

Deaf Southern Star

New Zealand's Catholic Deaf Newsletter since 1978 Volume 39 Number 1, 2017



Our National Catholic Deaf Conference—challenges for the future of Catholic Deaf Ministry

This year's National Catholic Deaf Conference has been unique. Instead of looking at various themes to enhance professional development for Catholic Deaf Ministry, what we presented was a history of where Catholic Deaf Ministry has come from in New Zealand and glimpsed its challenging path ahead.

We are turning to face new challenges moving forward while looking back.

Historically, the socio-linguistic cultural group identified as the Deaf Community, arose out of the social and sporting gatherings of ex-pupils of Deaf schools. Deaf Societies / Clubs, and Deaf Associations were formed. However, recent historical changes in Deaf education and technology have forever altered the composition of local Deaf communities.

The majority of profoundly Deaf children are now mainstreamed, rather than attending Deaf schools. This has resulted in the closure of some Deaf schools and the downsizing of others. With the ready availability of advanced technologies, the old 'oral vs manual' teaching debate has largely become redundant, though the re-introduction of Sign Language as an 'education tool' is still used for students assessed as 'high needs'.

Technologically, Cochlear Implant developments are having a profound, far-reaching effect. Never before has a Deaf person been able to 'hear' more effectively than with a cochlear implant. These two things: mainstreaming, and cochlear implants (CI's), are radically changing the face of Deaf communities and Deaf culture. As such, they are also changing the face of Catholic Deaf Ministries.

[Continued on page 11](#)

Inside this Issue:

- Under the Lamp-
Post** 02
- City of Sails** 03
- Photo Gallery—
Conference Photos** 04
- Terry O'Brien's
Farewell Photos** 05
- Sr. Janet's Adventure
& Auckland Photos** 06
- Wellington News &
Deaf Café** 09
- Jelena McInnes'
holiday here** 10

First Hand News - Jackie Overall

Hello Readers,

Welcome to 2017. Here its March and two months gone quickly. Two Conferences for the Dominican 800 years that I went - one in Auckland November last year with Clare and Mary Johnson was about "Exploring the 'Pillars' of Dominican life - Prayer, Community, Study and Mission" also our future generations. Another one in Wgtn Feb this year was about "History of our Dominican life and Irish Catholic Deaf Heritage" also our future young deaf generations. I had lots learnt from both conferences which make me think how to work with young and old generations to the future are Communicate (relationships), Community (share, giving) and Compassionate (kind).

"LENT" start on the 1st March to April 16th Easter Day (Resurrection Day) Words from Pope Francis - Do you want to fast for Lent?

Fast from hurting and say kind words

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude (thankful / grateful)

Fast from anger and be filled with patience

Fast from pessimism (bad things) and be filled with hope

Fast from worries and trust in God

Fast from complaints and contemplate (thinking deeply about) being simple

Fast from bitterness and be prayerful

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate (kind)

Fast from grudges (arranged) and be reconciled (agreement / settle)

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Hope you all think of Resurrection Day (Easter) and have a very safe Happy



Easter long weekend.

God Bless *Jackie*

UNDER THE LAMP-POST

Hello Everyone

2017 seems to have taken off with a hiss and a roar! As you will see with all the photos in this newsletter, there has been plenty happening in the last few months. The National Conference in Wellington went very well and the Home of Compassion Conference Centre in Island Bay is a lovely place to have a conference. The big theme was: 'Where has Catholic Deaf Ministry come from in New Zealand?' And, 'Where is the future leading us?' Some of these issues are dealt with in the main reflection on the Conference which is on the front of the newsletter and continues on page 11. I just want to continue along this vein a bit more to bring up some issues which have significance from a cultural point of view.

As we saw on the front page, with Deaf Culture, we are dealing with a 'socio-linguistic' minority group, not an ethnic group. The very claim that a 'social-linguistic' group can be said to be a 'cultural' group in its own right is open to debate. I am not going into that debate here. But, from a Catholic Deaf Ministry point of view, and also from a Deaf Community point of view it is important to realize that many Deaf people especially those for whom Sign Language is a first language, definitely see 'Deaf Culture' as a valid culture. Historically, many Catholic Deaf Ministries were effectively established and founded by 'culturally Deaf' people. So Catholic Deaf Ministries which owe their origins to 'culturally Deaf' founders, will feel obliged to enshrine their approach to Deaf Ministry in an appropriate 'culturally Deaf' manner, especially in the use of Sign Language.

