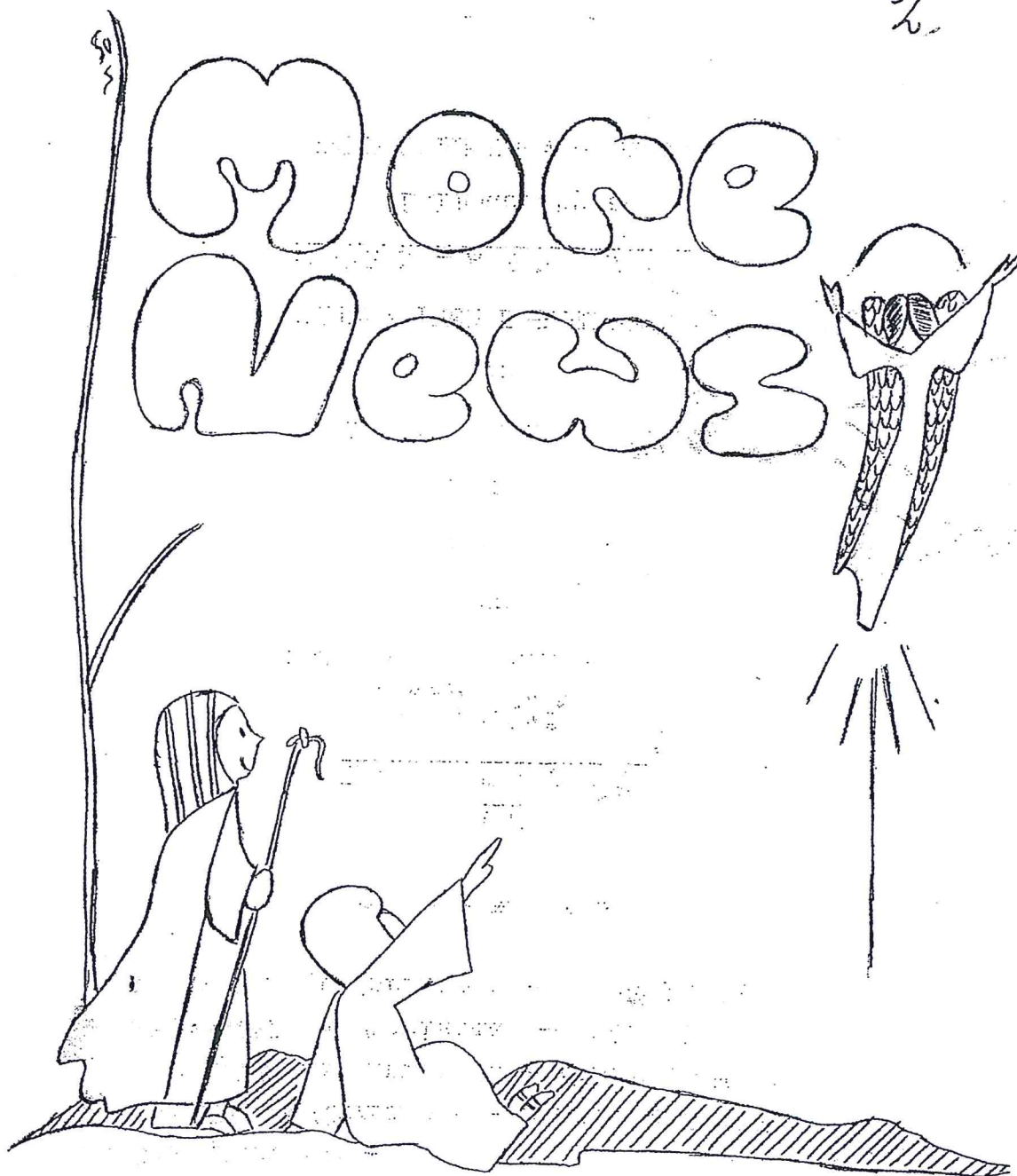


2.

MOON NEWS



DECEMBER 1986

FATHER BROWNE'S NOTEBOOK

During the visit of Pope John Paul II to Auckland, he spoke to the youth of our land, during which the youth asked the Holy Father to share with them their enthusiasm, their questions, their concerns; but most of all to share with them their faith and love of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God. In his homily the Pope told the young people that they desired to see the world changed. "I say YOU should change the world" he replied to them.

