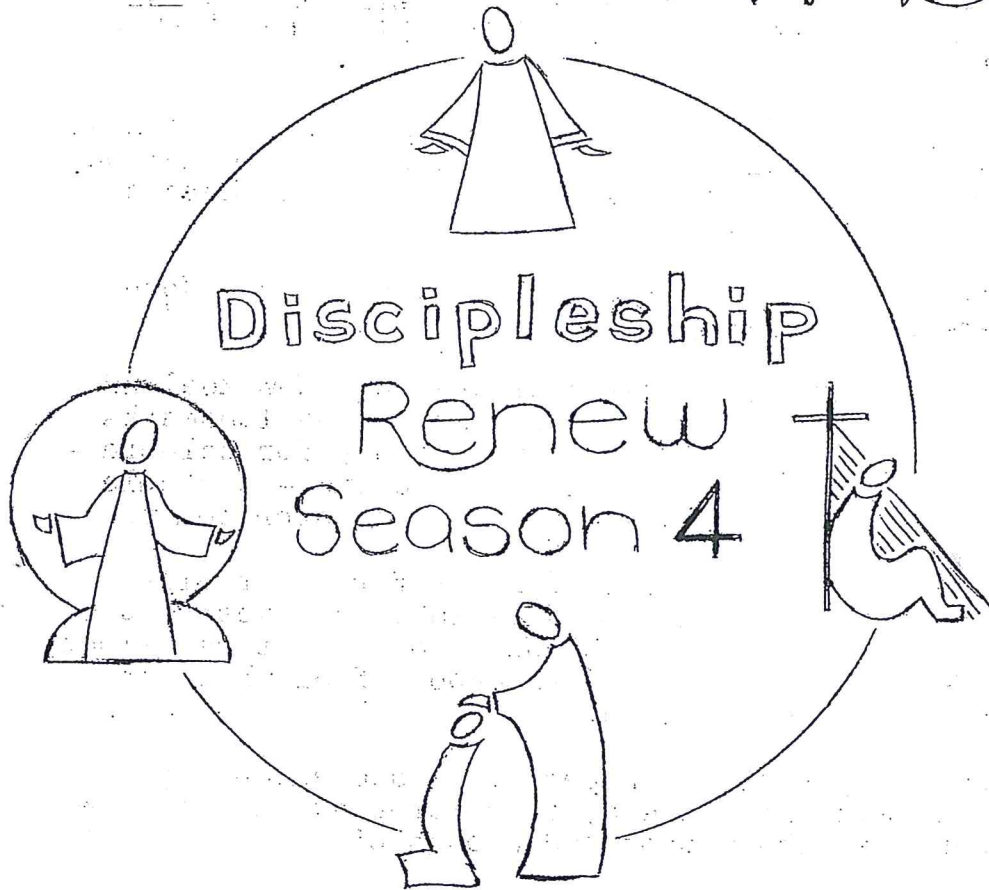


MORE NEWS



ST THOMAS MORE PARISH
FEBRUARY 1987

HONOURING THE TREATY

hortly before Pope John Paul II left New Zealand, he challenged us to ensure that the separate cultures in his country continue to exist together and complement each other.

The Maori people have maintained their identity in his land," said the Pope.

The people coming from Europe and more recently from Asia, have not come to a desert. They have come to a land already marked by a rich and ancient heritage as a unique and essential element of the identity of this country."

Furthermore, added the Pope, Maori people are challenged to "welcome new settlers and to learn to live in harmony with those who have come from far away to make here a new home for themselves".

At this time in our history, these words of Pope John Paul II are particularly relevant.

As we keep 6 February as Waitangi Day, all New Zealanders have the chance to reflect on one of the landmarks in the forming of our nation. It is a day for celebrating our ideal of a truly bicultural society - a single nation in which Maori and pakeha live and grow together.

But it is also a time to consider how far the reality falls short of the dream. Studies in recent years have helped us to see the Treaty of Waitangi in a truer light, and to understand why many Maori people feel that its terms have not been honoured.

We realise, too, that our hopes for peace and unity in his land of Aotearoa depend, to a large extent, on how well we can heal the wounds and wrongs of the past.

In this task of reconciliation, the Church has a special role to play. It has a responsibility to uphold the

cultural values of every race, as sacred and given by God. In the way Maoris regard the land and sea and the resources of nature, there is a spiritual dimension of which pakehas have not always been aware.

