

Deaf Southern Star

New Zealand's Catholic Deaf Newsletter since 1978 Volume 38 Number 2, 2016



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Patronal Feast in New Zealand and is celebrated with great solemnity in the Church.

In the eyes of non-Catholics in the 21st century, such a celebration raises many questions about the way the Church seems to continue to treat women in an outdated, gender-functional way.

Clearly, Mary is treated with very high regard in the Church, but many people in western cultures would argue that while cultural perceptions of women have changed in first world societies over the years, the Church continues to lean towards older gender-role views which subjugate women in poorer countries.

However the question of 'women' is not just a sociological or biological one. Our perception of humanity and creation as a whole says a lot about our views of its origins. St. Paul in Galatians 3: 28, probably more than anywhere else in the Bible, comes closest to a gender-neutral perception of our status in Christ when he says: "...there can be neither male nor female ..."



Graphics by Pat Marrin

Continued on page 11

Inside this Issue:

Under the Lamp-Post	02
Sashka Patten's Story	03
Hawke's Bay Visit	05
Taranaki Visit	07
A Time for Prayer	08
Wellington News & Deaf Café	09
Cates Sabmeethavorn	10

First Hand News - Jackie Overall

Hello Readers,

Winter is here now for the next three months and hope you keeping warm and not getting colds. Lucky for my older twin daughter Emma, she is in London with the warm weather also travelling some places and work for two years. My younger daughter Annie now live in Wellington and work full time. Congratulations to Mary Fifield (Wellington) for her 70th Birthday in May. May God fill her with his blessings. Some of you know Doreen Howell of Wellington who is 100 years old had passed away in May and her funeral was lovely. May God rest her peace in heaven.

David Molloy was teaching the PM101 Church and Ministry in Wellington with Clare, Evelyn, Mary and myself in one full weekend in May and we have one more in November too. Pray for Evelyn and me for the assignments. Thank you. Pray for Evelyn,



Roydon and their kids for their safe trip and holidays for one month to spend time with their daughter Roanne and Evelyn's sister who live in Canada. Bible Reading: Psalm: 119:105 - "Your word is like a lamp that guides my steps, a light that shows the path I should take". Shepherd (Jesus) use a sharp stick to make his sheep (people) go the right way. God's Word will help us stay close to Him. Make time today to read and study the Bible. Ask God to help you stay on the right path. Prayer: God, help me to stay on the path that leads to You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

God Bless *Jackie*

Hello Everyone

Its hard to believe we are into June already! As you will see in this newsletter, it has been a busy 3 months since my last report. Good progress is being made in the renewal of the Catholic Deaf Centre's ministry. It is of course a major shift from the past. Traditionally the ministry was built around the ex-pupils of St. Dominic's School for the Deaf and their families. Over the years this focus has enabled the Dominican Sisters and more recently myself, to encourage and develop a strong Catholic Deaf leadership in our communities, especially in the Palmerston North and Wellington dioceses.

Not all those involved have been ex-pupils of St. Dominic's, but a strong core group are. St. Dominic's has been closed since 1989 and we are now at the stage of looking ahead to the next generation of Catholic Deaf leaders. This will be a challenging process. The first step for me has been to make contact with all Catholic schools (primary and secondary) in the Palmerston North and Wellington dioceses to discover whether or not they have any Deaf or hearing-impaired pupils. I have had a good response and there are a number of schools in both dioceses who have indicated that they have one or more hearing-impaired children on their roll.

The next part of the process has been to visit the schools that have indicated the presence of Deaf and hearing-impaired pupils. I have already done this, beginning extensive visitation last year. But of course it is going to take more than one visit to establish a rapport and familiarity with not only the pupils but the teachers and also the parents. A key from my point of view especially concerning the younger children, is to establish contact with the parents, because they will have a big say in the involvement of their children. In the first half of this year I have been focusing on schools in the Palmerston North diocese and you will see some of the results of my visits to both Taranaki and Hawke's Bay in the following pages. New faces will begin to appear more regularly in our newsletters.