This response should be heeded not just by the youth of our land, but by us all, for it directs us along the path of our various walks of life and Faith. We are all too ready to sit back and let others do everything rather than take up our responsibilities and challenges. Especially is this true when we consider the time of Christmas, when we centre our attention around the theme of Peace. We are all able to talk about what others should do in order that Peace should reign in the world, but we all find it difficult to change our own individual lives so that we may be at Peace with our God and with one another.

Over recent months there has been a great deal of talk centred around what should be done in order that our Harbour Bridge is made safe for motorists. Change the lanes some say, bring down the speed limit is the opinion of others, put up barriers is yet another voice; when really the responsibility is with ourselves who drive the cars. No barriers, no lane changes, no speed restrictions will solve the problem until we realise that we are the ones who drive the cars, and we are the ones who are responsible.

So it is with so many different aspects of our life - we are all so unwilling to take responsibility. Perhaps it may be that this Christmas we try to change our outlook, so that when we do wish someone "the Peace of Christ", it may be more than mere words but rather express our intention to help that person achieve true Peace. May we not wish someone a "Happy Christmas", unless we are prepared to make sure that their Christmas is Happy.

FATHER BROWNE

Parish

What an honour it was to have one of our most respected parishioners, GEMMA NOBILO, included in the choir for the Pope's Auckland Mass. Gemma is a past member of the Auckland Choral Society, and arranges the music for our Sunday liturgies. She also sings beautifully, and those of you who saw the Mass on TV will have had a good look at Gemma and her sister. For her personal view, see the article on Page 8.

Ann BENTLEY, of Bayview, is on her way to England to have Christmas at home with her family. Bon voyage Ann!

MORE NEWS has got a new team, and we're all fixed up and ready to go! With CAROL MOGRIDGE trying to make head or tail of CLARE'S rough copy, and MOYA and KEVIN HOCQUET churning those copies out, who knows where it will end up? Watch out for our new look in 1987.

A recent VIP to our parish was SISTER MARGARET. Out from Australia to help in Northcote parish for a brief time, Sister was able to pop over and see many of us. First look-in was at the Fair in September, and then it was the SENIOR PARISHIONERS' turn to catch up on the news. The VISITING LADIES took Sister out to lunch at Langtons for their Christmas break-up, and soon had caught up with all the news. The PRE-SCHOOL MOTHERS had an opportunity to renew their close association with Sister Margaret at a very enjoyable evening held at the home of MARGARET TINDALL.

We wish Sister a happy and fulfilling time wherever her next task may take her.



E D I T O R I A L

History has been made, and Pope John Paul II has come and gone from our country. His theme of "Peace" was well publicised, with the Liturgies reflecting this message. But he also has another cause dear to his heart - that of ecumenism. His speeches repeatedly refer to this subject, and his actions certainly reinforce this cause.

But no matter how powerful the Pope is, or what authority he wields, this is one area of concern that will never succeed if imposed on the people from above. Like a beautiful tree, admired from season to season, this movement must have its roots firmly anchored in the ground. Goodwill is not enough - the roots must grow throughout our Christian communities, spreading beyond the initial plot, to feed on a variety of opinions, creeds and traditions.

In some parishes, there have been encouraging signs that Catholics are mixing and meeting with other denominations. The Anglican parish in Wellsford is actually involved in their own RENEW process, after learning about it from the Catholic community. Their enthusiasm is a delight to see.

Changes to our very set ideas and habits will not come easily. There will be many storms of protest to test the firmness of the roots, but with a figure as popular as the Holy Father continually showing us the way, we should all develop the enthusiasm to grasp each opportunity that we meet.

The spirit of ecumenism must shoot like little spring leaves among us all, and God, who looks down into the hearts of men, and who is the master, will provide the plan in due course.

From the Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

On behalf of all the mothers and pre-schoolers who have experienced a genuine welcome and the warmth of shared faith and support in our Pre-school Group, I would like to say a very sincere "thank you" to Wendy Nash for all the time and commitment she has put into her years as co-ordinator.

As a new mother in the parish five years ago, it was through Wendy and the Group that I first began to feel at home in St Thomas More's Parish and over the years I have come to appreciate her rare gift for friendship and her deep faith, which she shares so readily with the children. Now that Wendy's children are both at school she has "moved on" but she will be sorely missed by the Wednesday morning Mums.

