

Deaf Southern Star

New Zealand's Catholic Deaf Newsletter since 1978 Volume 38 Number 3, 2016



Social Justice Week— 'the glass ceiling'

faced by women in Society and in the Church

That the Church sets aside a special time to focus on Social Justice issues certainly indicates its desire to take the multitude of challenges which can come under the Social Justice banner in a serious manner. One issue which has had some international exposure lately has been the so-called 'Glass Ceiling' women face in terms of gender equality with men.

Hilary Clinton's official acceptance as the Democratic nominee for the USA presidential race has seemingly broken that ceiling among American Democrats and a good portion of the voting public. But although her Republican rival Donald Trump appears to be lagging in the polls, it remains to be seen if Hilary has enough widespread support to win the White House.

Other prominent women worldwide are finding things a bit tougher. Helen Clarke has an uphill battle to remain in contention for the top post at the United Nations, and Brazil's recent woman president Dilma Rousseff was impeached. Apart from German Chancellor Merkel and British Prime Minister May, none of the world's mega-economy governments have significant female representation.

It could be argued that religions worldwide also largely ignore the gender inequality issue and even reflect it in their governance. Christianity is not above criticism in this area, though it has to be acknowledged that the Church of England is at least addressing it with the ordination of women clergy and bishops. Pope Francis has recently been reported to be considering a diaconate for women.

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First Hand News - Jackie Overall

Hello Readers,

Wow 3 months to Christmas I wonder the time goes quick or is it just me? Because my job always very busy. Also it's very cold and hail / snow in this Spring time. Hope the baby animals are keeping warm with their mother's. Looking forward to the warm Spring season.

In July Sr Maureen organised the Celebration of the Dominican 800th Jubilee and year of Mercy in PNth and some Deaf people help with the flags, sing signing, readings sign and prayers. It was a great mass. There are two conferences coming if you interesting going, one is in Alkd Dominican Family National Gathering in 18-20th Nov. Two is in Wgtn Catholic Deaf Conference in Feb next year. Look up on David Molloy page.



At last I saw on Facebook 'Bible Daily' about a poem on 'HOLY'.

H - The Bible is his world. (His).

O - The Bible show our guide. (Our).

L - The Bible show God's Love. (Love).

Y - The Bible is for your family. (Your).

Prayer - I thank God for your special Holy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God Bless *Jackie*

UNDER THE LAMP-POST

Hello Everyone

There is definitely a 'Spring' feel around the Manawatu now. The days seem to be getting warmer, we have had plenty of Daffodils around and Magnolia, and the lambing season has already been good and long. Most of the rainfall has been of the light drizzly variety and the extreme changes have tended to affect other areas of the country, leaving our rolling shires relatively unscathed by comparison.

Life at the Catholic Deaf Centre continues to be very busy and it is amazing that the 3rd term school holidays are almost upon us. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the focus this year has been on continuing the 'renewal' of the Catholic Deaf Centre ministry. Just as at the birth of the ministry when the Dominican Sisters focused on Catholic Deaf children at our schools—particularly (but not exclusively) with our only Catholic Deaf School St. Dominic's—now we must return to our Catholic schools and find the future of the ministry.

Of course we no longer have a Catholic Deaf school, so all our Catholic Deaf and hearing-impaired children are mostly mainstreamed in Catholic schools throughout the country. This largely changes the whole dynamic of the ministry and also challenges traditional Deaf community views. Part of the change in the dynamic for the future is that Catholic Deaf students are now more dispersed than when we had a Catholic Deaf school. The dispersion of Deaf individuals makes it more difficult for them to experience Deaf culture.

But a more basic difference now concerns our very definition of being 'Deaf'. In the past, profoundly deaf children were able to achieve some limited assistance through the use of hearing-aids which of course improved as the technology improved. However outside the education system and when these students left school, many became involved in local Deaf communities and learnt and used New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL). So while many profoundly deaf individuals did get some benefit from hearing-aids, this was limited.

The introduction of Cochlear Implants (CIs) has changed all that. CIs are like the Rolls Royce of hearing-aids, enabling profoundly deaf individuals to operate far better in a hearing environment than was possible in the past. However, CI individuals are still profoundly deaf. So physically they are not different to profoundly deaf who do not have CIs and prefer NZSL. The big difference is that many of the future Deaf will have had CIs from pre-school years and have been able to grow up fluent in English. So in the past where we have had profoundly deaf growing up with NZSL, now we have profoundly deaf growing up speaking English. Two different languages but both languages of profoundly deaf individuals.

