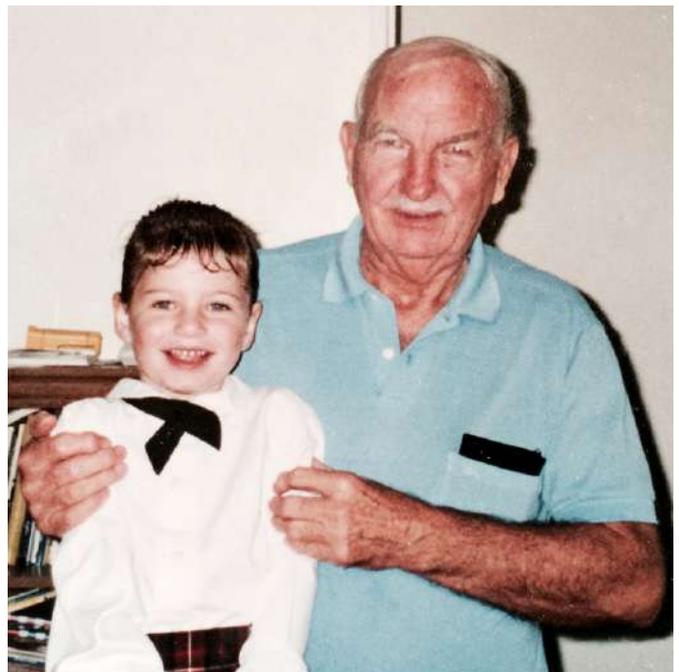
His great joy was listening to classical music and he was an avid listener of Concert FM. Hopefully our neighbours enjoyed classical music as well! I speak for my brothers when I say that we appreciated Dad's selfless generosity in providing financial support for various purposes. This assisted us greatly in starting our adult lives. In the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York Dad had a feeling of dread early in the morning. He turned on the TV to find reports of the attacks unfolding. He also had a premonition of his own father's death.

I will end with the following words which I think epitomises the way Dad lived his life:

**His Faith in our Lord and dedication to the Catholic Church** - unwavering right to the end.

**His mind** - Dad was widely read and had a wealth of knowledge on many subjects particularly the Bible and books written on the Catholic faith. He was a deep thinker, had a vast memory and excellent general knowledge. He had an insatiable desire for knowledge and was delighted when he discovered new insights.

**Action** - "Talk is cheap" is a phrase we often heard. There were many letters to the editor of the NZ Catholic, contributions to the Legion of Mary and the Parish Council. He undertook his tasks at home diligently every day.



The grandchildren knew they could rely on him. So dedicated was he that he arrived 20 minutes before school finished so that he could get the best park. I sometimes got annoyed and wondered if Dad ever missed a beat - he just seemed too perfect.

The contribution he gave in all areas was relevant, practical and useful. Almost as important as the subject itself, Dad took great care and pride in how he presented his work. He included borders and emboldened text to ensure his message was conveyed in written work. Sometimes in the morning he would be flustered.



I knew this was due to one of two reasons: he had either been up most of the night working on his current project or reading a book or the alarm failed to go off at 5.30 am and he missed saying his morning prayers.

**Love, Hope and Humility** - Dad showed us his love in everything he did. His love was unassuming and unconditional. Dad often talked about having hope. Hope that things would work out for the best particularly when it seemed that all hope was lost. Hope of sharing everlasting life with God in Heaven. Dad lived his life with humility.

**Reflection** - Dad spent many hours reflecting on events that had occurred or were occurring in his life. He reflected on the positive and negative outcomes. This is where we heard of his pride in what had been achieved at home, in the Church and the achievements of ordinary people going about their daily lives. He was pleased with the transformation that has taken place in St Mark's Catholic Church. In his Vita Mea, Dad said that he hoped he would live to 85 at which time the grandchildren would commencing their adult lives and he would be needed less. He almost achieved this goal.

He has left a gaping hole in our lives and we will miss him dearly. 'Till we meet again'





# ♥♥ The Beginning of a long and happy life ♥♥

*Malcolm Dobbs reflects on 60 years of marriage with his love, Barbara.*



*Above: Barbara and Malcolm on their Wedding Day.*



One Thursday evening, after football training, some of the boys of our under Twenty-one Team, decided to go up to the local dance. I loved dancing and so I decided to go also. In the hall, girls were all on one side of the room and we were over the other side. When the music started we all rushed over to find someone to dance with. I found a very happy, smiling, fine looking girl called Barbara. From then on, we were regular dance partners.



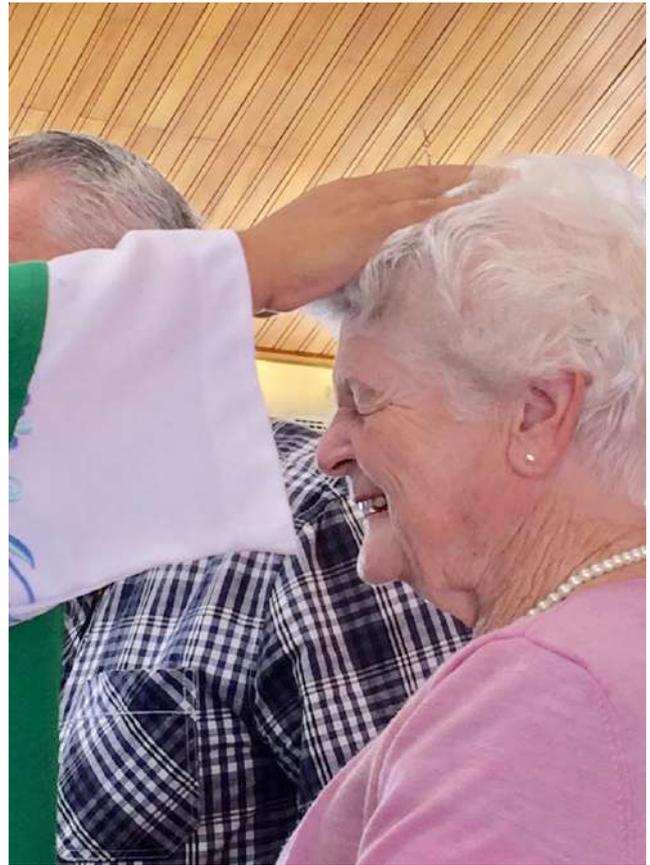
*Above: The newly weds!!!*



Her mother and father seemed to like me. Her father loved fishing. I was a fisherman since I was young, so we enjoyed one another and we spent many hours on his boat.

