

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Havelock North

Activities and Highlights of a Living Parish: 1993 to June 2015

Preface

The idea of providing an update of the 1993 publication, *Jubilee Footsteps*, had its genesis in the understanding that, as the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, Havelock North, would be combined with the other parishes of Hastings at Easter 2015, a short record of this community's activities between 1993 and 2015 would be interesting and useful to add to the Archives of the Parish.

The late Frank Darroch's comments in the Editorial to the *Jubilee Footsteps* about how he went about the task of preparing a Commemorative Issue of *Footsteps* struck a chord with me: "*The more I looked into this subject the more I discovered the dedication of the founders of the Parish plus the extremely vibrant Parish that has developed.*" Frank then chose a format of *A Past Based on Memories and a Record of the Present*.

The *Jubilee Footsteps* has only a few pages dedicated to memories, which covered almost fifty years: from the 1940's to 1993. This period included the time when there was no Mass Centre in Havelock North, through the period when Mass was celebrated weekly in the Havelock North Borough Council Office. During the next few years, the Church was built and, in 1960, dedicated. In 1968 the new Parish, separate from Hastings East Parish, was formed. Each of these periods was covered in some detail in the *Jubilee Footsteps*, plus the following twenty-five years. However, most of the Booklet related a record of the activities of the vibrant community called Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in 1993. The Parish had by then moved through its infancy to become a mature Faith community.

My research through many records (although some, unfortunately, have "disappeared") of the Pastoral Parish Council, Finance Committee and Newsletters from 1993 to the present has helped me to develop some headings which seem to me to be able to include most of the vibrant Parish's activities and highlights during the relatively short period between 1993 and 2014. Just as Frank Darroch decided in 1993, I believe it is also useful to include a record of the current activities (to assist people of the future wanting to understand our Parish's character as at 2015). To provide this record I have invited members of the Parish Council and other parishioners with specific knowledge and interest to provide a summary of these current activities.

Foreword: by Rev Father Pat Cooke

Our Lady of Lourdes had a tenuous link to the 2nd Vatican Council from the day of its blessing and official opening (April 1960) carried out by Msgr A J McRae, Vicar General. He was deputising for Archbishop Peter McKeefry, who was called to Rome frequently to assist in the planning for the Council, which opened in October 1962.

When John Scott designed the Church, he could not have been aware of the likelihood of this world gathering of Bishops; but he was aware that churches could be different from the traditional style. It was a great blessing that John's design needed little modification when the new liturgical directives came into force.

As well as a church a parish needs other amenities and, since Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1993, the much-needed office, robing room and narthex have been added. Then the desirability of some loving refurbishment of the church was agreed on, and a multi-skilled committee was set up, and that group got further expert guidance from Jacob Scott and Karl Wixon. As well as chairing that group Mark von Dadelszen gave the parish a beautiful baptismal font crafted by his own hands.

When opened in April 1960 Our Lady of Lourdes Church was one of a number of churches that served Sacred Heart Parish. With its second half-century just begun it will become part of the new parish encompassing the greater Hastings area. Looking back to 1970, there were 39 baptisms and 140 or more enrolled in CCD, supported by enthusiastic teachers and drivers in abundance. We have failed to maintain that level of commitment to handing on the Faith.

Pope John XXIII gave us the term *aggiornamento* (updating) and he prayed for a new Pentecost. Among his successors we have already had those whose first language was Polish, or German, or Spanish. The new Pentecost of course needs much more than that. It needs all of us to commit ourselves to the re-vitalising of the Church. Remembering the words of Pope Paul VI in his closing address to the Council Bishops: "She believes, She hopes, She loves. The Church is alive."

Part I: The Living Parish 1993-2015

Parish Pastoral Council: Over the years the method of encouraging parishioners to serve has changed from "election" to "selection" and the numbers and personnel have changed; various issues have been discussed and actions taken. There were also a number of General Meetings involving all parishioners. In recent times the role and responsibilities of the Parish Pastoral Council were clarified confirming that its focus was on the sacramental life of the Parish and

not on the financial or material. The Pastoral Council sets the pastoral priorities of the parish, working collaboratively with the Parish Finance Committee.

This focus, therefore, was fourfold: Liturgy, Oversight to ensure “things get done”, Evaluation of what was “being done”, and a Vision for the year ahead. Copies of the minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council were posted on the Parish Notice Board. In recent years the Parish Pastoral Council has established a process of monthly reports from the conveners of groups, e.g. Liturgy, St Vincent de Paul, etc. In recent years, these reports, together with the minutes, have been inserted into the newsletters.

