

Deaf Southern Star

New Zealand's Catholic Deaf Newsletter since 1978 Volume 38 Number 4, 2016



Christmas not the most important birth?

For many Christians it would seem that the birth of Jesus which we celebrate every Christmas is undoubtedly the most important birth ever. However Jesus himself tells us that this is not so in his conversation with Nicodemus (John 3). What birth can be more important than Jesus' historical birth over 2000 years ago? "In all truth I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born through water and the Spirit." (John 3: 5) For us as individuals, then, it is far more important that we focus on our own 'rebirth', rather than any other birth, even the birth of Jesus.

Commemorating Jesus' birth is therefore an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be 'reborn' in the manner Jesus was suggesting to Nicodemus. Jesus' own birth can be seen to be a 'rebirth' of the eternal Word which existed from the beginning—long before Jesus Christ was born. Surely our mission is to enter into real life by being born again through water and the Spirit? It is therefore strange that these important issues of 'rebirth' are lost in the usual Christmas focus and adoration of the baby Jesus.

Nicodemus rightly asks the obvious question: "How can anyone who is already old be born?" (John 3: 4) But maybe we need to look at the bigger picture which is suggested in Romans 8:22—24: "From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free." Unlike our first birth (and also Jesus') therefore, rebirth (or to be born again) is a much longer labour. It would also appear to be (taking our cue from Romans) something that "the entire creation" is undertaking whether one is aware of it or not.

It is too simplistic to say that what is meant by 'rebirth' is baptism, since we do not baptize "the entire creation". Also, traditionally in many cases, the Church baptizes infants not long after birth. **More on page 8**

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First Hand News - Jackie Overall

Hello Readers,

Congratulations to Sister Maureen for being Sister (nun) 60th Jubilee and Sister Paddy - 50th Jubilee also her 70th birthday this year. Both Sisters were teachers at St Dominic's school for the Deaf. Sr Paddy was in my church with her friend few months ago and was good to see her. Sad news that Toni Rees of Levin had passed away aged 84 due short illness and her wish list that no funeral and no service as well. She was part of my family close friend. May her rest as peace now with her late husband Noel. Photo of her inside.

Clare and I went to Auckland one weekend for the National Gathering of Dominican Family of Aotearoa NZ (Celebrating Jubilee 800 yrs) and there were about 70 people, mostly Sisters (Nuns). It was good to see Sister Judith (Nee Virginia) of Invercargill that I hadn't seen for a long time. The conference gave me a good learning experience for our future generations.

In February 2017 - NZ Catholic Deaf Conference on Waitangi weekend 3rd to 5th to celebrating 800 years of Dominican Life and Our Irish Catholic Deaf Heritage, it will be interesting about our histories. If you are interesting going, then contact David Molloy. Please pray for Evelyn and myself doing an assessment paper for our certificate in Pastoral Ministry (CPM). Thank you.



Luke - 2:4-20, Birth of Jesus we know God's son was born in Bethlehem and we don't know exact date. But we can celebrate Jesus' birth every day of the year! Take some time today to celebrate Jesus. Thank God for send Jesus to accept the punishment for your sins. Share your Thanks and Joy with other people. **Prayer:-** Dear God, Thank you for send your son Jesus to bring us the hope of Salvation.. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Wish you all a very Blessing Christmas and a Blessing New Year 2017.

God Bless *Jackie*

UNDER THE LAMP-POST

Hello Everyone

It is hard to believe that another year is about to bite the dust! Wow! And as I pen these thoughts it looks like a warm summer is on the way. 2016 has been a big year with the overall thrust being one of future directions. As the Catholic Deaf Centre prepares to enter it's 27th year as an official Centre for Catholic Deaf people in New Zealand we are very much aware of the idea of moving forward while looking back. This is the background to our Catholic Deaf Conference which will be held over Waitangi Weekend (3rd—5th February) in 2017. The conference theme: Celebrating 800 Years of Dominican Life and our Irish Catholic Deaf Heritage is a definite acknowledgement of our past.

However as the conference progresses we will see the changes over the years and the emergence of a significant new focus for the future. With a great group of presenters lined up, a full interesting programme, and an impressive venue, we are very excited about it. What then has been the basic thrust of future directions for the Catholic Deaf Centre (CDC) this year? The main work this year has been setting up a strong relationship with our Catholic Secondary and Primary schools which have indicated the presence of Deaf and hearing-impaired students on their rolls.

