



St. Patrick's News



**Christmas
2006**

St. Patrick's Parish *in the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit*

Clergy

Fr Brian Walsh
Fr Thomas Sherry
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St. Patrick's Parish
in the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

PARISH CONTACTS

Altar Servers - Danny Reilly, 355 9124Hm
Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincy - Kathleen Field, 358 8079 ext 846
Counters Co-ordinator - Mike O'Connor, 358 9983
Eucharist for the Sick - Pat Hughes 358 8248, Ruth Ryan, 358 6047
Eucharistic Ministers Rosters - Peter Hurly, 354 4401
Flowers - Ann O'Donoghue, 329 8862
Hibernian Friendly Society - Dave Harte, 357 3739
Hospital Chaplain - Judy Nixon, hospital 356 9169 Pager 133, hm 358 4748
Joshua Men's Fellowship - Ed Duggan, 355 1572
Liturgy Committee - Danny Reilly, 355 9124
Marist Sports Club - Paul O'Brien, 350 0342
Marist Third Order - Ellie Bourke 358 6929
Meals on Wheels - Elly Zentveld 354 664
Music - Frances Siddle and Jan Keenan, Parish Office 358 6740
New Parishioners - Parish Office
Parish Pastoral Council - Kevin O'Donnell, 354.8114
Parish Schools: **St James School**, Principal - Acting Liz Vanderpump, 357 9719
 St Peters College, Principal - Chris England, 354 4198
Passionist Family Movement -Parish office 358 6740
Prayer Chain - June Hurly 354 4401
Prison Chaplaincy & Visiting - Graeme Bates, 358 2291
RCIA Programme - Anne Richards, 357 9436
Readers Rosters - Lynette Roberts, 358 8079 ext 853
Rest Home Visitor - Parish Office
St Patrick's Indoor Bowls - Reg Keogh, 356 9435
St Pat's News - Contact Parish Office
St Vincent de Paul - Harry Lampen-Smith, 357 7409
Social Justice Group - Paul Green, 356 8347
Taize Prayer - Alastair Carr, 354 8030
Transport - Parish Office
Wee Rascals Play Group - Jenny Moleta, 358 6740(wk)
Welcomers Rosters - Parish Office
Youth: City Wide - 358 8079 Ext 854
Youth & Young Adult Ministry - David Mullin, 358 8079, fax 357 3624

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

197 Broadway Ave, Palmerston North

Mass and reconciliation Timetable for Advent and Christmas 2006

Advent Reconciliation Times:

(Rite I is individual. Rite II is communal)

Cathedral

Tuesday 19th December Rite II **7.30 pm**
Thursday 21st December Rite I 7 pm to 8 pm
Friday 22nd December Rite I 11.30 to Noon
Saturday 23rd December Rite I 9.30 am to 10.30 am 5 pm to 6 pm

Also:

St Brigid's Wednesday 20th December Rite II 7.30 pm
55 Derby St
Feilding

Christmas Mass Times

Cathedral:

Sunday 24th December 7.30 am, 9 am, 10.30 am, midnight (no 6 pm)
Carols begin at 11.15 pm
Monday 25th December 7.30 am, 9 am, 10.30 am, (no 6 pm Mass)
(Christmas Day)
Tuesday 26th December to Saturday 30th December 9 am

January Timetable

1st—20th January:

Sunday Masses 7.30 am, 9 am, 10.30 am, 6 pm
Weekday Masses Tuesday to Saturday 9 am
Reconciliation Fridays and Saturdays 9.30 am

23rd January Onwards:

Sunday Masses 7.30 am, 9 am, 10.30 am, 6 pm
Weekday Masses Tuesday to Friday 12.05 pm Saturday 9 am
Reconciliation Fridays 11.30 am to noon, Saturdays 9.30 am

Parish Office: Closes Friday 22nd December midday

Reopens Tuesday 23rd January 2007 9 am

Message from Kevin O'Donnell **Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Committee**

We welcome you to the Christmas 2006 *St Patrick's News*, and introduce our new editorial team: Cath Heatley, Mary-Lou Dickson, Paul Green, Katrina van de Water and Lorraine Walker. After the retirement of our former editorial team of Joan Brookes and Teresa Gilbanks, the Parish Pastoral Council reviewed the frequency of the publication. This is the first edition from the new team. We thank Joan and Teresa for their outstanding contribution over many years and express our appreciation to the new team for taking up this challenge, and trust parishioners will support them with ongoing contributions for the future.

