



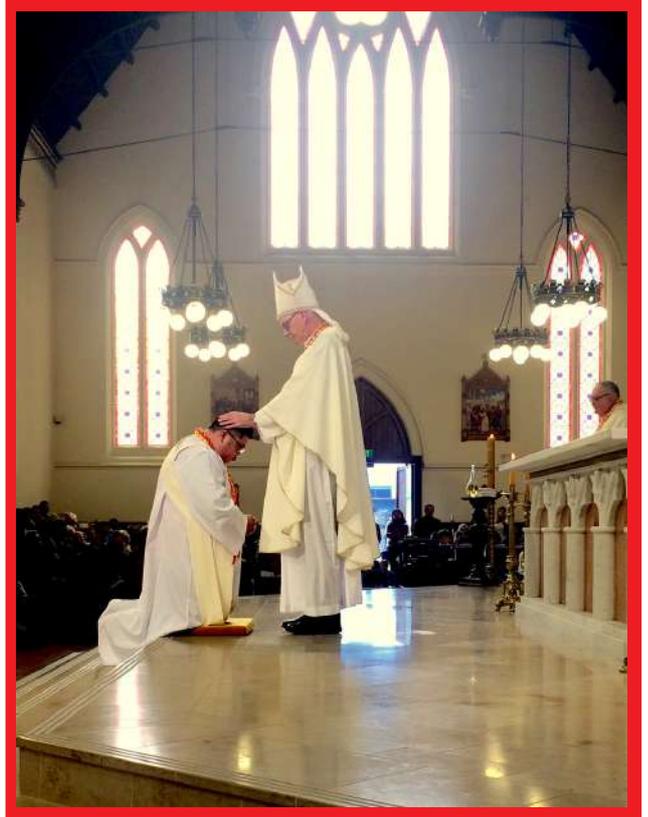
SPECIAL EDITION



FOOTPRINTS



**MAGAZINE OF
ST. MARK'S PARISH
PAKURANGA**



**Ordination to Sacred
Priesthood of Martin Wu
The first Priest to come from
St. Mark's School and Parish**



May - August 2019

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

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An Introduction from our Administrator

When young people asked for my details, I would normally refer them to check my Facebook account or Instagram or I would say to some - do a simple Google of me. However, in this instance, I was asked to formally introduce myself. Here we go...

I am Fr. Sherwin Bruno Lapaan. I was born in the highlands of the Cordillera Mountain Ranges called Ifugao Province located in the northern part of the Philippines. Carmen is the name of my biological mother and I have two siblings from her - an older sister, Vicky, and an older brother, Jhun. I also have an adopted family whom I owe much of my growing and maturing years. I owe my vocation to my adoptive mother, nanay Vangie, who tragically died in a car accident with tatay Nestor in May 2015. She nurtured my faith and never gave up on me. I have three younger sisters; Tintin, April, and Mae who are very loving and caring.



I came to know New Zealand in detail because of the Lord of the Rings - thanks to Sir Peter Jackson. I traveled to Auckland at the beginning of 2011 and I quickly fell in love with the people and the church, as I was offered work, as the parish secretary of Good Shepherd Parish in Balmoral and Co-ordinator for the Auckland Filipino Catholic Chaplaincy for that year. Although I did most of my seminary formation back in the Philippines I still had to complete the remaining years of my priestly formation. The following year, 2011, I applied to the Diocese to complete my seminary training and was accepted to Holy Cross Seminary and I was enrolled to Good Shepherd College for my civil and ecclesiastical degrees (BA Theology and Grad Dip. Theology) - after a hiatus of five years.

I was ordained Transitional Deacon at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Thames, Coromandel on 28 April 2013, the Feast Day of Peter Chanel. Less than four months later, I was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood by Bishop Patrick Dunn on the Feast Day of St. Bartholomew at our Cathedral of St. Patrick and St. Joseph on 24 August 2013.

Prior to coming to New Zealand in 2011, and after I left the seminary formation in 2005, I worked in various capacities for number of organisations and companies - among them are IBM Philippines, John J. Carroll Institute of Church and Social Issues; and the Philippines Jesuit's ERDA Group of Foundations. I have learned the value of work and management; the importance of human relationships; principles and faith when dealing with people from different walks of life.

I wrote my thesis for my Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy based on Edith Stein's Philosophy of Empathy. She later became St. Teresita Benedicta of the Cross, after World War II. She is one of the modern and contemporary saints and she has so much to teach us on faith, reason and our relationship with one another. The other saint that I look up to is St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Right after my Ordination to the Priesthood by Bishop Patrick Dunn, I was thrown into the deep end. I was appointed Hospital Chaplain for Middlemore Hospital and as an Assistant Priest at Holy Cross Papatoetoe. It was not an easy appointment, but I have quickly learned the ropes



of what it means to be a priest for others and live and practise one of the corporal works of mercy - waking up in the wee hours of the night to visit the sick and dying. My experience of hospital and parish life with all its joys and sorrows and struggles, my thesis on empathy became so concrete and personal, especially the experiences of God's love and mercy.

After two years, I was moved to serve in St. Joseph Parish in Takapuna and as the School Chaplain at Carmel College. In 2017, I was asked to move from the beaches and lake of the North Shore, to the concrete jungle of the Auckland C.B.D. - to serve as Assistant Priest for the Cathedral of St. Patrick and St. Joseph; St. Peter's Parish in Waiheke; and to be Co-Chaplain at St. Mary's College.

On the 14th of April 2019, I received an appointment to be the Parish Administrator of our St. Mark's Parish. My ministry is to be your pastor and your servant-leader who directly reports to the Bishop. As Parish Administrator, I have the same rights and obligations of leadership as those of a Parish Priest. However, it will be on a temporary basis until I am appointed Parish Priest, or another Parish Priest has been appointed by our Bishop.

I love sports and have played multiple disciplines when I was younger, but I think I have caught a nasty virus recently called 'golf'. I am now learning the discipline of it and hopefully I can play the game well.

St. John Vianney, the patron of priests, once said, "The priest is not a priest for himself; he does not give himself absolution; he does not administer the Sacraments to himself. He is not for himself, he is for you." I am looking forward to working and ministering together with you. Help me and pray for me that I too may grow as a person and as a priest - ad majorem dei gloriam (for the greater glory of God) and in opus ministerii (for the work of the ministry).

IN THIS..... OUR FINAL ISSUE...we welcome our new Administrator, Sherwin Lapaan and his Assistant Priest, Jude Algama. We farewell Oliver Aro M.S.P. our last Parish Priest and farewell to heaven, the Founding Parish Priest of our parish and our school, Monsignor Raymond Green....the priest who named it, "St. Mark's." His story, which is the very beginnings of this wonderful parish, is told in this magazine. Here too, are stories of other Foundational Parishioners, whom God has called to their heavenly reward. We celebrate our new members at Easter, and the children who received the LORD for the very first time in Holy Communion, some of the newly Baptized and many special moments including a very important time for our last Assistant Priest, Austin Fernandes as he too, shares with us on the heavenly birthday of his Mum. Catherine Rivers, Principal of St. Mark's School for 17 years, shares her reflection as her leadership of our School comes to an end.

Then, there is the wonderful Ordination of our very first Priest, Martin Yiu Hang Wu, to come from this Parish of St. Mark and also St. Mark's School. Busloads of parishioners joined a packed Cathedral, to witness this fabulous occasion and to pray with and for, our new priest.

As this is our last magazine, we want to take the time to thank, immensely, our great contributors. Emile Frische M.H.M. and Florinda Petterson for proof reading so many articles, Arminda Wood for the gorgeous "Mini-Evangelist" pages, Damien and Cath Gillen for beautiful sacramental photos, every important contributor and you....our readers. May the LORD, in His perfect way, bless you, each one, abundantly. Rob and Mary Pepping (Editors and Publishers).





The Parish Thanks and Farewells

Fr Oliver Aro M.S.P.

Saturday 18 May 2019

Mi discurso de despedida **My Farewell Speech**

Thank you brothers and sisters. It has been amazing walking with you for a year. I've grown and learnt many things about life and faith with you but I am sad and sorry to say that our journey ends this way.

Missionaries are a dying species, according to St. John Paul II, when he first went to the Philippines. He challenged the faithful to go and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Church needs men and women to work on the frontiers of the mission, as witnesses of the Gospel.

