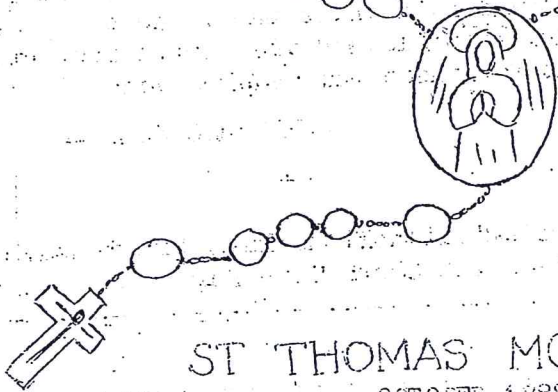


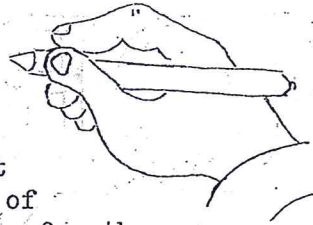
# MORE NEWS



ST THOMAS MORE PARISH

OCTOBER 1989

Over the past two weeks you have read in the weekly notices the need to cut down on the number of Masses, not only in Glenfield but in all the parishes throughout Auckland. This was a decision that was not taken without a great deal of soul searching and prayer. In fact, for the last ten years discussions have taken place about this inevitable situation that has finally reached us.



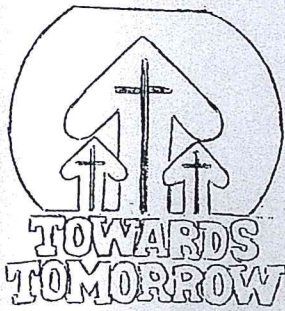
One of the most difficult things I have had to do was to announce that we, in Glenfield, were to have one Mass less but two things helped in making the announcement. The first was the knowledge that we have to use our resources as well as possible and that included the proper manpower of the priests available to serve the people. The second thing that helped was the knowledge that the people whom we, as priests, serve understand and appreciate all that we do for them. I was content in the knowledge that you, the parishioners of Glenfield, would continue to support not only me but all priests.

It is a disappointment that we cannot have as many Masses as we had in the past but perhaps it may be better for us to thank God for the fact that we have had three Masses for the time of our existence as a parish. Of the nine priests who serve the North Shore, there are only three who are under the age of 55 and I am sure that this is the same throughout the whole of New Zealand. In ten years time the situation will be even worse than it is now and even more changes will have to be made. We of the present generation have been blessed with the priesthood; it will be different for the people of the year 2000.

FATHER BROWNE

+ + + + +

EDITOR'S NOTE: For a detailed list of the Mass times held on the North Shore, see Page 19.



# SYNOD 1989

Throughout the parish of St Thomas More, about seventy people, gathering in nine small groups, have been assisting the Bishop to prepare for the Auckland Diocesan Synod. Some, like the Marian Mothers and prayer groups, have gone through the programme as a parish identity - others covered a varied range of people, meeting in their homes. All those who took part relished the chance to 'have their say' and the lively discussions following each session showed a very diverse range of opinions.

Here are some thoughts expressed by Bishop Denis Browne at a Day of Reflection for the Diocesan Synod Planning Group, 6 March 1988:

As we prepare for the Synod, we must realise we are the Church of the 1990's and that every baptised Catholic has a part.

Biculturalism is an important issue to be included in Synod preparation and the Synod itself.

The Synod will comprise a group of people dedicated in love to one another,

reflecting on:

- \* their track record
- \* where we as a community are responding to the needs of our time
- \* where we are being as truly Church as we can be
- \* Scripture in a prayerful way:

we must:

- \* shed what is unnecessary and what has become obsolete

- \* be able to step out and plan for the future
- \* be a community committed in a very special way to the poor and disadvantaged.

We must continually remind ourselves the very thing that we are not called to be is introspective.

As a community of disciples we must be outgoing --

- \* want others to share the Good News
- \* want to enrich the society in which we live.

All the baptised (practising and non-practising) are invited to contribute on an equal footing.

The Synod will

- \* recommend changes that will make the Church more the community - the Body of Jesus - in the environment where we live.
- \* be the time when in the course of our continual growth we reflect on what we are called to.

The suffering and disadvantaged are to be represented.