Parish Finance Committee: The Parish Finance Committee is required by canon 537 “to help the parish priest in the administration of the goods of the parish without prejudice to canon 532” (which speaks of the parish priest’s own responsibility for this.) The diocese has special norms governing Parish Finance Committees. During its existence the Treasurers serving this Committee have included: Alan Smythe, Jan Clarkson, Wieke Stoks, Ray Woodham, Allen Lamont, Des Kavanagh and Pat Duffy.

Relationship with the other Catholic Parishes in the area of Hastings: Since 2002, representatives of the four Hastings parishes have been meeting as a Combined Heretaunga Pastoral Council. We do many things together, for example the Triduum liturgies and a common newsletter. At the time of writing (March - June 2015), nominations are being sought for the new Catholic Parish of Hastings Pastoral Council, which will be formed by the end of June, 2015, when Our Lady of Lourdes, Immaculate Conception Paki Paki, Sacred Heart, and St Peter Chanel form one reunified Catholic Parish of Hastings.

In the words of Bishop Charles Drennan:

“...it is an expression of our one faith and our shared desire to grow stronger in order to better pass on our faith to another generation, our mokopuna, and in order to better be of service to our civic community. A strong vision, implemented through a single parish council, liturgy team, sacramental programme, etc., as well as through new pastorally focused paid lay roles, will mean that everyone will experience a new enthusiasm and energy. This vision does not undermine local identity. It strengthens it and weaves it into a bigger whole.”(Pastoral Letter March 20, 2015)

Ecumenical Activities: In 1989 the Havelock North Council of Churches was founded. Its purpose was: “Planning combined Church occasions, sharing ideas for common witness or joint action, and providing common witness to Christ and service to the community.” As a result there were many activities where Our Lady of Lourdes Parish joined with other denominations in sharing services and events and in providing an obvious Christian presence in Havelock North.

Some example of shared activities during the years when the Council of Churches met regularly are: Good Friday Walk (established 1990), "Real Story of Christmas" (1994), World Day of Prayer (1970's), Prayers for All Souls including performance by ecumenical Choir of *Requiem* by Gabriel Faure in 1995, Flowers in Praise (every September in association with the Hastings Civic Service at the end of Blossom Week), and shared Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas events.

Shared events also included: Speakers discussing "Issues of the Nineties" and "Issues of the New Century" and "Meet the Candidates" Meetings for the General Elections in 2002 and 2005. The main participants on the Council of Churches on behalf of Our Lady of Lourdes were Father Pat Cooke, Kay Whelan and the late Pat McGrath and Max Windle.

The Havelock North Council of Churches apparently went into recess mid-2000s. Some remnants of the ecumenical activities still exist in an informal way including the annual Procession of the Cross each Good Friday, Flowers in Praise and the Blessing of Advent Wreaths. At Christmas time, the Presbyterian Community also invites the Havelock North Anglican community as well as Our Lady of Lourdes to a morning tea and a beautiful carol service.

Cardinal John Dew

In February 2015, Margaret McKinlay, with other family and friends, was very proud to attend her brother's elevation to the office of Cardinal.

The Consistory was held at St Peter's with a congregation of around 45000 inside and 100,000 outside in the Square. Pope Francis presided and Pope Emeritus Benedict attended the ceremony. Later that day there was an opportunity to meet the Cardinals who were allotted various spaces within the Vatican buildings.

Sunday morning saw them all back at St Peter's to attend Mass, which the 20 new Cardinals concelebrated with Pope Francis.

On Monday morning the New Zealand group gathered at St Paul's Outside the Walls where John celebrated his First Mass as a Cardinal.

After Mass they were all invited to the New Zealand Ambassador's Residence to a lunch hosted by the New Zealand Ambassador, Patrick Rata, and the Ambassador to the Holy See, Janet Lowe.

The three days were a very special and faith-filled time and an experience which will remain with them forever.

The Physical Church

- **Buildings:** Around the turn of the century, the carpet around the altar was becoming worn, and the grey-carpeted semi-circular screen behind the altar installed during Father McAloon's time as Parish Priest was considered to be rather dull and out of keeping with the predominant forms in the Church. A committee chaired by Mark von Dadelszen was formed to recommend improvements, and its assignment was later extended to general refurbishment of the Church. The committee decided to seek advice from John Scott's son, Jacob, and his business partner, Karl Wixon. They produced a sketch of a proposal and, after lengthy consultation with the parish community, their proposal was accepted. Getting designs done proved difficult, and in the end they advised that it was almost impossible to prepare plans showing all the angles in the proposed new walls and other elements of the new screen, but if competent builders could be chosen then they could instruct them on-site. S E Morgan & Sons were chosen, and their joiners translated the design concepts into reality. Elements of the new plan and other associated work included:
 - The erection of screen walls which echoed the angles of the Church structure, and a rough-cast concrete back wall to match the walls at the main entrance to the Church
 - A fabric screen at the apex of the screen for back-projection of hymns and prayers (later superseded by a flat-screen)
 - A kauri baptismal bowl, turned by Mark von Dadelszen, decorated with pounamu buttons, and mounted on a table matching the design of other altar furniture
 - The immersion baptismal font remains, accessible through removable floor panels
 - Subtle recessed lighting on the screen wall
 - Improved facilities behind the screen for the various ministers who prepare for or assist during services
 - The installation of a new sound system designed and overseen by acoustic expert Michael Grafton-Green.