After a couple of years, Barbara, who had been going to church with me, decided to become a Catholic. So we went, once a week, to St. Michael's Catholic Church in Remuera, to see Father Lyons for his instructions.

We had a great day on the seventh of February 1959. Monsignor Bradley officiated the Nuptial Mass. We had three great Sons who all were very good at sport - especially rugby. Paul later became a Civil Engineer, Steven a Scientist and John became a Fitter and Turner.



*Above: Barbara receives her blessing.*



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*Barbara and Malcolm Dobbs receive a 'Wedding Anniversary Blessing' from Fr. Oliver on Waitangi Day.*



Steven lost his life in a scuba diving accident, he was using faulty gear. Paul later on, at the age of 34, died of cancer and thank heavens we had our very strong faith and our many priest friends.

Barbara and I work for St. Vincent de Paul Society and often I would collect beds, table and chairs, fridges, cookery pots and knives and many other items, mostly from very generous people. We also work on the Food Bank. In this way, we could always give the needy, food.

We are going to Fisher House with John and Maree, Luke and Riki for a meal on the sixth of February, to celebrate our 60 years. John and Maree would have been married for 31 years.



*"You may now kiss the Bride!"*



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*Malcolm, Fr. Oliver Aro and Barbara.*



# The Greatest Story Ever Told

## A Passion Play in Sound and Light

by Barry Pepperell

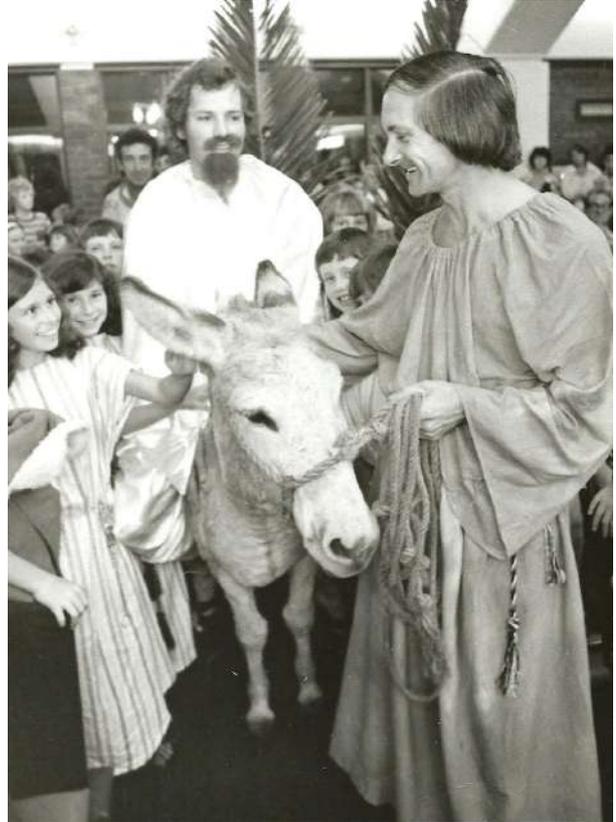
By autumn of 1976 the recently established Pakuranga Parish had grown dramatically and was now blessed with a magnificent new church building on Pakuranga Road.

As the owner and manager of a stereo-sound and television company in Panmure it occurred to me that the aesthetics of this building would lend itself to creating an ambiance to effectively portray, via light and sound, segments of the Passion of Christ our LORD. The concept grew strong in my spirit and I could envisage the whole production.

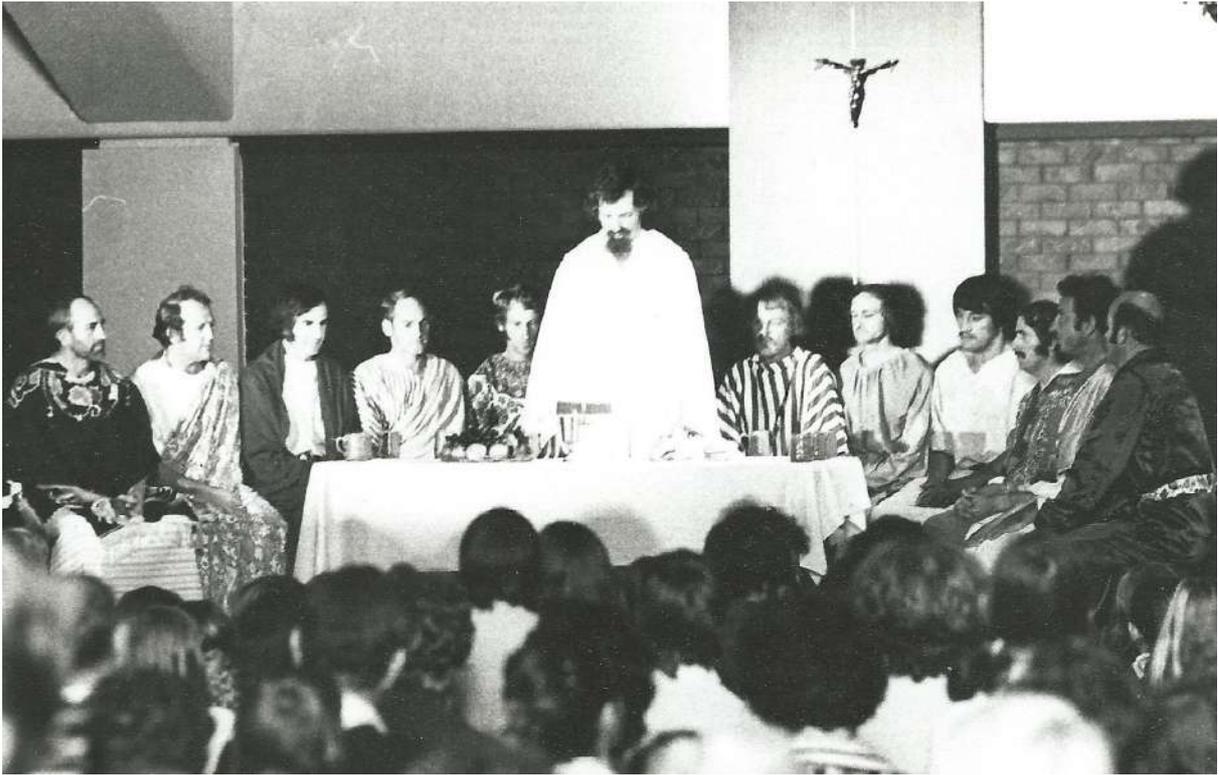
How then do I bring this into reality? I set about drawing a selection of scenes on A1 paper and water coloured them. Temple, money changers, Palm Sunday, the triumphant entry, the Last Supper, Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection.