This has been a major undertaking as it involves both the Palmerston North and Wellington dioceses. Why is this described as 'future orientated?' This needs a little explaining in the context of New Zealand's Catholic Deaf work to date. Firstly from an education point of view, New Zealand was served by 3 Deaf schools: Sumner School for the Deaf in Christchurch; Kelston School for the Deaf in Auckland; and St. Dominic's School for the Deaf near Feilding. St. Dominic's was the only Catholic Deaf school here. Prior to the opening of St. Dominic's in 1944, Catholic Deaf children either went to New Zealand's 2 State Deaf schools or some went to Catholic Deaf Schools in Australia.

St. Dominic's closed at the end of 1989. The 1980s saw a greater movement towards mainstreaming in Deaf education with the result that the residential (boarding) aspect of the Deaf schools became greatly diminished. The other factor was the technological revolution in hearing-aids and the development of Cochlear Implants (CIs). This meant that more and more Deaf and hearing-impaired children did not have to go to specialist Deaf schools (which were often far from their homes), and instead were able to attend closer local schools. In my time in Deaf ministry in the 90s and 2000s a great amount of time was spent on building up the leadership skills and enabling St. Dominic's ex-pupils and other Catholic Deaf to access the Church through Interpreted Masses, Conferences, and Parish programmes.

Now, with a strong Catholic Deaf Ministry foundation, it is time to look to the big new challenge which is facing not only our Catholic Deaf communities, but also the wider Deaf communities. This new challenge is to embrace those Deaf and hearing-impaired young people who are mainstreamed and do not go to Deaf schools. Whereas in the past we did have a Catholic Deaf school, now almost all our future Catholic Deaf are mainstreamed in our Catholic schools. Some with higher needs will still require the support only a Deaf school can provide, but the vast majority no longer do. Another difference has been the decline of New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL). This has been mainly due to better technology and CIs which have enabled Deaf children to acquire levels of language which were not possible in the past. This has done away with the reliance on NZSL as an essential educational tool.

As a NZSL user I believe I have a role to play in the preservation of the language in the Church and it's liturgies, and also in exposing the up and coming young Deaf and hearing-impaired to it's use.

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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City of Sails

Kia Ora to members and friends of the New Zealand Catholic Deaf community,

First time to write a newsletter for Deaf Southern Star newsletter. Thank you to David for your lovely introduction in the last newsletter, I am sure you all looking forward to hear more of news from Auckland.

I have a new title from Auckland "City of Sails". Why this? At the Pompalier Centre where I work and we are close to harbour. I can see the harbour bridge and lots of sails and boats moored on the sea so that why I like to call this newsletter 'City of Sails'. In general most of people call Auckland is the City of Sails.

I started new job on 3rd October as Pastoral Worker for Catholic Deaf Community, I really enjoy working here and building good relationships with Catholic Deaf community here. I am lucky to have a wonderful Religious Education team and Catholic Deaf community to support me. I feel so blessed to have their support.



Our news:

We have a lovely Mass on Sunday 9th October with Fr John. Thank you for your lovely warm welcome for my new role as Pastoral worker (replacement Judith Mason). Thank you everyone for beautiful flowers.

We delighted that Trevor Cotter has been home on 5th October after spend time in hospital with mild of stroke for 2 months. He has improving lots. Hope to see Trevor and Carol in the Deaf Mass in the future.



Carol Brady who is keep in and out of the hospital for several of months. We hope her journey to recovery to get better and back to health again.

Trevor Cotter and **Carol Brady**, you are in our thoughts and prayers during your time of recovery.



I thought you might like to see the photo of my family to get know who I am. I

have a husband Cameron and two hearing sons Jack (wear glasses)

and Connor. We have a beautiful Mass service at Pompalier Centre on 13th November with Fr John and two lovely interpreter Felicity and Tarsha.



We would like to say a very special thank you to Barbara Peri for pass on the special gift of Virgin Mary with Baby Jesus of the wood craft from Jerarlemn. See the photo. Fr John gave a blessing of the craft and now it stay at my office in Pompalier Centre and will bring to each Deaf Mass regulars.