In the 2nd half of the year I will switch my focus to the Wellington schools—which have a bigger number of Deaf and hearing-impaired. It is all very time consuming but also exciting as I am meeting the next generation of the ministry. It is my belief that the future of the ministry belongs with mainstreamed Deaf and hearing-impaired children as we no longer have a Catholic Deaf School. Regular contact with all the Catholic schools in the two dioceses I work in is a big job and will certainly give me plenty of things to do in the coming years.

The other main challenge as I see it is to preserve our Catholic Deaf heritage for future generations. More specifically this will involve ensuring that NZSL and Catholic Deaf Sign Language remain central focuses of the Catholic Deaf Centre Ministry. In other words, showcasing our unique Catholic Deaf Sign Language will be our contribution to its preservation into the future. We have begun this work on our Facebook page which you can access at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/Catholic-Deaf-Centre-634427356638030/>

On our Facebook page we are proudly promoting the Catholic Signs which we use in the Palmerston North Diocese.

There is no doubt that in first world / developed countries, Sign Languages are under threat. Cochlear Implant (CI) technology has forever changed the Deaf landscape. It could be argued that up to 95% of profoundly Deaf children in developed countries, will in the future have CI's. Most of these children will not go to specialist Deaf Schools and most of them will not learn the local Sign Language of their region. This is the challenge facing our Deaf communities today. Do we open our arms to CI's and reach out to the next generation? Or do we continue with the minority of 'high-need' Deaf who rely exclusively on Sign Language? Why not both?

God Bless *David*

Burning Issues

- Reaching out to new Catholic Deaf and hearing-impaired and their parents through the schools
- Catholic Signs Vocab and Prayer Resources in NZSL

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Sashka Patten's Spirit of Adventure Story



Most of us students either had cochlear implants or hearing aids; there were only a few people who didn't have either.

It was the morning of Wednesday 6th April 2016, I had stayed at my Aunty and Uncle's house in Auckland the night before my big day and the 5 days ahead, I was nervous but I was ready, in my head I was screaming Spirit of Adventure here I come!!!!. I arrived at the Wharf waiting with everyone else to aboard the boat, I was getting more and more excited by then, I absolutely couldn't bear to wait any longer and then bang I'm on the boat with many other deaf students, a few of the staff were also deaf and so was the cook. First thing we did was get a tour of the boat, got instructions on safety and what the crew had instore for us for the week. We then got separated into our cabins, one for the boys and the

other for the girls, after that it was lunch time and learning how to sail, I must admit pulling and tying all those ropes was hard work. As the day progressed on we learnt so many things about the boat and how to sail.

The next morning we all got woken up at 6.30 am, got into our togs, did some warm ups and then jumped over board for our first morning swim, we swim for a while then it's time to have 10 second hot showers before getting dressed to go have breakfast, we did this every morning to start off our day. We also had watch groups that we got put into for the journey in those groups we had different cleaning jobs to do every day before we could start sailing off. Our first morning after doing all our jobs and morning swim, we then went overboard in rafts and paddled to a little beach area which was actually just off shore from Auckland, we did all sorts of activities like sand castle building competitions, tag, moon hopper races and tug of war. Really interesting doing a three way tug of war instead of two to fit with our three watch groups.



Each day was pretty much the same, on the second night and the last night I did night watch duty with one of the girls in my watch group, which means that we had to sit in the wheel house and were in charge of the boat for an hour or so, we had to check the wind speed, water depth, walk around the deck and make sure no one else was on deck or awake but us, we also had to check on the engine hole every 20 minutes to make sure that there wasn't a fire or any flooding down there, on that last night/morning not only did we get to wake everyone else up, we got to see the sun rise, it was such an awesome, beautiful sun rise too.

One of the days we again went over board and paddled to Kawau Island, there we went for a walk around the Island, got to see the house called the Mansion House, had morning tea and basically went for a walk and got to enjoy the scenery and view. When we had finished our walk the wind had completely changed and the sea was very choppy so paddling back to the boat wasn't very easy. My group managed to paddle straight into an anchored yacht, which was pretty fun. Because it was so windy and choppy my group and one of the other groups ended up being towed back to the boat as we were struggling to make headway.

