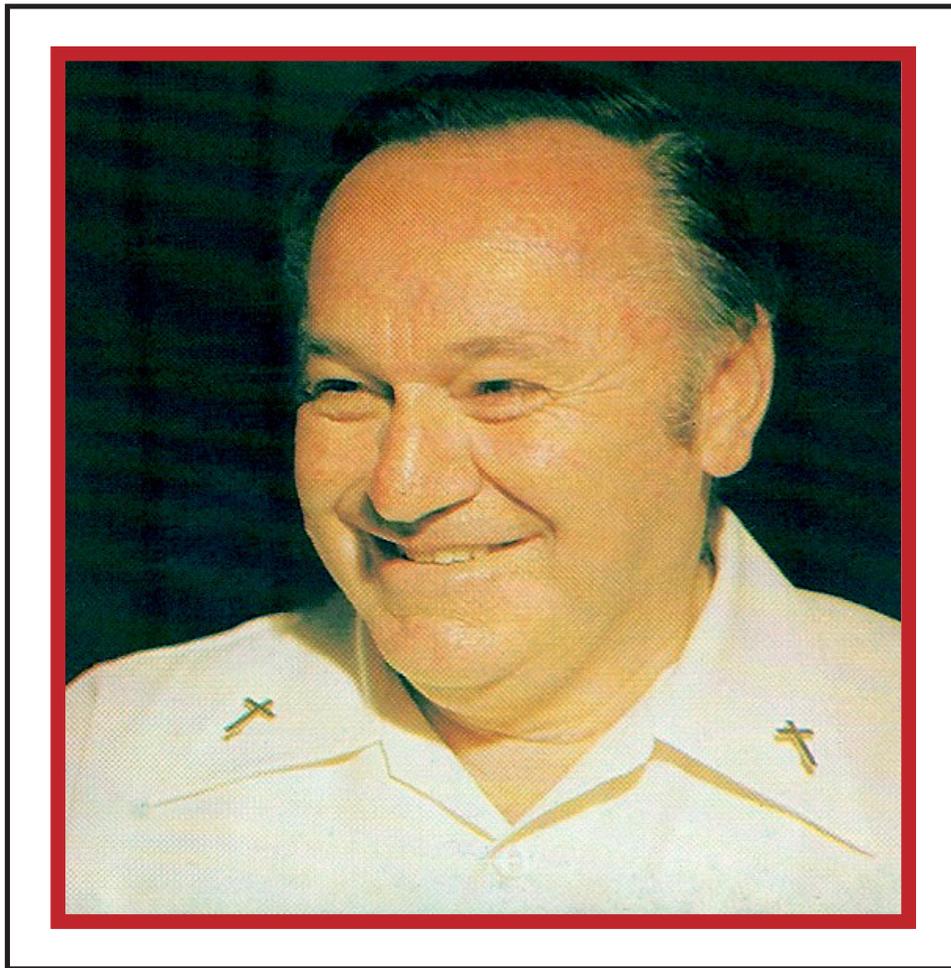




Monsignor Raymond Thomas Green



Earthly Birthday - 26 October 1926

Baptised - 14 November 1926

Ordained Priest - 22 July 1956

Heavenly Birthday - 15 July 2019



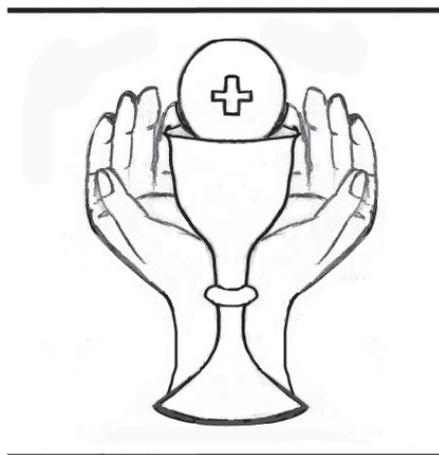
A Reflection on the Life of Monsignor Raymond Thomas Green

Psalm 127

If the LORD does not build the house, the work of the builders is useless; If the LORD does not protect the city, it does no good for the sentries to stand guard; It is useless to work so hard for a living, getting up early and going to bed late. For the LORD provides for those he loves, while they are asleep.