The confiscation and sale of Maori tribal lands, the misuse of sacred burial sites, and the spoiling of traditional fishing grounds have left deep scars in Maori minds and hearts. The path of justice and peace begins when pakehas can understand Maori feeling on these issues.

The discussion programme, "New Hope for Our Society", produced two years ago by the National EJD Commission, helped many in our church - Maori and pakeha - to be aware to cultural differences and of the need to respect them. Copies of that programme are still available from the Auckland EJD Office, and I commend them as a valuable exercise for any parish or church group.

I am glad to see Maori culture and language being taught in some Catholic colleges, and Taha Maori programmes flourishing in several of our schools. On the broader front, the efforts of the Waitangi Tribunal to redress past wrongs, and of Race Relations Offices to shape present attitudes among all New Zealanders, are encouraging signs.

But the gospel of Jesus also assures us that no-one needs to be the victim of the past. We are called to be the shapers of history, not just passive observers. We need to know our roots; and Maoris are especially blessed in their sense of ancestry. But the Lord, who comes to make all things new, calls us by his grace into the future.

By world terms, New Zealand is a new nation, born of many different cultures. All of us are migrants, even the tangata whenua, the people of the land who came here first. We have all journeyed from other places, and none of us has come empty-handed. Each culture has brought its own special gifts, and we are all the richer when those gifts are shared.

In the best traditions of Maoritanga, there is a welcome here for all who come in peace, and a love big enough to make even the stranger feel at home. It is a love with a Maori name: arohanui.

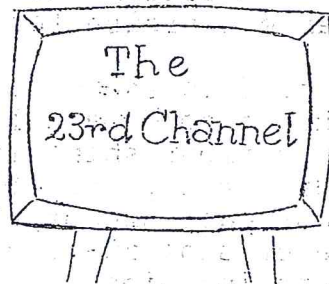
As we grow in understanding of each other's culture, may our love heal our differences and bind our hearts. And let our commitment to truth and justice guide us together along the path of unity and peace.

- Waitangi Day Pastoral Letter
by Bishop Denis Browne

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From "anonymous" comes this sly look at television and the addicted viewer:

The TV is my shepherd;
I shall not want,
It makes me lie down on the sofa.
It leads me away from the faith.
It destroys my soul.



It leads me in the path of sex and violence for the sponsor's sake.

Yea, though I walk in the shadow of Christian responsibilities, there will be no interruption for the TV is with me

Its cable and remote control, they comfort me.

It prepares a commercial for me in the presence of my worldliness.

It anoints my head with humanism and consumerism; my coveting runneth over.

Surely, laziness and ignorance shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house watching TV forever.

From the "Marist Messenger"

E D I T O R I A L

New Zealand has, among its many charms and attractions, this curious habit of "closing down" in January. As a born and bred New Zealander, this has never bothered me - that's just how life is!

This year, our family has reached the stage at which we have one child - correction - young adult, permanently working, the next working in university holidays, the next working, waiting for exam results and then deciding whether its back to school, or onto university, and the younger ones still at school. Planning family holidays around all this was just "too much", so we opted for our standby - a camping two weeks in the middle of a farm on the Coromandel harbour.

God was not kind to us as we arrived - the skies opened, and all that night, and over the next three to four days, we endured thunder storms, torrential rain, and gale force winds. But the locals had had no rain since the end of October, and gave God thanks, while commiserating with us.

However, in the breaks, we gathered mussels off the rocks, boiled them up and ate them on the beach, fed on freshly caught schnapper, and listened to the tuis high in the gums, the kingfisher babies in their holes along the cliffs, and the pukekos running across the farm drive. I thanked God for the beauty of the harbour, the sunset behind the hills, and the glorious star-lit nights, such as never seen by city dwellers.

The second week we walked and tramped through the surrounding bush and forests, the highlight being reaching the summit of Mt Moehau, the highest peak in the Coromandel Ranges.

And I thanked God for healthy, fit children, for a supportive husband, and for a chance to live such an easy lifestyle. Gradually, we felt the year's tensions and tiredness fall from us.

But now it's back to reality. It hit us as soon as we joined the motorway! But at least we can thank God that we did get home - many people did not. Most of all, I thank God for holidays - the chance to let go of your cares and worries, catch up on rest (and reading), assess where you're at, and how many kids you've got with you, and plan for the year ahead. The bursary results eventually arrived, decisions were made, and another child - sorry, young adult - is off to university.