[Continued on the next page 4](#)

Sashka's Story cont.

Back on board we had lunch and set off sailing to Waiheki Island where we were to stay the night, we had a pool party one night that was absolutely awesome to see everyone jumping into the water, the crew had set up a raft off the side of the boat as a water slide, it didn't work as well as we were hoping it would but it was pretty funny to see everyone get stuck at the bottom and struggle to make their way into the water, there was also a rope swing which was set up on the bridge of the boat, so many of us landed really awkwardly in the water.

I remember that one of the days my group's morning job was cleaning the deck, then peeling and chopping potatoes into slices. None of us knew that, we were getting a surprise that night, we had absolutely no clue that we were contributing to the fish and chips we were going to have in the raft out in the water later. We also had our daily debrief of the day out there that night too, and we got to look up and star gaze, such an awesome time and an amazing view.

On our second to last day, I finally managed to actually climb to the top of the mast, since being scared of heights it was quite challenging but it was a really good experience and a lot of fun, that night we had a really awesome activity night, consisting of a fashion show which I did and came last because the sleeve of one of the wet weather jackets was inside out, watching everyone in their watch groups doing all of the activities was really awesome and funny, that would of also been one of the best nights, but the best part of that particular night was watching the four interpreters Melissa, Noreen, Scott and Thornton who had latex gloves on their heads that they had to blow up with their noses and make them pop, it took them ages to do it and it was really funny to watch.

Coming to our last day was quite awesome but sad, we were excited to go home but didn't want to leave our new friends that we had all made, we also didn't want to leave the amazing crew, because of all that they did for us and what they had come to mean to us..

In all absolute honesty, I would love to go on the Spirit of Adventure again, as it builds up your confidence so much, when I was climbing up the mast I was absolutely terrified because I'm scared of heights but I would totally do it again, for me Spirit of Adventure not only put me out of my comfort zone but helped me learn more about myself and what I can actually do in life as well as letting me make new life time friends with many other deaf people, it was definitely a trip of a lifetime.

I would like to thank Niki Jenkinson from Deaf Aotearoa, New Plymouth and Carley Avery from Sacred Heart Girls 'College, New Plymouth, for getting me on the Spirit of Adventure.

By Sashka Patten



Here is a great story for our Island Bay ex-pupils:
Pictured below left is Marie Jones (nee Foley). Marie used to visit St. Dominic's as a teacher trainee in 1947. She is the one carrying the suitcase in the photo on the left which was taken in 1947. Marie remembers that if she was wearing a cardigan on the day of her visit, some of the children would come up to her and count the buttons. I recently visited Marie in Napier.



DSS 05:

Hawke's Bay Visit

On the right is a picture of our Hawke's Bay group at St. Peter Chanel Church in Hastings L to R: Lynda Adams, Bryan Thompson, Marie Gwilliam, Simon Parry, and Myrna June.

Below left is a picture of Myrna and her son Thomas in Flaxmere.

The middle photo is a picture of Sue and Stuart Geddes, and in the photo below on the right is Kylie McGrath, her hearing dog Amos, and Kylie's father.



Here on the left is our group at St. Peter Chanel Church in Hastings just before our Interpreted Mass on Sunday 17th June.

Photo Gallery



Here are a couple of pictures of two special people. On the left is Mary Casper (nee Bonisch) in Invercargill, and on the right is Lorraine Nilsson in Palmerston North.



Above left is Steven Johnston, Sr. Maureen O'Hanlon OP, and Mary Johnson. On the right, L to R is: Denis Smith, Brian Henry, Jack Koat, Jackie Davidson, Mary Hurley, Antony Oswald, Brian Hurley, Elizabeth Hurley, Evelyn and Roydon Seymour-East. Below left are Marilyn Welham and Ann Hanley and below right is Marlene Rush celebrating her 75th Birthday at Aqaba in Palmerston North.



