

Deaf Southern Star



New Zealand's Catholic Deaf Newsletter since 1978 Volume 40 Number 1, 2018

THANK YOU DOMINICAN SISTERS



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First Hand News - Jackie Overall

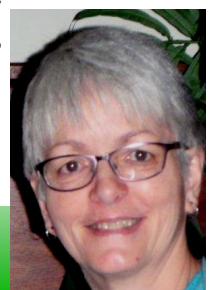
Hello Readers,

Sister Maureen's farewell - it was wonderful to see some ex-St Dominic's pupils and some Sisters also the Mass was great with some Sisters sing beautiful song. Speech from ex-pupils and some Sisters were very precious memories too. Sr Maureen now lives in Dunedin. See the photos inside the pages.

Matthew 28:1-10 (Sunday 1st April) is Resurrection Day. Because Jesus died, we can have our sins forgiven. He is risen! Prayer: God, thank you for Jesus. In his name, Amen. Have a wonderful Resurrection Day (Easter) everyone.

God Bless

Jackie



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Thank you Dominican Sisters



Sunday the 18th of February was a fitting day to farewell the Dominican Sisters from the Palmerston North diocese. It was almost 75 years to the exact day that Sr.'s M. Stanislaus and Sr. M. Rose OP began their involvement with the Deaf on the 19th February 1943. One year before the official opening of St. Dominic's School for the Deaf at Island Bay in Wellington, Sr.'s Stanislaus and Rose began their training with Catholic Deaf children at another Dominican Deaf school—Waratah School for the Deaf in Newcastle, N.S.W., Australia.

While New Zealand's Catholic Church is very young compared to those in much older countries overseas, here at least, **75** years of commitment to a specialized ministry in the Church is a very significant contribution worthy of suitable recognition by the Bishops and the local Church nationally. Thankfully the wonderful turnout to the farewell and celebrations in Palmerston North on Sunday 18th February was a well-deserved tribute to the dedicated work of the Sisters with the Catholic Deaf community in New Zealand. This newsletter will cover the celebrations with many photos and some reflections.

The celebrations started with a packed Cathedral of the Holy Spirit for the 9.30am Mass. The Bishop of Palmerston North—Bishop Charles Drennan was the main celebrant. He was assisted by Bishop Peter Cullinane, Bishop Owen Dolan, Msgr Brian Walsh, Fr. Peter Fahy, and Fr. Marcus Francis. The procession was led in by 6 Deaf flag bearers: Martin Holtham, Ann Hanley, Steven Johnston, Cushla Crosby, Tony Kuklinski, and Marilyn Welham, all hoisting and waving large colourful flags. The first reading from the Book of Genesis was Signed by Jackie Overall and the 2nd reading from the 1st Letter of Peter was Signed by Rachel Marr. Mons. Brian Walsh read the Gospel from Mark and this was Signed by David Loving-Molloy.

Bishop Charles Drennan preached an excellent homily which will soon be available to read on the St. Dominic's Catholic Deaf Centre Facebook page. Nichelle Hughes was our Sign Language Interpreter. Mary Johnson and Shona Beamsley each Signed a Prayer of the Faithful. At the Offertory the Dominican Song: 'Sing of Dominic Joyful Friar' was sung. It was also Signed by our Sign Choir of: Maureen Lambert, Clare Holtham, Evelyn Seymour-East, and Erina Carroll. They were paced by the Sign Conductor—David Loving-Molloy.

After Communion Sr. Elizabeth Mackie OP delivered a wonderful address on behalf of the Dominican Sisters and this was followed by all 15 Dominican Sisters present gathering in the sanctuary to sing a beautiful Waiata. Following the Mass those attending the special luncheon congregated outside the Deaf Chaplaincy Centre for the Blessing of the renamed Centre as the: St. Dominic's Catholic Deaf Centre. This now sports a beautiful new large Sign incorporating the Crest of the Palmerston North Diocese which Bishop Charles (who was assisted by Mons. Brian Walsh) blessed with holy water and a prayer. Following the blessing of the new sign for the St. Dominic's Catholic Deaf Centre, we all made our way over to the Diocesan Centre rooms for a very generous luncheon.