To those of you who didn't get away, I hope you can take time out as a family to enjoy a picnic, or go to the zoo, and relax. Wherever you are, or whatever you're doing, may God be with you this year.

- The Editor

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T A K E T I M E

Take time to think - thoughts are the source of power.

Take time to play - play is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read - reading is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to pray - prayer can be a rock of strength in time of trouble.

Take time to love - loving is what makes living worthwhile.

Take time to be friendly - friendships give life a delicious flavour.

Take time to laugh - laughter is the music of the soul.

Take time to give - any day of the year is too short for selfishness.

Take time to do your work well - pride in your work no matter what it is, nourishes the ego and the spirit.

Take time to show appreciation - thanks is the frosting on the cake of life.

Renew

SEASON IV - "DISCIPLESHIP"

During the first three Seasons of RENEW each participant has been challenged to develop a deep personal relationship with Jesus, recognising that it is the Holy Spirit who makes this commitment possible. Now, during this Lenten RENEW Season, we are being challenged to form ourselves for mission to others. Each week we will focus our attention on some aspect of what it means to be a disciple.

Sunday 8 February 1987 will be referred to nationally as RE-COMMITMENT SUNDAY.

I would ask you all to pray for the success of Season IV and all Small Group members to commit yourselves to your group for the six weeks of the Lenten Season, 1 March to 12 April 1987.

Pre-RENEW Prayer Vigil "Holy Hour" 4 pm, Sunday 1 March 1987.

RENEW Co-ordinator: Anne Williams Ph 444-1472

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FOR SALE

RENEW T-SHIRTS

WHITE, CREW NECK

CHILDREN'S (Size 2-14)

\$8.00 each

ADULTS' (Size SM-XOS)

\$10.00 each

To order: Phone Anne Williams, 444-1472



Feb. 1987

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A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND

"AROUND THE WORLD IN 42 DAYS

There were no troublesome thoughts about possible motion sickness as we boarded the plane at Singapore but only feelings of excitement and expectation. After all, were we not preparing to fly to Rome - the Eternal City?

It was a clear, bright night and, as we gained height, the coloured, twinkling lights of Singapore were a sight to behold. The plane was fully booked so we were restricted to our own seats but this did not prevent us from wandering around to stretch our legs and talking to one another. Between Singapore and Colombo, where the plane was refuelled, we were provided with a dinner, plus an attractively-printed menu for a souvenir, and between Colombo and Rome with a light meal and then, about two hours before landing, with breakfast.

- ITALY -

At the break of day we caught our first glimpse of Italy - a smallish town on the sea coast. Now that we had a view it didn't seem any time before we were landing at Leonardo Da Vinci Airport. Perhaps I should also mention that during the flight we had put our watches back six hours so that it was now early morning (Rome time).

- ST PETERS -

We were expecting to have the day free to recover from the flight but instead were rushed to our hotel to deposit our luggage, then whisked away without so much as a "cuppa", to see St Peters and the Sistine Chapel. We were scheduled to see these the following day but apparently our itinerary planners had overlooked the fact that, when the Pope is holding an "Audience", as he was doing the next day (Wednesday) and in which our party was participating, St Peters is locked up for security reasons. The "powers that be" decided, therefore, that our only chance of seeing these two bastions

of Christianity, without major alterations to our itinerary and certain bookings that had already been made, was for us to utilize our "free" time.

Perhaps it was because of jet lag, perhaps it was because of the difficulty in understanding our German-born courier whom we now had, perhaps it was because of the many tourist groups like our own who were parading through the building, perhaps it was because we did not witness a congregation participating in a Mass with the priest, perhaps it was the speed at which we were being rushed through, perhaps it was because of its sheer vastness, its empty spaces and its many ramifications, but whatever it was, St Peters did not hold for me an atmosphere of holiness, restfulness or a desire to worship.

- SISTINE CHAPEL -

The Sistine Chapel was also a great disappointment. The work of renovating the paintings was, and will still be, going on, and while those that had been completed were very beautiful, they tended to emphasize the dowdiness of the others. Furthermore, the scaffolding erected to allow the work to proceed detracted from the overall setting.

After a quick lunch we visited a very fascinating leather factory, but on returning to the street, were informed by our courier that because parking was not allowed in that area, the coach had had to be taken some 2 km away to park, but would be returning to pick us up at 4 o'clock outside a church that was within easy walking distance from our present location.