Monsignor Green told us,

“Let us keep in mind, that what we are doing is to put a building to enable us to form a strong Eucharistic Community... a Community that is a living witness to Christ. Unless we keep this before us, we will not succeed.”





FAMILY LIFE

Monsignor Raymond Thomas Green was born the 26th October 1926 and was baptised at St Joseph's Takapuna on the 14th November 1926 by Rev. Father O'Conner.

His parents were Frederick Alfred William Green and Violetta Dorothy McGarry. The date of their marriage was the 18th February 1914. According to the Register of St. Patrick's Cathedral, they were the fifth entry in the February of 1914. The priest who married Monsignor Ray Green's parents was Rev. Father W.J. Ormond.

Monsignor Green's paternal Grandfather was Thomas Green and his Grandmother was Emma Green nee Porter. Monsignor Green's maternal Grandfather was Henry McGarry and his Grandmother was Catherine McGarry, nee Mulqueeney.



Above: A photograph of the Green family. Ray was aged 7 and is with his parents Dorothy and Fred, brother Noel and sister Orma.

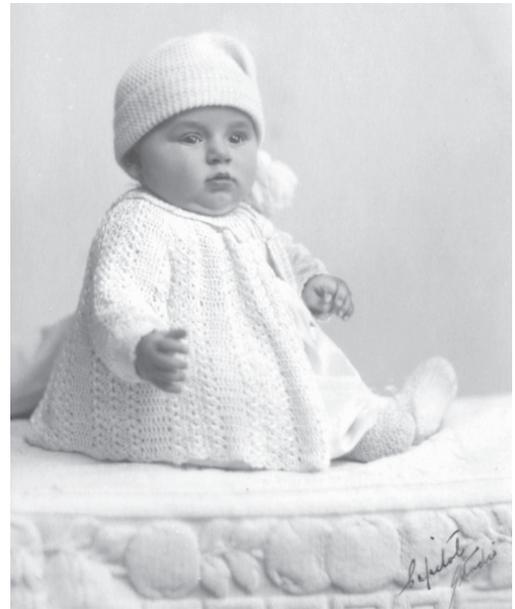


Above: The wedding photograph of Monsignor Green's parents. The priest on the far right is Rev. Father Ormond (later Monsignor Ormond).



Monsignor Raymond Green was born in Takapuna, in that period, after the First World War, when New Zealand was finding its way in a new, more optimistic world. He was Frederick and Dorothy Green's (nee McGarry) youngest child and brother to Noel and Orma. In 1929 the family unit was extended to include his Uncle John Strong and three year old cousin Joyce, following the death of her mother. Although they were cousins, Joyce and Raymond were raised like brother and sister and remained close all their lives.

Fred Green was a classical violinist, as was his sister-in-law Irene (Sister Mary Francis Xavier). They played in a quartet at weddings and social events, so the home was always full of music and singing. They lived in the family home, built by Fred Green, at 133 Shackleton Road, which also included Dorothy's mother, Catherine McGarry (Nan, nee Mulqueaney), and Monsignor often recalled the many memories he had of happy family events, card games and holidays in Coromandel, Rotorua and Cornwalls Beach on the Manukau Harbour.



Above: A baby studio photograph of Ray Green.

His young life was marred by the death of his mother in 1939 when he was just 12 years old. A loss he felt deeply all his life. When his brother Noel left the family home, soon after, to enlist in the Air Force, his beloved Nan became a tower of strength for him, his father and sister Orma.

Monsignor attended Good Shepherd Convent School in Telford Avenue Balmoral, with church services at the Catholic Church next door. His memories of his days at Good Shepherd are very happy ones and when it was time for him to move on, he attended St. Peter's College in Mountain Road as a Foundation Pupil.

He rode an old bike to College in good and in bad weather unless it was pouring, then he was allowed to go by tram from Dominion Road.