The refurbishment committee also arranged for the interior and exterior repainting or varnishing of the Church and replacement of faded and cracked coloured window panels; investigated whether cracks in the floor required repair; and carefully considered the possible replacement of the pews and possible carpeting of the floor (neither of these was pursued as the original pine pews designed by John Scott were considered integral to the ambience of the Church and carpeting would also alter the Church ambience and acoustics). John Scott had commissioned the mosaic of Our Lady for the Church but it had never been installed. This mosaic was offered to the

parish by his family and was installed into the mezzanine windows above the entrance to the Church.

- **The Narthex and Office Space:** The Narthex was built in 1997. This is a building which joins the Church to the Parish Centre, and includes a Sacristy for vestments etc. This addition, and an addition to the Presbytery, which serves as a separate Office Space, were both designed by Peter Holland.
- **The former Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) building** which was not much used after the opening of the Parish Centre became surplus to requirements, was sold by tender, and removed in 2012. The area was then levelled and re-grassed.
- In 2012, a piano was purchased and in 2013, the Parish Council and Finance Committee approved the purchase of a new **Johannes Ecclesia organ** to replace the much more modest instrument which had served the parish well for some 25 years.

The Parish Centre Building

“Since we have had the Parish Centre it is amazing how many new groups have used it - a lot of these may never have developed if we did not find it an attractive venue in which to meet. How many more uses have yet to be found for our Parish Centre?” (Jubilee Footsteps page 27)

The Parish Centre (opened 1987) has continued to be well used since this comment in the 1993 Jubilee Bulletin. In addition to the weekly use for the Children’s Liturgy every Sunday, it is used for Mass during the week, as an Altar of Repose from Holy Thursday until Easter Day, for monthly morning teas after Sunday Mass and weekly morning teas after Thursday Mass, as a venue for functions such as after funerals, for lunches and dinners, and is hired out for a number of other activities including choral practices. In early 2015 the installation of a new steriliser has helped speed up the washing and managing of the dishes when large functions are held.

Special events held in this venue have included:

Celebration of the 25th Jubilee in 1993

Held over the weekend of 12-14 February 1993, the Celebrations included a jubilee dinner and two Masses followed by luncheons. The late Jeremy Dwyer, Mayor of Hastings, and Canon Wilson, Vicar of St Luke’s Anglican Church, spoke at the luncheons. Special guests were Father Jim McNeill (1976-1983), Father Brian McAloon (1984-1991) and the then Parish Priest, Father Denis King.

Parish Dinner in June 1999 to celebrate the Year of Jubilee

Celebration of 50th Anniversary of the Church Building in April 2010:

A special morning tea was held after Mass with speeches from the Scott family and also from Mr Libby who was an apprentice builder at the time of the building of the Church. (He was the lucky one who got to work on the steeple!)

Ema Scott quoted her late father, John Colin Scott: *"I am just an Architect sorting out problems and trying to say what seems relevant at the time"*. Ema recalled that her father had often spoken of the Maori Meeting House (whose design was the basis of Our Lady of Lourdes): *"Here is a building who speaks for a whole group of people. It does this just in its form. It has a spiritual purpose. The building represents an eponymous ancestor. In this building there is a nothingness and an everythingness. You feel free when you are in this building."*

In addition the Parish Centre has been the useful and attractive venue for events including birthdays, the anniversary of Father Pat Cooke's ordination in 1960, farewells, expressions of thanks (e.g. to Tony Goulter-Green as organist for 28 years, to Pat Stewart for her work in providing floral displays in the Church over many years, to Kathy and Bernie Hamlin for their work in maintaining the grounds.)

Grounds

In 2013 the diseased oak tree, planted in the centre of the Te Mata Road car park, was removed. Once the tree was cleared away, the damage to the car park from the tree roots was repaired and individual car parks were marked in an endeavour to organise this space, and ensure clear access for emergency vehicles to all buildings. A pepper tree next to the parish office was removed and the car park re-formed and re-sealed.