This is creating some issues in the Deaf community who naturally want to preserve the treasure of their language—NZSL. However, mainstreaming, and the lack of the availability to teach NZSL in any school in New Zealand, means that many CI and hearing-impaired students, do not have the opportunity to learn NZSL in their schools. In fact it would be fair to say that the majority of Deaf and hearing-impaired students in our education system are not in fact exposed to NZSL as a subject at school. So in the Catholic Deaf community (like the wider Deaf Community) we are faced with reaching out to a group of young Deaf and hearing-impaired people who come from very different education backgrounds to what we were used to.

On page 5 of the newsletter is a flyer for our Catholic Deaf Conference in February. This conference is a celebration of our Irish Dominican roots and it aims to share with conference attendees, New Zealand's unique Catholic Deaf History involving the Irish Dominican Sisters. It will also give us a glimpse of a very different future towards the end of the conference.

So, it will be exciting to see where we have come from and the changes and influences we have experienced along the way. As well, we can meet some of the new faces of the Catholic Deaf community and the challenges ahead. Though the conference is not until early February, there are a limited number of beds available at the Conference Centre, so I would urge those interested in attending to contact me as soon as possible to ensure that you get one of those available rooms.

God Bless *David*

Burning Issues

- reaching out to Deaf and hearing-impaired students in our Catholic Schools
- doing our bit to preserve the tradition of Catholic Deaf Signs from our history
- looking at addressing needs in Christchurch and the South Island

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Catholic-Deaf-Centre-634427356638030/](https://www.facebook.com/Catholic-Deaf-Centre-634427356638030/)



Introducing

Rachel Marr



Hello, my name is Rachel Marr (Rasmussen) and I am the new pastoral worker for Catholic Deaf community in Auckland. I am Deaf and use NZSL to communicate. I grew up in small town of Feilding and I went to St Joseph school, under St Dominic's wing of Deaf Unit. Then I went to Freyberg High School with Deaf Unit in Palmerston North. Moved to Auckland to be with my husband Cameron in 2005. I have two beautiful sons Jack and Connor.

My previous job was for Deaf Aotearoa, Auckland and South Auckland as roles were Pathway Assessor and Facilitator.

I am looking forward to meet you all.
God bless

Rachel

Editors Note:

A big congratulations and warm welcome to Rachel Marr from the Catholic Deaf Centre and all our readers. It was sad to farewell Judith Mason after 5 years as Pastoral Worker for the Catholic Deaf community of the Auckland diocese and we wish her every best wish in her new work. I am sure we will keep a keen eye out for news of Judith in the future.

In welcoming Rachel on page 3 of the Deaf Southern Star, we are hoping that this will become her page to send news and photos from her desk at Pompallier Centre, once she gets settled in. I have already got Rachel's page box below and when I get her contact details for work, I can put them in. Hopefully Rachel will come up with a name for the top of her page too.

I got the name for my page: 'Under the Lamp-post' from some old Deaf Culture as an idea for: 'shining a light on Catholic Deaf activities in New Zealand' through our newsletter.

Rachel starts work at Pompallier Centre on the 3rd of October and has great support from her Team Leader Sr. Sian Owen RSJ whom many of our readers know. Sr. Sian is the Leader of the Religious Education Team for the diocese of Auckland. We wish them every blessing in their ministries ahead.

Rachel Marr

Pastoral Worker to Auckland
Catholic Deaf Community

Text:
Email:
Fax:
Skype:



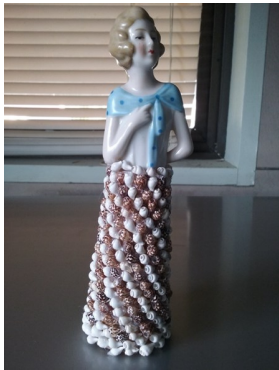
DSS 04:

News from Robyn Hill

After my mother's passing, we went to her home to clear out a lot of unwanted stuff & tidied up all the rooms. My family all came as well to help out the whole day & it was a big job, very busy & a lot of hard work, inside / outside for the past two years mostly on Sundays & we had a discussion about my mother's will, that we waited for a while before my mother's house to sell & we are happy that the house had been sold recently. Here's the photo of my family. Here are the homemade craft items-