Above: The family home at 133 Shackleton Road Mt Eden. Pictured is Ray Green and his cousin Joyce McIndoe. Joyce was virtually a sister to Ray as his siblings were about 10 - 12 years older than him.



His duty at home, was to mow the lawns with a hand mower and other chores. He often related to me what a happy childhood he experienced.

His father always took the family away during the annual school holidays and Monsignor recalls visiting relations in Rissington in the Hawkes Bay and seeing the devastation caused by the huge earthquake. On one occasion, he and Joyce, being small and adventurous, saw some bulls in a field and decided to go in and make friends with them. Family members looked on in horror but the bulls totally ignored them, much to everyone's relief.

Monsignor's father was a plumber, and in his spare time he worked as a Projectionist at the Victoria Picture Theatre in Devonport. During the depression to save petrol, he used to walk from Shackleton Road into the city, catch the ferry to Devonport then return when he had finished the evening show. Eventually he got a bike and he would take Monsignor Ray to the matinee, then pedal him home, then return for the evening performance.

As Monsignor entered his teenage years and left school, he joined his father in the family plumbing business. He often recounted stories about the different buildings they worked on, particularly the St. James, Regent, Embassy and Majestic Theatres.

Encouraged by his father, he had a wide range of interests and they often spent evenings listening to politicians speaking on street corners. He was active in the Good Shepherd Youth Group and enjoyed live concerts at His Majesty's Theatre.



Above: On the left, is Monsignor Ray Green's Grandmother (Nan), Catherine McGarry with his cousin Joyce McIndoe.



He retained a keen appreciation of the music from old musicals and a love of classical music instilled in him by his father and Aunt Rene, (Sister Mary Francis Xavier) who spent many years at Stella Maris with Dame Sister Mary Leo accompanying many of her famous singers and teaching piano and violin.

After the war, when he and his father were working at Cornwall Hospital, he was inspired by the dedication and care given to Returned Servicemen, by the American medical staff and he decided that he wanted to dedicate his life to the service of others. In his mid 20's he answered the call to enter the Priesthood, and was accepted into Holy Cross Seminary, at Mosgiel.

After working so closely with his father, he initially found life at the seminary quite lonely and the Latin intolerable. In 1950 the family was again struck by tragedy when their beloved Nan was killed, crossing Dominion Road. In 1952 he was given 12 months leave to take care of his father who had cancer. After the death of his father, in 1953, and the loss of his Aunt, Sister Mary Euphrasia (Rosella Mulqueeney), he returned to Mosgiel, mastered the Latin and complete his training.

Monsignor Ray Green's Holy Cross Seminary Year Photograph.



This year group was the largest in number till it was overtaken a year later. By the time he was ordained, both his parents had died. He was given time in his sixth year to nurse his father who had cancer.

Back Row, (left to right): Joe Shepherd, Bevan Smith, Brian Winders, John Sheahan, Brian McAloon, John Mullin, Ivan Lunjevich.

Front Row, (left to right): Ray Green, Dave Carey, Maurice O'Brien, Kevin Donnelly, Kevin Clark, Warren Fowler, Colin Karalus, Brian Arahill.



In 1955 the Von Trapp Family Singers visited the Seminary and gave a short recital for the seminarians, which was “a marvellous experience!” This was the same family, whose story was later featured in that movie ‘The Sound of Music’, which became one of his favourites.

On 22 July 1956, at the age of 29, Monsignor Raymond Green was ordained at St Patrick’s Cathedral by Bishop Liston. His Aunt, Sr. Mary Francis Xavier, his sister Orma and her daughters Katherine and Dorothy and brother Noel and his daughters, Noeline and Irene, all attended. After his ordination he travelled to Whangarei with his brother Noel and said his first Mass assisted by Father Hilary Lister sm, the Parish Priest of St. Xavier’s in Bank St.