- **A Memorial Feature in the Grounds:**

"The Floating Spheres" – A Memorial to Frances Hemphill

A much loved parishioner, Frances Lydia Hemphill, died of motor neuron disease on 8th August 2007 at the age of 61. Frances, a Scottish nurse, whose only relative, her brother Peter, and his wife and daughter, live in Scotland, will be fondly remembered by all who knew her for her beautiful soprano voice and her contribution to the music of the parish. Frances is also remembered when as a Parish we sing the special verses written by Frances to be sung to the tune, *Londonderry Air*.

When Frances' estate was settled, Peter and his wife, Diana, made a generous donation to the parish, which had been Frances' spiritual home. This money was used to commission the "Floating Spheres" artwork by Ema Scott, daughter of the architect of the church, John Scott, to remember the parish link with Scotland through Frances. This sculptural installation was installed into the water-collection

pond on the Te Mata Road side of the Church in 2007. The inscription on the pond wall says:

“In Sunshine and in Rain Frances Hemphill sang to the Glory of God.”

- In 2004 the Lourdes Grotto from the former Holy Family Home (now Brittany House), was offered to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. This gift was accepted, but it is still in storage, pending an appropriate location in the Church grounds.
- In 2008 the possibility of erecting a Memorial Wall of Remembrance or of creating a Memorial Garden was investigated. However, in 2010 (following discussion within the Parish), a decision was made not to pursue this idea.

Masses and spiritual celebrations

In 1993 there were two Sunday morning Masses offered at Our Lady of Lourdes: at 8am and 10am. They were eventually replaced by one Mass at 9am.

In addition to Sunday and weekday Masses, Baptisms, Holy Communions, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals, some more unusual and special Masses have been offered. For example in October 2003 St Francis of Assisi's Feast Day was celebrated with animals attending Mass (a long-held desire of the late Tony Goulter-Green!)

Masses have also recognised Waitangi Day and ANZAC Day and an annual All Souls' Day Mass has been inaugurated. Masses have been held during Parish Missions and a Special Mass was held when Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux were brought by French pilgrims in 2005.

In addition to Father Pat Cooke (our longest-serving and much-loved Parish Priest since 1993), a number of priests have visited Our Lady of Lourdes and have celebrated Mass for us. These have included:

Father Fahey OFM, Father Jock McLaughlin, Monsignor Tom Duffy, Father Fred Bliss, Father Walter Cooke, Fr Graham Rose (now Bishop of Dundee, South Africa) and Bishop (now Cardinal) John Dew.

Other Events of Significance:

Awards and recognition:

The architect of the Church, John Colin Scott (1924-1992), received two Awards from the New Zealand Institute of Architects: The 25-Year Award (1986) and the Supreme Gold Medal for his contribution to New Zealand Architecture (awarded posthumously in 1999).

In the early 2000s, the Church building was included in the Havelock North Heritage Trails Booklet.

In 2010 the New Zealand Institute of Architects presented an Enduring Architectural Award for the Church building.

In 2013 The St Vincent de Paul Society presented the Parish with an Award recognising 50 years of service.

A number of our parishioners have received honours including Papal Medals (Pro Ecclesia Pontifice), Hastings District Civic Awards, Life Membership of the NZ Choral Federation, and Queen's Service Medals for Services to the Community.

“A New Song in an Ancient Land”

In 1993 Margaret Percy was invited by then Parish Priest, Fr Brian McAloon, to travel to Melbourne to attend the National Liturgical Music Convention. She travelled with a small contingent of New Zealanders, including Del Hamilton and the late Marie Stothart, to attend this wonderful event, along with some 2,000 delegates, mainly Australian but also from other countries, including the United Kingdom and the United States. The Convention comprised 6 days of liturgies, workshops, speakers, exhibitions, concerts, music, and so much more. The lasting impression was just being there with so many like-minded enthusiasts, and being able to learn from world-renowned composers, musicians and liturgists.

For Margaret, and she is sure for all who attended, this was an inspirational experience, and Margaret was able to bring back many of the musical and liturgical concepts that have helped to build the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes.

“Hands On” Programme: 1994-96

This programme comprised 2 years of theological and spiritual formation and skills for ministry training conducted by the Diocese of Palmerston North. Parishioners from the parishes of the diocese, including Our Lady of Lourdes, came together during this period to prepare for leadership in the ministries for their parishes. As a direct result of the “Hands On” programme, the Bereavement Group was set up at Our Lady of Lourdes in late 1996. A Bereavement Book/Calendar of Remembrance listing the names of all who have been buried from Our Lady of Lourdes was provided in 1993 and is on a table at the back of the Church. Each day the page is turned to show the names of those to be especially remembered on that day. During the month of November the Book sits in front of the altar.

“The Real Christmas”: Christmas Tableau 2014

We have for some time enjoyed the Thursday Night Market held in Hastings, near the clock tower. Musical presentations too, often by upcoming artists, made the

adventure interesting and we more than once stood, or sat mesmerised at the prodigious talents of the Bay.