New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) has become important for New Zealand's Deaf Community. However, historically, New Zealand's Deaf Community grew out of Deaf schools which used the Oral Method of education. This means that although NZSL is now a strong language and prominent in our small Deaf communities, 'Oralism' was a significant aspect in New Zealand's 'Deaf Culture history'. That fact cannot be denied. Deaf Schools, in themselves, hold a pride of place in a Deaf Communities 'cultural history'. It doesn't matter that New Zealand's only 3 Deaf schools, all used the Oral Method. Signs were developed outside the classroom and after school hours. So just as government (secular) Deaf Schools are important to a local Deaf Community's sense of identity and history, so too, Catholic Deaf Schools were important to the identity of a 'Catholic Deaf Community'.

These factors raise the question of exactly what 'Catholic Deaf Cultural' aspects should a given Catholic Deaf Ministry enshrine in their approach to ministry to the Deaf Community? Do we discard the past or build on it? Certainly from a Sign Language (or any language for that matter) point of view we cannot discard it. Obviously, once a Deaf School closes then the line of its ex-pupils will irretrievably diminish over time. But the impact of language lasts. Sign Language therefore is the predominant 'cultural' aspect which preserves a Deaf Community's 'socio-linguistic cultural identity'. From a Catholic point of view it will be 'Catholic Sign Language' which preserves the unique Catholic Deaf identity of a particular Catholic Deaf Community.

In spite of the Oral history of our Deaf Schools, Deaf students who attended them did develop Signs outside the classroom which became peculiar to their particular Deaf school. St. Dominic's pupils too developed Signs outside the classroom and significantly a number of these Signs were related to Catholic practices and celebrations such as the Mass. So we do have a small number of unique Catholic Signs from St. Dominic's which must be given serious exposure in any compilation of New Zealand Catholic Deaf Signs. But because the vocabulary of St. Dominic's Catholic Signs is unfortunately very small, other appropriate sources must be included. The key question here is: 'What makes some sources of Catholic Signs for New Zealand, more appropriate than others?'

The answer to this question lies in the unique history of Catholic Deaf Ministry in New Zealand. While the wider Deaf Community rightly reserves the authority to determine appropriate Signs for inclusion in its secular Sign Language vocabulary, it is certainly not the place of the wider Deaf Community to determine appropriate Catholic Signs for the local Catholic Deaf Community. This authority can only come from the unique local Catholic Deaf Ministry heritage which is passed onto the Catholic Deaf Community by the leaders, chaplains and pastoral workers who are familiar with it. A significant factor in the preservation of this heritage would be its lasting inclusion in an Archive. Luckily, in New Zealand we do have a very extensive Catholic Deaf Archive at the Catholic Deaf Centre. Blessings

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

David Loving-Molloy—Chaplain
Catholic Deaf Communities of the
Palmerston North & Wellington Dioceses
Fax: **00 64 06 355 0398**
Txt ph: **021 120 4265**
Email: catholic.deaf@pndiocese.org.nz
Skype name: [catholic.deaf](#)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/catholic-deaf-centre



City of Sails

Kia Ora to Deaf community members, Whanau and Friends,



Happy New Year to you all! Wow it is already March! What a busy few months – lots of events, I have been doing a daily Gospel reading translating it to NZSL via video then posting it to our Facebook page. Lots of Deaf members are enjoying watching and learning about the gospel in this way.

I have some news to share with you from the Auckland Catholic Deaf Community.

On 21st January, we had an afternoon tea picnic at Botanic Garden, Manurewa, South Auckland. We were

invited to join with the Auckland Deaf Christian Fellowship (ADCF) for this social event. It was a great time, very enjoyable allowing us to catch up after our holidays. We



agreed to coordinate this event in the future and develop a closer relationship. I would like to take this time to say a huge thanks to ADCF for warmly

welcoming us to your event. I am sure that we will have times during this coming year and in the future when we can meet again as we did on this day..