Our thanks also go to Eileen O'Loan, who also leaves the Group this Christmas. She, like Wendy, has put much time and effort into the education of our pre-schoolers and to both of them we say "Thank you" and "God Bless".

Ann Bentley

Dear Editor,

With Christmas approaching the shopkeepers are once again getting out their tinsel and dusting off their plastic reindeer. Isn't it about time a few nativity scenes appeared on the main streets?

If there are any shop owners in the St Thomas More parish, what about sparing a thought about window decorations this year.

Excuses about putting off prospective customers sound more and more feeble every year.

Yours sincerely
City Shopper

Dec. 1986

A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND

"AROUND THE WORLD IN 42 DAYS"

After a refreshing sleep, Gerald and I had a peep at the scene from the five-storey-high balcony outside our bedroom windows. Immediately below was one of the hotel's swimming pools with all the usual appointments for the comfort and well-being of its guests. Beyond were the well-kept gardens and lawns while in the background stood a tropical bush-covered hill. (Singaporeans are quick to point out that, while most countries have a park in their cities, they have a city in their park.)

- PANORAMA -

After breakfast we were taken for a tour of the city and West Coast, taking in such places as the Singapore Civilian Memorial, Queen Elizabeth Walk, Supreme Court, Parliament House, City Hall, Sri Mariaman Hindu Temple, Chinatown, the Redemptorist Church and Mount Faber. From the summit of the Mount we had a panoramic view over the island. Perhaps the view was not as striking as that from the top of Mt Eden, but nevertheless a very impressionable scene. Because of its height and the beauty of its surroundings, Mt Faber also provided an ideal spot for one terminal of the cable car sight-seeing venture. Unfortunately, because of the lack of time, we did not have the opportunity to try out its thrills and spills.

- PAINTINGS -

From Mt Faber we proceeded to the Singapore Gem Cutting factory. I need hardly add that there was a gorgeous array of gems on display, but what attracted most attention were the magnificent paintings, each very attractively framed with sea-shells and sparkling gems. Not only was each an object of great beauty but, on a given signal such as a clap of the hands, would spring to life and sing a song or whistle a tune.

To complete the morning's tour we visited one of the parks and our guide very pointedly drew our attention to a notice board warning that any person dropping litter would be liable for a heavy fine.

- ORCHIDS -

Like most parks, this one was carefully landscaped, the beauty of the native trees and shrubs being fully utilised to provide a wealth of shade and variety. Orchids, too, of almost every colour and hue provided their own particular charm, while pergolas, absolutely smothered with sweet-smelling flowers, all added to the beauty and serenity of the park.

- ISLANDS -

The next day (Sunday) we went for a boat trip around the harbour and the many palm-covered islands lying off the coast of Singapore. Some of these islands were available for picnicking, others were not. What really astounded me, however, were the dozens and dozens of ships lying at anchor awaiting berths at the wharves. Perhaps I would not have been so surprised, however, had I been better acquainted with facts about this amazing island -

1. That it is the second busiest harbour in the world, and has sophisticated container port facilities;
2. That 36 international airlines fly in and out of Singapore, with daily flights to most countries;
3. That 50 international banks are represented and that it has thus become a foreign exchange centre;
4. That Singapore has no external debt;
5. That the present Premier has held the position for 25 years.

To wind up my remarks about Singapore, perhaps I should mention that "Samsui" women played a big part in the building of modern Singapore. Sorry, but I'll have to run off now or I'll miss my plane to Rome. God bless you all.

"Katrina Rose"

Look out for further instalments in your
MORE NEWS early next year.

T H E P O P E ' S V I S I T

"A SONGSTER'S EYE VIEW"

I received my music early in September. I went over it all (I have an organ at home) and liked what I saw. At our first rehearsal at St Michaels in Remuera, I was tickled pink to see old friends from the Choral Society and my two sisters also taking part. The conductor had full control and picked out the weaker areas straight away. I marvelled at the magnitude of his task. Eight hundred to one thousand people were to take part, many from far away places like Whangarei, Hamilton, etc. How on earth was he going to manage to "get it all together". Of course we know he did! I loved the music!

