

EF

MORE NEWS



Peace on
Earth

ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

DECEMBER 1989

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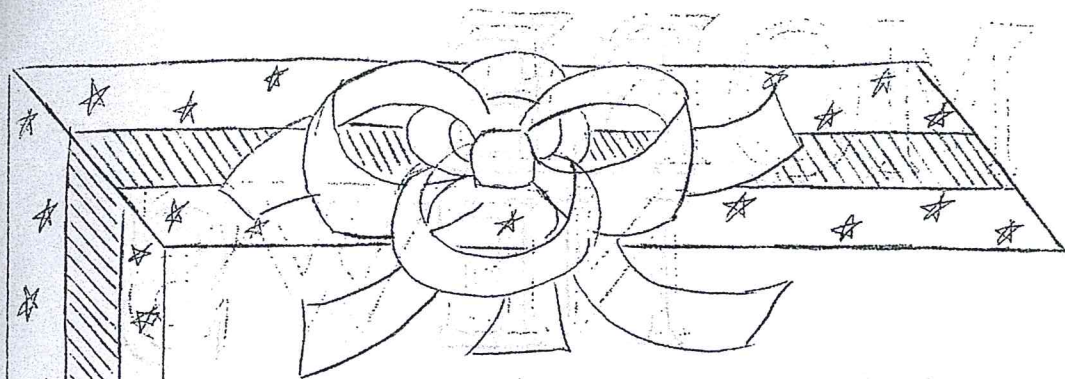
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GIFTS WE CAN ALL AFFORD

At the Epiphany, the Magi brought gifts ... gold, frankincense and myrrh. It is nice to bring a gift when you visit, but most of us cannot afford such gifts. Well, here are eight gifts we can all afford!

- Affection, shown by a kiss, handshake, a sympathetic smile, a pat on the back.
- A Cheerful Disposition: "God's in His Heaven, all's right with the world." Thanks be to God for the ups and downs of life; "cheerio".
- Compliments: You look so nice today; how kind you always are; congratulations.
- Listening: Lonely people and old people like to talk; often, they will tell you the same old stories; listen instead of talking to yourself.
- Prayer: People are touched when you tell them you are praying for them or theirs; May God Bless You! May God be with you!
- Laughter: Scribble in an exercise book some good jokes you hear; even paste in a Madonna joke if one appeals to you! Tell a funny story.
- Solitude or Silence: Many people are worn out by the noise that is all around. Give them some time to pause and be silent.

Mary, Model of Mission

Although her Son is our first teacher, the life of Mary has much to teach us also. By observing her you will learn, little by little, what is asked of you.

Her mission she received from God. She did not take it up on her own. She received it at the time fixed by God, when the moment had come. Her entire life was ordered to what the Lord was asking of her. She waited with patience, she carried out her task in fidelity, she effaced herself before the work of salvation that she was placed at the service of. Her mission she achieved silently, tenaciously, serenely, fully inserted into the life of her people and into the social and political context of her country.

More than that, in her was accomplished in a profound way the unity of an existence interiorly united to God and exteriorly consecrated to His service. Her mission was given to her in the secret of her heart, in prayer.

This mission was made fruitful by the work of the Spirit in her. She carried it out by conceiving a child, by the tasks and concerns of every day, by a life and work similar to that of all the women around her, in a country under foreign occupation.

The germ of faith takes root in the concrete, in daily existence. How often are we not weighed down by external activity and cut off within us from the source of what gives faith life? Or, on the contrary, take refuge in a tranquil "contemplation" that ignores the proclamation of the message of God?

In Mary there was neither. Open to the divine will and to the Spirit's action, her life at each instant captured the divine inspiration and echoed it in the hard efforts of the apostle. She is contemplation in action and action in contemplation.

Had not her Son confirmed this indispensable unity? "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and put it into practice". To hear, and to put into practice.