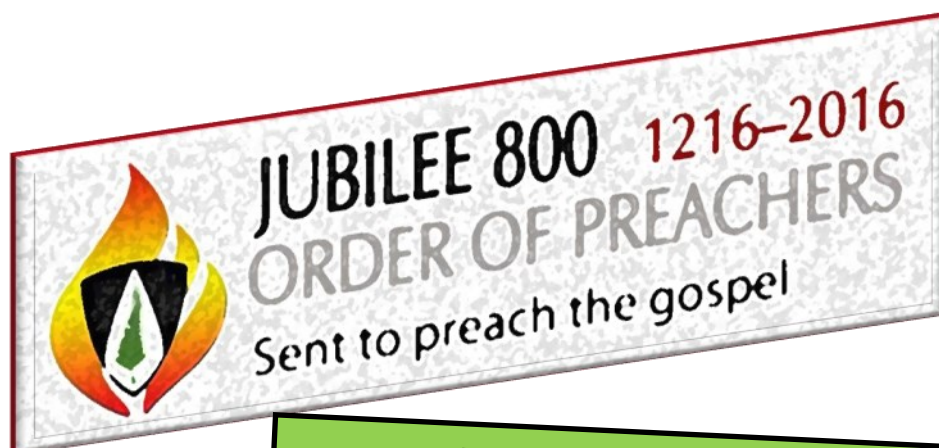


zip brooches of different shapes that I have made during my spare time every other day. I found one at my mother's home, that I have remade, as u can see the photo of a porcelain doll with shells. Also included more photos of these craft/art, duvet covers of lovely fabrics I chose, some pockets covers, cat coasters & mugs which I thoroughly enjoyed it. The duvet cover is for sale -\$100.



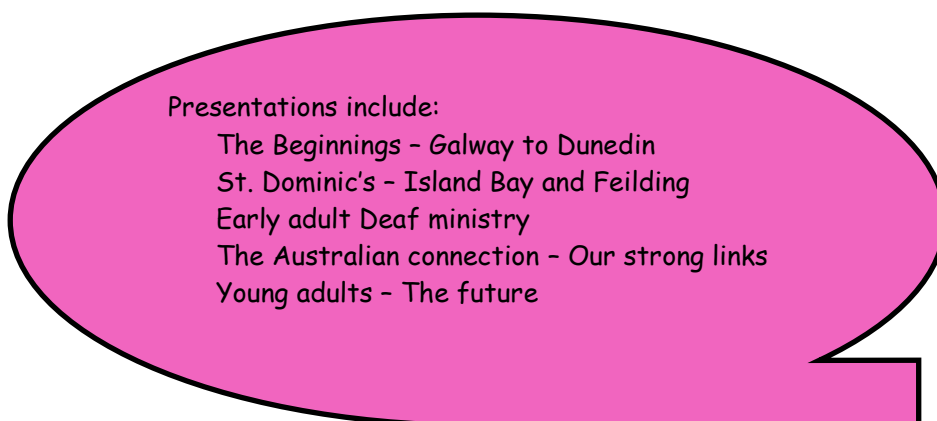
Robyn Hill





Celebrating 800 Years of Dominican Life and our Irish Catholic Deaf Heritage

A unique exploration of the Irish Dominican link to Catholic Deaf History in New Zealand



Guest Presenters:

NZ Dominican Sisters' Archivist
Diocesan Catholic Deaf Chaplaincies

St. Dominic's Teacher and past pupils
Catholic Deaf Centre

Young Adults Panel

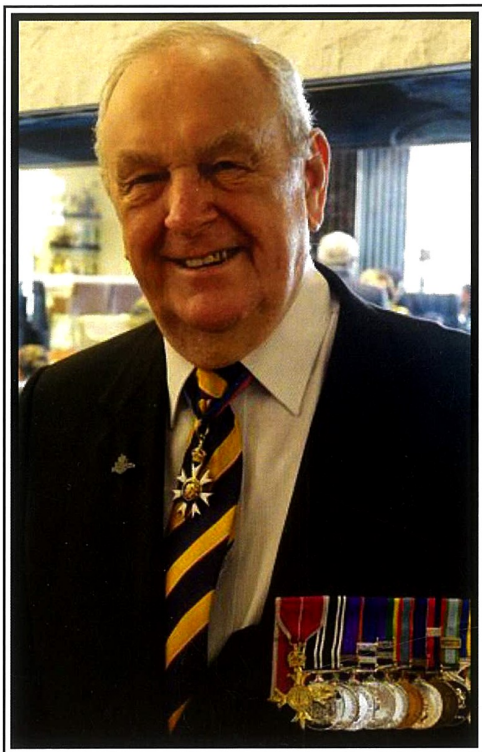
**For more information email David Loving-Molloy
at this email: catholic.deaf@pndiocese.org.nz**