Bishop Owen Dolan said the grace before around about 150 people enjoyed a hearty meal. During the meal a special card was being signed by all the Deaf and many hearing people too in honour of Sr. Maureen O'Hanlon OP.

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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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The special Farewell Card had been made for Sr. Maureen in recognition of her 45 years service to the Catholic Deaf community through education and ministry. It was a gigantic card and incorporated many photos of Sr. Maureen during her teaching years and one or two from her time with the adult Deaf too. Maureen Lambert and Erina Carroll got as many signatures as possible without Sr. Maureen noticing. It was a lovely surprise when they presented it to her at the end of the celebrations.

After people had had a sufficient feed, there was time for tributes for the Dominican Sisters. These were fittingly led by Bishop Peter Cullinane who spoke movingly of the wonderful influence and dedication the Dominican Sisters have had on the Palmerston North Diocese and the Archdiocese of Wellington over a long period of time. The tributes continued to flow from a large number of people from wide-ranging sections of the community including: Sr. Josepha RSJ from Whanganui who spoke on behalf of the Josephite Sisters; Mary Eastham speaking on behalf of the Manawatu Dominican Family group; Marcia Gresham speaking on behalf of St. Brigid's parish and the rural Manawatu community; Barbara Cameron and Marie White representing ex-teachers from St. Dominic's School; Ellen Oliver (nee Carroll) and Martin Beech representing families with Deaf siblings that attended St. Dominic's; Antoinette Umugwaneza speaking on behalf of the Faith and Light group; David Loving-Molloy speaking on behalf of Catholic Deaf Chaplaincy; and many Deaf including Jackie Overall; Mary Johnson; Steven Johnston; Martin Holtham; Megan Wiremu; Maureen Lambert; Erina Carroll; Ruth Jessep and Marilyn Welham.

The Sisters' response came first from Sr. Maureen O'Hanlon OP reflecting on the wonderful support the Sisters experienced from the local communities, families of Deaf children, and many friends over the years. Sr. Maureen paid special thanks to Bishop Peter Cullinane for his unwavering support of the Sisters during their long apostolate in the Palmerston North and Wellington dioceses. Sr. Maureen was ably supported by a number of Sisters involved with St. Dominic's who also shared their thoughts including: the oldest ex-teacher present – Sr. Molly Griffin OP who taught at St. Dominic's from 1958 – 1966; Sr. Judith (Virginia) who taught from 1973 – 1976; Sr. Paddy (Antonia) 1976 – 1982, and 1984 – 1985; and Sr. Nola (Martin) who was on the Hostel Staff from 1979 – 1982 and also in 1984.

The celebrations ended with many group photos taking place inside and outside in the sunny weather.

Following now is the full text of a reflection from David Loving-Molloy on the Dominican farewell and its significance for the Catholic Deaf Community—parts of which he shared with the gathering after the luncheon.

Reflection for Dominican Farewell on Sunday 18th February 2018 by David Loving-Molloy

Hearing people here today have experienced a little taste of Deaf culture. Hopefully it has made them stop to wonder what these events we are celebrating really signify for the Deaf themselves. From a Deaf view, we are focussed today on the 'Dominican legacy in the Catholic Deaf Community'. The Catholic Deaf Community is a sub-culture of the wider Deaf community. As a sub-culture it has its own unique way of doing things and expressing its Catholic Culture: a history and way of celebrating who we are, which can only be found in the Catholic Deaf community and not in the wider Deaf community.

It is important to acknowledge that not all Deaf people in the wider Deaf community see the Catholic Deaf Community as a sub-culture. This is because they are not aware of Catholic Deaf history, language and way of life. However, most Deaf people do understand the importance of Deaf Schools. Deaf schools have a very important place in Deaf history and culture because Deaf schools were the usual place a deaf child first learnt about its Deaf identity and culture.

This means that for Catholic Deaf history, Catholic Deaf schools were very important. New Zealand has only had 3 Deaf schools and one of them was a Catholic Deaf School – St. Dominic's. Having a Catholic Deaf school in New Zealand is something the Catholic Deaf community is rightly very proud of. So for the Deaf gathered here today, we share a great satisfaction in our Dominican past. Because of the Dominican congregation, you could say that many in the Catholic Deaf community have developed a Dominican spirituality and way of doing things.