Being a missionary for 22 years, my life can be compared to a "Peace Lily." Every time they post me to a particular assignment, I am trying to bloom where they plant me. However, when my leg finds a familiar ground, I am uprooted and transplanted to another garden. I must admit that I also felt the pain of separation from this fertile ground, where my roots have just started to grow.

When I shared this event with my friend, Fr. Rodney Smyth S.M., he reminded me about the saying, "It is hard to obey the will of God, but much more difficult to obey the wisdom of our Superiors, especially



Above: Mary Lenton, Father Oliver and Lorraine Anderson.



Above: Evelyn Gillen makes a presentation.

Below: Fr. Oliver with Joanne van Heerden.





going to a place where you don't want to go."

I am grateful to tell you, now, that I am saved from being sent to America, because my Superior and Councils, who convened after Easter, decided to change my posting to West Sydney under the Diocese of Parramatta. This event linked with Heraclitus, a Greek Philosopher, who once said, "There is nothing permanent in this world, except change."

Brothers and sisters of St. Mark's, I have done my share, my term in this Parish has to end tonight. Let me say....thank you for helping me in times of need, thank you for your kind understanding of my inadequacies and thank you for your patience with my Filipino accent.

I hope you will support Fr. Sherwin as he begins shepherding the sheep of St. Mark's. St. John the Baptist said, when he saw Jesus walking, "Here is the Lamb of God, it is now time to decrease." A new period and direction will surface in this Parish. I am certain that God will write straight with crooked lines.

Let me end....

"In every rain that falls, it changes the ocean and in every drop of wine that is sipped, it changes the person. May this change add beauty and colours to our journey of life. Thank you!"





A few snapshots from Father Oliver's Farewell





"My Story"

by our new Assistant Priest

I am your new Assistant Priest. I came to your parish on the 8th of August 2019. Let me introduce myself and tell you my life story, in short. My full name is Fr. Jude Antony Algamage Don. I am known as Fr. Jude Algama. I was born on 03rd of July 1967 in Sri Lanka, at Wattala a village close to Colombo. I am a Diocesan Priest and I belong to the Archdiocese of Colombo.



My parents were George Alexander and Olina Theresa. My family is considerably big. There were ten members, eight sibling and I am the youngest and the only boy in the family. So, I have seven elder sisters, one of them, the second eldest became a nun of Poor Clare's Order in Sri Lanka, at the age of twenty.

I entered the Minor Seminary in 1982 at the age of fourteen. Although my family was big, we lived a very simple life with lots of financial difficulties. For almost half of my father's life, he has been very sick and my elder sisters had to sacrifice their school life and studies and start working for the basic needs of our family. We very often experienced God's providential love in this difficult period of our life, as our parents were committed to daily family prayers and to Holy Mass. My father passed away in 1988 and my mother passed away in 2004 and one of my sisters passed away in 2006.

Since my beloved parents didn't have a male child for years, they prayed a lot and made a vow to St. Jude and St. Antony of Padua, promising seven years of pilgrimage to two particular shrines of St. Jude and St. Anthony in Sri Lanka, as a thanksgiving and also promising God that they would give the male child back to God for His service. And they were so generous and God fearing that they did just that. Fulfilling their promise to the Lord in every respect. I am forever indebted to my parents for being instrumental in dedicating myself to God. As I grow in age, I too feel and know that I have a special calling from the Lord to Priesthood and I am grateful that I said 'Amen' to God.

After having finished successfully my ordinary level and advance level studies in St. Aloysius Minor Seminary Colombo (1982-1986) I entered the Intermediate Seminary. While I was there, I received the news that I had been selected to attend the University.



After having received, from my Bishop, a three year regency period, I came home to start my university studies with the intention of going back to the Seminary after three years, but due to political problems and youth upheavals, all the universities were closed in Sri Lanka, so that I could not finish my studies at the University. I firmly believe that it was also a part of God's mysterious plan with regard to my life.

During this time my father was bedridden, so I had a golden opportunity to help my mother specially to look after my father and to support my family. As time went on, having learnt mushroom cultivation from a friend, I started mushroom cultivation at home with my sisters to give financial support to the family, and while I was doing this business I was able to enter a Technical college with the intention of becoming an electrician which was actually one of my childhood dreams.

After one year I became a qualified electrician and then I began to work in this field. However, I did not give up my prayer life and I prayed to God for guidance. He spoke to me in many ways, and after about two and half years, I felt very clearly, that God was calling me to the Priesthood. So I decided to go back to the Seminary. Once again I joined the Intermediate Seminary in 1989. In that same year, I entered the National Seminary of Our Lady of Sri Lanka, which is affiliated to the Urbane University in Rome, and started my priestly studies for my Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and Theology.

One day (in my fourth year of study) when I was listening to a professor (Fr. Jude Nicholas) who was teaching us on the Holy Spirit, the good Lord poured into my heart a desire to know the Holy Spirit more. I was helped by Fr. Jude Nicholas and he guided me to pray and ask for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This became a turning point of my life, a time of "revival and golden era" of my youth and with the grace of The Holy Spirit I became a prayerful person and started to pray for others, especially for the sick.



Slowly but steadily I began to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit and his various gifts. With the help of further studies, I did one of my tutorials on the gifts of the Holy Spirit and my final thesis for my Bachelor's Degree in Theology was on Healing and Exorcism. As I give glory to God with a grateful heart for what he did in my life, I would like to say that because of this period in which I came to know The Holy Spirit and through His Divine Help, Jesus as my personal Saviour, my entire life changed. I slowly became a person dedicated to the Sick, in the love of Jesus.



Finally, by the grace of God after eight years of Major Seminary formation and studies, on the 20th of September 1997 I was ordained to the Priesthood.

Since then I have served in All saints Parish Colombo as an Assistant Priest for two years and then, as a staff member of St. Peter's College Colombo 05, for another year. Following this, I served as a Parish Priest to St. Mary's Parish Mattakuliya, for six years. I was then appointed as the Parish Priest of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sapugaskanda and I was able to serve in this parish for one and half years.

After the Diocesan recognition of the Charismatic Gifts that I have received, in 2007 I was appointed to the Healing Ministry in the National Basilica of Our Lady of Sri Lanka. I was blessed by God through the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to serve in the Healing Ministry for about ten years particularly in the field of healing, deliverance and exorcism. In my priestly ministry I underwent struggles, agonising moments, trials, hardships, sicknesses, misunderstandings by others, my own weaknesses, which of course very often led me to the foot of the Cross of Jesus. The ever faithful Lord was by my side and gave me His mighty hand to get up and continue the journey with him for His Glory.

After much prayerful reflection, I decided to take my Sabbatical leave for a spiritual, physical and psychological revitalisation. Having received a three year period of Sabbatical leave, I wrote to different Dioceses overseas, so that I would be able to find a place. Finally, I was invited by the Diocese of Ottawa Canada and Diocese of Auckland, N.Z. Knowing the beauty and peace and tranquility of this blessed country, with a grateful heart, I accepted with open arms the invitation of Bishop Patrick Dunn and I came to work in the Diocese of Auckland on 27th September 2017.

Since then I have been working in St. Mary's Parish Northcote as Assistant Priest. On August 8th of this year, I arrived St. Mark's Parish, Pakuranga, having received a new appointment to work as Assistant Priest until Easter Sunday 2020.

I humbly pray that God will continue to give me His grace so that I may accomplish His will at St. Mark's Parish as well, and I give all the Glory to Him. I very lovingly assure you of my prayers and humbly request you, to remember me in your prayers as well. God Bless you. Shalom, Halleluiah

Fr. Jude Algama





From the Principal's Pen

Catherine Rivers reflects on 17 Years

Reflecting on my 17 years as the Principal of St. Mark's Catholic School, I have been very fortunate to have worked with very dedicated, hardworking teachers who have always done their best for the students in their care to ensure each and every one of them would reach their full potential. The work of school also relies on having a loyal and flexible support staff and we have been very fortunate to have so many good people who have given our school many hours of work paid and unpaid; this in turn has helped our school run very smoothly.