His first posting was to Epsom Parish and he also did Hospital Chaplaincy work at Greenlane Hospital, as well as celebrating Mass for the Carmelite Nuns on Mt. Albert Road. All this was accomplished riding a bike around the area. From there, he was sent to Whakatane for four months, with special duties to prepare Kawerau to be a Parish. After Whakatane, he was sent to Tuakau with duties to the Marist Brothers’ Juniorate and also to help the Parish Priest. At this time, Meremere Power Station was being built and he had a special ministry to the staff constructing the Station. Monsignor made many staunch friends during this Ministry and he continued to have contact with some of those people and their families today.

Eventually, Monsignor Green took on the responsibility of the Tuakau Parish due to the illness and eventual death of the Parish Priest Father Dore, who had become a very close friend. Monsignor was entrusted with the remodelling of the Parish Church and property.

The next move was to Ponsonby to full-time teaching at St. Paul’s College and Director of Vocations for the Diocese, as well as helping Father McGrath with Sunday Masses at Avondale Parish. Following this ministry he was sent to Thames, and at one stage, he looked after the whole of the Coromandel Peninsula with Masses every Sunday at Thames, Coromandel and Whitianga. In 1966, so he could be near his brother Noel who had been diagnosed with terminal cancer, Monsignor was transferred back to Auckland as Assistant Parish Priest of Panmure with Father Gardiner.

When Bishop Delargey became Bishop of Auckland, one of his first appointments was to send Monsignor Green to Pakuranga as Parish Priest of this new Parish. When he walked onto the farm, there was only an old farmhouse and a cowshed on the paddocks of the church land. The property was purchased from the local dentist, Dr. Mangos in 1965 by the Auckland Diocese. At the time of the purchase it was a Town Milk Supply farm and it had close associations with the Pakuranga Hunt Club.

In 1968, Edgewater College was opened and it was here that Sunday Masses were celebrated in the College Hall. Holy Days of Obligation were celebrated in the Anglican and Methodist Churches and weekday Masses in the Cowshed Chapel.



This was a suburb that was just developing. There were lots of housing projects, which resulted in many Catholic families who required ministering to, hence a new Church and a new School were needed. This amazing man, Monsignor Green, lived in the run down, derelict farmhouse, which local parishioner Veronica Smith described as, “not fit for human habitation.” It had brambles growing through the walls and vermin everywhere!



Above: Monsignor Green standing in front of the farmhouse.

To save funds for the building of the Church, Monsignor Green decided that rent in Pakuranga was too high and therefore, living in this dilapidated Villa was necessary while this huge project was undertaken. This also demonstrated his humility and self-sacrifice.



Above: The cowshed which was converted into a Chapel.

During this time, Pakuranga and Te Unga Waka Marae were chosen by Bishop Mackey for the training of future priests, and it was then, that a young Patrick Dunn was sent to Monsignor Green as a Transitional Deacon for six months. As we all know, he is now our Bishop of Auckland.



Above: The interior of the cowshed with Monsignor Green. It hosted 99 baptisms and remarkably, three weddings.

This humble priest, who had formerly been a plumber, began Masses for the people of God in Edgewater College Hall. All the chairs had to be put out, and returned after every Mass. Everything required for the Mass had to be brought to the college. They were some of Monsignor Green’s best days. The church was not a building but ‘the Body of Christ’. The sense of community was strong. On other feast days, Masses were celebrated in the Anglican and Methodist Churches of Pakuranga.

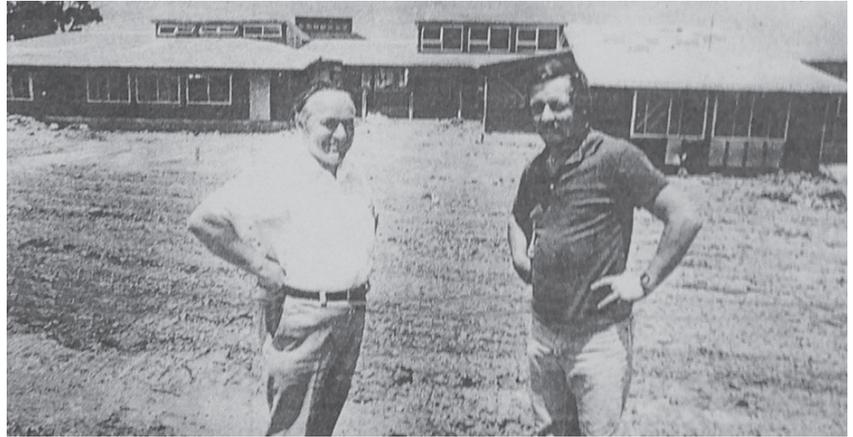


Above: The new church of St. Mark's which was blessed by Bishop John Mackey on 24th November 1974.