We are a Christian couple, so imagine the pleasant surprise we experienced when we witnessed a Christmas pageant taking place in December. Biblical readings were interspersed with adult volunteers from the community presenting us with the cosmic miracle of the Christ coming into our suffering world as a vulnerable babe.

The readings were sensitively and expertly presented, making us feel that in the midst of a turbulent world there were people who cared enough about others to portray a moment of truth for the human race in a way that could make them subject to mockery and denigration. The world has not been tolerant of spiritual beliefs lately, especially Christianity.

With great dignity and much reverence, other volunteers presented the scene of the Magi worshipping the Holy Child. The expressions on the actors' faces were intense and laden with meaning, and they added to the atmosphere of reverence by moving with dignity and grace.

This was a milestone moment, added to our store of special memories enjoyed in this beautiful part of New Zealand.

We felt deeply thankful to the people who created, organised and acted out the pageant. There were many spectators who, like us, were captured by what they saw and heard and will treasure this moment in time that reminded us of God's grace in sending us His Son.

Fred and Brenda Ebbing

Part II: The Living Parish Today

Ministries of the Parish

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Mahatma Gandhi's famous quotation reflects well the many parishioners who are currently involved in providing service in so many ways in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. I have attempted to capture the flavour of this variety using four general headings:

1 Caring for Management, and Planning of the Parish

Parish Pastoral Council

Before reunification of the Hastings parishes at the end of June 2015, the Parish Pastoral Council met after Mass on the 3rd Sunday of each month. After an opening prayer followed by the usual formalities (apologies, correspondence etc) the pastoral concerns of the parish were addressed. Liturgical matters were always of importance, as were youth concerns. Group reports were taken as read but the

Parish Pastoral Council was always willing to support any group needing help, e.g. bereavement, St Vincent de Paul. Fr Pat raised matter of concern to him and we planned for future pastoral activity. In June 2015 there were 7 members, including Fr Pat.

2 Caring for our Pastor

Father's Meal

Each Friday or Saturday, one of the eleven women on Father's Meal roster (organised by Parish Secretary, Kathy McKay) delivers a nourishing lunch. Others quietly supply meals regularly on other days. This is one way in which we can contribute to the health and wellbeing of our beloved Father Pat. He, in turn, is always very grateful and extremely complimentary!

3 Caring for the Physical Parish

Church Cleaning and Altar Guild

Our beautiful church is kept in good order by dedicated groups of people whose rosters are organised by Cathy McGrath.

Every week, two (or occasionally a family of) parishioners work together to clean all parts of the church, foyer and narthex. Everything is dusted, vacuumed, washed, polished or tidied. Twenty-one women and five men take part in this essential ministry.

Twice yearly - leading up to Easter and Christmas – all parishioners are invited to help with a thorough general clean-up. Ladders appear, cobwebs disappear and difficult-to-access areas are cleaned. Many willing hands make everything sparkle in preparation for the major festivals.

All the brasses and glass vessels are also cleaned and polished weekly by the (currently) five women of the Altar Guild.

Maintenance

The maintenance of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, the presbytery and the surrounding buildings, and the upkeep of the gardens is a work that requires constant attention and vigilance. It will always be a work in progress.

Parishioners who have car trailers turn up when a substantial garden clean-out is required. The parish also has parishioners who give the church the opportunity of disposing of the green waste on their properties for burning. Good numbers always turn up to working bees. All are an important part of the maintenance team. One of the committee members works tirelessly each week for a period of time to keep the gardens and surrounding areas tidy and attractive so all the community can enjoy the peace that comes from the beauty of the garden. Constant weeding, trimming,

pruning and spraying have priority, and often require many hands on deck. A major clean-up in the gully/drain area of the church was carried out in 2012 by a company specialising in tree removal and pruning.

On the outside of the church, work has been completed on the recladding in aluminium of the church roof along with the replacement of the Duraclad sheeting on the church steeple. The exterior of the church was also painted. The presbytery has been reroofed and insulated. The car park was sealed while at the same time the appropriate stormwater system was installed. These were large and expensive projects.

One of our Maintenance Committee members is working through the process of ensuring that the church building of Our Lady of Lourdes meets the updated requirements under the new Earthquake Regulations. This investigation has revealed that some seismic strengthening is required. We are now commissioning an Engineer's Report and having an architect draw up plans to support this process. On completion of the architect's work, the plans will be put out to tender for the engagement of a suitable contractor to complete the required strengthening of the church.

4 Caring for our sacramental needs

Communion to the sick, housebound, and in retirement homes

A significant change has taken place in the care of the sick and elderly in the latter years in Havelock North. Parishioners have taken on the responsibility of taking communion to the residents of some of the retirement villages and others take it to friends and family members living at home. Rosters are set up for Mary Doyle, Waiapu and Duart House.