- ST JOSEPH THE WORKER -

The church, although it was comparatively small, was a very lovely one that expressed not only faith and hope but also conveyed to one the desire to kneel and pray. I am not sure now, but I think it was called "St Joseph The Worker".

Back at the hotel it was to bed without even waiting for dinner.

Next instalment perhaps we can roam a little more around Rome. God Bless you all.

"Katrina Rose"

Kids' Page

Well, holidays are over and the new year is well and truly here. Good luck everyone for the new school year. Here's hoping that you've got a decent teacher and that everything goes well for you. Enjoy what's left of the sunshine before it gets colder!

It won't be long now before the blackberry and mushroom seasons start, for anyone lucky enough to live where they still grow. It's hot, prickly work, but oh BOY! does blackberry jam taste good. You have to get up early for the mushrooms which are usually much harder to find.

The picture below has something hidden in it that is also hard to find. If you want the answer, look in the New Testament in the book written by Matthew, verses 12-14.



"Thanks" to John Russell who invented this pretty tricky WORD HUNT for the KIDS' PAGE.

God bless until next issue,

Love
Nikki

B	X	S	I	N	N	E	T
G	N	I	L	I	A	S	E
Y	C	A	B	U	K	O	K
I	B	O	W	L	S	C	C
M	L	G	O	L	F	C	I
S	O	D	U	J	E	E	R
P	T	O	W	R	N	R	C
KEY: Judo, Rugby, Tennis, Cricket, Bowls, Golf, Sailing, Soccer							

A PRAYER FOR WHEN WE ARE AFRAID

Jesus, Our Lord, we praise You
That nothing could keep you in the grave.
You are stronger than death and the devil.
Help us to remember
That there is nothing to be afraid of
Because you are alive and by our side.

Senior Parishioners' Notes

The Poem opposite was given to us by one of our more senior Senior Parishioners. We thought this really summed up a few of us, giving us quite a chuckle and making us realise we've joined "The Club".

Our first Senior Parishioners' Mass for the year, on Tuesday 3 February, was a well-attended, joyful celebration, in which everyone participated. Morning tea in the foyer afterwards gave everyone a chance to exchange greetings, news, and reminiscences of the holidays and the break-up party at Christmas time. Held at Anne and Tom Bates' home, with plenty of singing and chatter, a Miss Universe contest, and a delicious shared lunch, it culminated in a visit from Santa, who distributed home-made biscuits to all present.

The ladies at Glennhaven Rest Home are delighted that Pousie has begun again this year; it does give them pleasure for an hour or so.

Our ranks will be depleted for awhile - June Breen will be away with Bill as he goes to Rotorua for more therapy from 8 February. Jo Hughes leaves for six months on the 8th, going first to Germany where her daughter is, then to her folks in Britain. Biggest blow will be when Mona Cleveland leaves permanently to live in Tauranga/Papamoa way. We know she and Wallie are excited about the change, looking forward to a long and happy retirement in the home of their dreams. Our prayers go with you both; may the future see your dreams and hopes come to fruition.

These folk have been most generous to us in giving their time and their vehicles to transport us and others, to and from our Masses and other functions, and we thank them sincerely for this too.

Should anyone reading the poem feel they would like to join the "Club", please feel free to phone one of the numbers below. Age is no bar, in fact some of the not-so-senior group would be a great help to us "oldies", to let us know where we are.

Our next Senior Parish Mass, to be held on St. Marc
will include the Sacrament of the Anointing. All very
welcome.

Anne 444-6785 - Elma 444-8424 - Leola 444-8955

Just a few lines to say I'm living

That I'm not among the dead

Though I'm getting more forgetful

And mixed up in my head.

I've got used to my arthritis

My dentures I'm resigned

Can manage by bi-focals

Oh God I miss my mind.



Sometimes I can't remember

When I am standing on the stair

I should go up for something

Or if I've just come down from there:

By the fridge so often

My mind is full of doubt

Now, did I put some food away

Or come to take some out?

Sometimes when it's night time,

With my night cap on my head

I don't know if I'm retiring

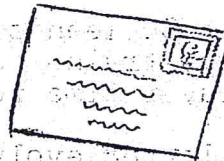
Or getting out of bed.

It's not my turn to write dear

I hope you won't get sore

I think I may have written

And don't want to be a bore.



So remember I love you

And wished that you lived near

But now it's time to mail this love

And say good bye my Dear.

At last I stand by the mailbox

And my face sure is red

I meant to post it to you

And opened it in

MARIAN MOTHERS' GROUP

I have tried four times to write an article on our Marian Mothers' Group, but I have failed. I have come to the conclusion that part of it has to be a personal reflection, so here goes...

Our Group started six years ago, when a very dear friend, Colleen Robson, invited some friends to do a Renewal of Faith course together.

As time progressed, I found that a very deep bond had formed between us and a real sense of caring. I had never met friends like these before. These friends rejoiced with me when I was happy, listened lovingly when I felt grumbly and mad, helped cook meals when I was sick, helped look after my children when I needed a baby sitter, and above all prayed for me and my family's needs. (I was by this time convinced of the power of prayer).

As the years have passed, many friends have come and gone, but each one has brought something unique to the group. They have also helped me to appreciate that I can love very different people through our common bond of faith.

Colleen - our guide and mentor - died of cancer two years ago. Sharing in her trials and death was a real growth time for all of us, mentally and spiritually.

After Colleen's death we continued with the meetings always trying to follow a simple scripture study, having a prayer time for our needs, followed by a shared lunch.

The latter evolved by itself - people would bring something to share, so that the hostess of the day wouldn't run out of biscuits. Gradually it became an important part of the meeting; we found the fellowship afterwards cemented our friendship.

Children have always been a part of the meeting too. I personally love seeing the babies grow into school children.

- FATHER JEFF PRATLEY -

About one and a half years ago we met Father Jeff Prattle who co-ordinates the Marian Mothers' groups. This seems like an answer to prayer, because we were finding it very difficult to find suitable study material. He is a very caring priest who has had tons of experience meeting the emotional and spiritual needs of people, especially mothers and children. He puts together a tape and workshop material every three to four weeks, and has other material available if needed.

Our Group meets Thursday morning at 10.15 every week. We take turns at providing the venue (only if we want to - ours is definitely a non-compulsory group!). The tapes and workshop often need two or even three weeks' study for us. This sounds heavy going but it really isn't. It certainly leads to tremendous growth!

In conclusion, I must make the point that the original aims of the Group are the same. The friends in the Group care as deeply about each other as we did in the beginning. We would love people to know that we are there and they are very welcome to join us.

I must also emphasize that we are very ordinary women. Mostly mothers, but that is not a rule. We want people to feel free to voice their own opinions; they may not even know if there really is a God, but we want them to know that they are loved and respected for who they are. Above all, we aim to see Jesus in one another.

Carol Lattimer 444-5614
Patsy O'Sullivan 444-3948

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A LITTLE BIT MORE NEWS

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

YES! The St Thomas More Parish Youth Group is alive and well.

Activities last year included:

A BUSH WALK in the Waitakeres - lots of mud - our lead scouts did take one wrong turn in the track! But everyone had great fun.

FERRY TRIP and walk to the top of Rangitoto. Lovely fine day, and we were able to admire the fabulous view while catching our breath. I don't think we left anyone on the Island!

The Group meets every second Sunday evening 7 pm to 9 pm at the Bayview Hall, Glenfield.

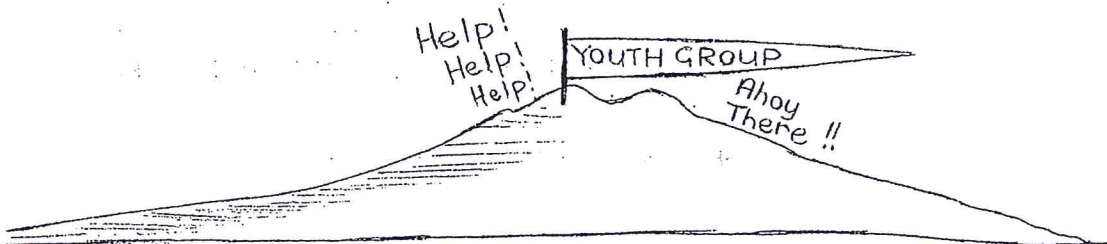
The first meeting for 1987 will be Sunday 15 February. COME ALONG - Debates / sharing ideas/music/games activities/meeting each other.

FUN FUN FUN

Age group now attending 11-15 years. We want boys and girls!

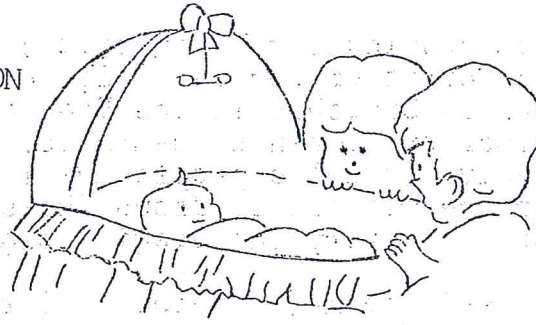
Future outings planned: BBQ? CAMPING?
Any more suggestions?

For enquiries phone Paul 444-5956 or Gemma 415-9459



"MORE BABIES"

Christopher Keith CONCANNON
Kasper Zbigniew KULAK
Catherine Louise AJGER
Joseph Cervase JUJNOVICH
Adele Rose REVELL



THE COMMUNITY OF ST THOMAS MORE
WELCOMES THESE CHILDREN WITH LOVE

* * * * *

In His Image

Not self, O Lord, but only Thee,
I would that others see in me
The beauty of Your love to shine
Your will in evidence, not mine
A privilege, Lord, if in my place
Some other soul may see Your face
With self submerged from others' view
May they in me, see only You.

LUIS PALAU

MISSION TO AUCKLAND

I am continually being amazed and refreshed by the way the Spirit of God is building up the bonds between the various Churches in the Body of Christ. The increasing number of meetings, seminars, conferences, etc, that involve Catholic people meeting with other Christians for the worship of Jesus Christ and the doing of His work is a very encouraging sign of this.

In 1987 the major event of Christians working together for the Kingdom of God, is the "Luis Palau - MISSION TO AUCKLAND" from 27 March to 5 April.

The Mission is a series of public meetings at Mt Smart stadium led by the gifted evangelist Dr Luis Palau. A special meeting for children and families called the "Rainbow Special" is planned for the Saturday afternoon (28 March 1987). The aim of the Mission is to bring non-Christians and lapsed Christians to Christ and then link them up with the Church of their choice.

Bishop Denis Browne, who is on the Mission's Advisory Board, has given it his full support, and he has encouraged Catholics to participate in it.

The Mission requires our assistance mainly in the form of: Counsellors to those who commit their lives to Christ at the meetings, Nurture Group members, who will introduce the new Christians into their Church and share their faith with them.

Other these jobs are not as difficult as they sound, and excellent training classes are run to prepare people for them. The next series of Training Classes will begin in early February, and full details of times, dates, locations, etc, can be found on the Notice Board in our Church foyer. These courses are not difficult and I have found them, from a Christian point of view, to be stimulating, personally beneficial and fun!!

Now the Mission insists that the new Christians will only be referred back to Churches that have a Nurture Group ready for them. To date, myself and only one other person has done the Nurture Group training and two people are not enough to form a group.

So I encourage you to join us, for I can't think of a more wonderful way of joining in Christ's work than by welcoming new people into His Church of St Thomas More.

Bishop Browne has warned that "If we do not have Catholic people taking part who have been prepared to act as counsellors at the meetings and as follow-up resources, then Catholics and others who respond during the Mission and wish to be referred to the Catholic Church, will not be referred to us".

The Mission also requires people who will pray for non-Christian friends and invite them to the meetings, people who will pray for the Mission itself, choir members, financial supporters, ushers and other workers. Please see the Mission Bulletins in the Church foyer for more details.

I believe this Mission is working for the Kingdom of God and I thank Him for the opportunity to be of service.

I ask each of you to pray about your part in it.

I appear to have got the job of Church Contact Person for this Mission, so please ring me (PH. 444-8725) if any further information is needed.

Yours in Christ,
William Roberts



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 Mass

RECONCILIATION: Saturday, following Mass

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: By arrangement with Father

PRE-SCHOOL GROUP - Ann Bentley Ph 444-5479

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - Elizabeth O'Reilly
Ph 444-7625

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP - Gemma Nobilo Ph 415-9459

VISITING GROUP - June Breen Ph 444-9594

CARING COMMUNITY - Clare Russell Ph 444-8843

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY - Gerry Smy Ph 485-388

INTERCESSARY PRAYER GROUP - Anne Bates Ph 444-6785

CHARASMATIC PRAYER GROUP - Patsy O'Sullivan Ph 444-3945

EDITOR, "MORE NEWS" - Clare Russell Ph 444-8843

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