Our parish priest, Father Ray Green resided in the newly renovated old building adjacent to the church building so I phoned for an appointment and he kindly agreed to see what I had to present. I sat on his newly carpeted lounge floor, laid out the drawings and explained the concept. Amazingly he agreed that I should proceed.

Next was a visit to John Geaney, a builder in the parish, to whom I showed the drawings of the façade of a temple. He happily undertook to construct it. Next off to Jeff Bruce another builder, requesting him to construct an eleven foot box-cross in which I set a series of fluorescent lights faced with opaque white perspex. He also made a 9 foot solid cross and a plywood effigy, painting it black to be used as an effective silhouette to be nailed into and raised from a blackout to brilliant red lighting accompanied with screeching music, lightning flashes, and rolling thunder in stereo across the building. Therese Geaney volunteered with helpers to design and sew up the costumes: Roman soldiers, disciples, money changers, Palm Sunday children. I obtained a sack of steel punchings, glow-yellowed them for the money changers' table. Selected eleven disciples, Judas Iscariot had been dismissed by Christ prior to the solemn blessing, the fourth cup of wine of the Passover.



*Ray Mason, leads Jake the donkey through the Palm Sunday scene, watched on the left by Louise and Suzanne Gobbie.*



*Passover Scene: Appropriately, the Last Supper took place on the Sanctuary.*

David Bell-Booth, a florist, offered to supply the greenery for the Garden of Gethsemane corner. Green lights in the garden switched to red during the nailing of the figure of Christ and the raising up on the cross.

The scenes were now all set. Via a 7" x 7" reel to reel tape recorder from the shop. I recorded nearly two hours of music, to which the participants dutifully cued. This was vital as once the tapes began to run and the pageant was in motion it could not be stopped. Our young priest, Peter Hay-McKenzie, took the part of Jesus. His white satin robe was fashioned from my wife Jan's wedding-frock liner. A powerful spotlight from the rear of the church focussed on this garment whenever he appeared. Mary Geaney took the part of "Mary, mother of Jesus". She comforted and wept for Him on the Via Dolorosa, and sat nearby at the foot of the cross of crucifixion.

The parade opened to loud heralding, the sounding of trumpets and then into 2001 Odyssey overture. The only live speaking was narration delivered by Tony Mortiboy and Mervin Cotter with brief clear renderings from the scriptures.

### ***Jake, the Donkey***

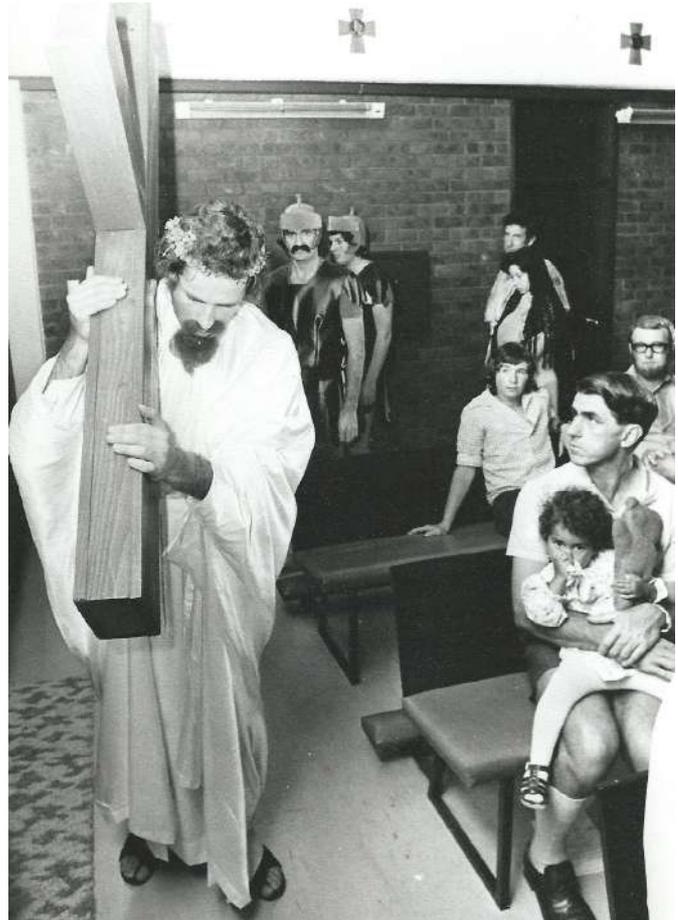
My eye caught an advertisement for donkey hire over in Henderson. Jan and I jumped in the car drove over to meet the selected donkey, Jake, out in his paddock. Next we had to pluck up the courage to tell Father Ray and obtain his agreement. I'm sure he was now thinking, "this has gone quite far enough". Never-the-less Jake was delivered and attracted much attention from many children over the weekend as he grazed in the paddock. He contentedly allowed himself to be led around to the delight of the children.



