

13 JUNE 2020

PASTORAL UPDATE

Catholic Diocese of Dunedin

Kia ora and welcome to our second newsletter, this one with a pastoral focus. We are endeavouring to keep in touch each month to let you know what is happening in different areas of our diocese. There is never enough room to tell of all the good pastoral work in our midst, however, here is a sampling of some of the wonderful happenings that define who we are as people of God in the Diocese of Dunedin. The year is nearly half over and it has been such an unusual time for us as Church. During lockdown, we have experienced in a tangible way that so much of church and our experience of God happens outside of a building. 'The Church' is the people, our communities and how we connect to God and look out for one another. Lockdown has not stopped our prayer or our caring for each other and we have learned to do both in new and creative ways. This week as we celebrate the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, we are grateful to be able to receive together in the flesh. It was also wonderful to see the real presence we have been to one another during lockdown, in the ways we sacrificed and cared for the vulnerable among us. We are also aware of the deep hurts in our world. We have been shocked by the recent death of George Floyd and the racism that would allow such an unthinkable act. May we all continue to be the real presence of Christ more than ever, showing the world that Christ's love and mercy has no boundaries of race, colour, or culture. The body and blood of Christ, given for all, so that we may be Christ for all.

Ma te Atua tatou e manaaki e arahi e tiake i ngā wa katoa.

Amy Armstrong,
Pastoral Ministry Coordinator



Keeping in Touch

he waka eke noa

We are trying to improve our communications around the Diocese. If you haven't already done so you might like to [click here](#) to sign up for our Diocesan database for monthly newsletters and special notices.



Tindall foundations grants that support families and social services in our diocese are now open. Please [click here](#) for criteria and application form.



PARISH LIFE DURING LOCKDOWN

St Mary's Basilica, Invercargill has seen change since "lockdown" with our normal pastoral activities curtailed. Just before lockdown, I did a quick ring around to ensure the most vulnerable were kept in touch. Parishioners checked in with those in outlying areas and Passionist Family Group leaders contacted members to make sure all were looked out for. A number of former refugees from Columbia belong to our parish, for whom this has been a particularly difficult time. We made a special effort to make sure they had both pastoral and food support. Our "Zoom" Masses kept us all connected, even across the seas, as we had a sister from one of our former refugee families join our live-streamed Mass from her locked-down apartment in Ecuador. St Patricks and St Josephs primary schools as well as Verdon College, assisted us with Sunday liturgies and it has been a delight to see them in action. As you can see, shutdown has been a blessing for our people, but we are now grateful to be together again at Mass. - Fr. Pat McGettigan



St. Mary's Basilica, Invercargill
[Click here](#) for Facebook page



Young Adult Prayer Group at Holy Name
[click here](#) for Holy Name's website

Holy Name, Dunedin I have been amazed by the compassion of others, recalling the offer of Countdown or New World vouchers handed in from families who have received food assistance in the past, expressing their gratitude and desire to now support other families. Also the sheer kindness of parishioners who generously offered support while insisting on remaining nameless. I loved hearing about the care and the reaching out that has happened among our Pastoral Area. Those phone calls, emails and looking out for each other have inspired me as a pastor. Often walking back from the hospital, having been called in as Chaplain, I marvel at our hospital staff and their care and efforts to offer the best of care and then in asking of them how they are, it is easy to recognise in their eyes and demeanour the cost of all of this. Although we have not been physically present, there remains beneath a connection that reaches all across our globe. I guess I can say that it is one thing to read about the Body of Christ and so much more satisfying to experience this truth.
-Fr. Mark Chamberlain

St. Joseph's Queenstown has been affected by lockdown with many people losing their jobs in the tourism industry. In the short-term, people have been assisted by the government subsidies and charities, but our migrant communities have felt the loss of income. A generous donation has helped aid families with food and heating bills, but long-term outcomes are yet to be realised. Our Filipino and Brazilian communities have kept in close contact with each other, looking after each other so well, allowing us to know the needs of the people. -Fr. Jaime Lalaguna



St. Joseph's, Queenstown
[click here](#) for Facebook page



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES; A word from director, Mike Tonks



The experience of lockdown has been mixed for the families we work with. Some have found less anxiety in the home as pressures and expectations of life in general had changed. Some children were more settled without the stressors of school and school relationships. Families also found time to be together in simple ways like walking, talking and playing together. However, it was hard for some, as statistics showed domestic violence was up 22 percent at this time. CSS staff were available by phone and zoom during lockdown for people who might be struggling with home relationships so they had someone to talk through and explore different options. Our agency always works closely with Police, Oranga Tamariki and other community agencies regarding this issue to address these behaviours as they come to light and to encourage people to speak up and get help. The well-being of our individuals, whanau and society is more than just having food on the table. We do not live by bread alone, and so our team are doing what they can to help people, not only with what they did in lockdown, but how they did it. [Click here](#) to find out more about CSS

PARISH LEADERSHIP AND VISION DAY 30 November 2019

Last year at the end of November, about 70 people from around our diocese met to look at what leadership in our Church looks like. It was an engaging day where we listened to each other and the Spirit. Words like hospitality, formation, synodal, transformation, relevance, and encounter all came up as we asked how we see the face of Christ in our diocese. It was an encouraging day filled with faithful people earnestly seeking God and enjoying each other. The Diocesan Pastoral Council is continuing to work on what came out of this day to see how we can continue to be Church in our wider community.