It is rewarding for all staff, when we see many of our students go on to win awards and scholarships at their various intermediates and colleges. I want to pay tribute to my St. Mark's family, my colleagues (past and present), especially my Associate Principals over my time: Jenny McKenzie, Trish Hodgson, Ngarita Leonard and Cheryl Beattie; also members of the B.O.T. and P.T.F.A. for their support and friendship. They are all great examples of serving the children and their families faithfully and with humility. I will always remember our shared laughter, our joys, as well as our struggles, as yet another new Ministry of Education initiative was introduced. Our teachers showed a willingness to trial, implement and to adapt methods to make it work for our children, in our own St. Mark's way. This has meant that we have always ensured best practice and St. Mark's School has remained at the 'cutting edge' of education, which was endorsed by receiving consecutive 4- 5 year outstanding review reports from the Ministry of Education's Review Office and Catholic Schools Office.

To our fabulous students over the years, especially our year 5 and 6 students who take on leadership and responsibility and are such great role models for our younger students: you and the younger students make everything worthwhile. As a Principal, you have the special privilege of working with many students and it is rewarding to 'really see' a student for the person they are but also for the person they could be, even those who sometimes would prefer not to be seen. At St. Mark's School, we encourage all students to be their 'Best' at all times, to believe in themselves, to enact our motto 'Seek and You Shall Find' and to follow Jesus through our ABCs (Attitude, Behaviour, Care) and 3 Rs (Respect of Self, Others and Environment).

I thank all our school parents and Parish community, especially those who give their time to work on the Board of Trustees and P.T.F.A. I also thank those who help by coaching teams, by putting readers away, being Grandparent/whanau readers, organising Scholastics and those who make up the library team, the camp team, transport and those who supervise on field days or trips.



It has been wonderful to work alongside the Parish and Assistant Priests and I have very fond memories as a new principal feeling so welcomed by Fr. Barry Scannell S.M., Fr. Ezio Blasoni S.M. and the Parish Team. Since then I worked alongside: Fr. Raphael Lobo, Fr. Francis Poon, Fr. Ofa Taelangi, Fr. Emile Frische M.H.M., Fr. Austin Fernandes, Fr. Oliver Aro and at the moment I am enjoying working alongside Fr. Sherwin Lapaan and I am getting to know Fr. Jude Algama.

As a school, this year we have been truly blessed as we have celebrated 40 years of St. Mark's School. My thanks once again goes out to a vibrant Jubilee Team who organised a fabulous 40th celebration, which was enjoyed by many. It was wonderful to celebrate with those who have worked or been involved with St. Mark's School for its 40-year journey.

This year has been capped off by being blessed with the Ordination to Priesthood of Fr. Martin Wu at the Cathedral; where the Parish and the School Choir amalgamated to sing for the celebration of this very special Sacrament. It is a blessing for both the School and Parish Community to have one of our own students become a priest. In his speech after the first Mass, Fr. Martin stated that the Principal, Mrs Mackie and teachers who reiterated our motto 'Seek and You Shall Find' (the words of our school motto) helped him as he listened to his calling over the last ten years. May our motto and values, continue to inspire those who teach, learn or are a part of our community to continue in the years to come.

I am and will always be, very grateful for all those whom I have worked with or walked along side. These shared experiences are indelibly printed on my mind.





Left: Lloyd Kyd setting up for the Paschal Meal (Passover) before Holy Week.



A Passover with the Gospel Choir



Above: Actors for the Paschal Meal at the main table with menorah and symbolic burnt leg of lamb are: Mother (Clarita De La Rosa), Father (Preston) & Child (Danita).



Left: Ready to go - wine, Matzos, Haroseth & bitter herbs in place.



Right: During the meal, Father (Preston) blessing the wine.





Here are some of my experiences of the Easter Vigil. It was a nice experience; it brought a feeling of hope. It was so emotional for me, so powerful. I feel blessed now that I have an even bigger family. I've definitely learnt a lot. It definitely made me think of things differently and it made me try to help out more. I'm transfigured through the process of becoming a new member of the church. Rosemary is a wonderful teacher, friend and someone who has always supported us greatly.

Thank you
God Bless
Naomi

**Easter
Vigil Joy!!**

About the RCIA Programme, all I can say, is this was very helpful for my faith. I now understand what the church really stands for. The evening session, we had every Wednesday night, was very full of knowledge and this helped me to understand more about the church and being a Catholic. Also, through this, I now understand deeply, what my purpose in life is and how to be a blessing to others.

About the Easter Vigil, it was my first time to experience this and I am blessed and very lucky because the Pakuranga community is very supportive and welcoming.

Paul Evans Arreglado



**Welcome to the
Church and the
Parish of St. Mark's**



The past year has truly been an enlightening and transformative experience, as our R.C.I.A. team has discerned the beautiful relationship that we all have with Jesus Christ. The gift of faith, which God has bestowed upon us, demonstrates the power of the Gospel, fellowship, prayer & worship, mission & service: giving meaning and purpose to how we live, day to day.

Being on this journey, has given each one of us, an opportunity to connect with the virtues and values that define who we are as Catholics. Being a part of St. Mark's Parish, and experiencing the love that is demonstrated in service to others, in the community, has been inspirational.

We are all thankful for the support and kind words that we have received from everyone. The spirit of wisdom and generosity, that you have, Rosemary, has sustained and guided us. As our R.C.I.A. journey concludes, we look forward to opening more doors of learning and discovery about our faith.

God bless!
Cory.

Alleluia



Reflection from Lewis:

"My experience through the vigil has been amazing. I have become filled with the love of God and the steps leading up to my Baptism have brought me close to the church and I have felt accepted into a new community. Being baptised has allowed me to be part of a life-long journey with God and the Catholic community. Joy and happiness were my feelings and a new beginning in life as I took my first Communion as a Catholic. I hope to continue to be active in the church and to be excited about what is ahead of me, as a Catholic."



Veronica Martha Smith

16th December 1922 - 26th June 2019

A Reflection on this Foundational parishioner by her son, Terry

This reflection celebrates Mum's long and full life. I know how many hearts she touched during her life. I'm Terry, number 3, and the baby of the family.

My life with Mum was very precious and started well before I was born. Mum was one of 11 children and, as she always said, first up, best dressed. As a child she spent time away from the family during the war, having to go and stay with relatives, as times were very hard.

Mum was born into the Vitali family of Papakura just before Christmas in 1922 and she was raised in Otahuhu, attending Otahuhu College.

At the age of 24 she decided to take a trip to Australia. She wrote a diary of her adventures; of a young woman full of life. Mum just loved it, venturing up to the Blue Mountains on the train and off to the surf beaches. Most of all going to the fashion shows at David Jones. She just loved walking around the streets of Sydney looking at all the fashion. As everyone who knew Mum knows, she was quite the seamstress and never hesitated to sew for everyone from clothes to curtains, whatever anyone's needs were. She had quite a talent.



When she arrived back from Sydney on the flying boat, there was Dad waiting for her on the wharf, and then came the next journey of her life. As most of you are aware Dad went to war which took a toll on his health and Mum being Mum, was by his side and nursed him back to health. They were married in St. Joseph's Church, Otahuhu on 8 November 1947 by Father J.J. O'Connor and then, they stayed in a small shed in Blockhouse Bay.

One day an opportunity came that would get them on their feet, the purchase of 127 Khyber Pass Road, a boarding house. At the time they only had a 1000 pounds, and her Father lent her the outstanding amount so they could purchase the property.

Left: Jim and Veronica on their Wedding Day.



I do remember Khyber Pass house. I remember waiting for Mum on the steps outside, as she spent hours cleaning and washing. Sometimes we were lucky enough to visit Aunty Lucy and Uncle Bill at the Broadway tearooms in Newmarket. That was a welcomed relief, watching the trains and eating large amounts of lollies; it was great.

Mum and Dad made a wonderful home at 14 Ayr Road Pakuranga, that was my home for most of my life with my older brothers Jimmy and Lawrence. Mum was a wonderful cook. We never went hungry and there was always plenty of baking in the tins.

I remember my first day of school at St. Peter's College. I was a picture from cap to shiny shoes in the best uniform one could have asked for. I remember standing in the playground on the first day standing by myself not knowing a soul. The seniors were filming everyone and caught me on video and they showed it at assembly to the whole school and I was very embarrassed.

Mum, Dad, Aunty Pat and Uncle Bert and myself all went for a holiday to Fiji; that's when I was still at school. We took a cruise around through the islands. Mum was so happy. Mum loved her music and used to play most days on her piano, even when she was older, at Half Moon Bay. I remember her playing when I came to visit. Later on she took up the piano accordion, after I unfortunately gave it up because it was uncool.