His mother, who had come to visit him, heard too, heard in fact from the lips of her own child, this recalling of the absolute priority of God: "My mother, my brothers are those who hear the word of God and put it into practice." And she received this statement with the same attitude she had always had, that of acceptance. The demands of the apostolic vocation relegate to second place even the most legitimate ties of affection. Respect for the mission of her Son left its mark on her own vocation. She effaced herself.

No apparent success attended her service. The road was sown with traps laid for her Son: lack of understanding of his message, people whose aim was to eliminate him. It was already the way of the cross. Nonetheless, in spite of the disconcerting ways of God, Mary remained faithful in her response, dedicated only to the accomplishment of the task entrusted to her. It was a faith-response, a love-response, to the gift of grace that had laid hold of her. "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word!"

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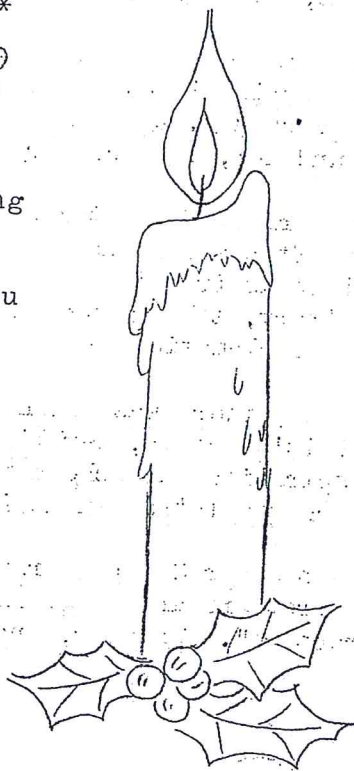
Bit By Bit

When the chaos seems unending
Clear away a little space,
It will help to know that something
Has been put into its place.

Just the same when troubles hit you
Blocking up your stretch of road,
Concentrate on one small barrier
Leave awhile the heavy load.

Bit by bit the chaos lessens
Bit by bit the path will clear,
Till the mountain of your troubles
Is much smaller than you feared.

* * * * *



Endings ~ and Beginnings

This is the last magazine of the year - or the first. It all depends on your point of view! To a mother, it is definitely the last! It's the end of the school year, with their wind-up functions prize givings and farewells. The end of the work year, with holidays to be planned, and annual leave to be taken.

For the young adults leaving school and university, it is the end of an era, of the security and fellowship that comes with those years. To those who were always the 'odd one out', 'different', or who simply hated school, the end is a great release - a freedom into a vast world that can more easily cope with a variety of personalities. Their beginning brings satisfaction and often achievements never seen at school.

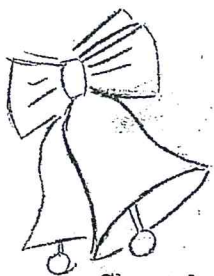
When I was reminded that this edition is the first of the Church's new year, I almost felt envious! Oh for the luxury of being so free of the trappings of the material world in which we live, that I - in December - could feel as though I was starting a new phase! Yet for every end that we experience, a beginning opens. More especially for mothers, who see their children complete those milestones and set off down another of life's paths.

How true this is of Christmas, the wonderful feast day the church gives us, that God's plan for our salvation should have such a beautiful beginning - the birth of a baby.

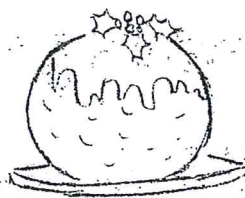
And for me? Well, it could be the end of my experience as an editor. Five years ago I took over to save it from extinction - the Caring Community in this parish needed it as a handout when visiting people who, initially at least, were strangers. Now, modern technology has caught up with us. The ancient Gestetner machine is being phased out of the business world, and paper and ink are impossible to purchase. Whether or not Glenfield can afford to purchase more modern equipment remains to be seen. Perhaps I have a new beginning in front of me!

No matter at what stage of life you are at, may your endings be fruitful, and your beginnings be exciting.

- The Editor



Memories of Christmas



Shared with us by parishioner Mary Smart.

My childhood was spent in India and though many years have passed since then, Christmas always brings back memories of those halcyon days, some of which I'd like to share.

Our lives revolved around St Patrick's Cathedral which was our parish church. It was a beautiful building, colour-washed maroon and set in a large area of land some of which was garden and the presbytery was beside it.

The Parish Priest was a Belgian, Father Leo Vanpeen and his assistant a local priest. There was also an Indian Catechist who used to fascinate us as he could tell what day of the week any by-gone date was. Fr. Vanpeen was a musician and on special occasions used to conduct and sing in the choir leaving the assistant priest to celebrate Mass.

As we grew up my sister and I joined the choir which, trained by Father, was an excellent one and choir practice, which began after the beautiful feast of Christ the King, started our feelings of excitement about Christmas and its festivities. In those days we sang a new Mass every year, in Latin of course, with carol which would last for half an hour before Mass began. There was a lot to learn. My favourite was the Mass of St Cecelia. How I enjoyed learning that music and it was glorious at midnight Mass with the sound of the big organ and everyone singing their hearts out to the glory of God.

I remember the belfry was just above the choir loft and bells boomed out above our heads just before Father came to the altar. I regret the passing of church bells calling us to prayer these days. On

Christmas Eve we fasted and the one small meal we had in the evening was a fish dish. We did not mind this at all with thoughts of the morrow.

Next there was the excitement of putting decorations on the Christmas tree which had been installed in the lounge earlier by the Mali (gardener). Then the crib was put on a table and we all said the rosary around it. The hour or so before we needed to set out for church was occupied by preparing our gifts to go under the Christmas tree. The walk was always a delight in the balmy December night with the sound of the church bells ringing and my sister and I dressed to kill. We were used to long services in those days and it would be two in the morning before we trudged home to wish each other a happy Christmas and have a taste of Christmas cake and a small glass of wine. Sleep took a long time to come after all the excitement and my sister and I would whisper to each other through the mosquito nets about the lovely day we had had until Dad would growl at us to shut up and go to sleep.

The smell of bacon and egg cooking awakened us to a delicious breakfast after which there were many cries of 'oooh, it's just what I wanted', as we opened our presents. Later would come Indians from the bazaar with whom my father had dealt through the year, bearing trays of goodies and garlands for our parents. There would be a big Christmas cake, fruit, biscuits, chocolates, balloons and bonbons. These Indians were Mohammedans and such nice men. I don't recall us taking them gifts for their feast days. How very one-sided things were in those far-off days!

The presentation over, we would go visiting. In the very early days we travelled by horse-drawn carriage but later we had a Cheverolet. We returned in time for dinner at 5 p.m. It would be prepared for us by the cook ayah and consisted of the traditional English meal despite the warm weather. Feeling replete we would spend the rest of the day playing family games till it was time for rosary and bed. I thank God for all the privileges I had in my youth.

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The Auckland Diocesan Synod Our Delegate's Report

Oh! no. Not again. Surely we have had more than enough coverage, but just a little word from one of your delegates who is honoured and most grateful to the Parish of Glenfield to have been a part of a very special experience. The bringing together of every parish in the Diocese of Auckland from the Coromandel to Cape Reinga, was a tremendous achievement and the warm, happy, spiritual "togetherness" feeling will stay with me for a long time.

The Friday evening of Labour Weekend we registered and attended the Opening Ceremony with a Maori Welcome; St Mary's new hall became our Marae and we were entertained by the Whaka Huia Cultural Group.

Saturday morning; prayer, introduction by Sister Mary Brill, then into Small Group discussions; remembering the WHAT, WHO, WHEN, consider the HOW in order to determine the WHAT; a group response, not individual; two recommendations for each of the twelve remits from the agenda (posted to each Delegate). Evening Taize Prayer was followed by a relaxed delightful dinner at the Freeman's Bay Community Hall.

Sunday began with Eucharist at St Patrick's Cathedral. A beautiful celebration (Mission Sunday). The seven General Intercessions presenters each spoke in their own national language; Maori, Samoan, Polish, Tongan, Vietnamese, Cook Island and English.

Then back to St Mary's. Introduction and further Small Group discussions. Twenty-one groups in all, comprising of ten to eleven people.

Our Youth Delegates entertained us with a brief light comedy which I thoroughly enjoyed. Great talent.

Monday morning; prayer, followed by comment on revised recommendations presented by the Small Groups and amend revised recommenda-

tions. Social Justice remit came first of the remits presented for voting.

Discussion on the remits:

1. Delete a part of the remit.
2. Add to remit.

Has the remit caught the spirit of the Synod?

One by one the twelve remits were discussed. Here I would like to mention, every recommendation will be sent "somewhere", to its appropriate department to be actioned by the department.

Then came the voting on the final recommendations. Results of voting that took place on the remits are displayed on the notice board in the Church foyer.

A video tape on the Synod can be hired in the New Year if requested.

Let us pray to Our Lord Jesus Christ for guidance to put into action the recommendations and concerns for our Parish, which are not already under way.

Thank you Glenfield,

Anne Williams

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ST THOMAS MORE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WE
31 HOLY FAMILY Mass 10 am			
3 1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT Mass 10 am Seminar in Church, 7.30 pm - 'Repent and Believe'	4 Mass 8.30 am	5 Mass 8.30 am Prayer Group in Church 7.30 pm	6 Mass 8. Youth M
10 2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT Mass 10 am Seminar in Church, 7.30 pm	11 St Damasus Mass 8.30 am	12 St Jane Frances de Chantal 9.30 am Mass for Older Parishioners, Anointing Mass	13 s Mass 8.
17 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT Mass 10 am 2nd Rite Reconciliation, 7.30 pm	18 Mass 8.30 am	19 Mass 8.30 am Prayer Group 7.30	20 Mass 8. Youth M
24 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT Mass 10 am	25 CHRISTMAS DAY (See timetable P.19 for Mass times)	26 St Stephen Mass 8.30 am Prayer Group 7.30	27 Mass 8. Youth M

PARISH - DECEMBER

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1</p> <p>Mass 10 am</p> <p>Rejoice 7.30 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Mass 5.30 pm</p>
<p>30 am</p> <p>Mass 7.30 pm</p>	<p>7 St Ambrose</p> <p>Mass 8.30 am</p>	<p>8 Immaculate Conception of B.V.M.</p> <p>Mass 10 am</p> <p>Rejoice 7.30 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Mass 5.30 pm</p>
<p>St Lucy</p> <p>30 am</p>	<p>14 St John of the Cross</p> <p>Mass 8.30 am</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Mass 10 am</p> <p>Rejoice 7.30 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Mass 5.30 pm</p>
<p>30 am</p> <p>Mass 7.30 pm</p>	<p>21 St Peter Canisius</p> <p>Mass 8.30 am</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Mass 10 am</p> <p>Rejoice 7.30 pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Mass 5.30 pm</p>
<p>St John, Apostle</p> <p>30 am</p> <p>Mass 7.30 pm</p>	<p>28 Holy Innocents</p> <p>Mass 8.30 am</p>	<p>29 St Thomas Becket</p> <p>Mass 10 am</p> <p>Rejoice 7.30 pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Mass 5.30 pm</p>

Natural Family Planning

Patsy O'Sullivan, a long time Glenfield parishioner, is a registered nurse who has undertaken training as a Natural Family Planning counsellor.

Training consisted of attendance at seminars, a couple of examinations, and a probationary period of working under supervision. To become accredited an N.F.P. teacher must satisfy the examiners and supervisors that he or she has a thorough understanding of N.F.P. Having trained and been accredited, a teacher must keep up-to-date with regular study days and further post-graduate training.

- A TEACHER'S STORY -

When I was going for an update of Natural Family Planning after the birth of my first child, my teacher put the idea of myself teaching into my head. It was not until eight years or so later, when another teacher and friend, Maureen O'Brien, suggested that I go for an interview to train, that I began to give it serious consideration. I felt now I had more experience and confidence with the method and, with a nursing background, an interest in taking on another aspect of health teaching.

The part-time nature of the work appealed to me also with hours I could choose myself to fit in with the family. The training was challenging and satisfying - the work, under supervision, rather daunting. It was good to become accredited and begin teaching independently. I work one evening a week and have up to four appointments.

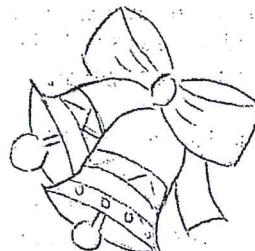
The association encourages clients to come for teaching as couples - as we stress this method is a shared one, requiring the co-operation and understanding of both partners, as their fertility is combined. This actually appeals very much, especially to the women, as the burden of fertility often rests more heavily upon them. They may have been on the pill for years and it is a relief to share this burden, the husband being encouraged to take responsibility for.

some of the recording of fertile observations. The method has a great spin off effect in making each one appreciate the other even more. Clients report satisfaction, in once having learned the method, of being free of reliance upon regular trips to their doctors.

I found it interesting to teach such a wide cross-section of people with varying beliefs and opinions. There is a definite trend of clients coming who are wishing for a more healthy life-style.



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SOMEWHERE THE CHILD

Among the thousands of tiny things growing up all over the land, some of them under my very wing - watched and tended, unwatched and untended, loved, unloved, protected from danger, trust into temptation - among them somewhere is the child who will write the novel that will stir men's hearts to nobler issues and incite them to better deeds.

There is the child who will paint the greatest picture or carve the greatest statue of the age; another who will deliver his country in an hour of peril; another who will give his life for a great principle; and another, born more of the spirit than of the flesh, who will live continually on the heights of moral being, and dying, draw men after him.

It may be that I shall preserve one of these children to the race. It is a peg big enough on which to hang a hope, for every child born into the world is a new incarnate thought of God, an ever-fresh and radiant possibility.

Kate Douglas Wiggin

Conspiracy in the Parish?

Are you aware that there is a group of people within the Parish actively plotting and conspiring?

We would be bitterly disappointed if you are not aware! A census has been carried out, a new pledge campaign undertaken and Father Philip keepstalking about a 'lounge' or a 'centre' and something about next year.

What is this all about?

We hope it is a response to the needs and desires of our parish community. It became very apparent during our Synod meetings that we desire a sense of community. We seek education in our faith for ourselves and our children. We want to participate in worship and praise. We realise the need for social activities and a suitable venue for the various activities and groups within the Parish.

We have our fine church which is the culmination of dedication and hard work. This is God's house, a special place where we can seek time with Our Lord.

St Thomas More is an urban parish with many young families, a lot of growth and a high turnover of parishioners. We expect the population of Glenfield to increase by 50% over the next ten years. The mission of the Works and Finance Committee is to plan and co-ordinate the physical and financial resources of our parish. We must ensure facilities and services are made available. The new sound system is a good example. Our church was incomplete because we had difficulty hearing God's word.

We are similarly handicapped by the lack of a Parish Centre.

The Diocese is keen for us to build such a facility but must exercise financial responsibility. We have sought to increase revenue via the pledge system. Surplus land below the church is in the process of being sold. Progress has been slow as the planning application has been delayed by the recent local body amalga-

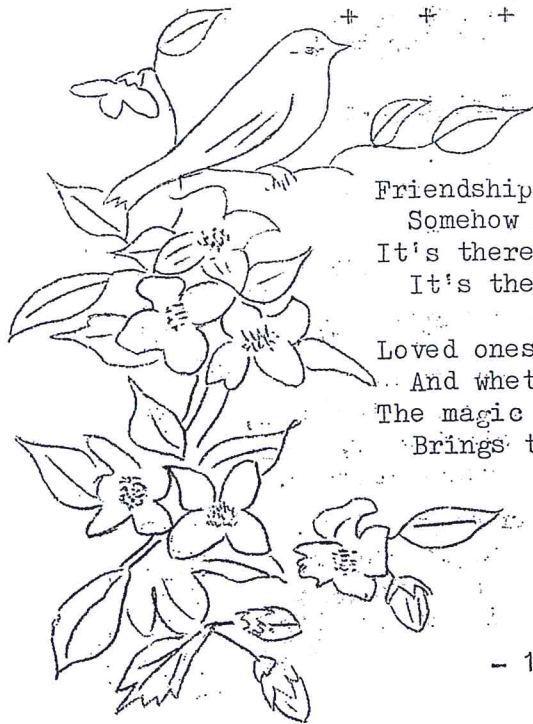
mation and elections. Our hope is to complete the Parish Centre next year. Your support, prayers and ideas are welcome.

In the future we have to consider additional car parking plus sealing our existing area. We may have to increase the seating capacity of the church. We also wish to develop the area of land above the church into retirement housing and a new Presbytery. We have the immediate need of a parish worker to assist Father Philip whilst ensuring our needs and wants do not exceed income.

Our ultimate goal, however, is to create an environment where our spirituality can grow together with the Catholic Community of Glenfield.

Finally, we wish to mention Norm Price and his family who are in the process of moving to Northcote. Norm has been involved in the Works and Finance area for many years. On behalf of the Parish we thank you for your efforts and wish you well in your new parish.

Philip O'Sullivan
Works & Finance Committee



+ + + + +
FRIENDSHIP IS WARMER
AT CHRISTMAS

Friendship is warmer at Christmas
Somehow it happens that way ...
It's there in the smiles and the laughter
It's there in the things people say ...

Loved ones are dearer at Christmas
And whether they're near or far
The magic that's part of the season
Brings them closer ... wherever they are!

Kids' Page

Hello everyone, for the last time in 1989. Has the year gone quickly for you, too? It certainly has for me! When I hear the babies crying in Mass, or see the little children that can't keep still, it reminds me of the times, not so long ago, when my children were that age. Now, they are leaving school, leaving university and leaving home!

This month, I have some ideas to help you make your own Christmas cards for your family, or school friends. They are very special when you make them yourself. Choose nice, white card - art paper is good - fold it in four, choose a picture to draw on the front, and write your own message inside - maybe with a gold or silver pen if you have one.

On the page opposite are some ideas for you to copy. Don't forget to colour them in, and maybe add some glitter too!

I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

Love,
Dorothy

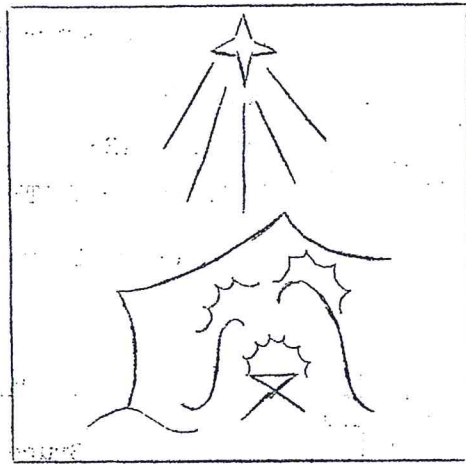
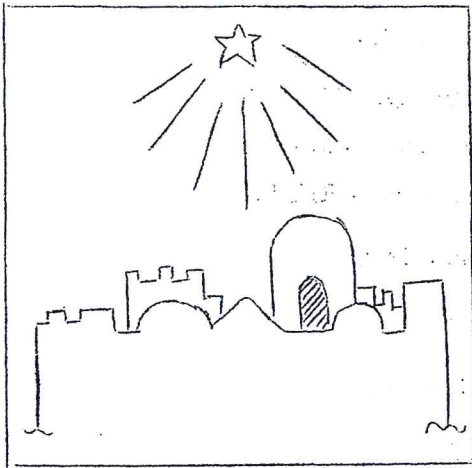
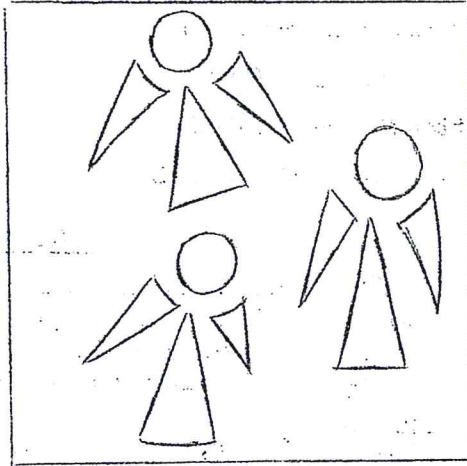
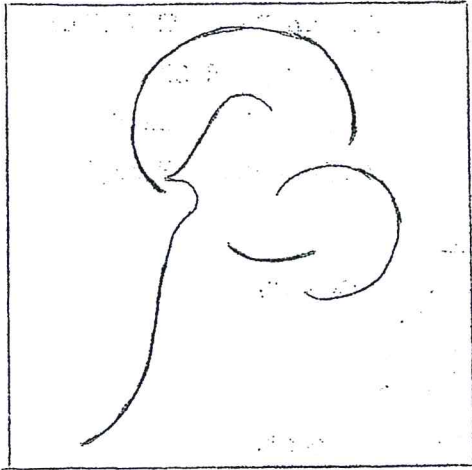
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ONLY ONE MOTHER

Hundreds of stars in the pretty sky,
Hundreds of shells on the shore together,
Hundreds of birds that go singing by,
Hundreds of birds in the sunny weather.

Hundreds of dew drops to greet the dawn,
Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,
But only one mother the wide world over.





" M O R E " H A P P E N I N G S

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Timothy Richard PRIDE

Nathan Paul FERNANDES

Shaun Phillip MADLEY

Sean Gerald SMY

Matthew Joseph SNOW

Michael Paul DRAPER

Alexander Michael WILSON

Calim James LEATHARD

A CRADLE HYMN



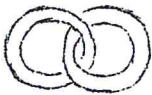
Hush! my dear, lie still and slumber,
Holy angels guard thy bed!
Heavenly blessings without number
Falling gently on thy head.

Sleep, my babe; thy food and raiment,
House and home, thy friends provide;
All without thy care or payment:
All thy wants are well supplied.

Isaac Watts

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Our congratulations to:



Jason FOX - Sherrilyn EDMONDS

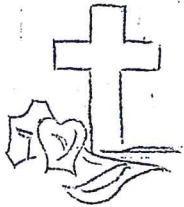
Daniel MARSH - Fiona JUJNOVICH

Christopher WHITE - Tracy GARDINER

on their recent weddings

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RITE OF CATHOLIC BURIAL



Bruce CURRAN

May he Rest in Peace

PARISH DIRECTORY

PARISH PRIEST

Father Philip Sullivan - 336 Wairau Road, Glenfield. Ph. 444-8624

MASS TIMETABLE

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday - 5.30 pm
Sunday - 10.00 am

WEEKDAYS

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

Second TUESDAY of the Month - 9.30 am Older Parishioners' Mass
First SUNDAY of the Month - 10.00 am Family Mass

RECONCILIATION: - Saturday, following morning Mass

BAPTISMS and WEDDINGS: - By arrangement with Father

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* CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE *
* MASSES: *
* Christmas Day - Midnight and 9.00 am *
* RECONCILIATION: *
* Sunday 17 December - 2nd Rite, 7.30 pm *
* Saturday 23 December - 9 am and 4.30 pm *
* * * * *

The MORE NEWS
team of

Clare Russell, Editor
Carol Mogridge, typist and proof reader
Kevin and Moya Hocquard, printers and assemblers

wish all our readers the blessing of a Joyous
Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