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Rachel

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Photo Gallery



Jubilarians: Sr.'s Maureen and Paddy



Sr. Maureen O'Hanlon OP celebrates her Diamond Jubilee with some friends in Palmerston North: Above left she is with Kay Blackburn and Sr. Margaret Butler OP; and above right (L to R): Sr. Suzy Logan OP; Bernice O'Hanlon (Sr. Maureen's niece); Sr. Judith Anne O'Sullivan OP; and Sr. Judith McGinley OP. Below on the left, Sr. Maureen is with (L to R): Sr. Paddy McCann OP; Trish Corby-Carr; and Sr. Yvonne Munro RSJ. Below right she is with (L to R): Barbara Cameron; Sue Small, David Loving-Molloy and Joyce Tait



Sr. Paddy's Golden Jubilee celebrations were in Dunedin. Below left Sr. Paddy is ready to cut an impressive Jubilee Cake and on the right she is in a snapshot with Sr. Maureen



DSS 06:



More from Sr. Paddy's Jubilee



Some of Alisha's Wedding photos



Remembering



Mary Casper

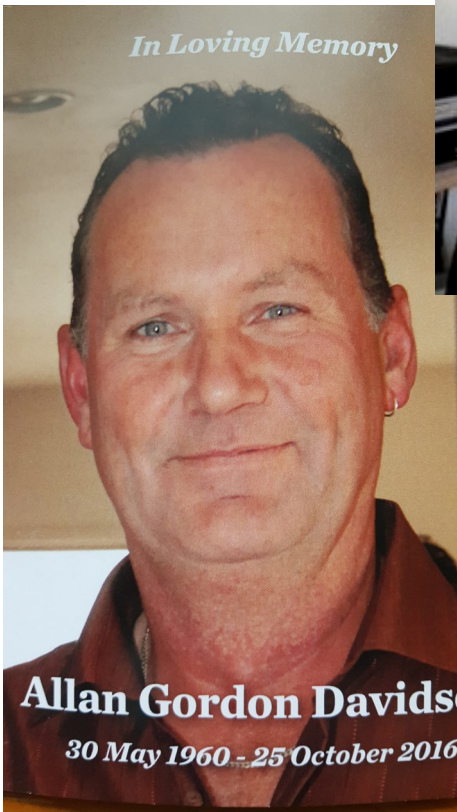
Donald McIver



June Batten



Toni Rees



Allan Davidson

Maureen Beamsley



DSS 08:

Special Prayers:

We pray for those who have died recently. May they rest in peace, and their families and friends find comfort and support 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—

December:

01 / 12 / 74: Alphonse Carroll
10 / 12 / 78: Elizabeth Ward
10 / 12 / 82: Christina O'Hanlon
19 / 12 / 89: Allston Easton
12 / 12 / 90: Val Molenaar
23 / 12 / 91: S.M. Conrad OP
27 / 12 / 93: S.M. Margarita OP
27 / 12 / 93: Bill Rees
02 / 12 / 94: Mary Griffin
30 / 12 / 02: Wilson Barret
01 / 12 / 04: Casey Ooteman
24 / 12 / 11: John Cuff
18 / 12 / 12: Mr. Page (Jonathon's father)

January:

07 / 01 / 72: Alfred Alsop
13 / 01 / 87: Malcolm Smith
21 / 01 / 98: Rosemary Ward
02 / 01 / 03: Keith Hadfield
28 / 01 / 05: Mr. Tong
01 / 01 / 06: Harry Hanley
24 / 01 / 10: Iris Brouwers
16 / 01 / 12: Daniel Hunter
09 / 01 / 15: Sr. Winefride OP
17 / 01 / 15: Sr. Bernadette OP

February:

11 / 02 / 65: Wayne Ross Allen
15 / 02 / 79: S.M. Vianney OP
25 / 02 / 87: Mr. Costello
19 / 02 / 89: Inez Alsop
25 / 02 / 91: Mr. Thomasen
11 / 02 / 94: Mr. Duckett
12 / 02 / 94: Joe Williams
05 / 02 / 95: S.M. Paul OP
03 / 02 / 03: Dick Bright
19 / 02 / 03: Mary Beech
04 / 02 / 05: Helen McGlinchey
15 / 02 / 08: Mrs. N. Cockburn
24 / 02 / 09: Josephine Bright
08 / 02 / 12: Godfrey Easton
19 / 02 / 12: Millie Love
13 / 02 / 15: Rodger Cate

Christmas Reflection continued:

So it would be unlikely that this is the 'rebirth' Jesus discussed with Nicodemus. Did Jesus himself have a rebirth? Certainly his baptism by John (when he was about 30 years old) is highlighted in all of the Gospels as a significant event, ushering in an intense period of work in his life. It could be argued that this intense period of work was like the 'prolonged labour pains', until his death on the cross.