The two big nights came with very little opportunity to bring together all of the cast at the same time for rehearsal, but throughout things flowed nearly perfectly. Jan came across from the chapel (a converted cowshed), the changing venue, and informed me, "Barry, there are a lot of nervous people over there".

Jake was a little confused, as on the second night, he saw his image in the glass entrance and wouldn't move. The music had begun but he eventually got going, caught up and gently led by Ray Mason, was the star in a lively pageant lined with lots of happy costumed children waving palms.

Both nights were jam-packed with standing room only. Our big concern was that Jake would do his 'business' on Father's brand new carpet in the foyer but he was well behaved and handled all the noise and the crowds wonderfully.



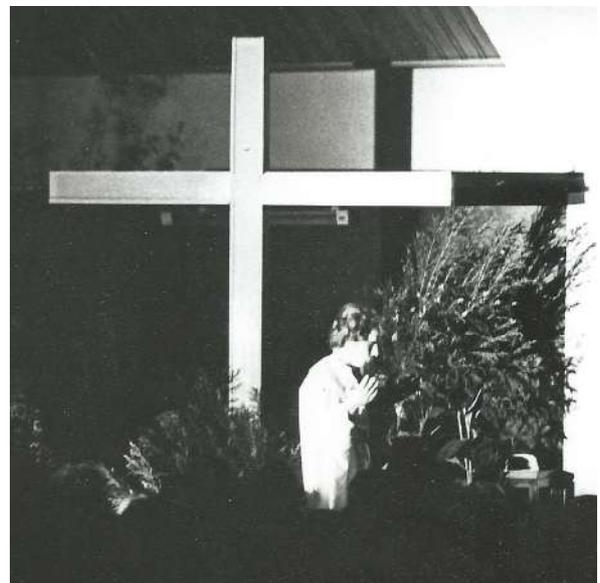
*In this scene, Christ, played by Assistant Priest Peter Hay-McKenzie carries His cross; soldiers, his Mother and the Apostle John follow.*

I considered it a great privilege to be trusted with a concept that was undoubtedly Holy Spirit inspired and given the opportunity to present a unique depiction of the Passion of Christ. This is a true story "The greatest story ever told" the arrest, the trials, the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty let him come: and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life." (Revelation 22:17.)

"He who testifies to these things says, "Yes I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen". (Revelation 22:20).

*Gethsemane Scene: Christ parts from His disciples and kneels and prays on His own.*





# Discovery Camp Weekend

## By Dia Baustista

On the 15th of February, another door in my life opened. It was filled with nothing but light, love, and happiness. This was the first day of Discovery Camp. I remember the upcoming weeks before camp I was stressed out with work, band and worried about my practicum that was coming up a day after Discovery Camp would end. I truly didn't feel like going to camp but I am very happy that I did end up going.

On the first day, we started with worship, and it put my mind and heart at ease immediately. All my worries and stress began to fade and a great big smile appeared on my face. After worship, I settled into my cottage with the girls. Little did I know that being in a cottage with these girls would be the start of a friendship that would last a lifetime. These girls made me laugh so much and brought me so much closer to Christ. Throughout the camp, these girls supported me during my sharing and in all that I did - we looked out for each other and got to know each other so much better. Never have I ever felt this much love amongst friends.

During the camp, I learned what it meant to open my heart and allow Christ to heal all the hurts that I held. I felt a huge weight off my chest, especially during the talks. During the second day, there was the talk about friendships, and in the end, the brothers and sisters within the camp formed a circle with arms around each other - we sang the song, "One" altogether. In the midst of the song, I remember looking up while everyone's eyes were closed and thinking to myself, "This is what home feels like. They are family."

The bond that we all built as brothers and sisters throughout and after the camp has definitely become stronger. Nearing the end, we had a praise fest, and I remember just seeing everyone sing their hearts out and holding hands. This feeling of content and warmth came over me and I knew from that day that no matter where I was and how I felt, they all would have my back and share the love no matter what.

Discovery Camp has made my heart so full and has given me friends that I call family.





## 50th Wedding Anniversary for Mary and Wayne Waldron 22nd February 2019



How does a couple write about the 50 years of one's Marriage in a short article? But we will try. We met in my hometown, Westport, and Wayne was from Christchurch; moving to Westport for work.

When we married on February 22nd 1969, in Greymouth (where my parents had moved to), we had built our first home: Wayne the builder, and myself the labourer!

We found we enjoyed sport, music and an interest in gardening. Although our first section was at times backbreaking, but a real achievement when it was completed. We were truly blessed with three beautiful daughters and one son, whom the LORD took off to heaven at five months old. So we discovered that there can be tough times and much happiness in a real marriage.

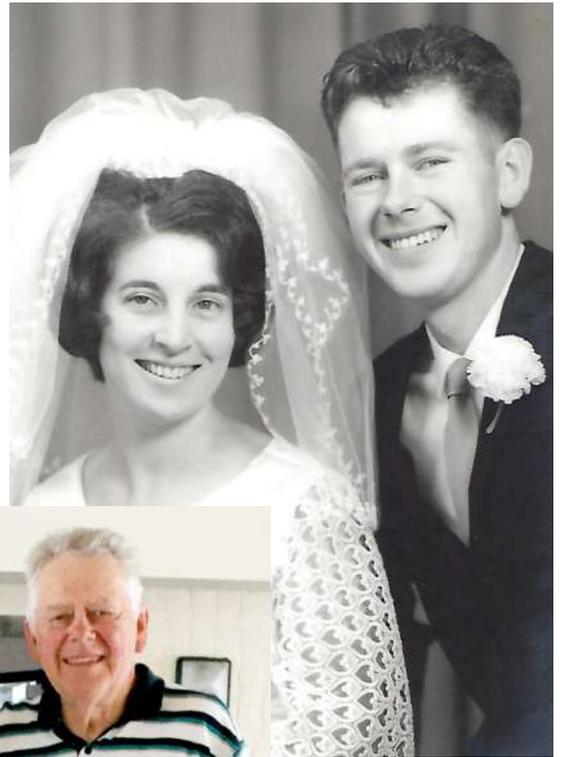
With Wayne working in the New Zealand construction "world" we were transferred to Dunedin after a few years of marriage, then Tauranga and finally the last 38 years to Pakuranga and our Church family where we have been involved in Youth Groups, and in recent years, St. Vincent de Paul.