Mary Johnson and a few other community members, including myself, attended the New Zealand Catholic Deaf Conference during Waitangi Weekend, it was held in Wellington. The conference was successful, very interesting information was shared about Dominican life and its history. Big hand waves to David for all of his wonderful work to make this conference such a success. We were very lucky as well as the weather in Wellington that weekend was beautiful. We



teased everyone and said that we Auckland people brought the



weather with us! We visited Little Lourdes, which was just behind the conference building, it is amazing to see it. I took a photo of Jesus with cross and thought I should share I with you. We had Morning Prayer on behalf of the Auckland Diocese – Catholic Deaf community. Enjoy the photos.



Had first Deaf Mass this year on 12th February. A large number of people attended the Mass. It was lovely to see everyone again.

Special thank you to Tarsha Cutelli and Te Aurere Paraha for a wonderful job interpreter the Mass! After Mass we had an amazing shared lunch. Surprise to all four of our were wearing similar colours on the day as you will see in the [photos on page 6](#). On Sunday 19th February, we were invited to a Celebration of Ministry for the Disability Faith Community. It was a lovely service.

Thank you to ADCF for invited us. Small world, Mary, Carol and Patricia met their previous priest John McApline who did the service for Deaf in Mass several years ago. It was lovely to meet him. On Wednesday 1st March – we attended Ash Wednesday service the Sea and All Saints, Howick, East Auckland. This is Father

John Fitzmaurice Parish. We all received ashes celebrating the start of lent. See more photos on page 6.



Rachel Marr
Pastoral Worker to Auckland Catholic Deaf Community
Text: 021 276 0006
Email: rachelm@cda.org.nz
Website: <http://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/religious-education/>



Blessings and Love

Rachel

2017 Conference Photos



Terry O'Brien's Farewell



DSS 06:

Sr. Janet's adventure



City of Sails—Photos



Photo Gallery

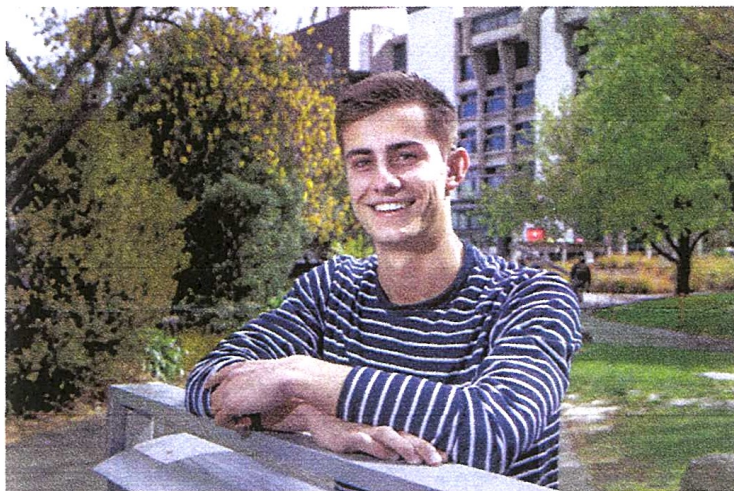


Martin Philip Luoni
1927—2016

Phil Luoni and Henry Fredericks set up a committee to build the swimming pool at St. Dominic's which was officially opened and blessed on the 3rd December 1961. Funds for building the pool were raised through the annual Gala Days which Phil and his wife Yvonne spent many long hours helping to set-up: organizing the stalls, free buses from Feilding, fun events, and raffles etc. Yvonne was involved in the Catholic Women's League work with St. Dominic's. Phil and Yvonne also hosted a pupil from St. Dominic's over the Easter holidays. Phil passed away on the 5th December last year in Auckland where they had been living for many years.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Lachlan Bartlett Christchurch

Former Head Boy at St. Bede's College in Christchurch, Lachie is Deaf. He got a Cochlear Implant when he was 8 years old. Some of our readers will have met Lachie at our National Catholic Deaf Conference held in Wellington last month. Lachie was recently awarded the runner-up prize for the 2016 Cochlear Implant Graeme Clark Scholarship for Australia and New Zealand, to help fund his university studies.

Lachie is now in the second year of his 5-year double degree in Law and Criminal Justice at Canterbury University. Congratulations Lachie on the scholarship and best wishes for your studies this year.