Now is the time when we reflect on the year we are just leaving. I wish to thank all those involved in the numerous Parish ministries, many of which go unnoticed by most of us. The Flower group and the Music group are but two of many groups who enhance worship in the Cathedral. Our thanks to Ann O'Donoghue's team for floral arrangements and to Frances Siddle and Jan Keenan for their encouragement and promotion of quality church music in the Cathedral. The Eucharistic Ministers for the Sick, Rest Home Visitors and Home Visitation are other important Parish ministries welcomed and appreciated by those unable to attend Mass.

There are many other ministries in the Parish, all dependent on your support to continue and help make our Parish a more welcoming community to fellow parishioners and our many visitors. The Hospitality Committee organised a very successful Sunday lunch farewell function for Father Marcus in June - our thanks to all those involved in organising the lunch and parishioners from all four Mass communities who attended. Social gatherings are an opportunity to meet fellow parishioners who otherwise don't meet, even though they are part of the same parish, because they often attend Mass at different times. The Hospitality Committee is trying to better involve new parishioners and international students and their families with the Passionist Family groups' activities.

A survey was conducted earlier in the year by St James BOT representative parishioner, Dr Jenny Poskitt, to investigate factors affecting Family Sunday Mass attendance. It was a very comprehensive survey and provided interesting responses which are being addressed by the Parish and St James. Our thanks to Jenny and her assistants for the work in preparing the questionnaire and collating and reporting the responses.

Our Parish is represented on the Pastoral Area Development Committee by Graeme Siddle and Peter Hurly. We are grateful for the time and energy Graeme and Peter have contributed as members of this committee and are grateful too that they have reported back to us on progress throughout the year.

I acknowledge and thank our priests, especially Father Brian for his work with us. I frequently field comments from people who are appreciative of his being so approachable and accessible and his ability to deliver a homily with the appropriate message for the right occasion, whatever the circumstance. More recently we welcomed Father Tom Sherry in August. His challenging homilies, too, add an extra dimension to our worship.

On behalf of the Parish, I thank our Parish Secretary, Lorraine, our Pastoral Worker, Jenny, and of course Barry Slade and his helpers who keep the Cathedral clean, tidy and organised. I also thank our Pastoral Council Secretary, Ellen. Together they all help to keep the Parish going.

I trust that everyone has a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2007.

Kevin O'Donnell
Parish Pastoral Committee Chairperson

From Father Brian

The Advent Season should prepare us for a celebration of Christmas that has a depth of 'spirituality' truly meaningful and appropriate to the season. The whole point of having such a great Christian festival is because it

honours God and brings God's grace and blessing to individuals, families, houses, parishes and communities. To see Christmas commercialised and advent turned into a pressured time of business and frustration defeats the whole purpose of the feast.

Can we 'slow down' this Advent and truly open ourselves to the special Grace of the Season? Can we take the opportunities offered by our parishes for Mass, Reconciliation, reflection and prayer to truly change with God's Grace into being more like the one whose birth we celebrate...

Jesus Christ?

From Fr Tom and myself a very blessed and holy Christmas to everyone.

Fr Brian Walsh

Parish Priest.



The Origins of Advent Wreath

Ancient Germanic peoples gathered evergreen branches, wove them into wreaths and decorated them with lighted fires as signs of hope during the cold of Winter. They hoped that Spring would come and the darkness of the winter would vanish. Christians adopted this tradition. By the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols as part of their Advent celebration. For them Christ was the symbol of hope, and was known as the everlasting Light. Therefore the Advent Wreath like the dates for Christmas and Easter were "Christianised pagan experiences".

Meals on Wheels

Greetings

A few months ago I became the coordinator of the meals on wheels for St Patrick's parish. I took over from Tony Field who had done the job for some sixteen years and only forced to give up by illness. Tony is a hard act to follow, always friendly and on top of things. Thanks Tony, we wish you a speedy recovery.

We have a very reliable team of regular drivers who turn up every fifth week, as regular as clockwork, but even the most reliable people sometimes can't make it and we are left short. So far we have managed with the assistance of the Red Cross and some good friends to fill the gap but more drivers are really needed to fill in when necessary. If it's done on a regular basis, it is only once in five weeks and, if more drivers are available, not even that. So please give it some thought; don't forget that the people who are in need of meals on wheels are unable to prepare a meal for themselves. Makes you feel good too and it's your good deed for the day!