Taranaki Photos



Above is our Taranaki group at St. Joseph's Church in New Plymouth. L to R: Patsy Kuklinski, Gabrielle Patten, Pat Kuklinski, Sashka Patten, Jeannie Boon, Kerin and Eden Fairweather, and Niki Jenkinson.

On the left is Josephine and Bernard Kelly.

Below, in the photo on the left is Wendy Pranker and her mother Myra.

In the photo below L to R are:
Richard, Jeannie and Isaac Boon



DSS 08:

A TIME FOR PRAYER

Special Prayers:

We pray for those who have died recently especially Maureen Beamsley—mother of Colin, and Doreen Howell. May they rest in peace, and their families and friends find comfort in their grief. We remember all those below whose anniversaries occur in the next 3 months. We also pray for those who are sick or in need of our prayers.

Anniversaries—

June:

14 / 06 / 78: Allen Rush
28 / 06 / 88: Diane Hall-Kenny
27 / 06 / 92: George Reid
25 / 06 / 93: Joe Graham
28 / 06 / 94: S.M. Rita OP
08 / 06 / 97: George Rees
16 / 06 / 98: Mary Browne
19 / 06 / 98: Gladys McNab
26 / 06 / 02: Anthony Greene
06 / 06 / 03: Richard Finch
02 / 06 / 04: Susan Johnson
30 / 06 / 04: Penny Went
14 / 06 / 06: Olive Hoare
24 / 06 / 06: Mick Glynn
25 / 06 / 07: Fr. John Cleary SM
27 / 06 / 08: Charles Holtham
30 / 06 / 08: Brian Cockburn
21 / 06 / 09: Anita Marie Burrell
04 / 06 / 11: Patricia Greene
17 / 06 / 11: Mavis Anderson
25 / 06 / 11: S.M. Louise OP
27 / 06 / 12: Terence Cairns
27 / 06 / 15: George New

July:

22 / 07 / 73: S.M. Rose OP
08 / 07 / 79: Eva Taylor Allen
12 / 07 / 95: Mrs. Arahill
13 / 07 / 95: Cecilia Brough
07 / 07 / 96: S.M. Fabian OP
21 / 07 / 97: Bryan Hansen
01 / 07 / 02: John Arahill
04 / 07 / 03: Angela Costello
12 / 07 / 04: Mr. McGilp
28 / 07 / 04: S.M. Jordan OP
13 / 07 / 05: Kelvin Smith
19 / 07 / 07: Mr. Tulloch
04 / 07 / 09: Frances Mosen
07 / 07 / 11: Agnes O'Neill
03 / 07 / 12: Albertina Oswald
16 / 07 / 12: Keith Oswald
25 / 07 / 13: Eric Schollum

25 / 07 / 14: Anne Allan
02 / 07 / 15: Yvonne Dawn de Beer
12 / 07 / 15: Stanley Thomas Henry
21 / 07 / 15: John Heeb

August:

05 / 08 / 80: Des Crosby
02 / 08 / 84: Peter O'Neill
17 / 08 / 94: Evelyn Cate
14 / 08 / 95: Des Batten
28 / 08 / 99: Alice Cannon
24 / 08 / 00: S.M. Raphael OP
31 / 08 / 02: Andrew Mullen
03 / 08 / 06: Kathleen Kelly
16 / 08 / 07: Hannah Preston
26 / 08 / 07: Jenny Griffiths
04 / 08 / 09: Dorothy Kearney
16 / 08 / 11: Casey Quirke
20 / 08 / 11: S.M. Clare OP
30 / 08 / 11: S.M. Anthony OP
29 / 08 / 12: Cherie West
01 / 08 / 14: Bernard Hill
11 / 08 / 15: Daniel Mattin
24 / 08 / 15: John Phillip Quirke
28 / 08 / 15: Bill Wilkinson



Maureen Ann Beamsley
1926—2016

Wellington News

Wellington Catholic Deaf Community News – written by Clare Holtham and Mary Fifield

Our monthly Masses continue each month – after Mass we join together for a cuppa, friendship and a time of sharing.