Conference attendees at our National Conference in February had the opportunity to visit the old St. Dominic's Island Bay address which was just down the road from the Home of Compassion. The photo on the left above is of the original building used for the school at the start of 1944. In the coloured photo above right you can see what is left of the old building which is the white house on the left.

The original property was sub-divided and became no's 15 & 17 Dover St. No. 15 is now 3 flats.

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.

A TIME FOR PRAYER

19 / 05 / 14: Ray McMillan

26 / 05 / 14: Pearl Cairns

Anniversaries—

March:

07 / 03 / : Ms. Rose Maher
02 / 03 / 91: Andrew Smith
17 / 03 / 92: S.M. St. John OP
15 / 03 / 97: S.M. Theophane OP
06 / 03 / 02: Cecelia Burr
03 / 03 / 04: Maria Molloy
27 / 03 / 05: Claude Norman
15 / 03 / 13: Johannes Ooteman

April:

01 / 04 / 88: Herbert Mayall
04 / 04 / 95: Alice Wong
04 / 04 / 00: Jack Johnston
09 / 04 / 02: Maurice Brough
15 / 04 / 03: Mr. Overall
13 / 04 / 04: Christina Galvin
15 / 04 / 04: Catherine Belcher
29 / 04 / 04: Charles Wong
11 / 04 / 05: Patricia Dugdale
14 / 04 / 07: Cullum Florence
15 / 04 / 07: Edwin Mackie
30 / 04 / 09: Judy Creighton
27 / 04 / 14: Nancy Barker

May:

11 / 05 / 86: Peter Tait
28 / 05 / 87: Herbert Thomas Allen
15 / 05 / 88: Mitchell Tait
26 / 05 / 91: Harold Griffin
14 / 05 / 93: Marlyn Crayton
21 / 05 / 92: Stuart Reid
03 / 05 / 95: Kevin Meyer
06 / 05 / 97: Joan Bailey
13 / 05 / 97: Patrick Morgan
29 / 05 / 98: Priscilla Woods
05 / 05 / 03: S.M. Declan OP
22 / 05 / 03: Michael O'Hanlon
21 / 05 / 05: Lyndsey Rush
20 / 05 / 06: Gay Halcrow
20 / 05 / 09: Leonie Nicolle
31 / 05 / 12: Keith Gordon

Saints during the Lenten Season:

ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE, Religious

April 7

Patron of
Teachers



Everyone has heard of the De la Salle Brothers and of their schools. St. John Baptist is their patron and founder. He was born at Rheims, France in 1651 of very wealthy parents. On becoming a priest, he literally gave away all he possessed to the poor and began to devote himself wholeheartedly to the education of poor boys.

He was joined by a group of like-minded young men, and in a short time schools for poor boys were being set-up throughout France. In his education methods he was well ahead of his time. He met with much opposition, but finally surmounted all difficulties.

In 1695, he drew up the Rule for his Brothers (which he later revised in 1705) and also wrote: *The Conduct of Christian Schools*, which set forth his pedagogical system and became a classic in the field of education. St. John exhorted his Brothers to have a father's love for their pupils, be ready to devote all their time and energy to them, and be as concerned to save them from wickedness as to dispel their ignorance.

St. John Baptist died on Good Friday, 1719 and was canonized by Pope Leo XIII on May 24th, 1900. He is the patron saint of schoolteachers.

Wellington News

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

3rd – 5th February 2017

Last Waitangi Weekend, we enjoyed the NZ Catholic Deaf Conference for 800 years of Dominican Life and Our Irish Catholic Deaf Heritage. It was wonderful time to see our friends, old teachers and some of the sisters (nuns). Jackie Overall and Clare Holtham gave our speech about the National Gathering of Dominican Family of Aotearoa NZ for Jubilee 800 years at Auckland last year so Jackie talked about the Community from Christchurch and Clare talked about the prayer from Otago/Southland. Martin Holtham told us what happened in his life at St Dominic for Deaf Children in Feilding. We thank you to David Loving-Molloy and Sr Maureen for doing wonderful jobs over Waitangi Weekend. See all the conference photos on page 4.

Deaf Mass

Our Deaf Mass will be on the 12th March at St Peter and Paul Church, 60 Knights Road, Lower Hutt at **9am** NOT 9.30am. After Mass, you are welcome to join us together for a cuppa and time of sharing. Angela Murray will our interpreting for us.