DSS 06: Palmerston North and Wellington celebration of the Dominican 800th Jubilee, on 31st July in the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

31st July Photos



Gallery



*Donald Stuart McIver CMG, OBE
Reg No. K35383, Lt Gen (Rtd)*

1936—2016



Recent visitors to the
Catholic Deaf Centre:

L to R:

Sandra, Wynne, Mary,
and Marlene in front

News from Marlene Rush:

My Daughter Wynne, Bob, Caleb and Jake came to Palmerston North by plane from Brisbane to Wellington and bad weather. They arrived safely. On Sandra's (my daughter) and Robert have 25th Silver Wedding Anniversary. My best friend Mary Johnson from Auckland and stayed my place for two nights. My two daughters, Mary and I went to the Aqaba Restaurant for lunch and really enjoyed ourselves and yummy meals. Mary will be backing to Auckland Friday 16th September night by bus. Wynne, Bob, Caleb and Jake will go back to Brisbane on 21st September. Lovely see all my family and best friend. Take care

Marlene Rush

DSS 08:

A TIME FOR PRAYER

Special Prayers:

We pray for those who have died recently especially:

June Batten on 26th June;

Susan Evelyn Page on the 26th July;

Mary Mullane (formerly S.M. Brendan OP) on the 22nd August;

Donald McIver on the 22nd August; and

June Bruton on the 31st August.

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—

September:

22 / 09 / 69: S.M. Gerard OP
10 / 09 / 89: S.M. Emmanuel OP
24 / 09 / 89: Fayette Henry
27 / 09 / 94: May Graham
27 / 09 / 94: Pauline Tait
09 / 09 / 95: Fr. John O'Brien
22 / 09 / 95: Mr. Anderson
16 / 09 / 96: Florence Bailey
20 / 09 / 01: Reena Jamieson Harvey
09 / 09 / 03: Euan Costello
07 / 09 / 04: Russell Evenson
11 / 09 / 07: Daniel Beech
25 / 09 / 07: Donald O'Hanlon
29 / 09 / 07: Les Molloy
03 / 09 / 10: Stafford Heath
04 / 09 / 10: Maree Carroll
19 / 09 / 10: Alan Liddicoat
19 / 09 / 10: Sr. Ann Walsh OP
17 / 09 / 12: Anne Seymour-East
16 / 09 / 13: Maureen Holtham
14 / 09 / 14: Gilbert Hadfield
25 / 09 / 14: Fr. John Griffin
22 / 09 / 15: Peter Raymond Hill

October:

27 / 10 / 59: George Cate
17 / 10 / 97: Neil Robertson
12 / 10 / 98: Raniera Te Ao T.W. Ratana
12 / 10 / 01: Des Carroll
30 / 10 / 07: Katherine Peri
18 / 10 / 09: John Rose
15 / 10 / 12: Denise McIndoe
14 / 10 / 13: Gino Carroll

November:

17 / 11 / 78: Patrick O'Hanlon
07 / 11 / 80: S.M. De Sales OP
26 / 11 / 87: S.M. Stanislaus OP
04 / 11 / 93: Antonia Koat
10 / 11 / 93: Beatrice Gibbs
05 / 11 / 99: Noel Rees
03 / 11 / 05: Suzan Townshend
16 / 11 / 05: James Beamsley
06 / 11 / 07: Beryl Flanagan
15 / 11 / 11: S.M. Gemma OP



*June Francis Batten
1955—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.

In July the Leadership Team met to follow on with planning for our Masses. Most of our Wellington group came to Palmerston North for the Dominican Jubilee 800, Interpreted Mass, on the 31st July, at Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. We all enjoyed the wonderful celebration.

Our next interpreted Mass will be on Sunday 2nd October at St Peter & Paul's Church, Johnsonville at 10am – Alisha Davidson will interpret.

Deaf Cafe continues on the third Wednesday of the month – it is going well. Deaf Cafe will be on Wednesday 21st September, 19th October and 16th November 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.

Some sad news - Clare Holtham's father, Don McIver passed away on 22nd August. Our group supported Clare, Martin and their family with our prayers and we came to the Vigil Service and the Funeral Mass and burial. The Mass and burial were a wonderful tribute to Don, his life and his service to our country. Alisha Davidson and Angela Murray interpreted the Mass and the Burial Service. They were a wonderful blessing to Clare and Martin and to our group.