A Liturgy of the Word is celebrated weekly at these villages and, on those days also, communion is taken individually to the rooms of those who are unable to attend the communal one. Some of this group are also on the roster for an ecumenical service held fortnightly at Mary Doyle.

Fathers Pat Cooke, Simon Story and Vince Onesi celebrate special Masses throughout the year at the parish churches for the sick and attend to those who have a special need for a priest at a particular time.

Liturgy Committee

Liturgy is the participation of the people of God in the work of God. It is the public prayer and worship of the Church. The celebration of the Eucharist and all the sacraments hold a central place in the liturgy and life of the Parish. The liturgy committee monitors and responds to the liturgical needs of the Parish and is a support to Father in the celebrations of the Parish. Over the years the committee

has responded to Pastoral Area as well as Parish celebrations and been involved in interdenominational events. Highlights over the years have been formation of Lectors, Ministers of Communion, choir members, servers, and, with the advent of retirement villages, involvement in these areas. "In the Liturgy God speaks to His people and Christ is still proclaiming His gospel. The people of God are replying to God both by song and prayer." Pope Paul VI, *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy), 1963, n.33.

CCD

CCD is mentioned in the original Footsteps as it was significant in the establishment of the parish because there was no Catholic school here and additional land had been purchased in order to build one. In 1993 the CCD was run out of the CCD rooms by a group of mothers and led by Joy Percy but by about 1995 it had ceased to operate and was eventually replaced by Children's Liturgy.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy has been facilitated for many years by a changing number of people (usually parents). Joy Watson recalls that the classes were held after Mass, not during, as is now the case. Parents would either wait or come back to collect their children.

The current team of five teachers are in fact all teachers who commit themselves to this wonderful ministry every five weeks. Variable numbers of small children and a few older helpers - those who have made their first communion - move from the church to the parish centre during the first half-hour of Sunday mass. The children's liturgy is structured like the mass with penitential rite, readings and homily at a very junior level, followed by an activity, prayer and sometimes singing.

PET and the establishment of Kids' Club

The Pastoral Education Team arose from the proposed Catholic Co-educational High School which never eventuated. Money had been raised for the building of the school which was used to fund the PET. In 1995/6, Susan Doohan was invited to join the advisory committee which served the PET. Around that time Sr Mary McCann was relocating and her position became vacant. The advisory committee subsequently employed Brother Anthony Ford and renamed itself YMAC - the Youth Movement Advisory Committee. It was Br Anthony who helped Susan establish the Kids' Club at Our Lady of Lourdes in 1998. It was based more on the model provided by the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements and it ran fortnightly for 5 years.

Music

Music has been an important ministry in our parish life, led by the choir, many of whom have been familiar faces for many years. When Margaret Percy stepped aside as leader, new parishioner David Sullivan took over, supported by his talented

family. (It was a sad day for the parish when the Sullivan family moved to Wellington in 2012.) However, there are others who have made generous contributions – the wonderful talent of Kevin Watson, Anna Hansen and her daughters, Moira Begley, Viv Blake, the late Tony Goulter-Green, the late Warwick Bull, the late Pat Stewart and others. Due to the difficulty of finding suitable rehearsal time, and retirements and departures, the choir has now become more a lead singing group, still contributing in a major way to the regular Sunday masses and other liturgies in the parish, and many “old faithfuls” are still there every Sunday.

With the purchase of a new Johannes Ecclesia organ to replace the much more modest instrument which had served the parish well for some 25 years, we suddenly had a new “real church organ sound” and the parishioners realised what they had been missing. As a result of the installation of the new organ, professional organist, New Zealander Christopher Hainsworth, was invited to present an organ recital in April 2014 to demonstrate the capability of the instrument. This was a resounding success, with Chris praising the calibre of the new organ. In March 2015 Chris returned to present an organ recital and to provide a workshop and master class focussed on organists. Hopefully these events will be the forerunner of other events to come.

In 2013 a screen was provided to assist congregations to share in reciting and singing parts of the Liturgy and hymns. Marty Fleming and others have taken on the responsibility of ensuring words are provided and on the screen at an appropriate time.

Flowers

Ten ladies are rostered to arrange flowers on the altar and Our Lady's statue. For major feasts such as Easter and Christmas all members of the group assist with ideas and arrangements. Occasionally the ladies are called upon to help with arrangements for weddings and funerals. Special mention should be made of Pat Stewart whose magnificent floral arrangements were universally admired.

The flowers are always beautifully presented and also appropriate for the feast days.