Welcome to the Deaf Café, it is free. Mary and Clare will run the Deaf Café. The Deaf Café carry on the third Wednesday of the month. Our next Deaf Café will be on the:

15th March at St Peter and Paul Church Hall, 60 Knights Road, Lower Hutt at 10am – 12 midday. Everyone welcome to join us.

We will see you there!

God Bless you all.

Clare and Mary

News from Marilyn Welham:

Happy New Year 2017! Have a good holiday. I had a good holiday at Napier to stay with my friend Tanya and Dean. We all together enjoyed see sights of Napier like show me Ocean Spa, swimming, piers, and lots of things. I went to the Salvation Army Church is so cool awesome then I visit my hearing friend Margaret Dyer. Margaret has been sick for a long time, and I have go to visit her and pray for her, reading Bible about 'sick'.

I have a nice baby car is blue Suzuki Swift 2005 and very low mileage is 25,000. I called nickname 'Swiftly the Mouse' like Mexico Mouse run fast! I bought that car just 2 days before Christmas and the car sale man gave me 2 Christmas presents for NZ Radio and back camera. My sister Pauline say "Lucky you". I drive my baby car to Napier is so cheap running. Wow!! I love my Suzuki Swift car. I must look after it. God blessing you all.

Marilyn

News from our Readers

My name is Jelena McInnes and I live in Brisbane Australia and I was ex pupil of st Dominic school for the deaf 1966-1975 and ex pupil of Freyberg High School 1976-1979. I went arrive Auckland from Brisbane on 12th February by plane and meet 3 Deaf friends Ruth and Brigid and Elizabeth and had lovely chat and then went to Brigid place for dinner and I catch the plane from Auckland to Palmerston North Sunday night. I almost miss the plane but the delay oh phew !! I arrive to Palmerston North airport 20 minutes late to meet Maureen Lambert and her daughter Teia and they were happy to see me.

Maureen take me to Erina art workshop in Feilding and meet few Deaf friends and Erina is happy to see me and I was doing painting and have lunch to chat (Monday morning and afternoon). Maureen and I walk with Maureen 's dog in the morning (Tuesday) Maureen take me to see Maureen 's mother to lovely chat about everything. Maureen and I went to shopping by bus and visit Deaf Assn office in Palmerston North to see Annette Scott and she was happy to see me and lovely chat.(Wednesday) We went to Suzanne Hanson 's place for light snacks and drinks and Jonathan Page was surprise to see me and Jackie Davidson too and had lovely chat and lot of laugh a lot (Wednesday night) and we come home midnight at Maureen 's place ha ha .

Maureen take me to drive to Feilding to see my old 3 homes where I live there many years ago and I take the photo to my old homes and Erina go with us too (Thursday morning) and then we went to see Sister Maureen place for afternoon tea and had lovely chat too (Thursday afternoon) and come home have rest . I fly to Christchurch to see my best friend Linda Allen to stay for 2 nights (Friday and Saturday) and look around the city centre and went to shopping and I see Mark who is Deaf man and take the photo of everything and I fly to Palmerston North and Erina was pick me at the airport (Sunday morning) and went to the market in Palmerston North and look the stall and buy the necklace with 6 charms cost \$13 and same Erina too and went to Erina 's place to have BBQ and few Deaf people come too and stay for a night at Erina' place and had long chat. (Sunday night)

Erina take me to her Art workshop again in Feilding and then went to back Maureen ' place and have rest at night (Monday morning and night) Maureen take me to see Terry O'Brien (ex teacher of Freyberg High School) had lovely chat and look the old school photos wow then we went to see Jackie Davidson at Freyberg high school for little chat and look around the school where I was ex pupil at school 1976-1979 and look change(Tuesday morning) and come home for rest for a while and Maureen take me to 7 km walk in Palmerston North and my leg was pain ahhh! (Tuesday night) .