With the help of dedicated parishioners, Monsignor Green transformed the cowshed into a beautiful Chapel which always had a Bethlehem - Christmas feel to it. The Parish of St. Mark's began in 1971 and the first Church was opened and blessed in 1974, followed by the school only five years later. Eventually a Parish Centre and finally the Presbytery were built. Modifications have been made to the Church recently.

While at Pakuranga, Monsignor Green, was invited to preach at St. Kentigern's College by the then Presbyterian Minister and his wife. He began meetings at the Baptist Church and also was invited to preach at the Brethren Church. It is to be noted that when Monsignor Ray Green finally left St. Mark's Parish in 1983, it was debt-free and with a healthy bank balance.



Above: Monsignor Green, with foreman Wayne Aurisch, in front of the new St. Mark's Primary School.

He arrived at the 'Christ the King' Parish, Owairaka, approximately 27 years after being ordained, in June 1983 and led the parish for the next 28 years. Many of the children he baptised are now parents, so he has seen two generations grow up under his guidance. Many changes took place in Owairaka after Monsignor Green's arrival. On the occasion of his 50th Jubilee of Priesthood, there were at least 34 nationalities attending the Masses and the Parish grew by the week. It was then, the largest community in Central Auckland and it is a tribute to this man of the people. His next challenge was to build a much larger Church to cope with a community that was growing by the week.

His greatest wish for the Owairaka Parish was for it to be a place where people came together and celebrated as Catholics. The parish congregation numbers increased significantly during his tenure.



Above: The new Church of Christ the King in Owairaka.



The present church is the fourth parish church. The need for the last redevelopment of the site was because of the loss of amenity and land due to the construction of the Waterview Connection. Through the stewardship of Monsignor Green and his advisors and the leadership of the Bishop, the Parish and Diocese negotiated with New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) the equivalent reinstatement of the Parish Church, School and Presbytery, while allowing for future growth.



Above: The Opening and Blessing of the new church of Christ the King in Owairaka.

Monsignor Green attended many of the site meetings and remained involved throughout the development. The new church was opened and blessed by Bishop Patrick Dunn on the Feast of Christ the King on 23 November 2008 and the new school opened in November 2009.



Above: At his Diamond Jubilee Mass, Monsignor Ray gives thanks to God for such a long and wonderful ministry.

In December 2007, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Father Ray, a Monsignor. In February 2011, Monsignor Raymond Green became Pastor Emeritus. He continued to celebrate the 10.00 am Friday and 10.00 am Sunday Masses up until 2016. He retired to St. John Vianney in Ponsonby in 2017. Monsignor Green was also greatly involved in the establishment of the St. John Vianney home for retired priests. Little did he think, that he would be living there too!

APPOINTMENTS

- Epsom: 1957 - 58
- Whakatane: 1958
- Tuakau: 1959 - 1962
- Ponsonby: 1962 - 1966
- Thames: 1966 - 1967
- Panmure: 1967 - 1971
- Pakuranga (Parish Priest): 1971 - 1983
- Owairaka (Parish Priest): 1984 - 2010
- Owairaka (Pastor Emeritus): 2011 - 2016
- St. John Vianney: 2017 - 2019