- REHEARSALS -

In all we had five rehearsals, two with the orchestra which also had to be trained by Michael. Through it all, of course, was the knowledge that we were preparing for a very great and unique occasion. As time went by, the excitement and anticipation built up inside me. The day before the event we rehearsed in the Domain on the stand prepared for us. The weather was glorious, all went well, and we all enjoyed it.

The day was almost here!

- SECURITY -

Security had been a major item all the way through. We had filled in a form, giving full details about ourselves, and these were handed to police, who screened each one of us - a mammoth task! We all received a personal letter telling us we were "squeaky clean" and we exchanged these letters for our security passes on the big day. We were to be at the Domain by 11 am. I queued, got through "check point Charlie" and found myself a seat, saving one for my sister who was also a soprano. Just as well I was early as the stand was soon packed, and late-comers were having major problems finding a seat.

- GRANDSTAND VIEW -

We waited, we rehearsed again and waited some more. The Domain was filling up. We had a "dinkum" grandstand view. The only disappointing thing was that we realised we would not be able to see the altar, as our view was blocked. To our right we saw a sea of dark heads - these were the Maori people preparing their ceremony of welcome for the Pope.

- ANTICIPATION -

The atmosphere was charged with anticipation - one could almost taste it! Finally the announcement came: "The Pope has landed at the airport and we would be informed of his progress". A great cheer went up. The Maori welcoming party was ready and we waited impatiently as we heard of the Pope's progress. At last it was announced he had arrived at the gate, and sure enough, soon we saw the grey head with the white cap in front of the Maori Welcome area. Emotion welled up inside me: "O God, how good of You to give us this wonderful man who gives himself to his flock so completely."

- HYMNS -

Then the Pope himself spoke, his message of peace so very relevant in our world today. After the initial ceremonies and his ride round the Domain, we started singing the first hymns. He walked past in front of us flanked by Bishops, Cardinals and his constant helpers, and we had a really good view of him. The love and compassion emanating from this man was unbelievably great.

- PEACE -

The Mass commenced, our music went without a hitch, and everything flowed smoothly on - a beautiful two hours. We listened to the Pope's message of peace and I hope to hear it again some day, when I'm alone at home and can take it all in. Our neighbour made a video of the whole thing so this will be possible. It was a long day, but one I would not have missed for anything.

- Choir Member

Kids' Page



HI EVERYONE! Welcome to the Christmas
KIDS' PAGE.

It won't be very long now before holidays start; hope you have a really great time. Don't forget to take it easy on Mum while you're at home, do the dishes or something like that, because it's that sort of caring that shows you really mean the "Lots of love from..." that you put on the bottom of her Christmas Card, not just for one day either, but always.

Good luck to everyone who might be waiting for exam results. Stay cool and God will see you through - we've all been praying for you.

This angel is for you to colour in, cut out and put together for the Christmas tree. You can try making a bigger one on thicker paper or thin cardboard. It makes it easier if you draw round the edge of a plate to get the curve of the gown right.

"I don't care
if Father Christmas
comes or not,

I'm sick
of being
good!"