Above: The home at 127 Khyber Pass Rd.



Above: Jim and Veronica with their three sons.



Above: Jim and Veronica at the 25th Jubilee of St. Mark's Parish. They donated the organ which is in our church.



Right: Veronica and New Zealand Rugby League legend, Graeme Lowe.

I finally started work and Mum was very supportive. Dad was there too but was working hard at his job so didn't see him until later in the evening when he returned from work. Mum worked hard at home, breakfast at some silly hour of 5.00 am, and then she packed our lunches, did all the housework, and I always returned home to a wonderful evening meal. One day when I was older I decided that it was time to give Mum a break from all of her cooking duties and I decided to start with breakfast. So out of bed about 4.30 am and cooked my usual breakfast for myself. Well that was the first and the last time because Mum hit the roof, "What are you doing, that is my job, and don't you ever do that again". So that was that.



I remember one day during the weekend Mum was cooking and I think she was cooking with oil in a pan and it caught fire and the flames went up the cupboards to the ceiling. Mum was scared, threw the pan out the window and Dad came running inside with the garden hose and saved the day. We nearly lost the house that day.

Lots of great things happened at 14 Ayr Road. Mum was happy looking after her five boys: Dad, Jimmy, Lawrence, me and Timmy the cat! Family Christmas parties were lots of fun. We played music, and everyone had a great time. Jimmy had his radios, Lawrence and I built boats and the cat got fatter; life was good.

Then, when I married Deanne, and we bought our own house, Mum and Dad used to visit, with Dad helping in the garden while Mum made drapes for inside. We were happy they came over to help, but Dad was so enthusiastic he came over really early. We finally convinced Mum and Dad to go on a bus trip together to see New Zealand. They had a fantastic time relating lots of stories and took many pictures. I know Dad really enjoyed it.

Mum's Catholic faith and religion were a big part of her life; she enjoyed going to church, but most of all the church community. St. Mark's Parish was everything to her. I remember being here helping Mum and Dad, Father Green and other parishioners pull down the old cowshed, which we used to have Mass in. Plans were made for the new church and school to be built. Mum made all the curtains. Mum and Dad would spend every Wednesday polishing the floors and cleaning and giving assistance where it was needed.

Mum and Dad were very much together for all of their lives, so it was Mum's great sadness when Dad died; it left such a big hole in her life. So I would like to thank you, Mum, for what you have given me: a fantastic and loving memory, one that I will pass on to my family of many treasured times shared together. *Until we meet again.*



First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the young people who received their First Holy Communion in June 2019.

Saturday 22 June
5.30 pm Mass.

Eowyn Addington
Lyala Addington
Sebastian Banno
Lev Cabardo
Amelie Chan
John Clyde Del Carmen
John Lester Del Carmen
Cohen Hollins
Hanz Lao
Jannina Matanguihan
Jethro Matanguihan
Sophia Neems
Sean Sierra
Ryan Smeath
Kimi Yap
Will Cedric Ybanez

Sunday 23 June
10.00 am Mass.

Charlotte Branigan
Jacob Isaac Calacsan
Hannah D'Silva
Cherise Didier'serre
Liam Donnellan
Leon Earl
Gabriella Fernandes
Giovanni Gutierrez

Angela Kalinic
Luka Kalinic
Lucas Kato
Noah Kato
Sienna Long
Lily Massey
Amiel Morales
Zoe Regis
Eduardo Roman-Baza
Leo Ryan
Aaron Santoso
Ceska Segedin
Ean Siao
Julianna Valdez
Julia Wang
Georgina Wilson





Images from this Holy Day





Judith Catherine Garrick

A Heart for the Lord and His People

22 December - 5 July 2019

A Eulogy by Peter, her husband

I'm Peter, Judith's husband of the past 22 years. I first met Judith here at St Mark's as part of a small discussion group at Veronica and Joe Maloney's place and later as part of a car pooling group planning to go to listen to a visiting Theology lecturer in town.

I had just moved from teaching in Whakatane. I didn't have much petrol in my car and was hoping others would offer. But a certain rather bossy woman, someone told me was called Judith, decided that since my car could take the most people, that I would be one of the designated pool drivers. I was too scared to disagree, even though it meant lots of prayers along the way that we wouldn't run out of petrol. Somehow we made it.



The next encounter was at the Parish dance where we shared the first, second, third, fourth and in fact all the dances. Six months later we got married in this very Church at the 5.30 pm Saturday Parish Mass on Rose Sunday during Advent 1996. Everyone was invited to come, and in lieu of a present to bring a plate. Some people ignored this and also gave us roses to plant which became great memories as they grew.

I quickly discovered that there were three in this marriage - Judith, me and Food TV which was indicative of her great love of hospitality, celebrated so well in the TV 1 clip for Christmas Day, which was beamed to the nation.

Judith was born in Whanganui and moved to Christchurch when she was five in 1941, during the Second World War. On the way the family had to put on lifejackets as they thought a Japanese submarine was stalking the inter-island ferry transporting them to the mainland.

She went to St. Joseph's primary school in Barbadoes St. Her independent spirit emerged early when she refused to go to the local Catholic Secondary School, Sacred Heart College, as she didn't like the school uniform. Instead she went across town to St. Mary's, whose uniform got her positive tick of approval.

In order to help support the family she left school to work in a solicitor's office and then for Electrolux. She married Lloyd Dorn in 1960 and in 1964 she and her best friend climbed up the front of the Clarendon Hotel in Cathedral Square to touch the foot of one of the Beatles.



Philip was born in 1966 and Michael on Decimal Currency Day in 1967. The family moved to Auckland in 1973 in a green Austin A10 and travelled on the inter-island ferry with no Japanese submarines in sight.

Judith was Chair of the Parish Council when St. Mark's Parish Centre and Presbytery were built and the Parish was slowly emerging from the time when Mass was celebrated in a cow shed. She was also a very active member of Catholic Women's League, where she was a national representative on the National Council of Women.

She trained and worked as a Social Worker in Auckland Hospital's Cancer Ward and then for many memorable years in Manukau Mental Health.

She told many colourful stories of her trip to Rome and Medjugorje in 1990 as part of the Communion of Peace pilgrimage, including the exploits of what she referred to as, Just Anytime Airlines in Yugoslavia.



Our wedding in 1996 during Sunday Mass didn't create a rush to follow suit - but for us, the support of the Parish communities, both St. Mark's and Herne Bay, have been amazingly nourishing - and even more influential than Food TV.

Hospitality was Judith's middle name. She was at her best planning and organising meals for others and, like Jesus' example of the feeding of the 5000, it was always important to have lots over. Deacon Martin Wu's proclamation of today's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount, summed up so much of her feisty approach to caring for others.

Her fall, seven years ago, reduced her mobility but not her energy and zest for life and concern with others as shown in the 2015 Christmas TV1 clip.





In hindsight the events of the past few weeks have been like a series of farewells to Judith; beginning with her beloved U3A (University of the Third Age) group on Tuesday, when one of her closest friends gave a stunning talk on the ‘Morse’ star, John Thaw, whose music some of you will recognise accompanying today’s slide show pictures of her life.

On Wednesday she attended the funeral of a 96 year old Parishioner, Veronica Smith, who worked so effectively alongside Judith in the early days of the Parish. She enjoyed immensely my official farewell from the Diocese on Thursday morning, at which I mentioned how much I was looking forward to spending more time with Judith. Afterwards she quipped, “It’s good to find out you’ve actually had a real job all these years and not just playing on your computer at all hours of the day and night.”



And the highlight of Thursday, was the visit from Tasmania of her brother Paul and his partner Virginia, who came for a 10 day visit beginning with a celebratory lunch at Clevedon on Friday. Judith delighted in organising a fish’n chips dinner for the whole family. Her sudden stroke and brain haemorrhage shortly after, was a shock to us all. We’ll all miss Judith a lot.





Antonia Scholastica Fernandes R.I.P. *Mother of Fr. Austin Fernandes*



It is a sad but absolute truth, that life and death are always partners. One must follow the other. My mum lived to a reasonably good age and like any other stage of life, it had its joys and sorrows, pleasures and pains. Many of us are scared of old age. Every time I meet old and sick people they say to me, "Father, don't get old, it's terrible." When we become old we lose something of ourselves, we lose our freedom - we have to make sacrifices, be more dependent upon others, and suffer inevitable disabilities and sicknesses because old age brings frailty and all this is a bitter reality.