Welcomers Group and Hospitality:

Our Lady of Lourdes has an active Welcomers Group. This was founded and fostered by Warwick Bull, a long-standing member of Our Lady of Lourdes, who sadly died in January 2014. Each Sunday someone is rostered to greet people as they arrive for Mass. In addition, those rostered to bring up the gifts at the Mass also hand out the newsletter - with a welcoming smile - to everyone who arrives at the main doors.

In the introduction to the Mass, guests are welcomed and also new parishioners, who are asked to see the Welcomers outside the main doors, near a red flag. The Welcomers ask them if they would like to be on the parish roll and if so give them an

enrolment form. They are invited to the next parish morning tea after Mass on the first Sunday of each month, and the Welcomer looks out for them and introduces them around. We hope to make these morning teas more frequent and also to invite new parishioners to morning tea at the home of a member of the group.

Reg and Natalie Corbett maintain a roster of volunteers to make morning tea and clean up afterwards on the first Sunday of the month and occasionally on special Feast Days.

Kath and Doug Begley also lead a small group of people who look after refreshments for funerals.

5 Supporting our spiritual, intellectual and social needs

Bereavement Group

Tina de Groot and Margaret Percy gathered a small group of interested parishioners together to look at ways in which support could be offered to families suffering bereavement. Some formation was provided from the diocese and, by bringing in speakers from associated services such as funeral directors and Cranford Hospice, a format evolved whereby the group was able to establish its programme. The group continues to assist an average of 9 families each year by visiting the family on notification of a death, helping draw up details for the Requiem Mass or Funeral Service and, if requested, the Vigil Prayers and Rosary. If requested the group will also provide helpers for any refreshments after the funeral, and a follow-up visit is usually arranged. A memorial card is also sent to the next of kin on the first anniversary of the death. There is an ongoing need for follow-up visits and support, and also for visiting during a prolonged illness, and this is arranged as appropriate. Currently, talks are in progress with Cranford Hospice to investigate ways in which Pastoral Area bereavement groups can work more closely with Cranford.

Environmental and Social Justice Group (Pastoral Area)

Principles which underpin the work of the **Environmental and Social Justice Group**:

1. Nurture a spirituality of justice.
2. Work within the capability of the group.
3. Have a two-fold focus:
 - Justice for the earth.
 - Justice for the people.
4. Be informed on and respond to current issues.
5. Be pro-active in raising awareness.

Library

The Parish Library can be found in the Parish Centre. The devoted librarians are Alys O'Connor (until recently) and Patricia Webley. It is a rich resource of Christian

literature covering many topics, including Prayer, Spirituality, Human Development, Church History, Biographies, Bible Commentaries, along with many children's books, all aimed to help on our journey of faith. A large number of books were inherited when the PET project housed at St Thomas More finished.

Generally the library is underutilized and parishioners are encouraged to make use of the valuable material that is available. Whenever the Church is open the library is available, so one can browse at leisure.

All that is required of the borrower is their name, telephone number and title of the book borrowed, entered into the register provided.

Passionist Family Groups

Two Passionist Family groups were established in this parish eight years ago in answer to Bishop Peter's call to strengthen Catholic parish communities. We called them Lourdes and Bernadette and they were initially led by Margaret and Graeme Armstrong and Joan Hastie and Kate Sheridan who remained as group leaders for many years. The concept of Passionist Family is that groups have members of all ages, ideally babies to elderly; that they meet regularly and establish bonds like any family, except that these people are not necessarily related by blood but are part of the same Catholic community. Groups meet to do the same things any family does. Social events such as picnics and pot luck dinners, coffee dates, car rallies, tramps, movies and shows are popular and groups can organize a house Mass, study group or prayer meeting if they wish. Most importantly people form friendships and learn to care about each other.

The groups are called Passionist because the idea originally came from the Passionist Fathers and we are affiliated to this Australian order. OLOL parish pays an annual fee for the privilege and a representative from the order travels here each year to facilitate a formation seminar for our leaders and interested members.

Like any family, groups ebb and flow, with members leaving and new members arriving. Anyone may join a group at any time by contacting the parish secretary, or speaking to any of the leaders or members. Susan Doohan, Graeme Eaton, Annette Moran and Joan McAsey have followed on as leaders and the current groups have around thirty members each.

Prayer-Line

OLOL has a wonderful group of 17 or so pray-ers who have committed themselves to praying when required. This group has been in existence since the 1980's and with the occasional change of personnel it has continued till today.

It is run in a very simple way with the contact person ringing the first person on the list, who in turn rings the next until all of the people have been contacted. They then pray individually.

The group are very much appreciated in times of need. And the needs can be many and varied and not only from our immediate area.