SAINTS OF OUR PARISH

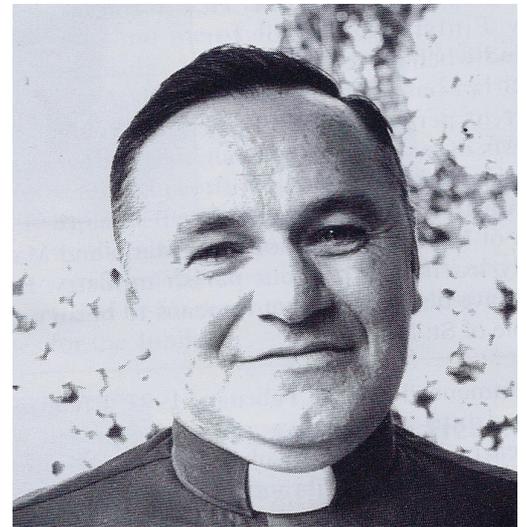
By Jim Mullane

Greetings everyone.....

What you are about to read is a document of sorts about two Saints. But not just any Saints. Both of these particular Saints in their own very different ways have established really strong ties with our parish.

The first of them, St. Mark, as our Patron Saint is without doubt the pre-eminent devotional figure for us in our Parish family. And if any of you, like me, wondered about the relationship of St. Mark to Pakuranga, there is a relatively simple explanation.

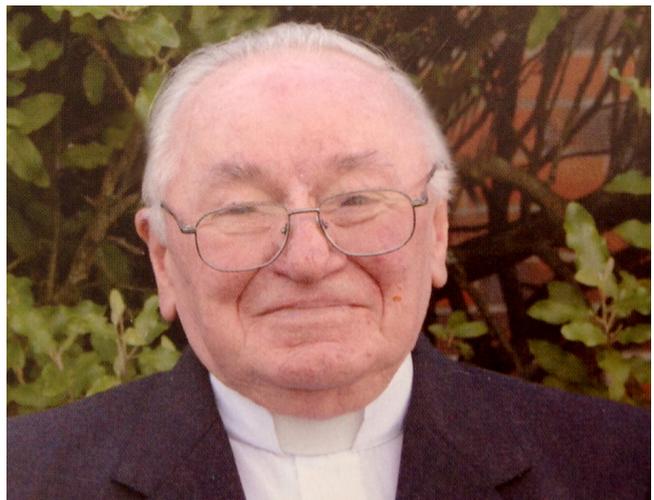
Traditionally with new parishes the Bishop decides on the name. However in the case of Pakuranga, Bishop Delargey made an exception and accorded the honour to our first Parish Priest, Father Ray Green - now of course Monsignor Green. At the time Father Green was associated with Panmure Parish. And not only this, he was also closely involved with St. Paul's College in Richmond Road where he taught Scripture, a role which was rather unique for his priestly calling, not only at that time, but in fact at any time since. It was at this time, that Father Green established a close affinity with the writings of St. Mark and it was the love of and empathy for these writings which he endeavoured to instil in the minds of the young men at St. Paul's College.



As there was also a family connection of sorts with the saint, it was really not surprising that when accorded the honour of naming our parish, he should choose St. Mark. Additionally too, there was a uniqueness about the choice. Nowhere else in the Auckland Catholic Diocese, which included the present day Hamilton Diocese, was there a Church with the Patronal name of St. Mark. Thus was born the St. Mark's Parish of Pakuranga.

Quote from Monsignor Green at the Silver Jubilee of St. Mark's Parish:

“When I look back I can only think of God's goodness and grace. What seemed difficult was achieved through the prayers of the people. I was always conscious of the prayerful people in the parish. They gave me the faith that I needed. After 40 years of priesthood, I am still amazed at what can be achieved by trusting in God.”



Acknowledgements

This booklet is a composition of material from Christ the King Parish, Onairaka, written for the Golden Jubilee of Monsignor Green; excerpts from 'Footprints' the Parish Magazine of St. Mark's Parish, Pakuranga - particularly for Monsignor's Diamond Jubilee; and excerpts from 'Silver Souvenir' which was written for the 25th Jubilee of St. Mark's Parish.

Thanks to Robert and Mary Pepping, Therese Verheyen, Archives of Pompallier Diocesan Centre, Jim Mullane and most particularly, his niece Irene Deunsbery.