We went to Tanya ' place for learn how the knitting and had lovely light snacks and then Maureen and I went to drive to Whanganui to see Shona Beamsley and went to the cemetery to see my grandparents grave of my father' side and put the flowers and went to Shona ' place for dinner then come home to Palmerston North .(Wednesday morning and afternoon and night) We went to see Mrs Susan McConachy (my old school teacher Freyberg High School) and she don't know who I am so I told her my name and she was shocked and surprised to see me and stay for morning tea and we went to Victoria Esplanade Park Cafe for lunch and look at the lovely birds and look at the park then we went to see David Lov-ing-Molloy for little chat before he work the office .(Thursday morning and afternoon and night) I went to see Robert Mulholland for a chat and he was happy to see me.

Went to see Suzanne Hanson to help Maureen of the knitting and went to Feilding and to see Erina' parents place for lunch and then went to St Joseph School to see Erina' son Gino memorial chair and it was lovely and bye to Erina then come home and ready for go out for dinner with few people for my last day holidays and went to the Deaf Club and just few Deaf people then come home have rest . (Friday morning and afternoon and night).

We went to the cemetery to see my best friend Gay Hal-crow's grave and went to see Murray for little chat and come home and ready fly to Auckland and say bye to Maureen .

Arrive to Auckland airport then walk to the international airport to meet Ruth and long chat before fly to Brisbane . (Saturday morning and afternoon and night) Arrive to Brisbane to meet my husband Arthur was happy to see me .

Jelena McInnes xxx



Jelena McInnes and Shona Beamsley

Up until now the establishment and growth of Catholic Deaf Ministries has largely been the result of the initiatives and leadership of ex-pupils and religious from Catholic Deaf Schools and priests involved with them. Widespread mainstreaming and Cochlear Implant (CI) usage has meant that greater numbers of Catholic Deaf in the future will not have attended a Catholic Deaf School and will not be familiar with New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL). This presents a significant challenge for Deaf communities as well as Deaf Ministries because mainstreaming and CI's not only affect Catholic Deaf but also the wider Deaf community.

Deaf Schools created easy access to a majority of Deaf students at one site. Mainstreaming has meant that Deaf students are now spread over a much wider area and that access is not so easily achieved. Deaf Communities and Deaf Clubs are largely voluntary organizations which usually in the past had a direct link to Deaf Schools. Mainstreaming has severed this direct link to Deaf students and meant that Deaf Communities now rely largely on the Deaf Education system to forge relationships between Deaf students (and their parents) and Deaf adults.

A parallel story can be seen in Catholic Deaf Ministry, with the majority of our Catholic Deaf students no longer having access to a Catholic Deaf school, instead being mainstreamed over a wide area and having access to CI's and much better technology than in the past. New Zealand's only Catholic Deaf School, St. Dominic's School for the Deaf, was run by Dominican Sisters, opening in Island Bay, Wellington in 1944 and closing 45 years later in Feilding at the end of 1989. Where are our Catholic Deaf students now? While we still have 2 Deaf Schools in New Zealand: Van Asch Deaf Education Centre in Sumner, Christchurch, and Kelston Deaf Education Centre in Kelston, Auckland—(where some students will be Catholics)—the vast majority of our Catholic Deaf and hearing-impaired students are now in hearing Catholic schools.

Currently, New Zealand has approximately 188 Catholic primary schools and 49 Catholic secondary schools. In the Palmerston North and Wellington dioceses alone 38 primary school Deaf and hearing-impaired children, and 35 secondary school Deaf and hearing-impaired students have been identified. These are mainstreamed children who mostly do not know Sign Language (and do not need it as part of their education needs) and they are spread over a wide ranging areas. These students are the future of Catholic Deaf Ministry for the Palmerston North and Wellington dioceses. Our challenge nationally is to find out where all the other Catholic Deaf children and students are in the other 4 New Zealand dioceses of Auckland, Hamilton, Christchurch, and Dunedin.

Our 2017 Conference therefore had a good mixture of older established Catholic Deaf leaders and a sprinkling of the new mainstreamed future. This enabled us to see where we have come from, and glimpse the challenges ahead. If mainstreaming and CI's are changing the face of Catholic Deaf communities, they are likely to be triggering bigger challenges and changes in the wider Deaf Community too. There are some great Conference photos in this newsletter on page 4.

Donations, Deadlines and...

We hope you have enjoyed this 1st Quarter issue of DSS for 2017. 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 9th June

Sender:

**Catholic Deaf Centre
Private Bag 11012
Palmerston North 4442
New Zealand**

ISSN 1175—7647

To: