Celebrating history and service

BISHOP Colin Campbell reflects on Holy Cross Founders Day 2012 – north and south:

Founders Day for Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland was celebrated this year on Monday April 30. I was privileged to be the Principal Celebrant at the Mass in the Ponsonby Catholic Church, which is now linked to the Seminary. It was a walk down memory lane for me and I enjoyed catching up with the staff and students again. We have two students for the Dunedin diocese – Gregory Clark, who is in his fourth year, and Michael Walker, in his first year.

The Mass was the votive Mass of the Holy Cross because that was the feast on May 3, 1900 when Bishop Michael Verdon opened Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, as the New Zealand Seminary for diocesan priesthood.

Msgr Peter Jeffery, the new Rector of Holy Cross Seminary, in his after-dinner speech recounted some points in the history of the College.

It prompted me to have another look at Fr Peter Norris’ book on Holy Cross, Southernmost Seminary. The Opening Day was a fascinating one for a number of reasons:

After the Mass and the Ceremony of Blessing of the College, Bishop Verdon presided over a clergy luncheon. Controversy erupted later in the local press over the fact that the Pope was toasted before the Queen – surely a sign of the times.

The Vice-Rector, Fr Ryan, in an after-dinner speech spoke of the “magnificent situation … of the College and the salubrious climate of Mosgiel would be strong inducements to many young men of the neighbouring Colonies who had a vocation for the priesthood to seek education here.”

Peter goes on to say, “After a number of other speeches and toasts, the clergy went home convinced that the life of the College would only be a few years. The laity went home surprised. They had come with rolls of notes expecting to contribute to the initial costs of opening a seminary. But Bishop Verdon never took up a collection, whether from forgetfulness or personal generosity it is difficult to guess.” (page 17)

Our own Founder’s Day for the Dunedin diocese was at Holy Cross, Mosgiel on May 7 and this year we celebrated the silver jubilee of Fr David Hercus, two ruby jubilees of Fr Tony Harrison and Fr Dan Cummings, and the diamond jubilee of Fr Tom Keyes.

Msgr Vincent Walker

Near the conclusion of the meal, I proposed a tribute of thanks to Monsignor Vincent Walker, who is stepping down as Vicar General:

Continued on page 3 ➤
Humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects supported by Peter’s Pence collection

THE Peter’s Pence collection takes place worldwide on July 1 and in the first year of his Pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI stressed the proper meaning of the Peter’s Pence offering, saying Peter’s Pence is the most characteristic expression of the participation of all the faithful in the Bishop of Rome’s charitable initiatives in favour of the universal Church.

“The gesture has not only a practical value, but also a strong symbolic one, as a sign of communion with the Pope and attention to the needs of one’s brothers; and therefore your service possesses a refined ecclesial character”. The ecclesial value of this gesture becomes evident when one considers how charitable initiatives are connatural to the Church, as the Pope stated in his first Encyclical Deus caritas est:

“The Church can never be exempted from practising charity as an organised activity of believers and, on the other hand, there will never be a situation where the charity of each individual Christian is unnecessary, because in addition to justice man needs, and will always need, love.” This aid is always animated by that love which comes from God:

“For this reason, it is very important that the Church’s charitable activity maintains all of its splendour and does not become just another form of social assistance … The Christian’s programme — the programme of the Good Samaritan, the programme of Jesus — is ‘a heart which sees’. This heart sees where love is needed and acts accordingly.”

Former Pontiffs have manifested their attention to the Peter’s Pence Collection as a form of support given by believers to the Successors of St Peter’s ministry to the universal Church. Pope John Paul II, for example, stated:

“You are aware of the growing needs of the apostolate, the requirements of the ecclesial communities, especially in mission countries, and the requests for aid that come from peoples, individuals and families in precarious conditions. Many expect the Apostolic See to give them the support they often fail to find elsewhere.

“In this perspective the Peter’s Pence Collection is a true and proper participation in the work of evangelisation, especially if one considers the meaning and importance of concretely sharing in the concerns of the universal Church” (Pope John Paul II to the St Peter’s Circle, 28 February 2003).

The faithful’s offerings to the Holy Father are destined to Church needs, to humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as support of the Holy See. The Pope, being Pastor of the whole Church, is attentive to the material needs of poor dioceses, religious institutes and of faithful in grave difficulties (the poor, children, the elderly, those marginalised and the victims of war or natural disasters; concrete aid to Bishops or dioceses in need, Catholic education, assistance to refugees and immigrants, etc.

The general criterion that inspires the Peter’s Pence Collection is derived from the primitive Church:

“The primary source of support for the Apostolic See should be in offerings freely given by Catholics throughout the whole world, and by other persons of good will. This is in harmony with a tradition dating back to the Gospel (cf. Lk 10:7) and the teaching of the Apostles (cf. 1 Cor 11:14).”

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History and service

“Now I wish to propose a toast and a special word of thanks to Monsignor Vincent Walker on behalf of Bishop Len and myself and indeed on behalf of you all.

In a sense it is a changing of the guard as Msgr Walker is now stepping down from his office as Vicar General. I wish to pay a special debt of thanks to him and I speak on behalf of Bishop Len for his term began when Msgr Peter Mee retired in 1995. Msgr Vince has served faithfully in the role for 17 years, and almost half for Bishop Len and half for myself.

In all that time, his work as Vicar General has been of the highest quality and he has carried it out conscientiously, loyally and with dedication and single-mindedness. Bishop Len and I could safely be away in New Zealand or overseas and know that things were on course with Msgr Vince looking after the place.

There are many things that the Vicar General can deputise for: taking the place of the bishop at the NZCBC Conference, at special liturgical occasions and civic receptions. In all these areas, Msgr Vince has been faithful and exemplary in his role. An important area of his role was the paperwork for dispensations from marriages outside a Catholic Church and in a suitable place. I know he has always had a good pastoral heart for these requests and given the situation, did the best for the couple and respective priest.

I have always valued his pastoral insights, especially when it came to property sales and finance in the tough business world of today.

When asked what he considered the highlight of his time as Vicar General, he said that overall he was privileged to serve the Bishop, priests and the diocese.

For that dedication, we are all deeply grateful and sincerely thank you for your many years as Vicar General; we pray that life is much calmer and serene now but that your pastoral help and insight are ever there to help others.

New Vicar General

I have much pleasure in announcing the new Vicar General is Fr Paul Mahoney. Fr Paul is the Parish Priest of Cromwell and Upper Clutha, and has been a member of the College of Consultors and Priests’ Council for a number of years.

Fr John Harrison

I mentioned how long it was when Msgr Vince took over as Vicar General on Peter Mee’s retirement. Fr John had been assisting Msgr Peter in Chancery before that but was made Chancellor on Msgr Peter’s retirement in 1999. Fr John has fulfilled this office loyally and conscientiously.

I know I speak for Bishop Len and myself that in situations of Canon Law and situations concerning church, priests, religious and laity, his assistance has been valuable and helpful. His work nationally was recognised when he was made an Associate Judicial Vicar for the Tribunal of the Catholic Church for New Zealand.

Fr John is also a member of the Diocesan Protocol Committee, in which capacity he has faithfully served for many years.

All this leads up to my announcing that Pope Benedict XVI has conferred the title of Chaplain of His Holiness on Fr John Harrison. Fr John will now be known as Monsignor John Harrison.

In the Spirit,

✠ C. D. Campbell
Bishop of Dunedin
The Tablet June 2012

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Mission assignment ends

By GILLIAN VINE
A FIVE-YEAR appointment that stretched an extra six months is ending for Fr Paul Shannahan SM.

Fr Paul was in the diocese last month, his last official visit as director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, known in New Zealand as Missionz.

He was to have completed his term in October but said that, because of the New Zealand-wide shortage of priests, “it’s taken many months to … locate a successor”.

The new director has been named as Fr Bernard Espiritu SM, made available to Missionz by the Australian Provincial of the Societas Verbi Divini (Society of the Divine Word).

A Filipino priest with wide international experience, Fr Bernard has just concluded a five-year appointment at the United Nations. He has also served as a missionary in Brazil and parish priest in Wollongong, NSW.

Because his Missionz role had been a full-time one, Fr Paul felt “people and parishes have grown in awareness” of the work. The Missionz website and newsletter, as well as parish and church visits, also helped raise the profile, he said.

New Zealand Catholics have a strong tradition of mission giving. Despite the recession, which had seen giving “levelling off” last year, the three Pontifical Mission Societies had been sent $500,000.

“This is for mission projects that have been approved in advance, such as accommodation for children in Assam, India, who are educated there,” Fr Paul said.

Money was sent to Zambia to build a school on the outskirts of Lusaka for children orphaned by Aids.

Closer to home, assistance was given to the Bishop of Vanemo, Papua New Guinea, to build two new village churches. “There is no cash economy, so the bishop has to rely on donations, such as those from Missionz,” Fr Paul said.

“Most of these people [helped by Missionz are in Third World or emerging countries, many living at subsistence level. To get this sort of aid from committed Catholics is very humbling for them and very welcome. They are people we will probably never meet but they are part of the body of the Church,” Fr Paul said.

“We’re doing no more than the French laity of Lyons in the 1830s and 1840s, whose giving to the Pontifical Mission Societies supported Bishop Pompallier and enabled the Church to be established in New Zealand.”

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New director appointed to head Missionz agency

THE moment he was appointed, the new director for the Pontifical Mission Societies in New Zealand (Missionz) was off to Rome.

Fr Bernard Espiritu SVD received his warrant of appointment on May 4 from Cardinal Filoni, who heads the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples.

Fr Bernard has been appointed for five years to promote and find support for New Zealand’s three Pontifical Mission Societies.

The search for a qualified replacement for Fr Paul Shannahan SM has taken over a year.

Fr Espiritu brings many skills and much missionary experience to Missionz.

Originally from Bulacan, just north of the Philippines capital, Manila, he grew up in a rich Catholic culture. He was drawn to the Missionaries of the Divine Word (SVD). He spent some years in Brazil and had to learn the Portuguese language.

Later he was sent to Australia and became a well-known and well-thought of parish priest for six years at the Mother of God parish in the Wollongong Diocese.

He had the added duty of vice provincial.

For the past five years, he has worked at the United Nations with a non-government organisation called Vivat, advocating for the SVD order along with their sister congregation – the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters (SSps).

Fr Bernard’s first task when he was appointed to Missionz was to immediately take off for Rome for the annual international meeting of all the national directors – about 120 of them from around the globe – where the funds collected each year are approved for distribution to over 1100 mission Bishops and for the projects they sent to the PMS offices in Rome.

A public gathering to welcome him and farewell Fr Paul was arranged for late May in Wellington.

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Diocese farewells ‘priest with a golden voice’

WELCOMING people to the Requiem Mass for Fr John Blair Stone, Bishop Colin Campbell described him as “a true gentleman with a wonderful wit and a great storyteller” and a dedicated priest of the diocese for almost 57 years.

Fr Stone died on May 4, aged 81.

Bishop Colin also spoke of the “great debt owed to Sr Regis for the long and wonderful care she showed to John” and also the care by the Little Sisters of the Poor.

In his homily, Bishop Len Boyle reflected on how the parable of the grain of wheat from John’s Gospel – read by Msgr John Harrison – could be applied to Fr Stone’s life and the suffering of his last years.

The bishop recalled how, as a young priest, he joined the team at South Dunedin. “There, John was my boss, or perhaps I should say mentor. I learned so much from him,” he said.

“In priesthood, he was unwavering as a priest of God.”

Fr Stone was “very effective and very positive” in marriage preparation and counselling work, both of which he took extremely seriously.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Fr Stone – who had a fine speaking voice – had a 10am radio slot on Friday, which earned him the nickname “The Man With the Golden Voice”. Each Thursday, he prepared for his Friday programme and Bishop Boyle commented: Thursday was not a good day to talk to Fr Stone.

Fr John Blair Stone on his 80th birthday in 2010.

There was no doubt that the radio presentations were successful, as the telephone was always ringing on Fridays with callers wanting to congratulate Fr Stone and give feedback on what he had talked about that day.

“Because of his voice and the message he gave, he helped people – not all of whom he knew – to know God,” the bishop said.

Born in 1930, one of four boys for Richard and Eileen Stone, Fr Stone was undoubtedly influenced by his mother, “a faith-filled and wonderful woman”, whom he loved dearly.

Losing his mental faculties must have been hard on him, as he knew what was happening, but he continued to be a witness to God, Bishop Boyle said.

“We thank you for the life you lived and the example you gave us.”

Ordained on July 26, 1955 by Bishop J.P. Kavanagh, Fr Stone served as curate at St Joseph’s Cathedral (1955-58) and South Dunedin Parish (1958-68), and as parish priest at Wyndham (1968-73), Balclutha (1973-78), Forbury (1978-79), Winton (1979-88), Gore (1988-96) and Balclutha (1998-2005). He was the Diocesan Representative for Communications (1979-83) and a member of the Priests’ Council.

Bishop Colin Campbell and priests leave St Patrick’s Basilica at the conclusion of the Requiem Mass.

Bishop Colin Campbell incenses Fr John Stone’s casket.
Boyle family celebrates in true Irish fashion

A FEW days after the Boyle family reunion celebrations in Southland had ended, Bishop Len Boyle was still grinning.

"It was a truly marvellous occasion," he said, of the May 11-13 events organised to mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival in Bluff of John Boyle – a native of Annaghdown, County Galway.

Bishop Len is considered by his clan to be its patriarch and early this year he asked his niece Catherine Morrison to organise a family reunion, 25 years after the last gathering.

With another relative, Trish Giblin, Catherine responded to the challenge with meticulous organisation, co-opting a Southland committee headed by Bernadette Gourley. Their tireless work paid off, with 170 descendants of John and Ann Boyle enjoying every minute of three days of celebration and commemoration as a result. They even had their own newspaper, The Boyle Times, which recorded newspaper clippings about family members over the past 150 years.

Bishop Len (81) is one of John and Ann Boyle's six surviving grandchildren. Three of the others are his brothers – Jack (88), Frank (85) and Cliff (79). They joined Lex Cairns, a sprightly 93, at the Friday night function at Invercargill's Ascot Hotel, while the sole surviving granddaughter, Rhoda Tourelle, sent her best wishes from Ross Home in Dunedin.

The Friday night highlight was the launch of Bishop Len Boyle's biography in Invercargill, of The Good Shepherd, the book was written by Claire Ramsay. It details the life story of Bishop Len, a Nightcaps boy who was a farmer, freezing worker and shearer before entering the Holy Cross seminary at Mosgiel to study for the priesthood. He decided to dedicate his life to God and was ordained a priest at St Thomas' Church, Winton in 1961, aged 31.

He became Bishop of Dunedin in 1983, succeeding Bishop John Kavanagh. He served for 21 years before retiring in 2004 but he has continued to be active in pastoral duties, often standing in at parishes around the country.

Ms Ramsay, a former Otago journalist who is now director of administration at the University of Otago's Business School, said the book was prompted by an introduction to Bishop Len by his friend and then neighbour Bill Brown. "Bill and I had known each other since my days as editor of the Taieri Herald in Mosgiel," she said.

"Archbishop John Battersby had been on at Bishop Len to have someone tell the story of his life, so it was serendipitous when we met." Ms Ramsay said the more she worked on the project, the more stories came to hand.

"He is a great subject because he loves to tell stories. We met often and each time would focus on a certain area or era and the stories would flow.

"He welcomed me, a non-Catholic, into his life and a mutual respect and friendship has grown over the years."

The book's title emanates from the biblical parable of the Good Shepherd and recognises Bishop Len's unstinting dedication to his people.

The book is available at $33 plus $2.50 postage and packing from The Catholic Centre Shop, Moran Building, 8 Octagon, Dunedin 9016; phone/fax (03) 477-6342, email: cathshopdn@xtra.co.nz.

While he farewelled his brothers on the Sunday afternoon, the rest of the clan headed to Riverton for the races. The family, which co-sponsored a race, has had a fine history in the Great Western Steeplechase, so it seemed only fitting when Glennis Munro, widow of clan member Alan Munro, cheered home her horse Lautenschlager to win this year's event.
The Tablet June 2012

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$30,000 grant for CSS programmes

CATHOLIC Social Services has received a grant of $30,000 from the Community Trust of Otago. “The money will be used to assist with staff wages for six of our programmes,” CSS director Ian Donnelly said.

Counselling Oamaru, which provides outreach counselling in North Otago will receive $2000. Social work services in Dunedin, which have three social workers supporting families in need across the city, will be allocated $7000. A birth support group, an antenatal group run by a social worker and childbirth educator, to offer ongoing support and education throughout pregnancy, receives $5000, as does the successful Game On group programme for fathers, aimed at developing good, positive parenting.

Toolbox Parenting courses – CSS runs 12 to 14 of these six-week courses each year in community halls – will receive $4000, while counselling and social work in the Alexandra, Cromwell, Roxburgh and Ranfurly areas will get a $7000 boost, thanks to the trust grant. “CSS mission is to reach out to those most in need in our diocese,” Mr Donnelly said.

“Services are mostly free to families or – by negotiation – at low cost for counselling. We are only able to do this through the support of donations and grants from community trusts such as the Community Trust of Otago.”

The agency supports more than 600 families in the diocesan area.

Bishop’s diary

June
15-17 – South Otago Pastoral Area Confirmation and Visitation
27 – Dunedin North Pastoral Area (Confirmation only)
29-July 1 – Western Southland Parish Confirmation and Visitation
Rowers off to world championships

By GILLIAN VINE

ALTHOUGH she started rowing just three years ago, Zoe McBride (16) has chalked up significant successes, including winning three gold medals and one silver in Maadi Cup sculling events in April.

She won the girls under-17 single sculls title, the under-18 single sculls and under-18 double sculls, with Hannah Duggan, also from Kavanagh College.

Zoe laughs when asked about Kavanagh's rowing team, saying: “When we started in 2010, the team was just the two of us.”

Now, after trials at Lake Karapiro in April, the Kavanagh College student and Johannah Kearney (18), from St Kevin's College, have been selected for the 18-member New Zealand junior team to contest the world junior championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, on August 14-19. Zoe has been selected for the junior women's quad and Johannah will compete in the junior women's four.

“It was quite demanding,” Zoe said of the trials. “I really didn't expect to get in but thought it would be a good learning experience for next year.”

One of the youngest in the squad, she will spend 10 weeks on Lake Karapiro training and continuing her studies in the lead-up to the championships in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian experience promises to be an exciting one, as the senior world championships are being held at the same time. “I’ll be up there with people I’ve [only] heard of,” she said.

And it seems her dream of representing New Zealand in the 2016 Olympics will be a step closer.

Johannah, too, is hugely excited about the trip to Bulgaria, which she thinks will be a marvellous opportunity.

The twin daughter of Clare and Kevin Kearney, of Oamaru, she has been rowing since Year 9. Normally she teams with her twin, Caitlin, who was also selected for the Karapiro trials but had to turn down the opportunity.
Audiences wanted more of ‘Oliver!’

The Verdon College production Oliver! was held over five days in May, with four evening performances and a Sunday matinee. It was an outstanding success with great audiences – with the biggest audience for the last performance on the Sunday. The cast of around 50 pupils, with numerous staff and parent helpers, gave a polished performance, which was extremely popular.

Harrison Roderique as “Oliver”, Jesse Johnson as “Fagin”

The Workhouse Gang sings “Food Glorious Food”.

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Faith brought alive through Stations of the Cross

By Mary Ryan
RESPONDING to the challenge “Make your faith live!”, worshippers at St Michael’s Church, Lumsden took the 100-year-old pictures of the Stations of the Cross off the walls and took them in procession through the town.

Planning began immediately after Christmas with the first task being to identify the Station stops. As it meant some Stations would be outside private residencies, letters were sent to owners seeking permission. Some declined but others were thrilled.

Meditation pamphlets were prepared for distribution. The Church had a large wooden Cross, which a man could carry, but it needed a stable platform so it could be stood upright at each stop. Two collapsible tables were also used, one holding a wooden stand used at each stop to hold the Station picture. Beside it was a lighted lantern and, on the ground, a pot of pink and white cyclamen. As each meditation was completed, the Cross was uplifted to continue the procession, led by Andre Chan (12) carrying the lantern to represent the Light of Christ.

Two pairs worked to set up the Stations so that when the procession arrived at one, the equipment from the previous one was being moved to the next.

Presbyterians and Anglicans joined the walk and shared in the reading of the Meditations.

Six of the Stations were at public sites. The streets were filled with traffic and reactions to the procession of more than 70 people, old and young, crisscrossing the busy road were interesting, possibly giving us a taste of how Jesus was viewed on his walk to Calvary.

The procession started outside the Catholic Church at noon and concluded an hour and a-half later there with the 14th Station. Everyone was invited into the Church and, as it was a sunless day with heavy cloud cover, the Church was chilled and no lights were on – just like a tomb in many ways.

Later, there were refreshments and we were delighted to hear compliments and have our Church neighbours asking if they could join us next year.

Hopefully, after reading how we went about organising this, other small towns will hold their own processions next year.

Children’s hearts on fire

MICHAEL Mangan, the Australian Catholic musician popular for his music and creative liturgy, made a special trip to Dunedin recently. His visit, organised by Fr Mark Chamberlain, was for the Dunedin North Pastoral Area retreat and he was joined by wife Anne.

As part of the visit, he spent time with students from St Joseph’s (Port Chalmers) and Sacred Heart (North East Valley), who shared morning tea at Port Chalmers before being entertained by the 90-minute performance.

Mangan played some of his “signature” songs, including Hearts on Fire, True Colours Shine and Turn Back to God, as well as songs chosen by both schools, and the students needed no encouragement to sing along. The highlight was the concluding song, Holy Spirit Rock, as this was given extra passion and energy.

Tom Woodhouse, principal of St Joseph’s, said a special song performed by Michael was Mary of the Cross, which he wrote in honour of St Mary Mackillop, the person who started St Joseph’s School.

Michael Mangan’s songs will always be popular to these children, more so now they have sung them with him.

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By Fr James Martin sj

If you are looking for a companion on your spiritual journey, you couldn’t pick anyone better than Fr James Martin sj. He is one of the best writers on Catholic Spirituality.

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The Early Childhood Buddy (ECB) programme at St Joseph’s School, Oamaru, is an initiative with preschool children who are enrolled at school. The aim is to get them off to the best possible start by boosting their confidence and making connections and friendships.

Two Year 7 pupils explain how it works:

Every second Tuesday I arrive at Casanova Kindergarten to get my buddy ready to come to school at St Joseph’s.

Samantha Jorgensen gets sandy with her buddy.

At first they might be a little bit scared, but once they get to know you, it’s a lot easier to have fun with them.

My buddy, Sophie, is very energetic, and always seems to like something different every time I visit; it might be painting stones or the balance bikes, or it might be the toy animals, or the swings.

Basically what you have to do is follow them around, help them to do what they want to do, answer their questions, be happy when they’re happy, be sad when they’re sad, and be normal when they’re being normal, and soon enough you’ll have a buddy that looks forward to you coming, and enjoys playing with you.

Listening to them is very important; it makes them feel important, and cared for. A buddy is a lot of fun and helps you understand children’s needs, wants and how to treat them.

It can be tiring but it’s worth it in the end. Once they get to school their buddy is a very important person to them, and probably always will be. I am really enjoying being a buddy to Sophie.

– Samantha Jorgensen

As an ECB, I help the four-year-olds feel welcome when they come to St Joseph’s School. Some are a wee bit afraid when you introduce yourself to them but when they get to know you and you get to know them, things end up being awesome.

When you play with them, they get to trust you and know that you will be by their sides every second Tuesday. Some three-year-olds follow you around and then you end up looking after them, too.

You get to help the kids paint pictures, play with the building blocks, draw pictures, make something with the play dough, play outside in the sandpit and heaps more.

We have to pretend that we are back in preschool, which is a bit hard because it has been over six or seven years since we were four years old.

Most of the things in life are hard but it slowly gets easier as we keep striving to do it; so being an ECB helps make the transition to school for these wee people much easier on their first day as well as it is teaching me how to be a leader.

– Ellie Graham
Social policy opposed

THE Government proposal to subsidise long-term contraception to women on any kind of benefit is just one of the many changes to welfare to which the Catholic Church is opposed.

The New Zealand Catholic Bishops’ Conference agency Caritas has made a submission to Parliament’s social services select committee on the Social Security (Youth Support and Work Focus) Amendment Bill.

“The Catholic Church has very real concerns about the proposal for case managers to offer any woman on any kind of benefit, including married women, as well as the daughters of those on benefits between the ages of 16-19, free long-term reversible contraception. The Church’s well-known and long-held view on artificial contraception remains. However, this is just one of the many changes that the Church opposes,” Julianne Hickey, CEO of Caritas Aotearoa, said.

“The Catholic Church teaches a respect for human dignity and many of the proposals will damage that dignity. The key purpose of welfare changes should be to reduce poverty, not to make the vulnerable more vulnerable.”

If contraceptive options and incomes became linked, a beneficiary facing a case manager might feel they had little option at all, Mrs Hickey said.

“While the Government says that they [beneficiaries] won’t be coerced, we know that coercion can be subtle and when punitive measures are proposed for those who have subsequent children while on welfare, it seems there is little option but to take it,” she said.

“A further example of this erosion of dignity is the form of money management to be imposed on beneficiaries, particularly vulnerable young people, such as the compulsory introduction of a payment card for food and groceries.

“We also have concerns about the vulnerable children and young people who are targeted in reforms proposed. Three groups of vulnerable children are targeted by the Bill: 16-17-year-old beneficiaries, the children of 16-18-year-old parents on benefits, and subsequent children born to parents receiving a benefit.

“We believe that the family is the critical foundation of our society and families should be supported and nurtured. Therefore, we are concerned about the inflexible requirements about work expectations for parents. While parents, whether on a benefit or not, choose to return to work when their children are very young, they are able to do so because childcare that matches their work commitments is available and affordable or there are relatives able to support them in this way.

“At the same time, we should continue to uphold the choice of parents to stay at home and raise their children if they believe that is best for the child. This should not be a privilege of the few.”

Mrs Hickey said the changing nature of work itself made it increasingly difficult to match employment opportunities with childcare options.

“We will continue to oppose these kinds of changes to welfare policy that we believe erodes respect for human dignity and will make vulnerable people more vulnerable.”

Light of the World Radio

From 4pm to 5 pm, every Sunday on 1575 AM and 105.4 FM, Otago Access Radio

June

17 – Beyond the Birds and the Bees: Gregory Popcak, a marriage and family counsellor, speaks about raising sexually whole and holy children. Sophie Hayes’ book Trafficked highlights the most common form of modern-day slavery.

24 – Anticipating the feasts of St Peter and Paul and the First Martyrs of Rome with Steve Ray, Fr Adrian Tomlinson, Regina Gee and Elizabeth Lev.

July

1 – St Thomas More in his own words, as presented by Jill Bevilacqua and Sean Patrick Lovett; and Raymond Arroyo talks with Michael Coren, a Canadian columnist and broadcaster, about his book Heresy: Ten Lies They Spread About Christianity.

8 – Elizabeth Lev describes the beauty and the challenges of living with her son Joshua, who has Down Syndrome; and Fr Denis Brown talks about his conversion from 60s hippie to his work now leading Ignatian retreats.

15 – Fr Peter Stravinskas outlines what Mary means to Christians.

Each week, Kevin Flaherty reads from The Joy of Knowing Christ, published by Word Among Us Press.
PRAYERS & PETITIONS

SACRED HEART OF JESUS
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, honoured, adored, and glorified throughout the world forever. Amen. Say six times for nine days and promise publication. Your prayers will be answered, no matter how impossible it may seem to you, before the 9th day. (Published on behalf of J(W, FJ)

THE HOLY SPIRIT
O Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can obtain my goal. You gave the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and in all instances of my life you are with me. I wish to once again that I never want to be separated from you in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. This prayer must be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and three Glorias. St Jude, pray for me and all who invoke your aid, humbly in need of your intercession. Amen. This novena has never been known to fail. This novena must be said on nine consecutive days. (Published on behalf of MF)

NOVENA TO ST JUDE
Oh, Holy St Jude, apostle and martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles. Near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg you to whom God has given such great power, to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Say three Our Fathers, three Hail Marys and three Glorias. St Jude, pray for me and all who invoke your aid, humbly in need of your intercession. Amen. This novena has never been known to fail. This novena must be said on nine consecutive days. (Published on behalf of MF)

DEAR HEART OF JESUS
Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favours and I ask you for this special one. Take it, Dear Heart of Jesus, and place it for me and all who invoke your aid, humbly in need of your intercession. Amen. This novena has never been known to fail. This novena must be said on nine consecutive days. (Published on behalf of FM, JE)

THANKS
Special thanks to the Dear Heart of Jesus, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. (Published on behalf of AA) Thanks to St Jude, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Blessed Virgin Mary and Dear Heart of Jesus for favours received. (Published on behalf of PA) Most grateful thanks to St Jude, Sacred Heart, Holy Spirit and Holy Mary for prayers answered. (Published on behalf of MF) Thanks to the Sacred Heart and St Jude for favours granted. (Published on behalf of TLG)

ADVERTISING CHARGES
Prayers and petitions in The Tablet per advertiser are $10 for one prayer or petition and $5 for each additional prayer or petition in the same issue. If you require a receipt, please enclose your name and address.
Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul June 29

IN 2009, Pope Benedict in his Homily on the Feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul made the following reflections (abbreviated for this publication) which are worthy of our own reflection as we prepare to celebrate their feast day on June 29.

The memorial of the great witnesses of Jesus Christ and a solemn confession for the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic. It is first and foremost a feast of catholicity. The sign of Pentecost – the new community that speaks all languages and unites all peoples into one people, in one family of God – this sign has become a reality. Our liturgical assembly, people of many cultures and nations, is an image of the family of the Church distributed throughout the earth.

Strangers have become friends; crossing every border, we recognise one another as brothers and sisters. This brings to fulfilment the mission of St Paul, who knew that he was the “minister of Christ Jesus among the Gentiles, with the priestly duty of preaching the Gospel of God so that the Gentiles might be offered up as a pleasing sacrifice, consecrated by the Holy Spirit” (Rom 15: 22) whose first verse Jesus cried out on the Cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”, ends with the vision: “All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of the nations shall bow down before him” (Ps 22 [21]: 28). When Peter and Paul came to Rome, the Lord on the Cross who had uttered the first line of that Psalm was risen; God’s victory now had to be proclaimed to all the nations, thereby fulfilling the promise with which the Psalm concludes.

Catholicity means universality – a multiplicity that becomes unity: a unity that nevertheless remains multiplicity. From Paul’s words on the Church’s universality we have already seen that the ability of nations to get the better of themselves in order to look towards the one God, is part of this unity. In the second century, the founder of Catholic theology, St Irenaeus of Lyons, described very beautifully this bond between catholicity and unity: The Church spread across the world diligently safeguards this doctrine and this faith, forming as it were one family: the same faith, with one mind and one heart, the same preaching, teaching and tradition as if she had but one mouth. Languages abound according to the region but the power of our tradition is one and the same. The Churches in Germany do not differ in faith or tradition, neither do those in Spain, Gaul, Egypt, Libya, the Orient, the centre of the earth; just as the sun, God’s creature, is one alone and identical throughout the world, so the light of true preaching shines everywhere and illuminates all who desire to attain knowledge of the truth.

The unity of men and women in their multiplicity has become possible because God, this one God of heaven and earth, has shown himself to us; because the essential truth about our lives, our “where from?” and “where to?” became visible when he revealed himself to us and enabled us to see his face, himself, in Jesus Christ. This truth about the essence of our being, living and dying, a truth that God made visible, unites us and makes us brothers and sisters. Catholicity and unity go hand in hand. And unity has a content: the faith that the Apostles passed on to us in Christ’s name.

An Invitation…
To support the ministry of the Church

Many of us lack the means to offer financial support to the Catholic Church of Otago and Southland.  
Would you consider leaving a bequest to the Diocese, or your parish in your will?  
There is much that can be done in the Diocese and parishes with your support  
You have the opportunity to pass on God’s Love to those around us, and to thank Him for a lifetime of blessings.

Act today, respond to the call of the Lord and post the coupon to the Bishop’s office:

Bishop’s office – Bequest  
Private Bag 1941  
Dunedin

Please provide me with information for making a bequest to the Catholic Church.

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________


The St Kevin’s College team involved in the ASB 2012 Stage Challenge performance held in Dunedin recently took home several awards. Year 13 students Shannon MacMillan (director), Albert Hailes (choreographer) and Kimberly Ramsey (student representative) were proud to receive on behalf of the team the Award of Excellence for Concept, Award of Excellence for Soundtrack, Award of Excellence for Set, Design and Function, and Award of Excellence for Student Achievement to Jashiv Narayan (specialist choreographer). Pictured in costume are (from left) Brianna Fogarty, Jahana McLay, Jessica Fraser (tucked in the back), Bethany Robertson, Kate Caldwell (front) and Asia Baxter.

YEAR 6 pupils at St Joseph’s School, Oamaru, were asked to design “a newly discovered creature adapted to its rocky shore environment”. “The Fail”, half fish and half snail, was the creation of Taylor Pickford (right). “It is adapted to the rocky shore because it can filter water through its shell. It flattens its shell to fit under rocks and it has a tail instead of a snail foot. It swims during high tide,” Taylor said. Reef Bungard (left) said: “My creature is a Chameleon Ripper. It adapts to its environment by hiding in amongst seaweed, rocks and has poisonous spikes.” The Camouflage Snabe was designed by Rata McMullan (centre). “It is a mix between a camouflage crab and a snail. It adapts to its environment by using seaweeds and other things to cover itself in so that it can hide from its predators on the rocky shore,” she said.

Michael Walker (left) and Gregory Clarke, seminarians from the Dunedin diocese, with Bishop Colin Campbell, who was the chief celebrant at the Founders Day Mass at Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland on April 30. Michael is in his first year at the seminary and Gregory his fourth.

St Thomas Aquinas School pupils William Hishon, Alex Dykes and Justin Laidlaw have some fun at the 2012 National Young Leaders’ Day in Dunedin with one of the keynote speakers, James Beck. Hundreds of pupils from primary schools across Otago and Southland attended the event, which aimed to build young leaders of the future. Speakers included MasterChef judge Josh Emett and Sir Peter Blake’s son, James Blake, who shared their life experiences and advice on how to achieve success. The National Young Leaders’ Day is an annual event, now in its 12th year. Run at various locations around the country, the days aim to develop student leadership and be both inspirational and practical. St Thomas student Alex Dykes said the day was all about “following your dreams, working hard to get there and helping and encouraging others along the way – it was a fantastic experience for all of us.”