The service is advertised in the weekly pastoral newsletter.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul Conference

A group of Havelock North men got together and decided to form The Society of St Vincent de Paul Havelock North Conference in May 1963 and one of these men was able to be at our fifty-year celebration and help cut the cake. This gentleman was Frank Percy who has since passed away: RIP Frank. Another stalwart of this Conference was the late Kevin Burns and his widow Gabrielle assisted in the cutting of the cake. This celebration was the highlight of 2013 when we also hosted the area Festival Mass, which was attended by members of SVDP from Central Hawke's Bay to Napier. We were honoured by the presence of our National President and his wife.

Our guest speaker at this function was Mrs Margaret Harding who is the Catholic Chaplain at the Hawke's Bay Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. We are involved in Ministry at the hospital so it was interesting to have Margaret address us and inform us on her duties.

We currently have thirteen members of this conference and our work is chiefly organising and distributing the food basket from our Sunday Mass.

The bulk of our work is in visiting the sick and the elderly and in the distribution of communion to these members of our community. This year we have started a new initiative where we visit bereaved families and take them a "care parcel" consisting of basic food items that are needed at such a time. At Christmas time we now visit the elderly and sick who reside in their own homes and take them a small gift. The response is so wonderful!

It is not the gift received, but the visit that is so appreciated. Home visiting is where the need in our area is the greatest.

Our annual appeal is very generously supported; as a result we have been able to donate \$500.00 to St Joseph's School to provide food for their breakfast programme; \$1,000.00 to St Vincent de Paul food bank for the purchase of perishable food; \$500.00 to St Peter Chanel St Vincent de Paul for food for the Friday Meal at Camberley and \$1,000.00 to an appeal being organised by St Vincent de Paul nationally to help provide wheelchairs and other aids to the residents of Samoa.

We also have very generous members of our community who regularly donate money to our Catholic Education Fund, whose purpose this year is to assist Catholic children to have a Catholic education.

We also organise two Anointing Masses a year for the sick and the elderly and our November Mass is followed by a special Christmas Afternoon Tea.

This year we have been very fortunate in recruiting two new members and we are always looking out for more people to assist this wonderful organisation. We meet every two months straight after Mass.

A final thought: if you are organising your Last Will and Testament perhaps you might like to remember the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Youth

For some years, Napier and Hastings have shared a Youth Minister. Activities have included running the confirmation programs and a successful Sunday afternoon (3 - 5 pm) program for secondary school students at the St Peter Chanel Community Centre. Wellington-based youth group, Challenge 2000, had 2 members serving here between 2012 and 2014, mentoring young people, working with families, leadership camps, retreats for Saint John's College and Sacred Heart College, Youth Masses and mission days for some of the primary schools. A new Youth Minister for the Hastings parishes, Faaki Tuanaki, was appointed at the beginning of 2015. In addition to the confirmation programme, Faaki is continuing the Sunday afternoon program and also works with the primary age children after school on Fridays. She is promoting camps, looking forward to World Youth Day, and encouraging more young people to attend regular Youth Masses (2 per month at present) and to participate more in the life of our Faith Community.

Afterword

Father Patrick Cooke was born on 9 March 1929 to farming parents, Bridget and John Cooke, in Crannagh, County Laois, Ireland. He had two sisters and five brothers.

He was educated at Boys' National School, Castletown, and St Kieran's College, Kilkenny, following which he entered St John's Seminary, Waterford.

With his brother, Walter, Patrick was ordained priest at Kilkenny on Pentecost Sunday, 5 June, 1960.

Father Pat's first posting was to the Wellington Diocese, then to Kilbirnie; St Patrick's Palmerston North (now the Cathedral); St Joseph's Wellington; Feilding; Foxton; Manaia; Palmerston North; and finally Havelock North in 1994.

Father Pat retired on 14 July 2015 after 21 years of faithful service to the Catholic community of Our Lady of Lourdes. After 55 years in New Zealand, he returned to his homeland and now lives at The Monastery, c/- De La Salle Brothers, Castletown, Portlaoise, Eire.

Father Pat will be sadly missed but we all wish him a happy, healthy and peaceful retirement in the beautiful country of his birth. May God's richest blessings be poured out on him.

Parish Prayer (said during all Sunday Masses leading up to end of June 2015)

Lord Jesus, bless the development of our new parish family.

Help us to be alive to your spirit indwelling in each of us.

May we work together to bring your life and love to our faith community, the parish and the world.

Teach us to listen to you, to be true, to serve and to love you.

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Everyone who provided this information has expressed thanks to the many who have been involved in maintaining the very full life of the Our Lady of Lourdes Church Parish over the years. Much has been achieved and, as long as parishioners continue to volunteer for the work, the life of the Parish is sure to continue.

Judith Drabble and Mary Fama were responsible for the final edit.

October 2015