We have been richly blessed with eight grandchildren whom we treasure, and a loving and supportive Church family who have enriched our own faith journey.

Blessings,

Wayne and Mary Waldron



50

50



### Mini Evangelist Crossword Answers

Across: 1.Amen 5.Ave 6.Anger 7.Drink 8.Venial 9.Laid 11.Less 12.NT 13.One 14.Hell 15.Eve  
Down: 2.Magdalen 3.Everlasting life 4.Neri 6.Anna 10.Is 14.Hope



# PARISH SUPPORT TEAM UPDATE

by Paul Oliver

Dear All,

On behalf of St. Mark's Parish Support Team, "Blessings to you All."

It has been another very busy time for our Support Team, in the first quarter of 2019, when we meet on the first Wednesday of every month. We also took time to remember Joe Desmond, who passed away recently and was our First Parish Council Chairman of St. Mark's Parish in 1971.

We acknowledge and thank Llew McGivern for his valued input and all the time he spent on Parish Council and we wish him well in his future endeavours.



Just a few of the points we have considered and are working on at present:

- \* St. Mark's Parish Council has been renamed, " St. Mark's Parish Support Team."
- \* Representatives from the Support Team will be attending a Diocesan event led by Bishop Patrick Dunn at St. Anne's Manurewa;
- \* Reduction of Masses at this time, due to the fact that we do not have an Assistant Priest at present and we support Fr. Oliver fully until a replacement is announced;
- \* Sound speaker system now operational;
- \* TV screens to replace outdated projector screens;
- \* Questionnaires have been distributed awaiting feedback;
- \* Support for parishioners from the Eastern Deanery to attend the "March for life" in Hamilton on 10 March;
- \* St. Mark's Day is on 26 April 2019 and we are planning a Parish celebration to take place after 10am Mass on Sunday 28 April;
- \* Youth - Theology of the Body Course and Youth camp in Hunua to take place in March.

A "Very Happy Easter" to all St. Mark's Parishioners and thank you for your ongoing support and we as your Parish Support Team will continue to keep you updated as we progress throughout 2019.

With God's Blessings,

Paul Oliver - Chairman: St. Mark's Parish Support Team.



## Thank You Parishioners!



Last month I asked for your support to help me in my bike challenge to raise funds to buy disadvantaged kiwi kids a brand new bike and a helmet. I received a great response and ranked 6th in the Top Individual fundraiser category. I have biked 177kms, received 30 generous donations and raised \$751.38.

Thank you everyone for all your support! With your help, I have managed to not only pass my goal of giving two bikes and helmets, but now I am able to present three new bikes and helmets to these kids!!

The children's charity, Variety, is now in the process of liaising with the bike supplier. Once the bikes have been acquired, they will be given to the kids at a presentation which is tentatively scheduled to happen in August.

Thank you all for your generosity. It means so much and these kids can now have the childhood they deserve.

Thank you also to those who supported me in other ways: Fr. Oliver, Paul Oliver and Mike Otto from our Parish, to name a few.

**Sydney Causer**



## ‘March For Life’ in Hamilton

### Sunday 10 March 2019

To support the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton’s "March for Life" event, and to be witnesses to "Life," a bus took parishioners from parishes in the Eastern Deanery. To make this affordable for all, the Parishes of St. Mark's and Our Lady, Star of the Sea in Howick, contributed towards the cost, and a combined "koha" of \$486.00 was given by those travelling to Hamilton. Kevin McCormick, of Howick Parish, took a lead role on the day, and Brenda Causer was inspired to make some great posters.

Thirty nine people boarded the bus at 10.00 am at Lloyd Elsmore Park, opposite to St. Mark's Parish, and many more travelled by car, to be in Hamilton for the start of the march at midday. More than 50 parishioners stood up 'for Life' from the East. Among the 500 who took part in the march was the Bishop of Hamilton, Stephen Lowe. Our Parishioners were delighted to have a photo with him. The bus returned at 5.00pm with 41 "March for Life" participants. Continued support for this March in 2020 and possibly a "March for Life" in Auckland are also opportunities for parishioners to be "people of LIFE...."

A small group of "choice" people also came. They do not recognise the reality of the life of a baby in the womb. “March for Life” speaker, Kate Cormack, in Soldiers' Memorial Park, in Hamilton said, "We will war against the lies (that surround abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia) but we will not war against those who say those lies. We will continue to love them, and we will continue to listen to them, but, we will not stop our message of truth."

She said the March was about mourning the lost children, and also about being "people of life around the community."