Mum came from a poor family of six, four sisters and two brothers. She was a simple woman, had very little education and right from an early age, she worked as a maid servant doing household chores. She worked very hard. At the age of 18, she was married to my dad and together had four lovely children, two boys and two girls - I am the youngest in the family. Since we were poor and Dad's income was not sufficient to run the family, Mum decided to work and for 11 years after I was born, she worked as a maid servant in the Middle Eastern countries, so that we could have a reasonably decent life and a good education. We lived in Bandra for some time, then moved to Byculla and eventually moved to 4 Bungalows, Andheri.

Mum had osteoporosis from the age of 50 onwards and her bones had become brittle. On a number of occasions she had fallen in the bathroom, on the roads and even once on the escalator while trying to catch the metro train, she slipped and fell. At the beginning of this year, Mum was diagnosed with Lumbar Spine in January, the joints L4 and L5 in the lower back area of the spine were slightly dislocated because of the number of times that she had fallen earlier in her life. Mum had not taken much care about it and over the years it had worsened and one fine day she broke down and was bed ridden.



The doctors could not do much because of her osteoporosis. Her days passed by just lying on her back on the bed, she could not even turn, on her own. Soon her condition worsened, she developed pneumonia and we had to take her to the hospital. While tests were run at the hospital we found out that two of the valves of her heart had also been damaged. She had breathing problems. A lot of medicines and injections were given to her but her condition did not improve and eventually God called her to Himself on Sunday morning, the day of the Lord's Resurrection.



My mum suffered a lot in the past six months. I had the privilege of journeying along with her which very few people have in this life. A few things that I have learnt in the past six months of my priestly life...

Firstly, to be more compassionate. Initially I would encourage her to do exercises so that she could get well soon but, it was painful for her. She would often say to me, "You are a priest, you should be like Jesus; you should see to it that my pain is alleviated. By doing these exercises you are only increasing my pain."

Secondly, to be accepting of whatever crosses come across our life. Mum accepted her cross with grace. Whenever anyone asked her, "How are you?," she would say, "Aon bhreh aasan puta," which means, "I am fine." Even though she was in pain, she never ever complained; she always said that she was fine.

Thirdly, to be patient. I would get frustrated sometimes because one day she would have breakfast at 8.00 in the morning, the next day it would be in the afternoon. Most of the time, because of her weakness, she would sleep. In my frustration, I would often wake her up and force her to eat and she would give in without any complaints.

Lastly, to pray. Together we must have prayed a few thousand 'Hail Mary's' and 'Holy Mary's', reciting the rosary many times in the day and even in the night, and we also prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet a number of times.



Above: Antonia Scholastica Fernandes went to God, on the 28th July 2019 in Mumbai, India.

old age is not terrible; it also has its good side. It is a stage where the virtues and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which we often struggle with when we are young, are mostly visible. The virtue of patience, the gift of compassion, the gift of understanding and knowledge, serenity, peace and calm; mum had all these and much more. She was a woman filled with God's love, filled with God's Spirit. Although she was uneducated she would always smile and acknowledge the people who would greet her at Mass and that's the beauty of a humble soul, a soul that is thankful to God, someone who realises that all blessings come from God.

What happens to such a person after they die? Our first reading from the Book of wisdom beautifully consoles us when it says, 'The souls of the just are in the hands of God and no torment will ever touch them, their hope is full of immortality, they will receive their good because God has tested them and found them worthy of Himself.' And that is the beauty of our faith journey, our journey with God. With those beautiful words of God echoing in our hearts let each one of us be reassured that Antonia Scholastica is with God, may her soul rest in peace.



Mary Rae McKeown
16th June 1924 - 1st August 2019
A Loving Memory by Michael McKeown.

When we were looking through Mum's things, after she died, I came across a story that she was writing before her sight deteriorated. It is titled:

"The Making of an Independent Woman"

It seems to me to be a perfect introduction to this eulogy. I should probably add a few adjectives to the title though.... As well as independent, Rae was strong, brave, resilient, fiercely protective and as many of you now, on occasions more than a little stubborn.

She made an early career for herself in dressmaking, and her skills, developed through hard work and more than a little flair, helped her through some tough times, and eventually they led her into the teaching that she was not allowed to take up earlier on. For many years there were wedding dresses and ball gowns being made in our lounge.

Her fighting spirit developed early on, and stayed with her right, 'til the last. She and Dad got engaged on her 20th birthday, and they married in October of the same year. Dancing brought them together. It must have been love at first sight, because Mum didn't have a phone and so Dad had no way of contacting her, so he hung around outside one of the places she used to work at, and tracked her down through a friend. They danced their way through life, and were quite a sight gliding across a floor.



The Railway was a constant, through most of their married life and they had to move from Auckland to Ngaruawahia to Huntly, back to Auckland, down to Ohakune, down to Wellington, across to Masterton, and finally back home to Auckland. Six children were born along the way, sadly we lost my oldest brother, Trevor, just a few weeks ago and that hit Mum really hard.

There were some good times for the family. Never a lot of money coming in, but, we were taken care of with lots of love. The fiercely protective streak came into play early on, particularly with three of the boys who were having early difficulties with feeding. There was a conversation with a Plunket Nurse when Trevor was a baby, and Mum wanted to bottle feed him with a new baby formula that had him thriving. The Plunket Nurse said, "I wash my hands of this case," and Mum's reply was priceless, "I'll feed him, you weigh him, and that way we will get on just fine."



It was in Ohakune, that Mum finally had her wish to become a teacher. She joined the staff at Ruapehu College, and took on the toughest class in the school, teaching cooking and sewing. She turned the unteachables into a thriving class, by making the lessons practical and real.

With that success, she was asked if she would teach basic maths to the 3rd, 4th and 5th form unteachables. She threw the rule book out and started teaching practical maths, and they too began to thrive. She remembered one girl in particular, 'Molly' who said to her, "I won't be able to do percentages because I've always been in the dumb class." Molly's words stayed with Mum. "If some bugger had shown me like you do, I wouldn't have been in the dumb class all my life."

The education theme stayed and was revived when Mum became involved with S.P.E.L.D. (Solutions for People Experiencing Learning Difficulties). Starting with teaching kids and in some cases adults, how to read. This included a dyslexic signwriter. Now there's a recipe for disaster! She eventually became a teacher of teachers, and wrote a few books along the way. Her involvement with S.P.E.L.D. and teaching continued right up until just a couple of years ago. Well into her seventies, she embraced computer technology and she was using a P.C. as a key teaching tool.

A lifetime of involvement in sporting organisations was another key aspect of what kept her young. Golf, table tennis, tennis, bowls. She was always an active player and a volunteer to go on Committees. Treasurer, Secretary, Club Captain, you name it...she did it.



It was golf that carried on from early beginnings. When we moved back to Auckland, she and Dad were Founding members of the Pakuranga Country Club. It became a second home for some of us kids for a few years. In 2013, Rae became Patron of the Club.

So we can add a few more adjectives to the 'Independent Woman'.....Teacher, Mentor, Author, Patron, Friend, loving Mother, loving Grandmother and Loving Great Grandmother.



Right: Rae with her good friend, Averille Schmidt.



A Tribute to all Mothers Mothers' Day - 12 May 2019



My name is Ronan.

This Mother's Day gives us children an opportunity to show our appreciation for the unconditional love a mother showers upon our lives each and every day.

On behalf of all the children of St. Mark's Parish, I would like to express our gratitude to all mothers present here today. Through these not-so-great words of mine, sure, no words can describe our love or thanks to our mothers.



Mother's Day is the day that we have dedicated to honouring our mothers and the influence they have in our lives and in our society. In Proverbs 31, verses 15-17, it is written, "She gets up early, while it is still dark, and provides for her family." Mothers are appreciated in the Bible because of the countless sacrifices they make for us.

A mother is a picture of sacrifices, dedication and a power of strength. Behind the success of every great person, there is the inspiration of a mother.



She is our first teacher, our first guide and our first friend. Her love for her children is beyond measure. It is impossible to sum up a mother's love and affection in any number of words.

I would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation to our Parish Liturgy teachers and our Choir teacher, Angel May, for inspiring us to grow in faith.

Thank you God for giving me the best Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother, who are all present here today. I love you.