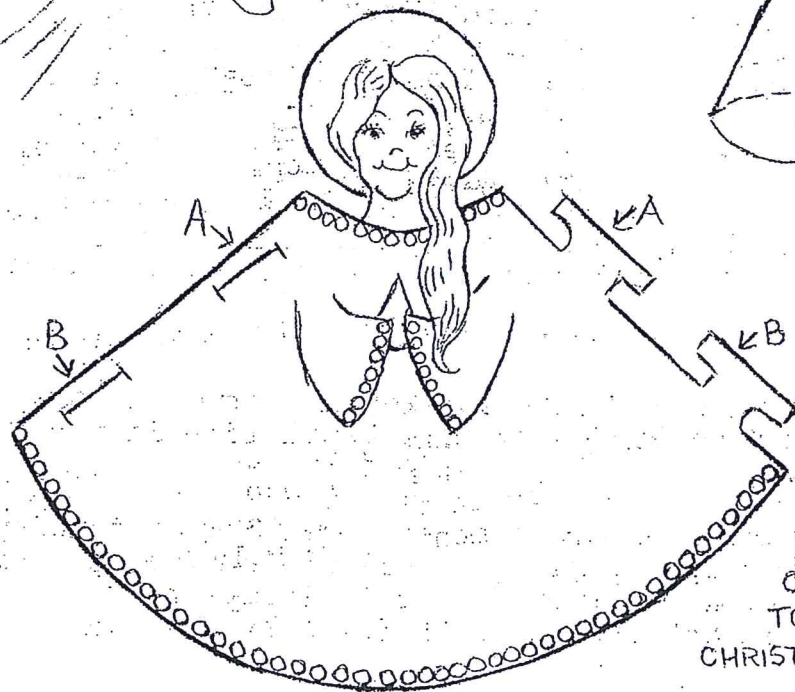
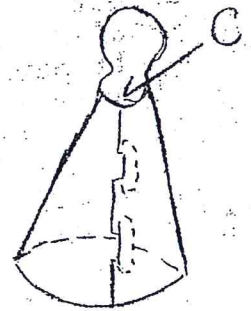
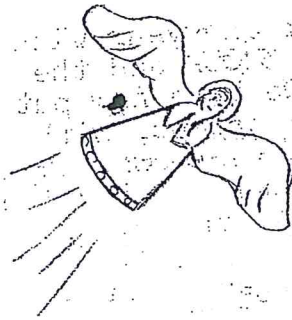
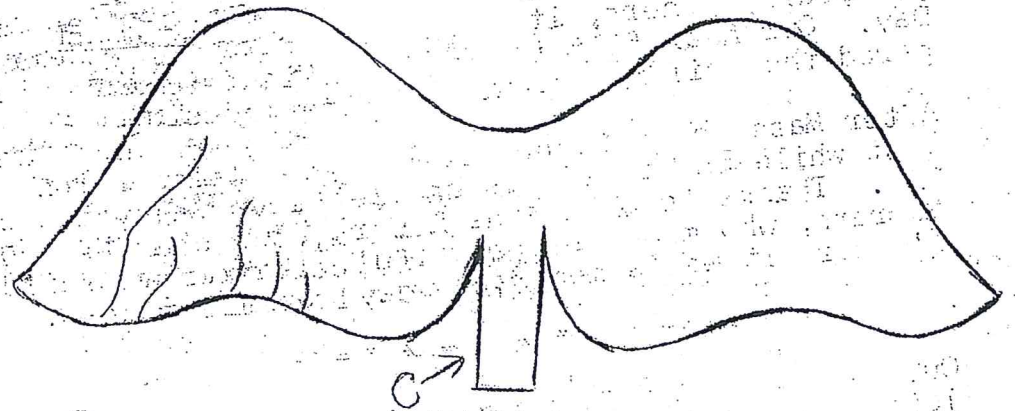


HAPPY CHRISTMAS

and a

BRILLIANT NEW YEAR

from
NIKKI



"COLOUR ME IN AND CUT ME OUT TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS TREE ANGEL!"

A LITTLE BIT MORE NEWS

SPECIAL CHILDREN

Sunday 9 November was a special day for sixteen of our young parishioners, it being their First Holy Communion Day. Our heartfelt thanks go to Michelle Kemp who prepared the children so well for the occasion.

After Mass the children were given a celebration breakfast while their parents and relatives enjoyed a cup of tea. Thanks to Christine Roberts, and also Mrs Norma McGrath, who made the beautiful cake for the children. I'm sure it was a memorable day for all of them.

* * * * *

Our CARING COMMUNITY has wound up for the year with a joint get together with the VISITING GROUP and the ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY people. We have now put into effect a "breakdown" of the area groups, with many people helping by covering just their own street, or a small part of it. We have been able to involve several new people recently. Thanks to them all.

The parish picnic, which we usually organise each February, will not be held next year. Instead, we are combining with four parishes, all north of Glenfield, for an open-air Mass, followed by picnic lunch and activities. See you all there! (See inside back cover).

* * * * *

Would you be interested in a low-key lay order which has as its aim "the living of the Gospel life in the modern world"?

The Secular Franciscan Order has a dedicated Fraternity on the North Shore, and welcomes all who seriously wish to learn to follow Our Lord in the footsteps of St Francis. We meet once a month for Holy Mass and

instruction followed by very interesting study of the way of Francis of Assisi.