This would tie in with the image in Romans that 'rebirth' is more of a dynamic process than a static event. The discussion with Nicodemus highlights the elements of 'water' and 'the Spirit', while not mentioning the other two elements of 'fire' and 'earth'. 'Pneuma' is an ancient Greek word for 'breath' and in a religious context for 'spirit' or 'soul'.

Certainly it could be said that the elements of water and wind are present at human births. But how much are these elements pondered over Christmas when we can consider the greater importance of our 2nd births? Water, for example, is such a basic element in existence as we know it, but it is also an image which Jesus uses powerfully in his ministry. This is particularly evident in John's Gospel. "...anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again..." (John 4: 14) and in another place: "...he who believes in me will never thirst." (John 6: 35)

Our 2nd birth therefore concerns the deep inner thirst in each one of us. Is it a thirst for truth? Understanding? Or just to make sense of our lives? Being reborn would seem to involve satisfactorily addressing this thirst personally. No-one else can do it for us.

'Pneuma' on the other hand is a well known biblical image appearing prominently in both the Old and New Testaments. "...God's spirit hovered over the water" (Genesis 1: 2) at the beginning of creation. "Yahweh God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being." (Genesis 2: 7)

These images suggest that the 'spirit' is necessary for any life to exist. I am alive because the 'spirit' is sustaining my existence. Then there are other momentous images of the 'wind' such as Elijah's experience on Mt. Horeb: "And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face

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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. Our October Mass was at Jackie and Lorraine's home church – St Peter & Paul's Church, Johnsonville. Fr Peter Fitzgibbon and the Johnsonville church community warmly welcomed us. Alisha was our interpreter. After Mass we gathered in the church hall for a cuppa and a time of sharing. Fr Peter joined us for our cuppa.

On the weekend of 11/13 November David came to Lower Hutt to teach PM101 – Church and Ministry. Jackie Overall, Evelyn Seymour-East and Clare Holtham are studying this paper. We decided to have our monthly Mass on Saturday 12 November and to go to dinner at the Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club. Martin Holtham designed a great poster for us and we emailed it out to all the people we thought might like to join us for Mass and dinner. As no interpreter was available David interpreted the Mass for us. We had a good crowd of Deaf at both the Mass and dinner. We had a lovely night – we all enjoyed ourselves.

Our next Mass is on Sunday 4th December at St Peter & Paul's Church, 60 Knights Road, Lower Hutt at 9.30am. We are looking forward to Mass and a shared morning tea after Mass. Clare and Jackie went to the National Gathering of Dominican Family of Aotearoa New Zealand on the weekend of 18/20 November in Auckland. We are looking forward to hearing all about their experience of the gathering on Sunday 4 December.

Jackie Overall has been asked to be a Minister of the Eucharist for her Johnsonville church community. Well done Jackie. Deaf Cafe continues on the third Wednesday of the month – it is going well. Clare and Mary run the cafe. We would like to say a big thank you to Martin and Donna who help with setting up each month and to Janette who helps with clearing up.

Deaf Cafe will begin again on February 15th 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.

Thank you to Angela Murray and Alisha Davidson for interpreting for us each month. God bless you both – you are a wonderful gift to us. Some great news: congratulations to Alisha and Jason on their recent wedding. We pray you have a long, happy and fulfilling life together. Happy Christmas everyone and God bless you all.

Clare and Mary



Christmas reflection continued...

with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.” (1 Kings 19: 13) And in Acts we find: “When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them.” (Acts 2: 1—4). An interesting aspect of these two very different passages is the coupling of the wind and fire.