Deaf Café

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

21st September, 19th October and 16th November

At St. 's Peter and Paul's Church Hall

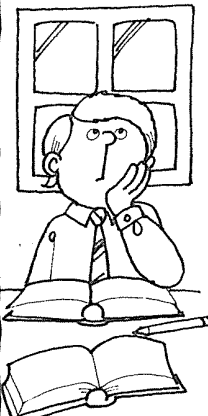
60 Knights Road, Lower Hutt



Hi Kids! Have fun colouring in the pictures below and doing the 'Word Search'. Find out what 'Social Justice' week is about.

Kids Corner


1




Happy are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

2

Happy are those who mourn,



they will be comforted.



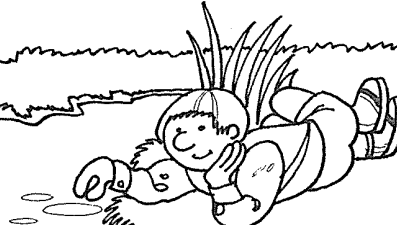
3

Happy are those who are humble, for they will inherit the earth.



4

Happy are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.




5

Happy are those who are merciful to others, for God will be merciful to them.




Happy are those who are persecuted, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



8

6


Happy are the pure in heart,



for they will see God.

7

Happy are the peacemakers,



for they will be called the sons of God.

Matthew 5:3-10

Word search

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| BEATITUDES | MERCIFUL |
| GOD | PEACEMAKERS |
| HAPPY | PERSECUTED |
| HEAVEN | POOR |
| HUMBLE | PURE |
| HUNGER | THIRST |
| KINGDOM | |

The Beatitudes or Happy Attitudes.

M	O	D	G	N	I	K	P	B	P
E	H	L	R	O	O	P	E	A	H
D	B	U	E	L	D	A	A	S	A
P	E	M	G	M	T	S	C	E	P
A	Y	T	N	E	S	T	E	D	P
H	U	P	U	R	E	H	M	U	Y
E	G	O	H	C	K	I	A	T	P
A	O	I	G	I	E	R	K	I	P
V	G	K	N	F	U	S	E	T	Y
E	L	B	M	U	H	T	R	A	O
N	A	K	E	L	R	T	S	E	E
T	H	I	R	T	Y	E	N	B	P

But the Vatican is known to have strongly rejected calls for women to have access to the priesthood and higher Church offices. This is a stance which invites comparison to some of the stricter religious treatments of women around the world. It is like trying to argue that women can do a lot of different things in the Church, but the top jobs are for men. Theologically, it could be argued that Christianity also places too much emphasis on gender though other world religions are not that much different.

Religions in general proclaim a spiritual aspect to our existence which usually enshrines belief in a divine being or beings. It is perhaps understandable then that humanity has tended to personify their gods in ways which reflect their cultural reality and male-dominated governance. And while there have been some big shifts in perception of gender and gender equality issues in the 20th and 21st centuries to date, many of these changes have occurred in westernized societies and democracies and are by no means universal. Clinton's ascendancy to the White House would have the potential to make a global statement for women – and that is something to be truly wished.

But with American politics being as they are, it is by no means a formality that a woman president will in fact be allowed to make such a significant difference to the place of women in American society, or in general. Would it be the case of breaking one glass ceiling only to be faced with another, stronger one in the Senate? Rousseff's impeachment certainly shows that politics is a ruthless arena and not necessarily a place which can effect desired social change.

This is why it would seem natural, that Religions have a role in effecting changes in society, to match their deeply held beliefs. However, theologically at least, rather than seeing their gods as being very different from us humans, and in essence not being human at all, the language that many religions use today would suggest the opposite. Christianity is not above this anomaly. The language Christianity uses concerning the Trinity is almost exclusively masculine. The Trinity is depicted as 3 men. That stark fact linguistically is at odds with St. Paul's contention in Galatians, that in Christ "there can be neither male nor female – for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3: 28)

Theologically there are some serious challenges here. The Church's continued exclusion of women from the priesthood and higher offices raises the question of whether theology has become undermined by 'cultural tradition'. Scripturally it can be inferred that the 'resurrected Christ' is no longer a man. This position is implied in Matthew's passage: "For at the resurrection men and women do not marry; no, they are like the angels in heaven." (Matt 22: 29)

Part of the cycle of the human condition is its 'biological clock'. And as much as we like to dream otherwise, our bodies begin their journey to death from the time we are born. If therefore we can say ontologically that our physical bodies are not part of resurrected existence, then what of the misperception of the treatment of gender today? Is our theological language stuck in a biological, functional vocabulary based on cultural norms men determine?

Donations, Deadlines and...

We hope you have enjoyed this 3rd 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 December

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