For further information ring:

George and Margaret	Ph 478-4746
Val	Ph 483-380
Frances	Ph 444-8166

* * * * *

The primary school groups of C.C.D. children have finished for 1986.

We hope the children will prepare for Christmas by attending the Advent children's liturgies at Sunday Mass.

Groups will come together again next year at the beginning of March. I hope all our group leaders will be able to continue on in 1987. A very big THANK YOU Eileen and Wendy, Johnny and Bernadette. Anyone "out there" who would like to be a group leader - we promise you a very warm welcome.

Some parents involved in the groups have told us they found the effort of getting their children to the group well worthwhile. That's great news!

But - if you are a parent who is feeling unhappy about the programme offered, please let us know.

Contact Elizabeth O'Reilly Ph 444-7625

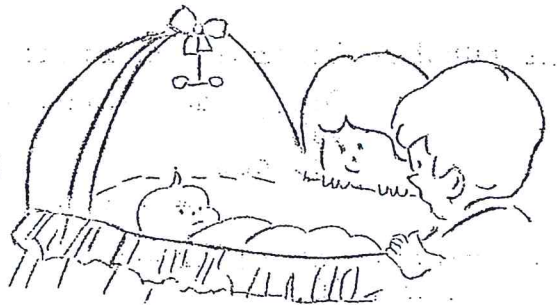
I would like to thank Sr Pauline Engel, Principal of Carmel College, who gave us great assistance by letting us use College facilities to produce the programme.

* * * * *

At Christmas what the children would like is something that will separate the men from the toys.

"MORE BABIES"

Gregory Maurice LINSTROM
James Mark LEIGHTON
Catherine Isabella GREACEN
William Arrend IVERSEN
Quentin John O'BRIEN
Earl Vernon O'BRIEN
Shaun David MALYON
Lucy Elizabeth FONTINHA
Camille Tanya HESLIN
Renton Mark STANNARD



THE COMMUNITY
OF
ST THOMAS MORE
WELCOMES
THESE CHILDREN
WITH LOVE

* * * * *

MARRIAGE

Congratulations and best wishes to ALAN RUSSELL
HEDDITCH and TUSI IOANE on their recent marriage.

* * * * *

DEATHS

John David GLOVER
Constance Eleanor LITTLEJOHN
Stanley George MERIDITH
Vincent Valentine TAYLOR
Eileen Edith BELL

Eternal Rest
Grant to them O Lord
and let Perpetual Light
shine upon them.
May they rest in Peace.

* * * * *



* * * * *

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

"O, God, Our Help in Ages Past,
 Our Hope In Years To Be" -
 Look down upon this Present
 And see our need of Thee...
 For in this age of unrest,
 With danger all around,
 We need Thy land to lead us
 To higher, safer ground...
 We need Thy help and counsel
 To make us more aware
 That our safety and security
 Lie solely in Thy care...
 And so we pray this Christmas
 To feel Thy Presence near
 And for Thy all-wise guidance
 Throughout the coming year...
 First, give us understanding
 Enough to make us kind,
 So we may judge all people
 With our heart and not our mind,
 Then give us strength and courage
 To be honourable and true
 And place our trust implicitly
 In "Unseen Things" and "You"...
 And help us when we falter
 And renew our faith each day
 And forgive our human errors
 And hear us when we pray,
 And keep us gently humble
 In the Greatness of Thy Love
 So some day we are fit to dwell
 With Thee in Peace Above.

* * * * *



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

Dear Editor

As a relative of a family living in your parish, I recently accompanied them to the 10 am Mass at St Thomas More church, where my niece was to make her first Holy Communion. The children were obviously well-taught, full of eagerness and excitement, and looking forward to their big day.

I could hardly believe my ears, then, when a gentleman from a neighbouring parish stood up to speak, at some length, about the need for increased money giving.

I will concede that the subject is a very necessary one, but why, oh why, was he brought in on that day? Even allowing for the fact that he may have had other time-consuming commitments, there must have been an alternative date that was suitable. It should have been the children's day and theirs alone.

I sincerely hope that a lot more tact will be used when next planning an occasion of this importance.

Yours sincerely
Distressed Aunt

+ + + + +

Our daughter had just returned from Germany, very proud of two things she had picked up there, her mastery of the language and a little red Volkswagen. She was preparing for a long drive to start a job in another town when I urged her to replace her German number plates with local plates. "After all," I pointed out, "What would you say if a policeman should stop you on the way?" "I don't know what I'd say, Dad," she replied, "but you can bet I'd say it in German."