Clare Holtham and Jackie Overall continue to Sign the first and second readings at our Masses each month. After Mass in April we reflected again on the works of mercy in our everyday lives and how we do this. After Mass in May Angela Murray updated us on the progress of the group reviewing Catholic Deaf signs and she reviewed some signs with us.

Deaf Cafe continues on the third Wednesday of the month – it is going well. We are now advertising in the Hutt News and the newsletters of the local Anglican churches.

Interpreted Masses will be on Sunday 12th June and Sunday 24th July at St Peter & Paul's Church, Lower Hutt at 9.30am. Angela Murray will interpret.

Deaf Cafe will be on Wednesday 15th June, 20th July and 17th August at St Peter & Paul's Church Hall, 60 Knights Road, Lower Hutt at 10am. Deaf Cafe is free – all are very welcome to join us.

We are looking forward to joining the Palmerston North and Levin Catholic Deaf Communities on Sunday 26th June in Otaki.



Above is a photo of the Wellington group after their recent Mass in May

Deaf Café

*For Deaf and Hearing Impaired People
on these Wednesdays at 10am:*

15th June; 20th July; 17th August

*At St. 's Peter and Paul's Church Hall
60 Knights Road, Lower Hutt*



Readers News

Hi everyone,

You may remember in our last newsletter I introduced Lachie Bartlett (ex-pupil of St. Bede's College, Christchurch, and Deaf. Here is another young Deaf person from our Catholic Schools: Thanatira Sabmeethavorn, known as: Cates. Like Lachie, Cates has a cochlear implant and is a confident, inspiring young person and a great role model for our next generation of Deaf leaders.

David Loving-Molloy



My name is Thanatira Sabmeethavorn, a 17 year old currently at Sacred Heart College in Napier, and am on my final year of high school. I have three leadership positions at school which are Community, Peer support and Special Character.

I am known as: Cates. My nationality is Thai and I speak 4 languages. I am highly creative and filled with a great philosophy about life. My dream is to be a creative director/ designer- not a specific designer on one category, but with mixed categories such as Photography, Textiles (fashion), Design, Painting and many art aspects.

My dream career will be creative, but also with helping others to unlock their potential.

Student turns teacher to pass on sign language

By Roger Moroney
roger.moroney@hbtoday.co.nz

For Napier Sacred Heart College Year 13 student Cates Sabmeethavorn there was some learning to be done this week — but not by her.

She, instead, was the one doing the teaching and many of her schoolmates were delighted to take a few lessons from her.

Lessons in language, but no spoken language.

The 18-year-old, now in her final year at the college, was born deaf and around the age of 3, when her family shifted from Thailand to live in New Zealand, she began to learn sign language.

She also skilled herself to a high level of lip-reading and with the recent addition of a cochlear implant her communication skills are, as principal's secretary Lynda Pipe described it, "remarkable".

"She came to talk to the assembly this week — she is just a remarkable and inspirational young lady."

For Cates the timing was right to offer a few lessons in learning sign language as it was Sign Language Week.

She staged two sessions during the week and was delighted with the response from her pupils.

"It has gone really well and everyone has enjoyed it," she said.

With a smile she said she was delighted to see a couple of her library-based class later using sign language in the school canteen.

"They were ordering a pie — they did well."

She said while profoundly deaf, she had always wanted to enjoy and engage in life and would take that to another level after she leaves the college this year to



SIGNING ON: Cates Sabmeethavorn (left) runs through a few sign phrases with her "students" Hannah Gray (centre) and Kumal Kaur.

PHOTO/WARREN BUCKLAND

study at Victoria University.

"I want to continue to build the bridge between deafness and hearing," she said, adding she would also take that into the community.

"I love helping others."

Her aim is to pursue a career working in textiles and design which she has excelled at.

She has also been a regular participant on the sports fields and courts.

"I love all sports."

Her only regret is that she will have to leave Sacred Heart this year.

"It is an amazing school and I've loved it here."