[Click here](#) to meet our Diocesan Pastoral Council

Te Rōpū Tautoko – the Church group coordinating Catholic engagement with the Royal Commission on Abuse in Care – has been asked to distribute this information from the commission: The Catholic Church supports survivors of abuse in the care of the Catholic Church sharing their stories with the Royal Commission. The Bishops and Congregational Leaders of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand participate in the processes of the inquiry, through Te Rōpū Tautoko, acknowledging those who have been wounded in their care. If you or someone you know wishes to share your story please [click here](#) to go to the Royal Commission link.

The Church has always had the duty of scrutinising the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel. Thus, in language intelligible to each generation, she can respond to the perennial questions which people ask about this present life and the life to come, and about the relationship of the one to the other.
(Gaudium et Spes #4)

Generous Hospitality

In the week prior to lockdown being announced, nearly every booking made for 2020 at Burns Lodge-Holy Cross in Mosgiel was cancelled. Days later when lockdown was announced we were faced with another challenge. There are 51 trainee pilots residing at Holy Cross and a further 8 semi-permanent residents. How could we assure that every guest was safely looked after during this challenging time? While grappling with how we should respond, one of the staff, Sue Hita, offered to go into lockdown at the College and to remain on site for the entire time to provide support for all the students and guests. This was an act of great generosity and illustrates Sue's big-heartedness as well as the spirit of hospitality that is so evident to guests who arrive at Burns Lodge-Holy Cross for conferences and lodging. The work that occurs here is certainly aligned to the mission of our Church: providing welcome and hospitality, serving and caring. The staff also welcome those requiring short-term emergency and transitional accommodation. I am deeply grateful to Sue for her generosity and to all the staff for the hospitality they extend to the community and to ourselves. -Fr Gerard Aynsley



Sue Hita, Burns Lodge staff

Did you know that there are a variety of rooms available: rooms with ensuites, large family rooms, hostel type accommodation and numerous rooms for small and large conferences? If you are ever coming to Dunedin, why not support our own Burns Lodge-Holy Cross Accommodation and Conference Centre?

Go to www.burnslodge.nz or call (03) 4892600



QUEEN'S SERVICE MEDAL AWARDED TO BILLIE TOHILL



Billie Tohill, parishioner of St. John the Baptist, Alexandra, was awarded a Queen's Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, for her services to both the Clyde and Alexandra communities. Her dedication to the Clyde Pony Club extended over many years, teaching children to ride and care for their animals. As a tribute to her commitment she was made a District Commissioner of the Club in 2002. Her involvement has never waned. Billie is also well renowned for her musical talents, being involved in many productions with the Alexandra Musical Society and Clyde childrens' pantomimes, namely Snow White & Pinocchio. She shares her love of music with young people who have intellectual disabilities. This she finds very rewarding and is very passionate about. For over 60 years Billie has been the organist at St. John the Baptist Parish in Alexandra. Sunday after Sunday her music can be heard; at Mass, funerals, and other special occasions. This milestone commitment to our Parish and communities was applauded by parishioners as she was presented with flowers for this well-deserved award on Trinity Sunday. Billie will be presented with her Queens Service Medal by the Governor General, Dame Patsy Reddy, at a function to be held in the Beehive within the coming month. May God bless Billie as she continues her work with humility and pride, living her faith through her service to others.

- Fr Sani Lam

"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour." -John 12:26

Social Justice in our Diocese

With all the uncertainty around Covid-19, ironically it has also brought us the certainty of seeing just how quickly as a society we can make transformational change for good. People have willingly acted for the common good, protecting the weak and vulnerable. We have embraced each other with kindness - even while social distancing! In our schools and parishes people have always worked in areas of justice, but often we don't know what is happening in our geographically widespread Diocese. This year we would like to strengthen and develop a social justice network throughout the Diocese so we can support each other and share good ideas. Recently, JustPeace Dunedin, a Catholic social justice group, has been meeting monthly online, via Zoom, so that people from throughout the Diocese can participate. In May, Sr Veronica Casey joined us for an informative discussion about prison ministry. Social Justice week is coming up in September and this year the theme is Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Caritas will provide resources to help us dig deeper into 9 of the key CST principles, which are so relevant to everyday life.

If you would like to participate in future JustPeace meetings or share your thoughts on social justice matters, please contact me at: lynne.toomey@gmail.com / 021 043 0536.

Lynne Toomey, Social Justice Coordinator



Lynne Toomey,
baking with
former refugees

“everything is closely interrelated and today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis” (Laudato Si', 137).

In memory of Father Dan Cummings



Father Dan Cummings, aged 75, died from terminal cancer at home on the family farm at Tuapeka Flat on 28th March, a few days after the Covid 19 lockdown was imposed. Fr. Dan, ordained in 1972, will be remembered first and foremost as a much-loved and respected parish priest who always put other people first. He took his religious vows seriously, was a man of strong principles and stuck to them all his life. He was also a uniquely gifted horseman, a national rodeo champion and a highly successful breeder, trainer and handler of harness racehorses. Family and friends all commented on Father Dan's calm manner and exceptional skill working with horses, skills that carried over to his dealings with people. He had a huge circle of friends spread all over the country and will be sadly missed by them, former parishioners and a large extended family. Dan will have a private family funeral on the 18th June at 1:30pm that will be streamed online. [Click here](#) to view the livestream or archived video at a later date.

***“Those whom we love and lose are no longer where they were before. They are now wherever we are.”
-St John Chrysostom***