

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of St Joseph's Parish, Papanui, Christchurch, will be held in St Gregory's Parish Centre, Cotswold Avenue on Sunday 27th August 2017 at 11.30am.

AGENDA

1. Prayer
2. Welcome
3. Apologies
4. Confirmation of minutes of AGM – 10th July 2016
5. Priest's Report
6. Financial Report
7. Parish Group Reports
8. Submitted questions/comments
9. General Business
10. Closing prayer

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ST JOSEPH'S PARISH PAPANUI HELD 10TH JULY – 11.20AM AT ST GREGORY'S PARISH CENTRE

PRESENT: Fr John Adams, Graeme Wilson and 33 other parishioners - Fr John opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed those present.

APOLOGIES: Sr Kath Rushton, Bill Frame, Frank Newsome, Marie Kelly, Colleen Doherty, Grant & Melissa Segar

SUBMITTED COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: No written submissions had been received.

MINUTES OF 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Graeme Wilson read the minutes of 5th July 2015 that had been published and included in the annual report. They were accepted and signed as being a true and accurate record. (Graeme Wilson/Janette McKee/carried)

MATTERS ARISING: Mention was made that at the 6.00pm Mass things needed to quieten down more and a reader should mention this, as per the minutes of the last AGM. Noise levels had improved at 10.00am Masses.

PRIEST'S REPORT: Fr John spoke briefly to his report saying it was similar to last year's. From his point of view he was disappointed with the development of the new church, not from the parish, rather the diocese. The parish was in good heart, although the Mass count was slightly down but there were flourishing prayer groups. He was not happy that there was no parish council. Martin Jones stepped down and sadly died about a month ago. He hoped for a strong leader to come forward (two offers presented themselves last year). Fr John felt supported through an active building group, finance committee and pastoral associates. He was thankful Fr Thanh Tran was appointed assistant priest as Fr Bala Allam did not return after his planned holiday. Fr John acknowledged Marie-Therese McRae's ability and the wonderful work she has done as she steps down as a pastoral associate. He recognised and appreciated her vast knowledge of parish life.

The question was asked if the parish was going forward or 'treading water'. Fr John said he was looking forward to the new church and had high hopes for evangelisation. He said the spirit was active in the schools and this 'horse power' needed to be harnessed. He hoped children and families would come to the new church. Pleasing comments were made about the class of school children who did attend Mass in the parish centre each Friday.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Graeme thanked Fr John and said he was “in awe” of the time and effort Fr John had. He spoke to the financial statement saying there was a \$19,000 deficit due to the new church process. If you added this back there was a \$15,000 surplus (not \$25,000 as in his report). He mentioned the collections had fallen slightly and rental income was down. He stated that the financial challenge over the coming years was fund raising for the new church. Time would give a clearer picture around this. He thanked the pastoral associates, Wilma Vertogen the parish secretary and Michael Schimanski. As no questions were asked he asked for the adoption of his report. (Graeme Wilson/Myra Barry/carried)

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL’S REPORT: Mark Gregory told those present he was stepping down as school principal after 11 years, but that St Joseph’s would always be dear to his heart. The board was now looking for his replacement. He thanked Fr John, the staff and the community of parents and children. He said he was also looking forward to the new church that would house everyone. He finished by thanking Fr John for his leadership.

PLANNING GROUP REPORT: Graeme Wilson read this report adding there was a meeting that night with the diocese and hopefully an update would soon be available. He thanked the planning group for the enormous amount of work they did and asked for continued prayers. There were no questions.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Graeme thanked the writers of the reports and said he was amazed with the number of different activities in the parish. He asked these written reports be adopted (Graeme Wilson/Janette McKee/carried)

Comment was made about what an asset Mark Gregory was to the school/parish and appreciation was given that the school newsletter was available to parishioners.

Mention was made that the Precious Blood sometimes ran out. Maybe alter your seat in the church, was an easy solution given. People should not receive from the chalice if they have a cold/flu. Fr John pointed out that steps were taken for this: a metal chalice, wiping inside and outside of chalice and moving the cloth. A notice should go in the bulletin as a reminder.

Fr John closed the meeting with a prayer at 11.50am.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

PRIEST’S REPORT

I am very happy to once again submit this 2016-2017 report for our parish AGM. It provides me once again with the opportunity to not only review the year that has passed, but to also reflect on the challenges that are before us.

I think it’s good to remember that the Church is not about a concept or a goal or an initiative – the Church is about a person, Jesus Christ. My report to you therefore should begin there. I am pleased to say, that once again this year I believe as a parish we are making spiritual progress. I say this for a number of reasons; the faithful parishioners who pray for us all in their own time in the Adoration Chapel, that fine group of people who support our daily Masses, those who pray the rosary before Mass, and for those who attend one of the many prayer groups we have here in St Joseph’s Parish. I am very heartened by the new prayer initiatives in recent times, including a thriving Legion of Mary which has just begun. Add to these people our regular Sunday Mass goers, and we have the spiritual heartbeat of our parish which we can be proud of.

This past year concluded with several RCIA candidates going on to become members of our parish and we have just in the past few days made another promising start to this process – this year combining with our friends from St Francis of Assisi parish. We have once again made available some extra early morning Masses during Lent. I also note the very generous support of a group of parishioners to the planned Fourviere retreat centre to be built out at Leithfield.

We can once again reflect on another mission trip to the Philippines. A strong team did a fabulous job bringing the gospel in practical ways to both the young people we encountered in Manila and to the villagers in Santa Cruz, close to Tacloban in the Southern Philippines. The water purification system, our major contribution to the people in Santa Cruz, is now operational.

Not all of us can travel on a mission trip, but here, at home, we continue to have a large number of people on rosters who, week in week out, give of their time, thank you to them. Thank you also to those who clean, arrange flowers, wash linen, work as

sacristans, sing in choirs, altar serve, greet, count, keep our holy shop open, garden, teach our children, run children's liturgy, play the organ and the other myriad of jobs, many of which often go unnoticed. Your contribution to the parish makes it what it is.

Our parish council has not yet reconvened. I hope that we can have a parish council up and running in the coming year. However, with our two pastoral workers, the parish rebuild committee who meet regularly, and our parish Finance Committee and I continue monitor events in our parish through the lens of these good and committed lay people.

A highlight in front of us next month is the 50th anniversary celebrations for the St Gregory's Church. We hope to have close to 120 people for a special anniversary Mass, shared meal, and shared stories, photos and memories. How lucky we have been to have St Gregory's Church during these post-earthquake years.

The new St Joseph's Church is once again back on track after a couple of frustrating years. Our brief is a bold one, seeking to work closely with the school to build both a beautiful and prayer inspiring church, along with an adjacent hall complex for use by parish and school. This new facility will enable us, on occasion, to worship together as one community, parish and school. This concept has been greeted with scepticism by some, who suggest that this collaboration is untested, and vulnerable to changes in staff, at both the parish and the school. However, I remain hopeful that with a strong memorandum of understanding, and a joint commitment to prayer and evangelization, this initiative might well become a blueprint for parish life all around our country.

I want to thank once again our two pastoral assistants, Irene Maguire and Lauren Butler who both work tirelessly around the parish. Our parish office is so often the 'first port of call' for those who connect with us, I thank Wilma once again for her work as she completes a further year here at St Joseph's Parish.

We are also lucky to have a very able and prudent Finance Committee, consisting of Graeme Wilson and Michael Schimanski who provide me with very good advice and see to it that our finances are skilfully administered – thank you to them.

We continue to support the young people of our parish through our parish youth group. This group is led by three young adults who work hard at making our Catholic Faith accessible to the young people of this place. My thanks to Nicole, Elizabeth and Ethan.

The death of +Barry almost two years ago has placed extra demands on the College of Consultors of which I am a member and also on my role as Vicar for Education. I have appreciated the extra support and understanding of the parish community in what has been a particularly taxing time. Fortunately the cavalry has arrived. Fr Thanh is with us and is doing a fine job. More long term it is good to have Glen, a 4th year seminarian living with us during the seminary holidays.

May St Joseph, the strong gentle guardian of the child Jesus, continue to watch over and guide our parish.

Fr John Adams

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

This year the parish financial statements show a small surplus of \$2,000 for the year to 31 March 2017.

There are a number of reasons for this outcome.

This year, our collections have fallen slightly to \$371,000 – a 2.5% reduction from last year. Our thanks go to those who have continued to make a financial contribution to our parish. We are looking at what we can do to encourage new parishioners to contribute financially, and for our young moving into employment to consider adding their financial support. Of course, we're also conscious that we will undertake a fund-raising round – hopefully soon – as we finally start our rebuild.

Our rental income was above last year, although we also spent nearly \$22,000 bringing our rental properties to a more modern, insulated standard – warmer and drier. Thanks to Alan Ryder for his hard work in managing these improvements.

Our overall expenses have risen a little year on year. This includes some support for the parish mission, attendances at the Proclaim conference, as well as simple inflationary pressure. We are conscious of managing those costs.

We've attached financial statements (unaudited). This shows our current year's results alongside last year's result. We've also attached a balance sheet which shows our parish's assets and liabilities. This provides an indicative value for our land and buildings, as the land is based on rating valuations and buildings on insurance valuations.

There's nothing in our accounts for any "share" of the diocesan-wide insurance settlement, as this was retained centrally by the diocese.

The next few years will likely pose some financial challenges for us as we face up to the cost of a new St Joseph's Church. In 2015 in my AGM report I wrote that "hopefully by this time next year we'll have a better idea of that future" – that is still unresolved, but we remain hopeful that we may get a clearer picture soon.

Looking forward, over the next year we are addressing our obligations under health and safety legislation to provide a safe and healthy working environment for the parish team, volunteers, parishioners and visitors.

We want to pay our own way as a parish and, importantly, to make sure that as we focus on concrete, bricks and steel for a new church that we do not lose sight of what we need to do to maintain and strengthen our life as a parish.

My thanks go to Fr John for his continued leadership of our parish, to Fr Thanh, and to the wider parish team. Wilma, thanks for your dedication and the fine work you perform. Thanks also to Michael Schimanski for his considerable and valuable contribution to our committee throughout the year.

Graeme Wilson

St Joseph's Parish

Statement of Receipts and Payments

Year ended 31 Mar

	2017		2016	
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Receipts				
Parish collections				
Clergy trust fund (first collection)	119		121	
Second collection	238		239	
Stole fees, Christmas, Easter	14	371	21	381
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Other collections				
Holy places	0		5	
Seminary	1		1	
Peter's pence	1		1	
Maori mission	1		1	
Mission Sunday	1		1	
Lenten Collection	4	8	6	15
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Education				
Attendance dues	93	93	74	74
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Other income				
Other	3		4	
Sales papers and stall	5		11	
Donations	17		19	
Bequests	1		0	
Interest	19		25	
Rents	80	125	54	113
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Total receipts		597		583
Payments				
Diocese				
Clergy trust fund	133		142	
Other collections	8		15	
Diocesan allocation	57	198	55	212
	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	

Education				
Attendance dues	92		87	
Parish education and functions	8	100	6	93
Church and property expenses				
Church	9		7	
Presbytery	0		1	
Parish centres	2		4	
Repairs and maintenance	33		20	
Rates	16		15	
Insurance	8		7	
Electricity	8	76	10	64
Other expenses				
Papers and stall	6		4	
Donations	12		7	
Wages	125		128	
Other	78	221	60	199
Total payments		595		568
Ordinary surplus (deficit) for the year		2		15
Less - new building project costs		0		34
Surplus (deficit) for the year		2		-19
Balance sheet as at 31 Mar				
Cash and cash equivalents	27		54	
Accounts receivable	0		0	
Inventories	14		10	
Investments with CDF	760	801	767	831
Buildings	4,676		4,676	
Land	1,692		1,692	
Other property, plant and equipment	847	7,215	847	7,215
Total assets		8,016		8,046
Liabilities		5		37
Parish equity		8,011		8,009
Total liabilities and equity		8,016		8,046

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It was a privilege to be appointed principal of St Joseph's School Papanui. St Joseph's School has considerable reputation that spans over generations. This reputation is equally matched by the strength and history of the parish. My family and I are excited to becoming active participants in parish life.

The New Zealand Bishops' Conference describes Catholic schools as an arm of the parish, fulfilling its vocation to be a genuine experience of Church within the organic pastoral work of the parish community. The St Joseph's Community is living proof of the communal relationship of school and parish as one community. This commitment is clearly demonstrated with the rebuild strategy that is currently taking place with members of the parish and school working together to provide rebuild facilities for our community rather than separate organisations. I look forward to a time when the church, priests and pastoral workers are considered part of normal day at school.

The primary purpose of a Catholic school is to work with our parish to provide Catholic children with an opportunity to develop their faith in a Catholic environment. School enrolment statistics would indicate that the school achieves this purpose very well with 98% of the school roll consisting of students with preference certificates. Further analysis confirms that 91% of students are baptised within the Catholic Church. On comparison with other schools within our diocese and around the country the proportion of students who are preference and who are baptised is very high.

I believe maintaining a high proportion of preference students and students from families have demonstrated a commitment to their child's faith development through baptism is one explanation as to how St Joseph's School provides a school faith based environment.

I would like to acknowledge the relationship that Father John and Father Thanh have maintained with our staff and students through their regular visits. This relationship has been further enhanced with Father John co-ordinating table tennis sessions once a week during the school lunch hour. This opportunity to relate to priests extended our students' perception beyond the white collar and more as an adult role modeling a faith based life.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the parish secretary who ensures issues regarding the coordination of parish and school operation runs smoothly. The parish pastoral worker has also ensured that the sacrament programme engages our children. Over recent months we have been exploring how the pastoral team and school can work together to provide greater outreach to our community.

The school continues to provide our wider community with ongoing pastoral support. During 2016 over \$9300 was donated from the school mission fundraising to a variety of mission appeals. All of this money was given to Catholic agencies to support families in need throughout New Zealand and the Pacific. Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand was one of the main recipient of our donation.

The Parent Teacher Association and Family Care Group continue to provide practical support for families in need. This includes, but is not limited to, providing families in need with meals or assistance. We are very proud of a range of achievements over the year in the area of academics, sports and culture. Here is a list of the more prominent successes from 2016:

- ICAS (International Competitions and Assessment for Schools) three boys achieved high distinction which put them in the top 1% in New Zealand. 23 students received 36 Distinction Certificates (some students achieved Distinction in more than one subject).
- 13 Year 7 & 8 students achieved Excellence in the University of Otago Problem Challenge.
- Two senior students were awarded Canterbury Westland Science and Technology prizes.
- Rotary Speech Finals: 17 students from a range of local schools qualified for this speech competition. 7 out of 17 students came from our school. On the night, one of our students came first and one came second.
- Special Choir: 5 students were successful in auditioning for places in the Christchurch Schools Music Festival.
- J Rock / Stage Challenge - about 80 students participated in this extravaganza and worked hard to perfect their performance at the Horncastle Arena.
- We entered two teams in Cantamath this year and they achieved excellent results - the Year 8 team got the Golden ticket of achieving 100%. (17th out of 100 schools)
- Our Kapahaka performed this year at the Cultural Festival in the Horncastle Arena they also performed at the Mariki celebrations, and Grandparents' Day.
- Sport is always extremely well organised at our school. We were well represented in the North Zone teams as well as the Championship teams for various sporting events.
- It was announced at the end of 2016 that one of our boys won an academic scholarship to St Bede's College.

Aaron Richards

ST JOSEPH'S PLANNING GROUP

The planning group comprises Fr John Adams, Melissa Segar, Marianne Daly, Wendy Skinner, Steve Joyce, Francois Baudet and Graeme Wilson.

At last year's AGM we advised parishioners that we were awaiting a response from the Diocesan Rebuild Board to the proposal we delivered in March 2016. The proposal was to build a new St Joseph's Church, together with a new presbytery, a day chapel, and a hall for use by, and jointly funded by, school and parish - which would also provide an overflow space for large Masses.

However, the board responded in July that it could not approve our rebuild plan at that time. Why not? The rebuild board has to act within the framework set for it by Bishop Barry. The board considered our proposal was outside of their established framework as the total seating, including the overflow and the day chapel, exceeds 500, and because we had an attached hall as part of the project.

As a parish, that left us with two possible options. The first option was for us to both downsize the proposed church and day chapel and remove the hall space. We didn't consider that to do so was in the best long-term interest of our parish. The second option was to wait and to seek approval once our new bishop is appointed, and that's what we chose to do.

Fortunately, in recent months we have started to make progress again. We have had a number of fruitful conversations with the diocese team over the last few months.

Critically, the diocese has now advised a willingness to consider a proposal for a design with hall to be attached to our new church. This gives us the flexibility we have been seeking. We have been pushing for the hall so as to provide expansion space for large Masses – including school Mass with parents, and Christmas and Easter liturgies.

It is still not definite that we will have the hall attached as there is much to consider. The school and parish will continue to investigate how a shared facility would enhance both the pastoral and educational aspects of our parish community.

We need to satisfy ourselves, St Joseph's School, and the diocese that the hall can operate effectively when the church is also in use, and that our children will be able to safely use the hall without having to walk through a car-park.

We have now re-engaged with our architects, Ian Krause and Associates – re-named “Ikon” – and they have started work to incorporate some suggestions from the diocesan team into our draft designs.

Over the next few months, once we have draft plans and designs available we will make those available for comment, and hold some information sessions to seek your thoughts.

We will of course keep you informed as matters progress.

It's been a very real pleasure to work with the other members of the planning group, and I want to thank them for the enormous amount of time and effort they've willingly contributed and the wonderful spirit in which the process has been undertaken.

Graeme Wilson

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES' REPORTS

Firstly, I want to say thank you to all the parishioners at St Joseph's Parish. I feel very privileged to be working in this role and supporting you in “whatever Father John needs me to do!” I also want to say thank you to Father John and Father Thanh – it is a pleasure working alongside you both and especially thank you to Lauren Butler. Working together as pastoral associates is very rewarding – as one of our main focuses is to bring Jesus to whomever we meet, in whatever way we can.

Every day can be so different, and in all honesty, I really love that. The last 12 months have been very busy with a variety of events.

Confirmation 2016 – 31 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation in August. Our St Joseph's Youth Group Leaders were wonderful to work with as we taught the group about the gift of confirmation.

ICPE Mission Team spent a week with us in March. These young people from all over the world shared their love of Christ with us all over the week with seminars, mime at the Masses and parish visitations. We were very grateful to the many families that billeted this group and a special thank you to Linlee Popham, who coordinated all their meals. It was awesome to see such generosity from the parish to feed and accommodate them.

First Holy Communion 2017 began in March and concluded in June. There were 63 young children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist. We were blessed with the wonderful contribution to this year's programme by the First Holy Communion Leaders Team – Jo Sutcliffe, Kate Clarkson, Megan Stewart and Paula Baudet. A special thank you to these ladies for all your help. Thank you to the team of people working with Gretchen Brosnahan for the catering of the FHC children's celebration party.

In June, Lauren Butler and I coordinated the 3rd Ignatius Spiritual Exercises Retreat. Sr Mary Catherwood and her team led 25 parishioners on this very special month long spiritual journey, meetings once a week for five weeks. These retreats have proven to be a catalyst for a desire of more spiritual study within our parish, which is enabling several people to embrace God's loving presence in their lives.

Father John has appointed Ken Joblin as our new Musical Director and I will be working alongside him coordinating and arranging beautiful music for our Masses.

We are very blessed to have several people as part of a Bereavement Care team. Lauren and I are working with them to establish post bereavement support for those who grieve a loved one.

On a diocesan level I am working with a team of people to bring an exciting 2-day conference called Ablaze to Christchurch in November - and finally, visiting people in their homes. It is often the most rewarding part of my role.

I am quite honoured to be working for this parish and to be part of the people's lives that I meet.

Irene Maguire

SACRISTY: A team of ten sacristans faithfully prepare the way for the Lord by setting up for Mass, baptisms and funerals. Their work allows us all to pray our way through the liturgical seasons. We welcome Teresa and Suzanne to the sacristan team this year. Thanks to Raylene Monteba for sharing in the care of the chapel and to the florist team and altar linen laundering team – the complementarity of all our work makes for a beautiful sanctuary for the Lord. May the Lord bless you for your work.

RCIA/OCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults is a journey of learning and sharing about the beauty of the Catholic faith while fostering a spiritual life in the Lord. We learn about prayer, get inspired by the lives of the saints and reflect on the Sunday gospel. We learn about the liturgical year teach about Church doctrines and Catholic tradition.

We welcomed two people into the Catholic Church at Easter 2017 and are delighted to see them participating in parish life. We began RCIA/OCIA again this month and we have now combined this with our neighbouring St Francis of Assisi parish.

Steve and Bernadette Joyce stepped down from teaching this year and we thank them for their dedication and contribution to the RCIA process.

Note RCIA has had a slight name change to OCIA to better reflect that there are a series of rites involved in the journey to becoming Catholic.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME PROGRAMME: We will begin the CRH process in October this year. Encourage your family and friends who have drifted away from the faith to come along and explore returning home.

PASTORAL VISITATION TEAM: With Mary and "The Visitation" as our model, we try to bring the Lord to people through our pastoral care visit.

A team of eight volunteers bring a warm welcome from the parish:

- to see how you are
- is there anything we, as a parish, can do for you?
- to update your contact details
- to give you an info pack about the parish activities
- we are seeking your feedback on the parish

We have made contact with over 400 households since it began (33% of the parish roll) and have had some good outcomes. We have lots of work to do. If you enjoy visiting and would like to join the team, please contact Lauren.

REDISCOVER CATHOLICISM: We gave away 600 free 'Rediscover Catholicism' books at Christmas and followed up with a successful book study in Lent. This book made an impact and I continue to encourage all to read it.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH - CUPPA & CARE GROUP: We ran a successful 'Seasons for Growth' course this year in the parish for those who are experiencing grief from loss in various ways. Growing from the course was an opportunity to continue to meet monthly we pray for our loved ones and support each other in a friendly environment.

Lauren Butler

IGNATIAN RETREAT IN DAILY LIFE

Twenty-four people participated in the third guided retreat in the series of the First Spiritual Exercises, originally conceived by St Ignatius and adapted by an Australian Jesuit to be accessible to anyone.

The theme for the 2017 retreat was Inner Peace in Friendship with Jesus. Participants met weekly with either a morning or evening group for the Thursdays of June. During this time they were led in silent prayer, followed by the opportunity for sharing with a small group. Resources were provided for personal prayer (meditation and contemplation) at home during the week. This retreat was facilitated by Sr Mary Catherwood who was supported by Sr Mary Gleeson and Lauren Butler.

Our parish has had a different retreat from this series in each of the last three years. This pattern of retreat in daily life is being experienced also in other parishes.

Sr Mary Catherwood RSM

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE REPORT

This winter has been a busy one for the St Vincent de Paul Society with 155 calls over the last two and a half months (since 1st June). The cost of power and firewood over the winter appears to be a significant element in requests for help.

Thank you to you all in the parish who have contributed food to the food baskets at St Gregory's Church. This is a big help and we supplement it with food purchased from Pak'n'Save and donations of food that come through the St Vincent de Paul shop in Stanmore Road. We give out a food parcel that is worth between \$70.00 - \$80.00 per family with a reasonable mix of food that should last a few days for a family of five. This includes not only canned items but bread, potatoes, onions and milk.

The conference would like to thank Maureen Sharp, for her six years as secretary, and Elaine Ramsey for taking the secretary's role on.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the New Zealand Society of St Vincent de Paul in Christchurch and there will be a celebration to mark the event in October.

Please pray for us as we do our best to help those who are less well off in our community.

Mike Collins

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY (CLC)

Twelve people who formed a Christian Life Community (CLC) as a follow-up to the 2015 First Spiritual Exercises Retreat continue to commit themselves, if possible, to pray daily and to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. At meetings, we follow a simple pattern of sharing our experience of Jesus and prayer to support one another to enter more deeply into silence so that we learn to discover God in all things. Between meetings, members pray and reflect on the scripture readings and reflections in *"To Share in the Life of Christ; Experiencing God in Everyday Life"* by Laurence Gooley SJ. Founded by St Ignatius and one of the oldest existing lay groups in the Church, CLC focuses on Ignatian prayer, community and mission.

From the CLC International website: *"The charism and spirituality of CLC are Ignatian. Thus, the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius are both the specific source of our charism and the characteristic instrument of CLC spirituality. The CLC way of life is shaped by the features of Ignatian Christology: austere and simple, in solidarity with the poor and the outcasts of society, integrating contemplation and action, in all things living lives of love and service within the Church, always in a spirit of discernment."*

Kathleen Rushton RSM

CHILDREN'S LITURGY REPORT

Led by a committed, creative and enthusiastic team of leaders Children's Liturgy continues in the parish, although over the last year, we have seen numbers drop, as well as the age of those attending. Children who attend enjoy the individual focus and the opportunity to experience the readings of the day, songs, prayer and individual activities all targeted at their own level.

We have been very fortunate to gain the skills and talent of two new leaders to join our established team of five dedicated leaders. We are always keen to see these numbers grow.

Over the year we have continued to be supported too by an enthusiastic group of Year 8 helpers from St Joseph's School. They are a great help to us as they read the gospel, participate in the Prayer of the Faithful, encourage the children with their activities and help us to tidy up at the end.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Children's Liturgy over the last twelve months.

Katie Stewart

CHOIR REPORT

This past year has been interesting. Under the direction of Josephine Oorschot, and accompanied by Michael Zon, the choir took great delight in entertaining Fr John Noonan and other residents at Anthony Wilding Rest Home. It was the second time we had visited him, but his health was a lot better this time. We all enjoyed the afternoon, and suggested that we do it again sometime.

During the Christmas season a function was put on by the parish for all the people who were in any way involved in the running of the parish. The choir provided the entertainment and everyone joined in, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The parish provided nibbles and liquid refreshments, which were appreciated by all.

The choir was privileged to sing at Fr Graeme Blackburn's first Mass since his ordination. We had just learnt "The Holy City" a couple of weeks before, and it was requested for this special occasion, a most suitable choice. We had to stretch ourselves when a trumpet joined in at the chorus.

Ken Joblin has been appointed Musical Director for the parish. Ken has been busy on a recruiting drive, contacting those who had expressed an interest in joining the choir, and a get together was arranged to meet after the 7.00pm on Tuesday 15th August, the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. This was a practical approach as a number of interested would attend the Mass, and stay on to see what changes would take place in the music. A good number of recruits attended and Ken put us through some exercises, and outlined the future plans for the choir. We may have a choir of about forty or more which will be a valuable asset when the new church is built on the St Joseph's site in Vagues Road. Practice night will be on a Tuesday night, 7.00pm – 8.30pm.

Fr John Adams, Ken Joblin and a group of choir members, attended a Mass and talk at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral on 23rd July. There were about sixty people from all over Christchurch in the choir loft. Sir James MacMillan, a Scottish composer on a visit to New Zealand, took us through his composition of "St Anne's Mass" and other hymns to be sung during the Mass. Sir James conducted us throughout the Mass. What an experience! The music soared right throughout the church, reaching for the heavens. A light supper was served and Sir James talked about his life as a composer and musician and of the music he has composed for various occasions. There was question and answer time, after which everyone departed.

As expected, the winter has affected attendance at practice, through sickness, travel – home and away, and other factors, including age. May the new look choir inspire the long serving choir members to welcome and encourage the newer members to give of their best to create spiritual and uplifting music.

A big thank you to Michael Zon for his directing the choir and Michael, Nick Collins and Grant Bartley for accompanying the choirs on the organ. We wish Lyn Smith and Josephine Oorschot well as they move on to greener pastures, and thank them for all the work they have done for the parish. Lyn with her energy for gardening and preparing the music for practices, and Josephine for her musical knowledge, work and time getting the choir to perform to their best. We thank all those people who come up after Mass and say how much they enjoyed the music. We give praise to God in song.

Lois James

CATHOLIC STALL

I am amazed at the volume of sales at the time of first communion, confirmation and baptism. When we use the parish Facebook pages to help promote various products this also helps sales.

However, it does astound me as to how many people in the parish are not aware of the stall at the back of the church - in the foyer at St Gregory's Church.

We have a good group of people who open the stall and assist parishioners make their purchase. We could always do with one or two more people for each Mass. The task is not onerous – just ten minutes before and after Mass once every four to six weeks.

Several other parishes appreciate the stock we have and the service we provide, as they request our attendance at their first communion and confirmation parents' nights. Sales are always very good and well worth the effort. This is the perfect place to purchase gifts and cards for all occasions, or to purchase pictures, statues and crucifixes for your own home.

Helen Dooley

MARRALOMEDA COMMUNITY REPORT

The Marralameda Community was founded almost twenty-eight years ago in response to the gospel command: "Love one another". At Marralameda we attempt to live community where the invitation of Jesus to "love one another" is taken seriously. Nineteen people with intellectual disability live with assistants in four different homes in Redwood and they support each other in various ways as they journey daily life together.

A couple of highlights of the past year have been:

- Seeing new faces volunteering at the activity centre always gives the community members joy in their daily rhythm. This year we had the arrival of Siew who was inspired to join us after seeing the community at the Stations of the Cross presentation during Lent. Her two teenage daughters also come along during the school holidays and they certainly bring energy and delight to all.
- An enjoyable time was had by a lot of community members when we attended the Faith and Light retreat at Blue Skies in Kaiapoi. People from all over New Zealand joined us so new friendships were formed and old friendships
- "0" birthdays are always a highlight with Pam celebrating her 70th, Jane her 50th and an upcoming 50th for Virginia also planned for September. Margaret this year celebrated her 85th - she doesn't look a day over 70!

Other future activities include:

- A planned excursion to the Sound of Music in October is well anticipated
- Warmer weather starts the rhythm of weekend barbeques and picnics – anyone who would like to volunteer and help with these would be most welcome.

Our year has been tinged with some significant changes:

- Anne-Marie has stepped back from an active role in leadership to more of a "grand-mother" role. Thankfully she still lives next door and is always available for loving guidance when needed.
- Sr Mary Byrne after many years of volunteering in the activity centre retired to Nazareth house. Her gentle presence is sorely missed.
- Two long serving board members, Linda Tucker and Michelle Enoke, retired this year.

It was a special privilege for us to be invited to take part in the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

We are also grateful for the continued support and donations we receive in time and money as this generosity empowers the community members to live a better quality of life.

We continue to live together through the ups and downs of daily life and to heed the call of Jesus to "love one another". We would be grateful for any parishioner who would like to assist the community in any way, our number 352 8292.

Lyn Haines

PRAYER & REFLECTION GROUP

A very rewarding year again for our loyal friendly group which studies and shares the scripture readings for the following Sunday's Mass.

We recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet for all souls at the hour of death including parish and personal intentions.

If you are interested but unable to join us for one hour on a Wednesday morning there are some Divine Mercy Chaplet pamphlets available in St Gregory's Church foyer.

Bev McLorinan

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS TO THE SICK

We all try to live the way God wants us to and know that the Eucharist is the centre of our lives. To fulfil this mission Ministers to the Sick bring the Eucharist to those unable to attend Mass through sickness and old age and who long to receive the Lord in Holy Communion. We become tabernacles, vessels carrying the bread of life. We try to help people to enter a deeper spiritual life.

At present we have 85 people on our rounds including those in Ngaio Marsh, Wendover, Cunliffe House, Golden Age, Wesley Care, Bethesda, Albarosa and Camellia Court. We also go to the Marralameda Community.

On Friday nine ministers go out from Mass, four on Sunday and one on Thursday. It is a great privilege and pleasure to visit God's people who look forward to receiving the Lord every week. They love to hear about what is happening in the parish and are given weekly bulletins and other Catholic literature. They all pray for the parish intentions and in this way feel part of the community.

Every Friday morning Fr Thanh celebrates Holy Mass at one of the rest homes. The sick are always expressing their gratitude and great happiness in being able to participate in the sacrifice of the Mass, and what a wonderful blessing this is.

Thank you to Fr Thanh and Fr John for their love and support. Special thanks to the ministers for their loyalty and dedication. Please keep the sick and suffering in your prayers.

Janette McKee

WEDNESDAY WALKING GROUP

This is a group of mature women who enjoy each other's company. World leader should go to them as they have all the answers! They go out to lunch twice a year and coffee mornings frequently, so not a serious walking group – but a friendly and fun group who care for each other.

If this interests you – the members attend the 9.15am Mass at St Joseph's Parish Centre where they meet and decide where they will head for. No need for a big commitment as it's come if you are free. For more details ring the writer on 354 6583.

Frances Shaw

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE REPORT

The members of this branch serve the parish and the wider community under its motto of "Faith and Service."

In the past year, we celebrated our 50th anniversary.

We thank Fr John and Fr Thanh for their ongoing support.

Velma Maunsell

DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP

We are a small prayer group who meet every second Wednesday of the month, downstairs in the St Joseph's Parish Centre at 7.00pm to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and devotions. If you would like to join them please ring Gerry Smith 352 8655.

MARIAN GROUP REPORT

The Marian Group, under the patronage of Mary Help of Christians, is a group opened to both male and female, who seek spiritual growth through prayer and active work within the parish family.

Visiting the sick, elderly and the house bound is their principal focus. In addition they provide support through a number of activities, such as:

Serving refreshments at funerals, alternating with the Catholic Women's League

Serving refreshments at the Council of Priests' meetings

Making gift trays and delivering them to older parishioners in their own homes or in rest homes

Arranging the liturgy for the Lenten Anointing Mass, for which they provide transport and refreshments

Gifting a miraculous medal and card to the newly baptised

The group has a day of retreat and prayer and also socialises with a picnic and mid-year and end of year luncheon. They meet twice a month on the first and third Tuesday of the month, after the 9.15am Mass.

If you would like to join this friendly, supportive group, the members would be delighted to welcome you. Information about the group is on the notice board in the foyer.

Brenda Hart

COUNTING TEAMS

The counting teams have continued to count the collection each week.

There are seven counting teams, comprising a team leader and five counters. Each team counts the collection on a seven week roster basis - one week on, and then seven weeks until it's their team's turn again.

Thanks to all the team leaders and counters for their continued support.

There are a couple of vacancies on one of the counting teams. If you are interested in helping, please contact me on 027 222 3315. It only takes an hour of your time every seven weeks!

Mark Noonan

YOUTH GROUP

This year has brought forward numerous blessings for us three youth workers, and it's incredible to think we're already halfway through August!

Ethan George replaced Adam Sutcliffe as our male youth worker at the start of this year and he (Ethan) has been a wonderful asset to the team. Ethan is enthusiastic, caring and well-liked by the youth, and Lizzy and I have found him to be extremely easy-going and positive to work alongside with.

We started the year with our main priority being to promote youth group to the year 8's at St Joseph's School. The staff and senior teachers welcomed our presence as did the children and we had great numbers during the initial (summer) months of youth group. The middle of winter brought about a slump in numbers, however we have a dedicated core bunch of juniors and seniors who are very loyal to their Sunday nights at youth group. The high school group are simply a delight and it's been a hugely rewarding

experience seeing the children transition from the year 8 group through to the high school group - many of them show leadership potential, and we aim to develop their abilities for the future purpose of filling our roles once we have moved on!

We believe in engaging the youth via fun and fellowship; as evidenced by the countless games, activities and fun challenges we create for them - MasterChef cooking competitions, Battleships, Quiz Night, Movie Night(s) etc. We've had a strong focus to build our faith based activities this year, and we're happy to say we are definitely growing and achieving on this front. The youth are receptive and open to sharing their ideas and will often ask us very deep and meaningful questions which at times even we as leaders may not have all the answers to. The seniors have also responded positively to the times we've visited the adoration chapel and this further encourages us as leaders - we know our youth are open and engaged in the more "serious" side of youth group. We've been fortunate to have help in terms of guest speakers (Jose O'Sullivan/Glenn Brennan.), visits from the diocesan Mission Team and Fr John and Fr Thanh have been generous in giving their time to us whenever they can. We very much appreciate the external support.

More recently we took a team of eight to the annual diocesan youth sports night held at Pioneer Stadium; the kids had a wonderful time and already speak of next year's event. We even managed to bring home the Fair Play award!

We can truly report that all is going well with the St Joseph's junior and senior youth groups. The enthusiasm and genuinely positive response of our youth make our work as leaders hugely rewarding, and we know that ultimately it is Him that is given the glory of our efforts. We understand and very much appreciate this as being a paid position, and so undertake our responsibilities to the best of our capacities. Thank you to Wilma for organising our contracts and fortnightly payments, we are grateful for her work. A big thank you also to Irene for her continual support, prayers and encouragement.

Nicole Sequeira