I thank all the regular drivers for their effort and I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Elly Zentveld

LET US PRAY

Our telephonic prayer chain, St Patrick's Prayer Vine, was instituted by Margarita Grayland several years ago and continues to work well. At present, there are twenty-five parishioners who pray for the intentions passed on to them through the chain. All requests are confidential, and those praying are taking part in a very powerful ministry, and we have seen how powerful prayer is. If you would like to join our vine or request prayers, please contact Fiona or June Hurly, ph. 354 4401.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE -

WIND FARMING IN THE TURITEA RESERVE

A recent letter from the New Zealand Bishops reminds us that protection of our natural environment is an important aspect of social justice. Catholic tradition requires us to seek the common good. Christians are called to active witness of Christian values in public life which often means grappling with difficult and complex issues. One may ask - how is environmental justice relevant to living in Palmerston North City? The Council's proposed use of parts of the Turitea Reserve to enable wind farming is an example of the complexity of environmental justice questions.

The Turitea Reserve is not open to the public and functions primarily as a water catchment. The reserve is also made up of large areas of remnant native bush. Like most remnant indigenous ecosystems, the reserve's biggest threat is terrestrial pests. In 1964 the entire forest canopy collapsed as a result of pests. Since then only modest restoration has been achieved. The Council's strategy is to use the substantial revenues from the turbines to implement a comprehensive pest management system which will enable the existing indigenous ecosystem to flourish. There are also opportunities to establish a wetlands network on the flats which will provide habitats for threatened bird species. Long-term improvements in the ecosystem will also improve water quality. The Council's goal is to create a mainland island.

Maintaining and protecting indigenous ecosystems is a pressing environmental issue in New Zealand. Indigenous ecosystems have intrinsic values and represent part of the creation that must be actively protected. In addition, the turbines provide renewable energy at a time when climate change is a major issue for the earth. Climate change benefits will also result from the replanting of up to 300 hectares of the reserve in an area that is currently rank grass or exotic forest.

A great amount of electricity is wasted because it is produced centrally and transported over long distances, so that only a fraction of the original energy reaches the customer. Local wind farms throughout New Zealand will provide an

alternative to that in the future.

Local wind farms also provide us with the prospect of security of supply, in the event of any emergency and consequent breakdown in the transmission of electricity from the South Island.

The turbines will introduce mechanical structures into an existing natural landscape. Landscapes can be distinctive and provide a sense of identity or place. There are marked differences of opinion about how adverse the visual effects of turbines actually are.

Living in the world will always involve making difficult choices, particularly when there is a range of goals. Society almost always pursues a range of goals including economic development which in general terms undoubtedly fosters human dignity. That is why environmental issues are so important and sometimes so complex. In formulating our private opinions as citizens on particular matters we are called as Christians to apply our rational faculties and reflect on how the common good is best served. In that regard I suspect our local media are not always guided by the need to inform but rather to agitate.

While we can make choices in our lives that give consideration to the environment, (such as saving electricity in our homes) my own view is that the Christian voice should also be publicly heard on environmental issues. It is a unique and rational voice for the common good. Fortunately in New Zealand, we are blessed with laws that guide the use of natural resources in a way that is consistent with the Catholic ethic. In particular, the concept of sustainable management in the Resource Management Act takes into account the intrinsic value of creation and intergenerational equity.

John Maassen

NOTE: John Maassen is an environmental lawyer and member of St Patrick's Parish.

This piece is a personal reflection and nothing in this article is to be read as expressing an opinion in respect of any matters involving his professional capacity.



Advent and Social Justice

Advent began on Sunday 3rd December and once again we reflect on what Christmas will mean in a world of injustice:

- people in wealthy countries like our own will spend millions on unnecessary gifts, on decorations, on luxury foods and drink. Children will receive obscene amounts of luxury toys.
- millions throughout the world will face death from starvation, tribal fighting, AIDS and other diseases for which they cannot afford medicines. The drug companies will continue to over charge for medicines which prevents the poor of the world from having access to life saving drugs.
- wealthy nations will spend billions to wage war on poor nations. The war in Iraq (recently termed a 'disaster' by no less than Mr Blair) staggers on. The civilian deaths are now reliably estimated at 600,000 bearing out the prediction of the Catholic Bishops of the United States in 2002 when they said that a pre-emptive strike on Iraq (as threatened then by Mr Bush) cannot be reconciled with the Catholic principles of a just war, since the large number of civilians who would die far outweigh morally any good that might be achieved. It is now dubious whether ANY lasting good will be achieved.
- governments like our own will work for "free trade" which, competent observers argue, will further lower the standard of living in poor nations and depress the wages of workers in NZ. The Prime Minister has recently been relentlessly pursuing the free trade agenda and there is little talk of the need for "fair trade: ie trade which does not advantage wealthy nations at the expense of poor ones.
- low income families in New Zealand will continue to suffer and to wonder how to give their children a decent Christmas; the foodbanks are getting ready for increased demands at Christmas.
- women and children will be beaten by their husbands, partners, fathers. The women's refuges will be full as men take out on the powerless their own feelings of powerlessness in the social order.
- we will triumphantly celebrate Masses at Christmas with all the trimmings—flowers, music, incense—in honour of Him who came to bring "good news to the poor" but there will be very little good news for the poor of the world inside or outside our church.

ANGEL TREE

Helping the children of prisoners at Christmas time

Christmas is a very hard time indeed for the families of prisoners and especially for their children. These children and their families are often just as much the victims of crime as those who have suffered a criminal offence directly.

With your gift of money, we can buy the kind of presents that the children would want and in some cases it is the only Christmas present they will receive. As our brochure says:

"It's not their fault that Dad or Mum is in prison. Yet they're serving time too. The doors that lock prisoners in also lock their sons and daughters out - in a cold and lonely world."

By getting involved, either with a donation of money or by assisting with the wrapping or delivery of the presents, you can help bring a smile to children who face a difficult journey through no fault of their own.

Our church is but one of many making a commitment to make this Christmas season a time of joy for these children. In the future we hope to expand Angel Tree to include summer camps. It all depends on our generosity. If you would like to make a donation to the Angel Tree Project, you can either:

- ◆ Donate online using your credit card via a secure server at www.pfnz.org.nz and if you wish you can nominate the region where you want it to be used.
- ◆ Call our toll free line at **0800 777 887** and use your credit card
- ◆ Send an e-mail to admin@pfnz.org.nz and we will contact you or
- ◆ Send a cheque to:
Finance and Funding Officer
Prison Fellowship New Zealand
PO Box 40 657, Upper Hutt

Your St Patrick's Parish Contact person is:

Paul Green, Phone 356 8347 or e-mail sligogreen@xtra.co.nz

Advent, the Coming
Waiting in Hope, Love, Peace, Joy

Beautiful Are They Who Bring Love

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the
messenger who. ..brings good news. Isaiah 52:7

It is Christmas! It is the most wondrous feast-the birthday of the One who came to show us a God of love. How beautiful are the feet of those who walk the extra step across a room to greet someone with whom they have had differences. How beautiful are the feet of those who step beyond the material gifts and appreciate the heart of the giver. How beautiful are the feet of those who move about in the kitchen making the special foods and serving the guests who gather. How beautiful are the feet of those who not only go to church services but who also fully participate by greeting others joyfully, praying and singing heartily. How beautiful are the feet of those who walk into homeless shelters or places with little comfort to bring some of their own abundance.

Yes, how beautiful are all those feet who walk with glad tidings this day, with the intention of love in their hearts, for they are living the message of the One who came so long ago. The Christ of abundant love, born some two thousand years ago, lives on in us. As our feet take us near and far, let us continue to be the Christ to one another.

*Divine Messenger,
I will carry the glad tidings
of your abundant and abiding love
to all I meet and greet today.*

□

Reflection taken from Joyce Rupp *Inviting God In*, 2001, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame
Indiana

There are some signs of hope in relation to climate change and its effect on the environment which was the theme for this year's Social Justice Week. Almost overnight, it seems, the major political parties and the world of business are seeing the seriousness of what we are doing to the planet. Only a few months ago people were scoffing at the Greens for views which are now becoming mainstream.

Whether there will be the political will to actually work for change, remains to be seen.

Christians, especially at Christmas, are called to play a full part in the drive for a just society and a just world order. It is the clear teaching of the popes that in its concern for the poor the Church must proceed on two fronts. According to John Paul II, we must "see in the poor person...not an annoyance or burden, but an opportunity for showing kindness and for greater enrichment." We must, that is, give practical help to individuals. Through the collection organised by St Vincent de Paul Society and in other ways, we will have opportunities to do this.

But, according to the pope, we must also help "entire peoples who are at present excluded or marginalised to enter into economic and human development." And this, says the pope "requires a change in lifestyles, of models of production and consumption, and of the established structures of power which today govern societies." (John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*.)