*Above: People of Life arrive in Hamilton at the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

*Below: Bishop Stephen (white shirt) stands with our parishioners.*





*Below: On the “March for Life” in Hamilton, from left, are: Irene Siasoco, Annamarie Sullivan, Chris Sullivan and Susanna Lee.*



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



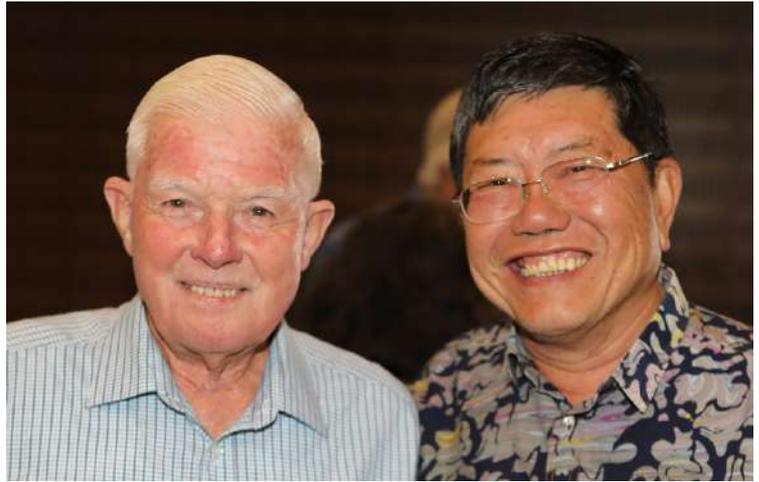


# St. Mark's School 40th Anniversary Celebrations Saturday 30 March 2019 at the School



"Seek and you will find"





**St. Mark's School  
40th Anniversary  
Celebrations at  
Sacred Heart College  
on Saturday Evening  
30 March 2019**





## Gratitude

As expressed by  
Sister Mary Maitland R.N.D.M.,  
Founding Principal, on the night of  
Saturday 30th March 2019



Kia Ora Tatou! Arohanui ki a koe. The unfolding of forty years of life and education brings us together!

What a precious moment this is to celebrate the founding of St. Mark's Catholic School Pakuranga, and to honour our living of the spirit of the school motto "Seek and You shall find" - "Rapua Kia Kitea" - the encouraging words given to us by Jesus Christ in Matthew's Sermon on the Mount - a blue print for Christian living.

Each of us will have different memories of our time at St. Mark's, and this is an occasion to delight in connecting with those with whom we shared many of these experiences; as students in cross-country running, camps, choirs, planting trees; as parents' fundraising, helping in classrooms or with transport to events, and as teachers discovering and helping to shape the talents of students. I look back with a heart full of gratitude.



Recently I read that Albert Einstein said "thank you" hundreds of times a day, especially for all the great scientists who went before him. And so in these few minutes I simply want to express 'Gratitude' for all who laid the foundation for St. Mark's Catholic School. Gratitude for those who dared to dream of a new Catholic school in the Auckland Diocese and who with deep faith believed that in God all things would be possible - Father (Mons.) Green, Mr Kelly of the Catholic Education Office and the early founding parishioners whether they had children to attend or not. Thank you.

Gratitude for the creative energies of a wonderfully generous and competent founding staff - teaching and secretarial; because 1979 was before the school integrated - a staff who cleaned their own classrooms; a staff who had to work around an unfinished school building and outdoor area; a staff that had to negotiate new teaching spaces and provide learning experiences suitable for these; a staff that piloted a new Religious Education Programme before its release in the Diocese. Thank you.

Gratitude for all the beautiful families who chose to entrust their children to St. Mark's for education and for the many mums and dads and grandparents and parishioners who gave generous time on committees, on classroom support activities, or landscaping the school, and time for transporting or accompanying students to special events. Thank you.



Gratitude too, for St. Patrick's School Panmure who provided a great number of staff and pupils so St. Mark's was a viable school from the very first day - a school that then needed to reshape itself as being the historic school it is - founded in 1848 - to provide the quality education it offers today - another school mirroring the values and spirit of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. Thank you.

Gratitude for all the Principals, Boards & teaching staff, and families who have developed the spirit of St. Mark's over these past four decades. You too have faced new challenges in each decade, but your fidelity to the founding inspiration is very evident today. St. Mark's can be very proud of its 2018 Education Review Office report and Catholic Character report. Well done Catherine Rivers and Staff.

A special word of gratitude to the Form 1 and 2 class (Year 7 and 8) of 1979. You were amazing pupils - putting up with me as I tried to teach you and oversee the building that was continuing to be developed around us while coping with visitors and inspectors too! Hopefully you have all matured well in life. It was a great joy to meet some of you today.

Finally word of Gratitude to God... the Source of all Being of whom each of us is a small flame of the fire that is Life, Love, indeed is the very Being of everything. Yes, in the depth of our humanness God dwells. Jesus who spoke the words "Seek and you shall find". The school motto embodied the fullness of God to give us a glimpse that each of us is a creative expression of this Holy Mystery deeper than words can express.

All the people, all the students, those who have died, as well as those of us still living who have contributed to the unfolding of the St. Mark's School spirit, are the sacred blessings God has poured out over these forty years. For this we give profound thanks, and praise for the creativity of God being celebrated this weekend and hopefully continuing to be expressed throughout 2019 and for many more years/decades. May God bless us all.



*Left: St. Mark's Principal, Mrs Catherine Rivers (centre) with Founding Principal, Sister. Mary Maitland R.N.D.M. (Sister. Barbara) on the right and former Principal Sister Margaret Monaghan R.N.D.M.(1982-1985).*



St. Mark's School 40th Anniversary Celebrations at Sacred Heart College on Saturday Evening 30 March 2019







## Anniversary Reflection

### by Catherine Rivers, Principal

Congratulations St Mark's Catholic School celebrating 40 years of outstanding Catholic Education! A wonderful Jubilee celebration was held on the weekend of 30th and 31st of March 2019. For all three events, we were joined by the first and second Principals, Sister Mary Maitland (known as Sister Barbara) and Sister Margaret Monaghan.

Our first event was an open day at our school. This included past memorabilia being on display, people sharing memories, decade group photos and aerial drone photo of an enormous 40 on our sport's field. The day concluded with our Pasifika Group giving a polished, colourful performance under the new shade area.

Shaun Petterson and Sharna Llorando (past students), entertained us with a wonderful range of songs; folk, jazz, operatic and modern, at our mix and mingle on Saturday night at Sacred Heart College.