Fire echoes the image of water from the perspective of cleansing and purification (though the purification by fire is perhaps a more ‘intense’ one), but fire / light also has connotations of enlightenment / understanding / and love. The wind in 1 Kings and Acts is different from the breath of life and is more suggestive of ‘power’ though as Elijah experienced, power can also equate with ‘gentleness’. It would appear then that if we are to take Romans 8 seriously we must become familiar with the workings of the Spirit in all its different manifestations. We must also treat the basic elements of our lives as realities deserving greater reflection and investigation shown in the many discourses in John's Gospel.

Christmas provides us with the opportunity to celebrate Jesus' birth and our own 1st births too. But to leave the ‘birthing of the entire creation’ at the doorstep of baby births, and neglect our 2nd births, is to miss the most important birth of all.

City of Sails

Photos from Deaf Mass:



On 20th November we attend to Anton and Prasadinie Cadelis's daughter Randinie's first Communion at Church of the Assumption in Onehunga. The Church is beautiful! The Mass was lovely and lots of sings. There have 24 children doing their first communion, most of them wear beautiful white dress with veils. Randinie looked so beautiful with



her white dress with veil and very excited. Her parents are proud of their daughter.

Our wonderful interpreters Felicity and Rosanna for their hard work to doing interpreter through the mass service and lots of songs.



Anton, Prasadinie, Randinie with Father Andrew Atonio.



Part of our Religious Education team and I behalf of Catholic Diocese of Auckland would like to wish you all a great Merry Christmas and happy New Year. Have a safe holiday with your families and friends. Wish you all the best for 2017!

Love and Blessing

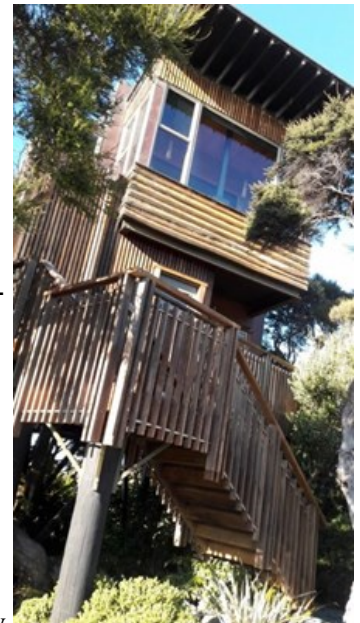
Rachel



I will tell you about my holiday trip in south island on 30th September to 18th October with my two sister Katherine Sturgeon from Dunedin and another sister Paula

Hodges from Rangiora, Christchurch.

We started on the trip by car from Christchurch to Greymouth stop for stay at one night. We saw very interested about the Pancake Rock and we walked to have look it. After that we were on way to Nelson for two night, I met an old friend (hearing) ex-Dunedin family friend then went to expo with fashion wearable Studio. It was very interested and enjoy relax. Then on way to Blenheim to stay for one night with my nephew Mark and Leanne Hodges. They took us out for lunch with Giesen Wine and lunch. We had fun and enjoyed of the tasting wine. The next day went to Kaikoura and stay there at Haupuka Lodge. It is beautiful place. We stayed at for the first time with beautiful tree house which are all made of tree. Both of my sisters gave me as surprised for stay at tree house. It is made me feel very special.



Back to Rangiora to for three nights then after that, on way to Mt Somers for

two nights. The next day on the way to Timaru for one night to catch the bus to Dunedin for 4 night. I stayed with my sister Katherine. I met Maureen Seth and went out for a lovely lunch together. It was so good to catch up with her. Also I went to see Wayne and Georgia McNamara, they had great holiday in Europe for their 50th Wedding anniversary. Then felt sad to go back to my home in Auckland. In few days later I went to Hamilton for Deaf sport on Labour weekend. After that the follow in the weekend, Barbara Peri and I went to Napier for lovely weekend, had a great time and



enjoyed myself with outing active.

Last weekend on 19th November, I went to 800th Dominican celebration in Auckland and stay at one night at Auckland UNV Hostel and it was greatest.

I feeling blessed and had a great time with everyone while I was in the holidays and very lucky it was good weather.

On 22nd November I went to Greenlane Clinical hospital with Rachel for my heart specialist check-up since I had a massive heart surgery in January 2014. Good news that Dr Martin say no concern and heart going well. Will go back again for check-up in two years' time.

Blessings

Mary Johnson, MNZM



Donations, Deadlines and...

We hope you have enjoyed this 4th 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 10th March

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