This requires us to take stock of our "lifestyles", to lobby our politicians and to challenge the "established structures of power" on behalf of those people who are "excluded or marginalised".

St Paul prays for us on the second Sunday of Advent: "May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you."

Ivan Snook, for the Social Justice Group.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Members of the St Vincent de Paul Society have had a busy and rewarding year with assistance given to a number of needy families. Figures taken up to the end of the third quarter, 30th September, show that food parcels were given to nearly 300 adults and

children,; budgeting advice and advocacy assistance to 30 people, up from eight for the same period last year; double the numbers assisted with furniture and treble the numbers given transport assistance. Visitations to private homes, prisons and rest homes numbered about 700, double last year. The increase in activity is due in part to our very substantial involvement with the refugees from the Congo earlier in the year and more recently with the refugees from Burma.

Our members, mainly drawn from Our Lady of Lourdes and our own Parish members, are just under 20 but with the promotion of the work of the Society during May, interest across all the Parishes will boost our members up to 30. This increase in support is very gratifying as it will enable the society members to make a greater outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves.

With the sale of the property in front of the presbytery we will lose the use of the garage, sited there, to house our food supplies and furniture. Plans are being made to site our food store at the rear of the St Vincent de Paul Opportunity Shop property in Rangitikei Street. Unfortunately the section there will not be sufficient for our furniture storage. Does anybody know of any unused garage?

Thanks must go to parishioners who each week make such generous donations to our food bank. Thanks also to Anne O'Grady and her two dozen plus volunteer ladies who staff our opportunity shop.

Our main activity, this coming month, as for each year, is to distribute Christmas goodies to many households together with our blessings and best wishes for a Happy and Holy Christmas

H. Lampen-Smith

Palmerston North Conference President

Visitation to Hospitals & Rest homes

Do you have relatives or friends in Hospitals or Rest-Homes who would like a visit from a Priest, Parish Worker or Eucharistic Minister? If so, please contact the Parish Office as we have no other way of being informed.



From the Parish Register

Marriages *We congratulate:* Adeline Wong & Andrew Williams, Frances Golding & Benjamin Bell -Booth, Rebecca Julian & Uesilcna Wells, Kirstie Mason & Benjamin Herden, Jacoba Quigley & Andrew Kerr, Joanne Graham & Mark Richards, Fallon Tanoa & William Smith, Naomi Petterson & David Ryan, Nicola Gwynne & Russell Smith, Caroline Eder & Samuel Quevedo, Natasha Clay & Aaron McDowell, Karlyn Treder & Myles Prince.

Deaths *We Remember:* Mary Mallon, Norah Simes, Ione Gardner, Patricia Raisin, Gordon Maney, Elsie Moleta, GabrielleHalcrow, Robin O'Brien, Eileen Sollitt, Robin Smith, Anthony Noaro, Aaron Johnston, Bernice Matthews, Betty Gronn, Patricia Allen, Frances Hanley, Kam Poy Joe, Peter Boniface, Clarence Sullivan.

Baptisms *We welcome:* Tiffany Carlsson, Tayla Brown-Singleton, Xavier Singelton-Walsh, Hayley McQuade, Samuel Moleta, Holly Gunn, Joseph Stevenson, Bianca Power, Ella Greaves, Darren Juru, Natalie Bone, Hannah Christian, Alana Christian, Jamie Maoate, Edward hopkins, Charli O'Brien, Jasmine O'Loughlin, Tralee & Liam James, Amy Trott, Charles Stagg .

Also received into the church: Andrew Brooks, Miranda Carlsson, Owen Jarrett, Karen Richardson, Robin Smith, Luke , Rebecca & Alyssa Shepherd, Grace Emmert.

Welcome... To any new parishioners.



Please leave your details at the Parish Office and our Parish Visitor will be in touch. If you were involved in ministry work in your last Parish, i.e. as a reader, music ministry, eucharistic ministry etc. and would like to continue with this very valuable work, please let this be known to our parish visitor when they make contact.

Next Issue

The deadline for contributions and the Publication date ...

will be advertised in the weekly bulletin closer to the time.

All enquiries to the Parish Office.

Disclaimer: This publication is a communication tool for individuals, groups and clergy within the parish. Whilst all care is taken in approving what is accepted for inclusion the parish does not take responsibility for the content of articles, nor does it necessarily approve them as being the official view of the Catholic Church.