+ + + + +

COMES CHRISTMAS

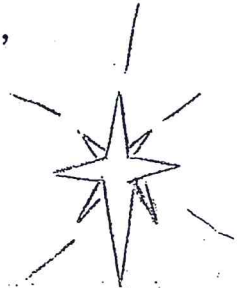
When hope is dead - comes Christmas still?
When love is fled - comes Christmas still?
To hosts of homeless refugees,
Heart-sore and sick - to such as these
Comes Christmas still?



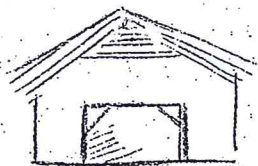
Where famine stalks - comes Christmas there?
Where pale death walks - comes Christmas there?
Where destitution, direst need,
Lies all forgot by others' greed,
Comes Christmas there?

When hate is rife - comes Christmas then?
When men breed strife - comes Christmas then?
When fear spreads wide her wings of night
Nor human heart can find a light
Comes Christmas then?

To hearts that joy, to hearts that bleed,
To hearts content, to hearts in need,
To hearts of men, whate'er their state,
Where hearts desire Him, hearts await
The holy Christ Child cometh still
To all who seek at Calvary's hill:



Both rich and poor, beloved or lone,
All hearts may claim Him for their own.
Fear flies before Him, sorrow dies
Before the love-light of those eyes
And hearts find Home, where'er they be
In that great Heart of Calvary.

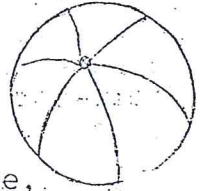


And so to all the world of men,
With the Redeemer's birth, again
Comes hope, comes joy, comes glad release,
Comes sin's forgiveness, perfect peace
Comes Christmas.

E. M. Clarkson

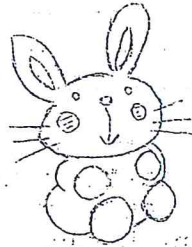
A Child's Gift

If I had lived long years ago,
and seen on Christmas night
The strange star in the sky aglow,
I think perhaps I might
Have followed close the wise men three,
The little holy Child to see.



They brought His presents rich and rare;
I would have brought one too;
And laid it with the treasure there;
Perhaps a ball of blue,
or else a rabbit soft and small,
For Him to cuddle in His stall.

I was not there, and so you see,
I could not bring Him joy;
He had no birthday gift from me,
no ball or other toy.
And so, at Christmas time I take
a gift to others for His sake.



---oOo---

If you're wondering if you took the meat out to
thaw, you didn't.

If you're wondering if you left the coffee pot
plugged in, you did.

If you're wondering if you need to stop and pick
up bread and eggs on the way home, you do.

If you're wondering if you have enough money to
take the family out to eat tonight, you don't.

* * * * *

A CHRISTMAS WISH

God grant you -

The JOY of Christmas - which is FAITH

The LIGHT of Christmas - which is HOPE

The WARMTH of Christmas - which is LOVE

The PEACE of Christmas - which is CHRIST

* * * * *

AN
INVITATION

to join with

FOUR NORTH SHORE PARISHES

for a

FUN DAY .

at

WENDERHOLM

on

SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY 1987

OPEN - AIR MASS

followed by a

PICNIC LUNCH and GAMES!

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST

Father N. Browne - 334 Wairau Rd, Glenfield. Ph 444-8624

MASS TIMETABLE

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday - 5.30 pm
Sunday - 8.00 am and 10.00 am

WEEKDAYS:

Monday-Thursday - 8.30 am
Friday - 10.00 am
Saturday - 8.30 am

First TUESDAY of the Month 9.30 am Senior Parishioners' Mass
First SUNDAY of the Month 10.00 am Family Guitar Mass

RECONCILIATION: Saturday, following Mass.

BAPTISMS and WEDDINGS: By arrangement with Father.

*** CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE ***

Tuesday 23 December:

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION 7.30 pm

Wednesday 24 December:

RECONCILIATION 9 am - 10 am
7 pm - 8 pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Midnight (Carol Service starts 11.30 pm) and
9 am