Hopefully, recommendations will be made to:

- \* continue doing some things
- \* shed things that are obsolete
- \* branch out into completely new areas where we, as Church, are not responding, e.g. the SVD Fathers are doing things never before done in the Diocese.

We should remember we can contribute tremendously to the life of the Church.

Very shortly (or you may have already done so) we will be asked to complete a questionnaire. If the Bishop's task of assessing the needs of the people of Auckland is to succeed, everyone must do their bit.

Please help him by doing yours!

## EDITORIAL

With the recent development in our parish, and others on the North Shore, of one Mass each Sunday being eliminated, it must be time to take a good, hard look at ourselves as Catholics. Certainly, the parishioners who regularly attended the 8 am Mass will be. As one of them, I know emotions were very mixed those last two Sundays.

For most of us, going to Mass is the perfect way to start our Sunday, and of course, being creatures of habit, we tend to plan our Sundays accordingly. Now, do we find another early Mass elsewhere, and desert our parish, or remain faithful, and change a life-long habit? In some cases, families will simply be split.

In the MORE NEWS of December 1985, the editorial discussed Father Simmons' paper on the falling number of priests, and how our parishes would be affected. In that paper, Father pointed out that 'a category B parish would be entitled to a full-time pastoral worker; a priest if one was available; otherwise a religious or lay person.' (Glenfield would be in this category).

It is interesting to note, that there was not one letter to the Editor, or any other visible response, to that editorial.

The Mass count statistics for October 1987 show that Glenfield was the only parish which needed all its Masses (plus another priest). It is, therefore, all the more disappointing that our early Mass had to go. Obviously, we need to look hard at our other criteria: a parish this size needs two priests. What have Glenfield parishioners been doing about that?

However, there has been action from another quarter. The Serra Club of Auckland has recently been promoting its '31 Club'. The 31 Club is essentially a prayer group to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious. The group has no formal meetings or organisation. Membership merely entails a pledge by the individual to pray daily the vocation prayer and to attend an extra Mass each month for vocations.

In thanking Father Browne for our early Masses all these years, and offering him our support in the future, let us hope that we will also take up the opportunity provided by the Serrans, and pray for vocations to the priesthood.

Clare Russell

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor

Every Saturday we collect our parish newsletter and read it with great interest. It occurred to us recently we had no idea who put it together and had it all ready for us before Mass. So we'd like to say a big 'Thank You' to that person who never lets us down and always keeps us in touch with the activities of the parish. From experience we know it isn't easy to reach a dead-line each week. Whoever you are - you're doing a great job and we're all glad we have you!

Peter and Sheila Holt

The lady in question is Mrs Dorothy McGuire, who has been doing the newsletters for eight years now.

Editor

\* \* \* \* \*

## 31 CLUB

Formed by the Serra Club of Auckland

- a programme of prayer for VOCATIONS
- Become a member by choosing a date. Each month, on your chosen date, you offer Mass for vocations.
- No rules; no fees; no meetings; no newsletters.
- Attend Mass anywhere, but the intentions are for your parish.
- Club commitment is for one year.

Your 31 CLUB contacts for St Thomas More Parish are:

Terry Buckley 415-9853

Leola Meyer 444-8955

-----oOo-----

# LET US PRAY THE ROSARY

October 7th is the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary and this month Catholics try a little harder to practise saying the Rosary.

The following is a reflection by Fr N.A. Johnston, S.J. -

It is sometimes said nowadays that the Rosary is out of date and no longer of any value. This, however, cannot be taken for granted; the statement must be examined before it is accepted. It is just possible that the fault is not in the Rosary but in ourselves. The Rosary is a form of prayer which has been the possession of the Church for many centuries. It has been used with devotion by many saints. It has been the spiritual nourishment of countless humble souls. Popes, up to the time of Pope John and the present Pontiff, have spoken of it in the highest terms. It would be strange indeed if Catholics today found that this bread had gone stale. Would it not be possible that the bread was as sound and wholesome as before, but that our taste had somehow been spoiled?

## DIFFICULTIES

It need not be denied that the use of the Rosary can present difficulties, which perhaps were not felt, or not to the same degree, in earlier times. But are these difficulties so great that we must now discard a form of prayer which undoubtedly has brought great profit to the Church?

The greatest need today, both for individuals and for the Church as a whole, is genuine prayer. It is the solution for all our problems. The Rosary, well said, can be the means of ensuring that there is real prayer in our lives. On that account it can be most valuable. It could well be that the spiritual revival we are hoping for in the life of the Church could come through revival of the Rosary.

## REAL PRAYER

But why do we say that the Rosary can be real prayer? Let us examine the elements of which it is composed. It is made up of vocal prayer and reflections. The vocal prayers are the three best prayers in existence. The reflections are concerned with the primary truth that concerns us, God's supreme love for us and our redemption through the incarnation and sacrifice of his Son.

Every good gift we have ever received, every one that will be ours in time and in eternity, comes from the merits of our Redeemer. We do not think of that enough; hence we are not sufficiently convinced of that truth. All our troubles stem from the fact that we do not sufficiently realise who and what we are, where we came from and where we are going. We do not give God and our Saviour their rightful place in our lives and in our thoughts. We are too wrapped up in the things around us. We are searching for what pleases us rather than what pleases God. This is where the Rosary helps. It fixes our minds day by day on the truths that are most important for us; it gives us a realisation of our real value.

In these days of change it is important to realise that there are certain things that never change. At a time when many things are regarded, and perhaps rightly so, as out of date, we must remember that there are some things which can never be out of date, for example, the New Testament and the teaching and spirit of Christ. "God has already placed Jesus Christ as the one and only foundation, and no other foundation can be laid" (1 Cor. 3:11). The value of the Rosary consists in this, that it keeps this important truth before us; without the Rosary many people might hardly give it a thought.

#### TO SUM UP

If we say the Rosary well, there will be prayer in our lives, and prayer is essential if we are to live as we should.

Day by day we shall grow in understanding of the wonderful plans that God has made for us in Christ and the wonderful things he has done for us.

The Rosary will make us better prepared to offer the sacrifice of the Mass, because it will make us familiar with the work of redemption.

Jesus and his mother will become better known to us, and will have a greater influence on our lives.

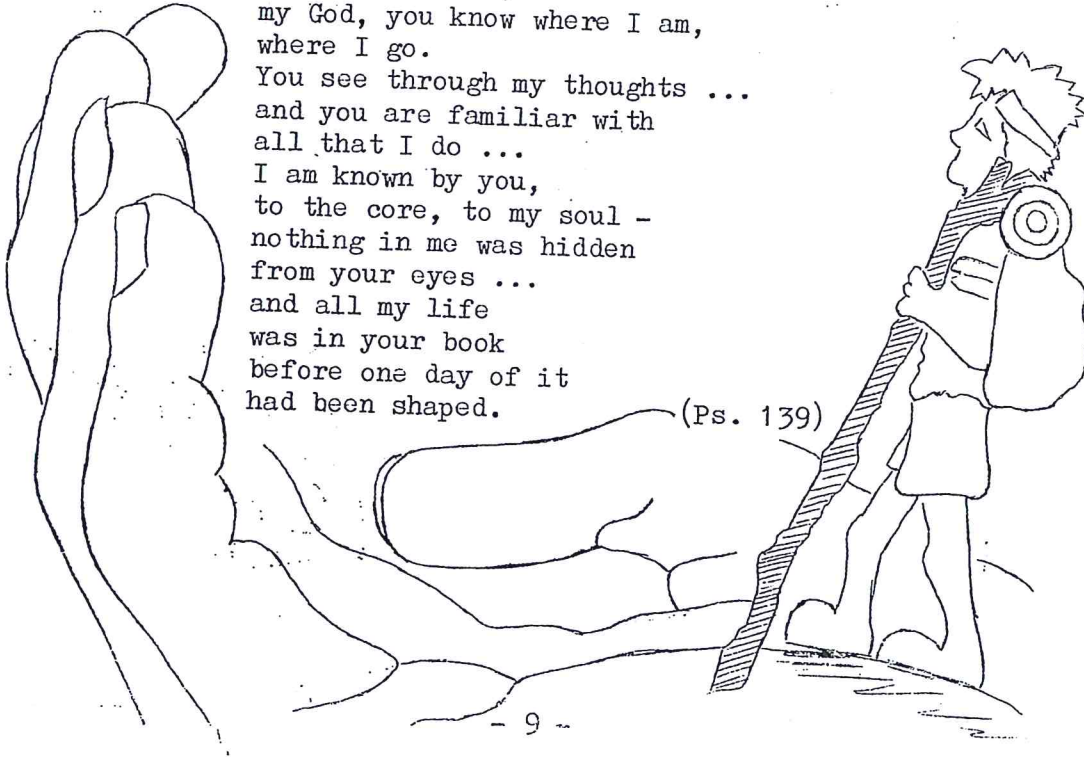
Through continual contemplation of the life, death, and glory of our Saviour we shall be impelled to imitate more and more what is put before us in the Rosary, and in that way we shall be led more securely to the final consummation which is there promised.



# GOD & ME

How should I ever run away  
from your spirit,  
and where should I hide --  
you see me everywhere.  
If I climb the heavens,  
you are in the heavens.  
If I go into the earth,  
I find you there too.  
And if I should fly with  
the day-break down to the  
uttermost shore of the sea,  
there also your hand  
will help me on,  
there also your powerful  
hand holds me tight.  
My God, you fathom my heart  
and you know me,  
my God, you know where I am,  
where I go.  
You see through my thoughts ...  
and you are familiar with  
all that I do ...  
I am known by you,  
to the core, to my soul -  
nothing in me was hidden  
from your eyes ...  
and all my life  
was in your book  
before one day of it  
had been shaped.

(Ps. 139)



Hi Everyone!

Colour in this poster, then  
kitchen wall (ask Mum first)  
it's Fair time again!

COME

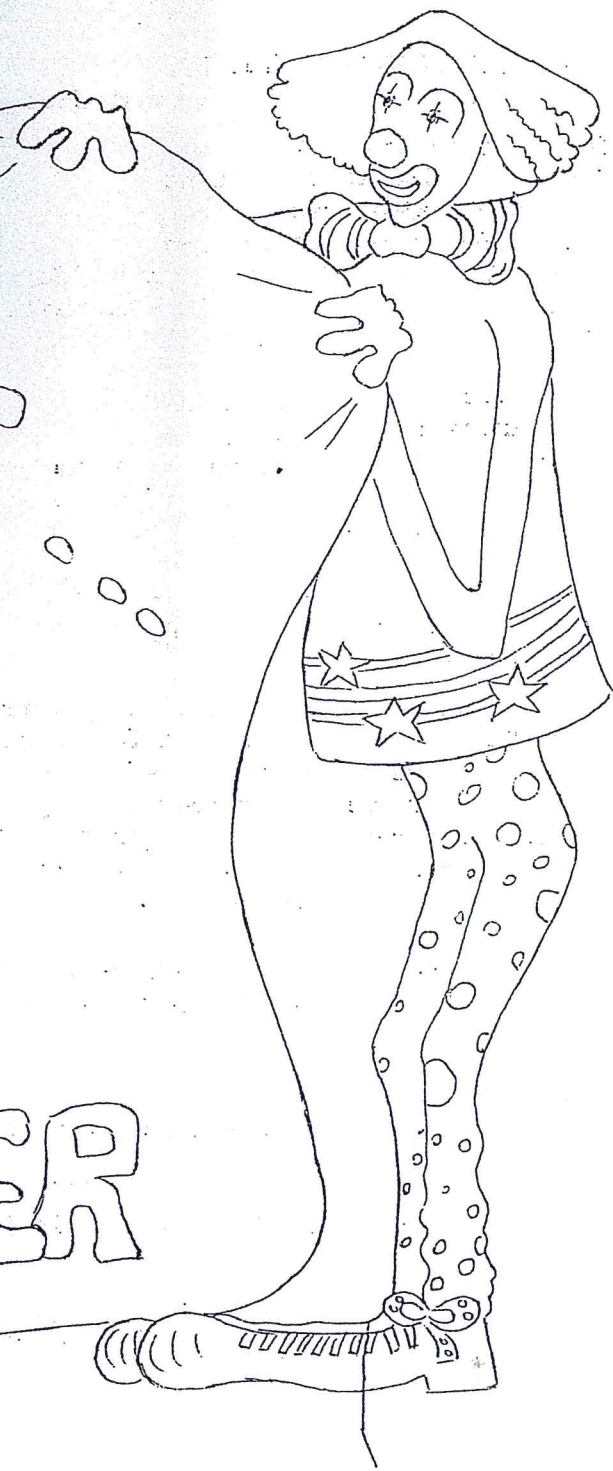
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FA

29<sup>TH</sup>

it up on the  
remind everyone

To THE  
AIR  
OCTOBER



A REFLECTION FROM HOSPITAL

by Fred Zombos

Sorrow gives rise to joy  
Joy gives rise to commitment  
Commitment gives rise to hope  
Hope gives rise to salvation  
Salvation gives rise to eternal life  
Eternal life gives rise to being with Christ  
Christ gives rise to love  
Love gives rise to God  
God gives rise to fulfilment  
Fulfilment means peace  
Peace gives rise to eternal sanctuary  
And if that isn't your ambition then maybe  
Life is empty and meaningless.

----oOo----

## A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND

Since our last issue of MORE NEWS, our pilgrim's journey has ended - Bill Blandford, aged 77 years, died in his sleep on September 5th. Adopting the pseudonym 'Katrina Rose' - his youngest granddaughter's name - Bill was a regular contributor, only missing one deadline when in hospital recently. Knowing that another instalment of his trip was coming was always a source of encouragement to me. The MORE NEWS team will miss him sorely.

Our grateful thanks go to his widow, Eva, who did not hesitate to make Bill's diary available to me, so that we could finish his story.

I have written it as I found it, in diary style, knowing full well that it doesn't do justice to Bill's story-telling ability.

Rest in peace, Bill.

to continue Bill's story on Page 14 of this issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

# FAIR ~ 29 October

## 'HERESAY'

Well "stone the crows" it has finally happened! The shortage of priests has resulted in rationalisation of services - as it happens church services. Shades of Rogernomics!

But why my Mass? OK I know the reason, it is the least attended, but ever since I can remember the family goes to Mass before breakfast to start the day off right. It is as necessary as that first "cuppa" in the morning. The kids have been brought up to think like that too.

I suppose we can all go to another Mass but with the early one leaving the day free for the family to each do their thing, it seems likely half of us will become "Takapunaites"! But "dammit" they sing!

So it's pray for vocations. This time a little harder, for the need is closer to home. Perhaps the vocations could be too. Knock it if you like, but we could get back to pressing third sons of Irish farmers - it seemed to work!

Now that third son of mine, I'm not an Irish farmer but ... he is not particularly good at doing what he is told so I'll have to be subtle. I wonder if the Vocational Guidance Centre, Vatican Branch, has any pamphlets I can leave lying around.

What was it George VI said? Something about success not being attaining what we set out to do but getting to like that which we find we have to do.

Still, every cloud has a silver lining. I had to go to 5.30 Saturday Mass this weekend and guess what?! No singing. Deo Gratias.

'Thomas'

\* \* \* \* \*

A Salvation Army officer explaining his part-time role as a boys' club judo instructor ... 'I teach them what to do after they've turned both cheeks.'

October 1988.

# PILGRIM'S JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND

FROM THE DAIRY BY BILL BLANDFORD

Monday 30 June

commenced our tour by driving to Jaffa. From there it was on to Caesarea, and saw the auditorium where some soldiers were stationed. We continued our journey to Haifa and visited the Mother Church of the Carmelite Friars. The chapel where we celebrated Mass was a large room with seats all around but none in the centre. There are three priests with us now (another party with a priest having joined us at Tel Aviv) and they con-celebrated Mass.

We left Mt Carmel and travelled along the coast of the Sea of Galilee to our new hotel. After dinner our courier took us down to the water's edge where one or two of us had a swim, but I just dived. It was just like being on a beach at home, except that there were no seagulls to clean up the fish which had apparently been stranded on the sea shore!

Tuesday 1 July

Left hotel at 8 am to go to Cana, where Christ performed his first miracle. Saw the house of Nathaniel, and stopped off at the house where the wedding feast was held - a small stone building with a cistern hole at one side. This was said to be for water storage. At Nazareth, we visited the Basilica of the Annunciation - a huge building, and very impressive. We went down into a sort of crypt to attend Mass con-celebrated by the three priests. Also visited the Church of St Joseph next door.

Travelled down a narrow pathway with a storm water drain in the middle through a small village. The conditions for the sale of food were revolting. The whole place was smelly, the meat open to the air, with flies everywhere. The smell of the fish was bad enough without looking at the conditions under which it was kept! The place is no mere town but a huge city.

In the afternoon we went up Mt Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration. The mountain is 1800 feet high, on the top of which is the Basilica of the Transfiguration. We obtained a wonderful view of the whole countryside from there.

### Wednesday 2 July

Left hotel at 9 am to go to the church of the Primacy of St Peter -- a quaint little stone church with the Rock of St Peter extending from one side of the church to the other except for about two feet allowed for steps up to the altar. From there we went up a small mountain where it is claimed the sermon on the Mount was preached -- Mt Beatitudes. Next we saw the church commemorating the multiplication of the loaves and fishes.

We left Capernaum for Taiberius where we lunched. Fairly rough with strong wind across the Sea of Galilee and the spray often came over the top deck. Spent the afternoon in the shade relaxing, writing and meditating.

### Thursday 3 July

Left this morning for Jericho. On the way we observed a huge Sycamore tree reminding us of the story Zacchaeus, two camels, caves in the side of the hill where early Christians took shelter, and also the Mount of Temptation. After Mass, we visited the home of Lazarus, and his tomb.

During the journey to Jericho, we passed along what is known as the West Bank, the Jordan River forming part of the boundary, and a fence denoting the boundary of the rest of the area. An army camp was clearly visible in this hot, dry, arid country. The Israelis, however, have started its cultivation, but a lack of water will obviously delay matters.

On our way to Jerusalem we climbed the Mount of Olives and at the top had a marvellous view of Jerusalem itself. We also visited the Place of the Ascension and the Pater Noster church. The Lord's Prayer appears in almost every language on tablets erected on the walls of the building.

From the top of the Mt of Olives those of us who were fit enough walked down the mountain and into Jerusalem itself, the guide pointing out the boundary. On the way down we saw the Church of the Resurrection and a large stone commemorating the spot where Judas betrayed Jesus, and passed by the Garden of Gethsemane. Eventually, we reached the Holyland Hotel, a beautiful building set in magnificent grounds.

To be concluded next issue.

# WANTED - MORE CHILDREN!

At 10 am Mass on Sunday the Baby Room is usually crowded with preschoolers sharing in a Liturgy suitable for these under 5's.

By way of contrast, the weekday Liturgy Group for these same preschoolers has only a few families attending and would welcome new families to the group.

We meet once a fortnight during the school term. The sessions are in a Wednesday morning and held in the Presbytery, Basement. We begin at 10.15 am and finish around 11.30.

The format of the morning is similar to that on a Sunday but we end the session with the children having their play lunch together while the parents have the opportunity to get to know each other better over a cup of tea.

You are welcome with little ones of any age; it is our experience that the very little ones enjoy the singing and sharing together as much as the older ones. There is no charge for the morning.

The dates for this term are:

- 5 October - God Made the World
- 19 October - Spring and new Growth
- 2 November - Babies
- 16 November - Our Special Day - Birthday
- 30 November - Christmas Theme

You may need a ride to come to the morning. Please ring either - Lydia Anthony 478-5513 or Elizabeth Auger 444-5352 who will be happy to help, and answer any questions you may have.

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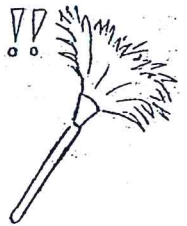


## URGENTLY WANTED!!

HELPERS TO CLEAN OUR CHURCH -

to fill the gaps on our roster.

Please phone ANNE BATES 444-6785





PARENTS' PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

We ask your blessing, O God, on our home and family,  
and the added blessing of a vocation amongst the  
children entrusted to our love and care.

Grant in Your goodness that our love for You may be  
a strong and happy influence on their minds and hearts,  
so that if it be Your Holy Will to call one or more of  
them to Your service, they will readily respond and  
help to bring honour and glory to Your Name, and many  
souls to the grace of eternal salvation. Through Christ  
Our Lord. Amen.

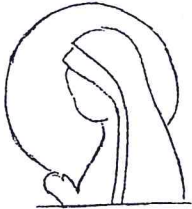
Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

St Joseph, pray for us.

FEAST DAYS FOR OCTOBER

- 1st - St Teresa of the Infant Jesus
- 4th - St Francis of Assisi
- 7th - Our Lady of the Rosary
- 15th - St Teresa of Avila
- 17th - St Ignatius of Antioch
- 18th - St Luke, Evangelist
- 28th - Sts Simon and Jude

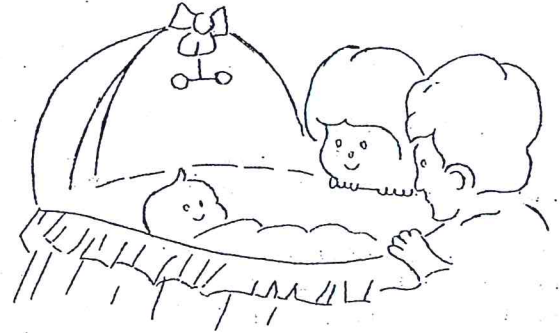
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"MORE BABIES"

BAPTISMS

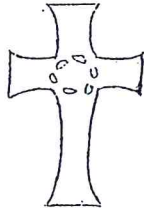
Hanna Maria FONTINHA  
Stefan Mikolaj KULAK  
Ryan Victor FINLAY  
Matthew John WELLS  
Oliver Lewis SILVER  
Alexander HUNTINGTON



THE COMMUNITY OF ST THOMAS MORE  
WELCOMES THESE CHILDREN WITH LOVE

\* \* \* \* \*

DEATHS



Erin Jennie O'CONNELL  
Denis William SAUNDERS  
Glenelg Adrian LATTIMORE  
William Vincent BLANDFORD  
Eileen Mary HAGGETT

Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there,  
I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awake in the morning's hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
of quiet birds in circled flight,  
I am the soft star that shines at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there, I did not die.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE MASS TIMES IN THE NEIGHBOURING PARISHES ARE:

TAKAPUNA	Sunday	7.30 am, 10.00 am and 7.00 pm
MILFORD	Sunday	9.00 am
BAYSWATER	Sunday	9.00 am
DEVONPORT	Saturday	5.30 pm
	Sunday	9.00 am
NORTHCOTE	Saturday	6.30 pm
	Sunday	8.30 am 10.30 am
HATO PETERA	Sunday	5.00 pm
EAST COAST BAYS	Saturday	5.30 pm
	Sunday	9.00 am (School Hall) 10.30 am
GLENFIELD	Saturday	5.30 pm
	Sunday	10.00 am

+ + + +

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

S T J O S E P H ' S - T A K A P U N A

St Joseph's School (Juniors - Standard 4) presently has a roll of 270 pupils, with a staff of ten full-time and two part-time teachers, with two ancillary staff.

Children have the chance to participate actively in their Catholic faith, and are encouraged to show Christian ideals and attitudes.

Places are available for all classes in 1989.  
Enrol now by phoning the school. Ph. 494-994

H E L P U S T O G R O W

+ + + +

The best time to stand up to any of life's situations is immediately after you get up from praying on your knees.

+ + + +

PARISH DIRECTORY

IRISH PRIEST

Rev. Fr. N. Browne - 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

1st TUESDAY of the Month - 9.30 am Senior Parishioners' Mass

1st SUNDAY of the Month - 10.00 am Family Mass

RECONCILIATION:

- Saturday, following morning mass

BAPTISMS and WEDDINGS:

- By arrangement with Father

PARISH SCHOOL GROUP

- Lydia Anthony Ph 478-5513

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- Elizabeth O'Reilly Ph 444-7625

READING GROUP

- Elma Taylor Ph 444-1102

READING COMMUNITY

- Clare Russell Ph 444-8843

VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

- Gerry Smy Ph 480-5388

NECESSARY PRAYER GROUP

- Anne Bates Ph 444-6785

DOMINICAN PRAYER GROUP

- Sheila Baker Ph 444-5320

SEVEN MOTHERS GROUP

- Patsy O'Sullivan Ph 444-3948

Eileen O'Loan Ph 444-4378

ST. MARY'S MENS' FELLOWSHIP

- Brian Lattimer Ph 444-5614

ST. MARY'S WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

- Angela Redmore Ph 418-1034 or

Carol Lattimer Ph 444-5614

FOR "MORE NEWS"

- Clare Russell Ph 444-8843

\* \* \* \* \*