Happy Mother's Day to you all.

The 12th May 2019, was also Vocation Sunday and so Ronan added: "Thank you Father Oliver, may God bless you in your life as a Priest."



I'm a child, not a choice.

Not yet born, I have no voice.

I'm not to blame, for goodness sake.

I am your child, not your mistake.

I'm too young to give much, but you don't have to kill.

If you don't want me, someone else will.

This is my sanctuary, I'm temporarily kept.

So for just a few months, give my life respect.

God has a plan for me, someday I'll learn.

Give me a chance, you've had your turn.

I'm a child, not a choice.

Author Unknown



Aromatic Anointing

I am delighted to introduce to our Parish, biblical essential oils, through my new venture Aromatic Anointing. I will be holding classes in the Lyon's Den at St. Mark's Parish.

God has given each of us a sacred dignity and calls us to love Him with all our heart, soul and mind. We will be discussing oils in scripture including the Old and New Testament, as well as the new covenant of our Lord Jesus Christ and what this means for our lives.

The oils of frankincense, myrrh, cassia, cedar wood and spikenard to name a few, connect us with scriptures and can enhance our prayer lives, as well as having many modern day health benefits. I am also available to run classes in your home with friends or family, or one-on-one. Please contact Rebecca on:

aromaticanointing@gmail.com

Advertisement





**Only 18 months to
go and
St. Mark's Parish
will be
celebrating its
'Golden Jubilee'**



Blessed Moments



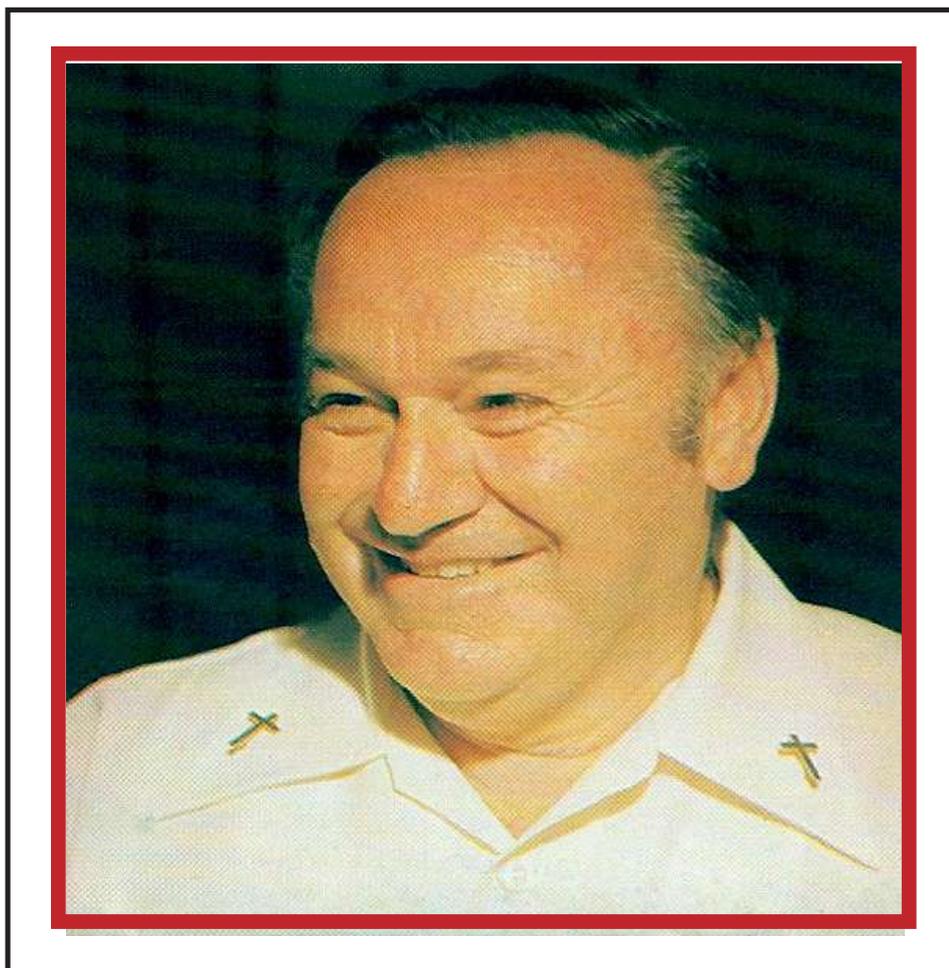
Left: Elsie and Walter Erceg were celebrating their 56th Wedding Anniversary and so our Parish Priest, Oliver Aro M.S.P., invited them to help him cut the cake for the St. Mark's Feast Day celebrations.

Right: On the 21st of July, the Parish blessed and bid farewell to Denise and Gary Ryan, who were moving to Australia. They have been wonderful contributors; notably Gary with his amazing artwork and both of them, for serving the Parish in Sunday Masses as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.





Monsignor Raymond Thomas Green



Earthly Birthday - 26 October 1926

Baptised - 14 November 1926

Ordained Priest - 22 July 1956

Heavenly Birthday - 15 July 2019



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 Mulqueeney), 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.

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.



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



PRIESTLY LIFE

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

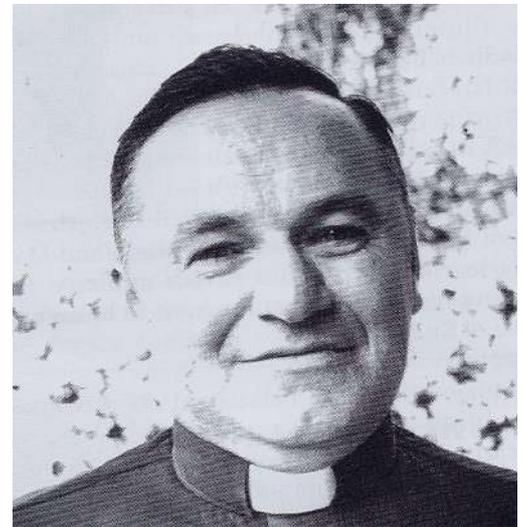
By Jim Mullane

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.



St. Mark's School Farewells Monsignor Raymond Thomas Green Friday 19th July 2019

Thoughts from students who were present at his Requiem Mass

Julian remembered when, three years ago, he heard of Monsignor Ray Green and how he was the very first Parish Priest of St. Mark's. He was also the one who asked the Diocese of Auckland to build the beautiful school that we now go to.

Several months ago, we actually met Monsignor for the first time as he came to our school's 40th Jubilee Mass. Patrick was blessed as he was chosen to Altar serve. Monsignor Green looked very old.



We all waited outside and then reverently walked with Mrs Rivers down the beautifully decorated isle. At the front there was a stunning bouquet of colourful flowers. Monsignor Ray's coffin was at the front of the church too. Baptism water was sprinkled all over it.



We sat down and read about Monsignor Ray's life in a little book that was given to us as we came in. There were many photos and interesting facts that we didn't know. We sat quietly waiting for the funeral to begin.

At 11.30 am we all stood up as a big group of Priests, Deacons, Monsignors and Bishop Pat Dunn processed into the church. We were surprised at the number of priests in that group and we realised even more, what an important person Monsignor Ray was and how much everyone loved and respected him.

Left: The Administrator of St. Mark's Parish places the Book of the Gospels, a stole and Monsignor Green's Chalice on his casket.