But she will leave a legacy behind as some of her younger sign language pupils, who have quickly picked up basic words and phrases, will very likely do their bit when Sign Language Week returns next year.

HBT Today 13/5/16

RESCOM
 SECURITY SYSTEMS

COMMERCIAL AND

And in Matthew this view is backed up in the discussion about the resurrection where Jesus makes a deep impression on his listeners when he says: “For at the resurrection men and women do not marry; no, they are like the angels in heaven.” (Matthew 22: 30) In this life, we believe in the reign of God. In other words, we should be living now, heaven on earth. But where would that leave our perception of women and men and the Church, and even Christ for that matter?

So while we are quite happy to say that things will be different at the resurrection, our actions and language pre-resurrection inhibit the full reign of God now. On a very basic level theologically we know that God is spirit, neither male nor female. Yet, a cursory glance at most Catholic Church (and it must also be acknowledged that this applies largely to Christian views in general) documents, publications (such as the Missal), and literature, would suggest to a non-Christian that the Trinity are three men. Much of course is made of the fundamental belief that ‘God became a man to show us the way to God’. We have taken the view that by becoming a ‘man’ it has therefore meant that only men can be priests, bishops, popes etc. and that men have somehow got one up over women!

This of course is ridiculous. It is like saying that Jesus Christ is the only incarnation of the Word. But if Jesus was the only incarnation of the Word then there wouldn’t be any other creation. Each one of us is in some way an incarnation of the Word and therefore part of what Christians call: ‘the 2nd Person of the Trinity’. There is in fact a wider push at least in the Western world for greater involvement of women in leadership roles. Even in religious circles we have the examples of the Church of England with women priests and bishops; some branches of Judaism accepting women rabbis; and the Dalai Lama regularly indicating he would be quite happy with a woman successor.

The Catholic Church’s persistence with an all-male hierarchy is already seen by many people as past its use-by date. The big question is whether our understanding of God as being neither male nor female can be reflected in our Church ministries and language? The Church would help change the discrimination against women a lot more if it led the way by changing its own structures and language. Its treatment of women can be seen as part of a bigger picture of imbalance in its approach to sexuality. A recent Listener editorial challenging the Church’s persistence with the practice of clerical celibacy brings into focus the Church’s need to find a more balanced approach to the whole question of sexuality.

Coming back to the solemnization of Mary’s assumption it seems clear that by establishing such a feast, the Church is trying to honour Mary in a unique way. However, almost all the literature about this event involving Mary focuses on bodily images such as her being a virgin, perfect, and uncorrupted. In effect, while no doubt honouring Mary, the feast of the Assumption elevates to a pedestal a view of womanhood very much at odds with the reality experienced by the vast majority of women today. It could be argued that Church images of the Virgin, which largely haven’t changed, reinforce the belief of some glamorous beauty, usually associated with beauty pageants.

Rather than making Mary the perfect woman, the Church could do all women a favour and portray her as a normal young Jewish woman in the usual Jewish clothing of her time. The same could be said of Jesus, who is commonly pictured in a European way, and not as the middle-eastern Jew he would most likely have looked like. Bringing some normal humanity into our views of Mary and Jesus would go a long way to putting a more balanced perspective into the gender issue, and help the Church move towards a gender-neutral view of God which should then be reflected in its structural hierarchy.

Donations, Deadlines and...

We hope you have enjoyed this 2nd Quarter issue of DSS for 2016. The Catholic Deaf Centre wishes to sincerely thank all the faithful readers who have generously given donations towards the production of our newsletter. Without your support we would not be able to reach as many people as we do. We keep you in our prayers. Don’t forget this is your newsletter. The coverage of the DSS depends on who sends the stories and news to us. If you would like to see some news from your area in the DSS, we encourage YOU to send us some news and photos about what is happening in your area. DSS readers are very keen to know how things are going with YOU. DSS comes out quarterly so there is plenty of time to get your news in for the next issue. Our next deadline date for news, stories and photos is:

Deadline Date—Friday 2nd September

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