On Sunday, we had a very beautiful Mass, which was Concelebrated by Bishop Patrick Dunn and many of the Parish Priests who have been at St Mark's; Monsignor Ray Green, Fr. Barry Scannell, Fr. Ezio Blasoni, Fr. Raphael Lobo, Fr. Emile Frische and our present priest Fr Oliver Aro. Also joining us was Deacon Martin Wu who was a former student at St Mark's School and who will be Ordained to the Priesthood in August this year. Also with us was Deacon Chris Sullivan, our permanent Deacon in St. Mark's Parish. This was followed by the cutting of a huge celebration cake.

Our school was built as a result of Mons. Ray Green's dream of having a school onsite, 43 years ago. This dream was brought to fruition when he encouraged Sister Mary Maitland R.N.D.M. to become the first Principal. He also graciously allowed Mrs Penny Sall (who had been his secretary at the Parish) to join Sister Mary to help ensure the successful opening of our school.

A huge thank you goes out to our hard working and vibrant Jubilee committee which was comprised of: Arminda Wood, Rosemary Grant, Rennel Bulay, Jemima Bulay, Glenys Smith, Megan McColl, Maureen Bell, Anna O'Brien and Catherine Rivers. We also thank our sponsors: SKIDS (Carlos Camus), McColl Building (Duncan McColl) and Toshiba (Jim Nolan), Damien and Cath Gillen and Rosa Chow for their donations and all others who supported this event on many, varying levels. A souvenir of this 40th Jubilee of St. Mark's School, which you can buy, is our beautiful etched glasses which are on sale from our School Office.



***Excerpt from Bishop Patrick Dunn's Homily***

*One of the things I noticed when looking at the history of this school was that whenever Sister Barbara and Monsignor Green spoke about the school, they were talking about a community of faith; not just the teachers, staff and pupils but the whole families. That was the dream of Monsignor Green, the Principals and the teachers of St. Mark's School that has been realised over the past forty years. Let us continue to pray that the family of St. Mark's School will reflect the family that the church is supposed to be. And may God continue to bless this school as it journeys towards its golden jubilee.*

**St. Mark's School  
40th Anniversary  
Mass  
at Midday  
on Sunday  
31 March 2019**





# St. Mark's School 40th Anniversary Mass and Celebrations Sunday 31 March 2019

*Excerpt from  
Monsignor Ray Green's Homily*

*Today we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of St. Mark's School. The Opening Day in 1979 was a great day; I remember it very well. I asked Sister Barbara to be the first Principal because I had a great experience of her educational work when I was an Assistant Priest in Panmure. Observing the way Sr Barbara ran St. Patrick's School, I thought she would be ideal to lead the new school. And indeed Sr. Barbara was, and I am very grateful to her because she founded a wonderful school and the school today is indeed an outstanding school. So we thank God for all those who have been part of this school.*





# Memorials



*Parishioners from the East, came together at the Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea, in Howick, on Monday 18th of March. This was a call to pray in a Mass, for all those impacted by the terrorist attack on the two Muslim Mosques in Christchurch, three days earlier. There was a full church. The bells rang 50 times and 50 candles glowed.*



*Below: St. Mark's Catholic School and the Marian Centre, Catholic Kindergarten also had liturgies and prayers for the people of Christchurch.*





# The Marriage Anniversary Mass Ministry

By Ninotschka Noronha Mesquita



The Marriage Anniversary Mass is a ministry which commemorates couples celebrating their anniversary each month. This ministry was born in 2009 under the aegis of Fr. Raphael Lobo and Yasmina & Manuel Mesquita along with five other couples to enable the strengthening of the sacrament of marriage in a world where this is no longer given the same status and importance.

Now as this ministry enters into its 10th year only 3 of the founding members, Manuel & Yasmina with Hazel, continue to carry on working to keep this tradition going.

Through the years there have been a succession of choirs helping in the music ministry and there now is a dedicated Marriage Anniversary Choir led by Amirtha Francis.



*Above: In the Mass, Lorraine and Lindsay Stanfield celebrate 28 years of Marriage by renewing their vows.*



*The Marriage Anniversary Choir*

*Row 3: Adam Martis, Maria Shella Tabac, Francisca Eny Santoso, Abigail Martis, Christine Tabac, Carmel Francis*

*Row 2: May Frost, Myra D'Souza, Nerissa Cordeiro, Sheila Tabac, Cienna Francis*

*Row 1: Amirtha Francis, Juliet Martis*



# Sacrament of Confirmation

We congratulate and pray for the young people in our community who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on the night of Thursday 11th of April 2019 from Bishop Patrick Dunn.



- Eowyn Addington
- Lyala Addington
- Tristan Addington
- Sebastian Banno
- Charlotte Rose Brannigan
- Lev William Cabardo
- Jacob Isaac Calacsan
- Amelie Chan
- Belinda De La Cruz
- John Clyde Del Carmen
- John Lester Del Carmen
- Cherise Didier 'Serre
- Liam Donnellan
- Leon William Earl
- Natalia Fernandes
- Gabriella Fernandes
- Giovanni Enrique Gutierrez
- Cohen George Hollins
- Angela Kalinic
- Luka Kalinic
- Antonija-Marina Kasum
- Noah Kato



- Lucas Kato
- Hanz Amando Lao
- Sienna Ruby Long
- Lilly Grace Massey
- Jannina Matanguihan
- Jethro Matanguihan
- Amiel Jhun Morales
- Sophia Neems
- Zoe Angelou Regis
- Eduardo Javier Roman-Baza
- Leo Douglas Ryan
- Aaron James Santoso
- Ceska Eve Segedin



- Ean Reilly Siao
- Sean Gerard Sierra
- Ryan Sydney Smeath
- Danijel-Franco Tvrdeich-Kasum
- Julianna Nicole Valdez
- Carmina Velez-Montero
- Julian Wang
- Georgia Olivia Wilson
- John Benedict Yangyang
- Vic Lorenz Yangyang
- Kimi Jan Yap
- Keoni Yap
- Will Cedric Ybanez