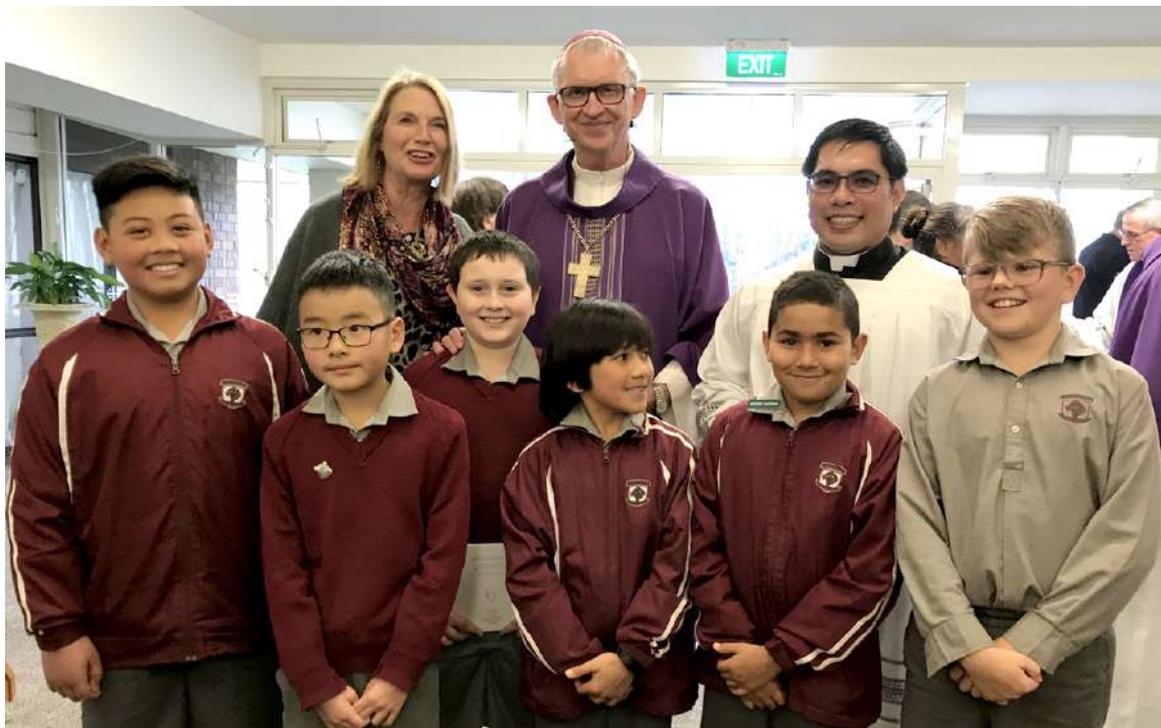
The photos on the data projector told a big part of his life, even his birth, 26 October 1926 and his death 15th July 2019. He became a priest 22nd July 1956. His age was 92. That's amazing. It was funny hearing stories about him.

During Communion we sang a hymn and afterwards, a boy from Sacred Heart College sang a beautiful song. It was like an elegant bird singing like an Angel, praising God. Father Sherwin gave Deacon Martin the thurible so that he could incense Monsignor's coffin.

Monsignor Ray's niece has given his chalice to Deacon Martin because he was so grateful to him for being the FIRST person to be ordained a priest from St. Mark's Parish and School, and she knew that Monsignor Green would be so happy to see the chalice being used in Masses to come, by this wonderful new priest.

At the end of Mass, we all gathered around and said "Goodbye" to a very special person. He will always be remembered at our school and we will pray for him. We are going to put a stone with his name on it in our Garden of Remembrance.

We all went to the Parish Centre and shared stories and had some lovely refreshments.



Above: St. Mark's School students who represented the school at Monsignor Ray Green's Requiem Mass and contributed their reflections for this article. From left to right: Edward, Julian, Patrick, Gabriel, Joshua and Brooklyn. They are photographed with St. Mark's School Principal, Mrs Catherine Rivers, Bishop Pat Dunn and Fr. Sherwin Lapaan.



Right: On the 16th June 2019, Leo Larsen was baptised. Pictured from left to right: Suzanne Satherley, Monique Larsen, Leo Larsen, Nick Larsen and Fr. Sherwin.



Below: On the 2nd of June 2019, Kalani Rose Manaia D'Sylva was baptised. Holding her is Daniella Rose, her Mum, supported by baby's Grandparents, Paula and Paul D'Sylva.



Featured Baptisms



A new system of welcoming those to be baptised was introduced on the 28th July 2019. A week prior to the baptism, those to be baptised are presented at Mass. Pictured from left to right: Niño Rey Samson (Father), Jeannel Seno- Samson (Mother), Olivia Ysobelle Samson (Sister) and baby, Matthias Wailer Samson.





Blessed Moments



Above (left to right) Gospel Choir members: Pearl, Juliet, Danita, Eliena, Beena, Raewyn and Lloyd on Pentecost Sunday in cultural dress.



Above: Fr. Sherwin celebrated his sixth Ordination Anniversary on 24 August 2019.



Above: Fr. Martin's family celebrated his first Mass at Balmoral Parish. (Left to right): Auntie Carol, Theresa Wu (Cousin), Jeffery Wu, (Brother), Tony Wu (Father), Fr. Martin, Helena Wu (Mother) and Auntie Cheung.

Right: Fr. Jude and Fr. Sherwin at the Anointing Mass on 24 August 2019.





Clarita Blanca Royo De La Rosa was born in Gumahang, Aroroy Masbate in the Philippines, on the 27th of September 1948. She was the seventh child of Jaime Royo and Purita Blanca. Being the first born daughter, Clarita enjoyed a privileged life. Her father was a businessman and her mother was a housewife. She attended the local school, from Elementary until High School. In her University days, she was chosen to be "Miss Toledo" which was a popular beauty contest. Clarita studied to be a teacher and ended up teaching Religious Education at the De la Salle School in Aroroy, Masbate.

She met Gerry in the summer of 1964 and they married and had their first child in 1966. Together they had four children and they were blessed with five grandchildren. Clarita has served the local church our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Lutopan, Toledo City as a Choir member and a soloist for Masses and special occasions. She was well respected, loved, and admired by everyone that she met. She had the qualities of a good mother. She was caring, loving, compassionate, hardworking, trustworthy and most of all, she was God loving. She was a devotee of our Mama Mary.



Clarita Royo De La Rosa

27th September 1948 - 30th June 2019

Up to the time of her sickness, our Mama served the Lord through prayers and her singing. Our Mama, our angel. We love her so much and miss her sorely every day. Mama, you are forever in our hearts. Keep singing and pray for us until we meet again! Agnes

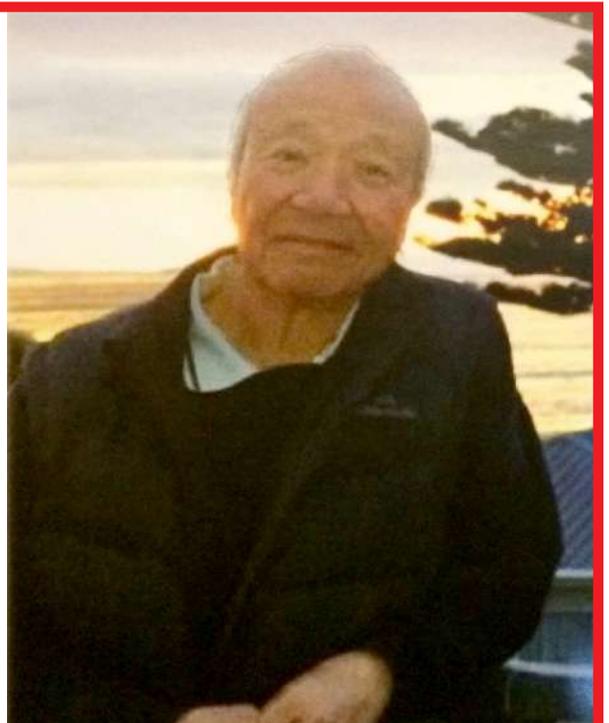
In Loving Memory of

Joseph Koon Wai Yip

15 August 1948

to

14 June 2019





Ordination to Priesthood of Martin Yiu Hang Wu

Saturday, 10 August 2019, was a joyous, milestone day for St. Mark's Parish. The Ordination to Priesthood of our own, Martin Yiu Hang Wu, in the Cathedral of St. Patrick and St. Joseph, in Auckland, was filled with a spirit of community, love and celebration.

The Parish had organised two buses which left St. Mark's at 10.00 am to transport approximately 100 people to the Cathedral. This number included the St. Mark's Parish and School Children's Choir, as this combined choir had been asked to sing at the Ordination by Martin, himself. The weather was predicted to be horrible: downpours and cold....but....the skies were blue and the temperature warm...God answered our prayers. Everyone was happy and the trip passed quickly and arrived at the Cathedral in very good time. This was fortunate as the Cathedral filled up very quickly by well-wishers and was close to being filled, half an hour prior to the start at 11.30 am. Martin was present at the entrance to warmly welcome everyone. His joy and love was very evident....and it was definitely reciprocated.