*Above: Isabel Morais celebrated her 92nd birthday on the 6th of January 2019.*



*Above: The Memorial Garden at St. Mark's School which remembers all of the deceased who have been part of the school. Each stone has the name of one person and their relationship with the school.*



## *Blessed Moments*



*Above: On the 24th of February, Rowena and Mark McKenzie are married 40 years.*

*Below: Fr. Oliver Aro blessing the birthday of Grace Rowlands (far left) and Maia, the daughter of Matt and Davina West on her second birthday, the 12th of February 2019.*





*Above: Alex and Cherry (nee Peng) Chiu just married at St. Patrick and St. Joseph's Cathedral, Auckland, on 23 March 2019. Former Assistant Priest of St. Mark's, Fr. Francis Poon officiated.*



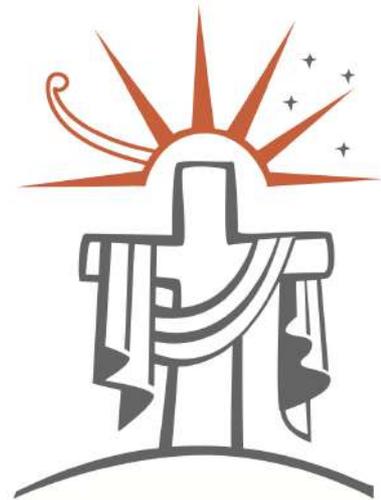
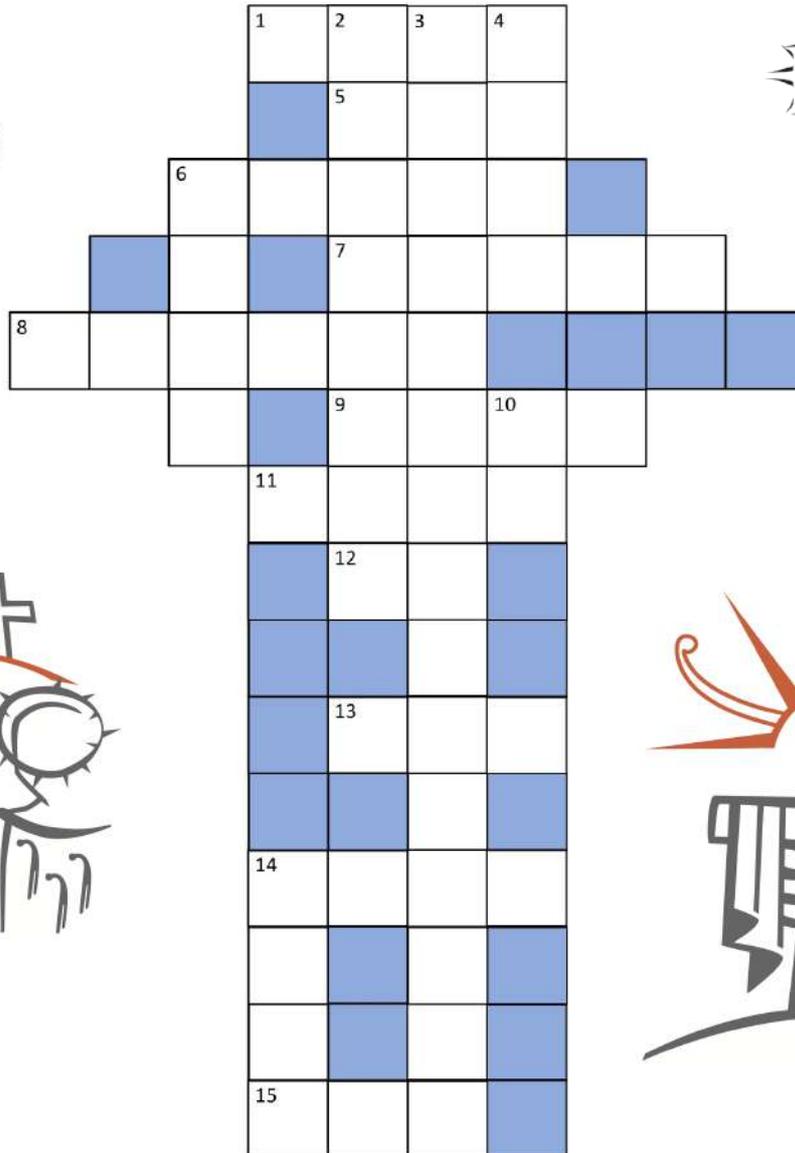
*Above: In March, Shirley Van Niekerk is blessed on her birthday during Mass.*



*left: Parish Priest, Fr. Oliver Aro baptises Aliah Perese, daughter of Leo and Agatha Perese, on the 23rd of March 2019.*



## Mini - Evangelist Crossword



### Across

1. What we say at the end of prayers (4)
5. \_\_\_ Maria (3)
6. Sin against the Fifth Commandment (5)
7. Take, eat and \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
8. Sin, not mortal that starts with 'v' (6)
9. "Wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and \_\_\_\_\_ Him in a manger (4)
11. One of the apostles (not James the Great) but James the \_\_\_\_\_ (4)
12. Short for New Testament (2)
13. The church is \_\_\_\_, holy, catholic and apostolic (3)
14. Place of the damned (4)
15. Adam's wife (3)

### Down

2. Mary \_\_\_\_\_, the repentant sinner (8) Hint: no 'e' at the end!
3. Reward for serving God (11,4)
4. Saint Philip \_\_\_\_\_ (his surname) (4)
6. Mother of the Blessed Virgin (4)
10. Not "was" or "will be" but "\_\_\_" (present tense) (2)
14. One of these that goes with 'Faith' and "Charity" (4)

**Answers on Page 25**