This is the first time a priest has been ordained, that has come from St. Mark's Parish and School, so this was a momentous occasion for St. Mark's. Everyone was very excited. The main Celebrant was the Most Reverend Patrick Dunn, Bishop of Auckland and the past Bishop of Auckland, Bishop Denis Browne concelebrated. Most priests from the Auckland Diocese were present along with a number of deacons including our own Deacon Chris Sullivan. At the commencement of the 'Rite of Ordination' section of the Mass, Deacon Chris was given the honour of 'The Calling of the Candidate' where the person to be ordained is asked to step forward.

There are some beautiful parts to the Sacrament of Ordination which is conferred by the Bishop of the Diocese within the Mass. The Rite of Ordination began with the calling of the Candidate, Martin Wu. He was presented to the Bishop and then there was the Election by the Bishop and the consent of the people. The Bishop said, "We rely on the help of the Lord God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, and we choose this man, our brother, for priesthood in the presbyteral order." To which the congregation replied, "Thanks be to God." The Bishop then gave his Homily (which is on page 49 of this special edition of St. Mark's Magazine).



Above: On the bus with Brian and Rosemary Palmer.



Above: Deacon Chris Sullivan - Calling of the Candidate



Following this, the Candidate was examined and publicly declared his intention to undertake the priestly ministry. He made a promise of respect and obedience to his Bishop and his successors. The Bishop then invited all present to pray that the Heavenly Father would pour out His gifts upon Martin. The Litany of the Saints was then sung.



Above: Bishop Patrick Dunn D.D. lays his hands on Martin.

At the conclusion of asking the Saints to pray for us, all holy men and women, and Christ Himself to hear our prayers, there is the 'Laying on of Hands.' Bishop Pat laid his hands on Martin's head, followed by all the priests present at the Ordination. The prayer of Consecration is when the Bishop extends his hands over Martin, and prays that the Holy Spirit will come upon him, and that he will be faithful to his ministry.

Martin's Mother, Helena Wu and his Uncle Cheung Hui and Monsignor Bernard Kiely then robed Martin with a stole and a chasuble. Then Martin's hands were anointed with Sacred Chrism oil, a sign of his consecration to God and his commissioning to preside at worship and to sanctify the people of God.



Above: His Mother, Helena and Uncle, Cheung Hui, robe Martin.



During the 'Kiss of Peace,' a part of the Ordination Mass, the Combined St. Mark's Parish and School Children's Choir, conducted by May Frost, sang three beautiful songs: 'Make me a channel of Your peace', 'Blest are they' and 'One family'. All those involved with the Combined Choir will be delighted by it because they sang so beautifully, especially the soloists and this was with the strong support and encouragement of their parents and families.

Left: Martin is anointed with Sacred Chrism Oil.



At the end of the Order of Service, our new priest's message was:

"I thank the Lord for the gift of life, for the gift of family and friends, for the gift of ministry and finally the gift of priesthood. I honestly never thought I would make it this far, but for God I guess nothing is impossible.

As I begin ministry as priest I look forward to working collaboratively with Bishop Pat and clergy and members of the diocese. I am especially thankful to Bishop Pat for his trust and support.

To all the priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers and to the entire people of God, thank you for your prayers and encouragement. I am thankful to all the staff of Holy Cross Seminary and Good Shepherd College who have formed me. Gratitude to my brother seminarians; past present and future. To all those who assisted in my ordination, thank you!

My final words at Holy Cross Seminary continue to ring true: "All good things come to an end, but as they say, the best is yet to come!"

Blessings to you all. Please continue to pray for me! Kia Kaha!"





Bishop Patrick Dunn's Homily at the Ordination to Priesthood of Martin Yiu Hang Wu.

(Abridged)

If you look at the front of the Order of Service, you will see that we are celebrating the Feast of Saint Lawrence today. Lawrence was one of the seven deacons of the Church in Rome in the third century and in the year 258, there was a fierce outbreak of persecution against the small Christian community of Rome. On the 6th of August that year 258, the bishop of Rome, Pope Sixtus II, was martyred along with four deacons and some other members of the community. The Prefect of the city of Rome had heard that Lawrence was in charge of the finances of the community. So he said to Lawrence that he wanted all the wealth of the Church handed over to him. Lawrence replied that it would take a few days to get the treasures assembled.

After a few days, the prefect came to get the treasures. Lawrence had called together all the poor and the sick and the young and the blind and the lame who were in the community and said "These are the treasures of the Church". That Gospel teaching, "Whatever you do for the least, you do for me". The Prefect of Rome was not very impressed and Lawrence was martyred on this day, the 10th of August in the year 258.

From the fourth century through the Middle Ages, the Feast of St. Lawrence was one of the important feasts in the early Church's calendar. It summed up the heart of the Gospel, that the Church is made of 'living stones', people. It is a very fitting feast day for Martin's Ordination because Martin has self-called to serve the poor and young people; it is wonderful to have so many young people here today.



Before Martin went to the Seminary, we worked for several years at WINZ (Work and Income New Zealand). He was helping young people especially to find employment and get some financial security. And I remember Martin saying that it was the best job he had ever had. Martin loved the work and then felt called to either work with either young people or to the priesthood.

I can remember on one occasion at a gathering of the Chinese Community at Father Choi's apartment; and I must just thank you, Father Choi and your guidance for Martin over all the years and for all the Community, it must give you a few grey hairs...., but I remember we were sitting around the table, one of the men, not me and not Father Choi said, "Martin, you've got to make the decision yourself. Like Jeremiah, what's it going to be?" Martin initially wanted to do both; go to the Seminary and also run a youth programme. I said, "If you go to the Seminary, you've just got to do the Seminary programme."



There were a few things that made Martin very hesitant about going to the Seminary. On one occasion we meet over a cup of tea about going to the Seminary and emailed me later. He was horrified, writing, "Sometimes they have Mass at 7.00 am in the morning. What about if I don't feel like speaking to God at 7.00 am in the morning!" I replied, "Martin, that is part of the Cross".

Thank God you made the decision to enter the Seminary. A few months ago, Martin phoned me about this ceremony. He said, "Bishop Pat, I am very worried about the Ordination Ceremony, as I want to be very simple." I replied, "That is fine, simple is good". However, if today is an example of simple, I would hate to see your idea on not simple.



It is lovely to have the children from various schools here - De La Salle, Good Shepherd Balmoral and St. Mark's Pakuranga. The Ordination Ceremony is very beautiful, it speaks for itself and in the Ordination ceremony, you will see all of the priests here will come forward and lay their hands on Martin's head. Because of each of the priests carries the gift of the priesthood. But we are all different; we come from different families, have different shapes and sizes, come from different home backgrounds and we speak different languages. But we hold a treasure in our hearts, the gift of the priesthood. Some priests have been on the road for a few weeks and some have been on the road for forty, fifty or sixty years.

But this is the gift we now share with you Martin. The call to be a priest is the call to be a shepherd; like Jesus the Good Shepherd. Pope Francis says the shepherd must have the smell of the sheep; he should really know and love those that he cares for. And Martin we know that you certainly have a shepherd's heart. This calling is a great challenge but it is also a great privilege. Martin, this Ordination marks the end of your seminary journey. But it also marks the start of the marathon of the priesthood and over the years, you will find that when you serve God's holy people, they in turn will inspire you and help you and keep you faithful; so there is give and take.

Buried in our cathedral is Bishop John Mackey and I remember once when he was quite an old man, I was interested in how he became a priest and asked him, "Bishop John, when did you decide to be a priest?" He looked up at me and said, "this morning over breakfast." That was the message, 'day by day by day' - it's a commitment. Martin, we know that you will be a loving and faithful shepherd that you will, please God, share the joy of the Gospel with God's holy people for many years to come.

No priest walks alone; he belongs to the great family of the priests and so we will share this treasure with you and then we will welcome you. No priest has all the gifts but like the twelve apostles, and like the 72, we work as a team. We pray that you will be a good and faithful servant.



Fr. Martin Wu's First Mass at St. Mark's was celebrated by him at the 5.30 pm Mass on Saturday 17th of August 2019 and followed by dinner and dancing in the Parish Centre.



Concelebrating with our new priest were four other priests (from left): Craig Dunford, Rodney Smyth, Sherwin Lapaan and Jude Algama, assisted by Deacon Chris Sullivan.



Fr. Martin pictured with Josephine Chin

Above and right: Martin and his Mum, Helena, enjoying the line dancing.

Images from the Dinner and Dance that followed Father Martin's first Mass in St. Mark's Parish.