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DSS 04:

City of Sails

Kia Ora to Deaf community members, Whanau and Friends,

Wow, it is already March, 2018! Happy new year to you all! I am sure you enjoy with sunny and hot weather lately. Hope you enjoy the reading from our City of Sails. On Sunday 10th December – we had our Signed Mass at the Mary Mackillop Centre. Thank you Zana for interpreting this service.



I am sure you enjoyed the lunch we celebrated together. I want to take this opportunity to say



many thanks to Sr Sian and her sister for helping with the Christmas lunch, everything went really smoothly.



On Christmas Eve, we had a mass service at St Dominic's Parish in Blockhouse Bay. It was lovely service. Thank you to our wonderful interpreters for giving us access to the service for us. Thank you to all of you that joined for the evening service. Father Gibbert Ramos

signed in NZSL "Merry Christmas and happy new year." Mary Johnson taught Fr Gibbert of sign language.



Sunday 11 February for Signed Mass, I know it was a horrible wet day. Welcome back Trevor Cotter, it was great to have you back with us. Thank you for wonderful readings – Tristan, Carol and Lourdes. Thank you to Fr Michael to doing the Mass service. It was good to see Fr Michael to try use sign language of "Lord accept our prayer".

[More news on the next page ...](#)

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City of Sails



We have sad news – one of our lovely Catholic Member Oumaima Evenson. Oumaima passed away peacefully on Wednesday 14th February 2018 at about 11am.



She was wonderful, always smiling, giving lots of hugs and very friendly. She was member of Catholic Deaf Community for over 20 years. We will miss her deeply. Rest in

Peace beautiful Oumaima.

On Saturday 24th February – some of Catholic Deaf community and I attended to the theatre show of Salonica. Wow, it was so amazing story. Worth to watch next time in the future if the theatre is come back again. We enjoyed watch and social to chat with another Deaf community afterwards.



On Sunday 25th February, we were warmly invited to St Dominic's Church to celebrate 40 years anniversary of this parish being opened. Bishop Pat said the Mass service. It was a lovely service.

Do you know that we have facebook page – Catholic Diocese of Auckland – Deaf Community. If you want to know of our news, photos, daily videos of Gospel reading in NZSL and events, you are more welcome to have look at our facebook page and click Like the page.

Lots of love and Blessings,

Rachel Marr



Dominican Farewell Photos



DSS 07:

Dominican Farewell Photos



DSS 08:

Wellington Pics



DSS 09:

Special Prayers:

We pray for those who have died recently especially Oumaima Evenson who died on the 14th February. May she rest in peace, and her relatives 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

20 / 05 / 09: Leonie Nicolle

31 / 05 / 12: Keith Gordon

19 / 05 / 14: Ray McMillan

26 / 05 / 14: Pearl Cairns

Easter Reflection in Pictures:



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

Hurricane Watch

Wellington Catholic Deaf Community News – written by Clare and Martin 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 1st and 2nd reading at our Masses each month.

December Mass was at St Peter & Paul Church in Knights Rd, Lower Hutt and was surprised to see a great crowd of us to celebrate our Christmas Mass, led by our wonderful interpreter Angela Murray. It was a lovely Mass and we all enjoyed it. After Mass it was time to share our lovely morning tea with lots of Christmas goodies, yummy chocolates and everyone enjoyed it and went home happy. We also said our Christmas prayers thinking of everyone in Deaf Community and our families in NZ and the rest of the world.

Our 1st Deaf Mass was on February 4th 2018 at St Peter & Paul Church in Knights Rd Lower Hutt, again attended by an awesome crowd of us and Angela was our interpreter. She is an important person and we all love having her. Had our usual gathering led by Clare Holtham. Clare also served as Minister of the Eucharist at our Mass.

Our next Mass will be at 9am on 11th March 2018 at St Peter & Paul Church in Knights Rd, Lower Hutt.

Our last Deaf Café was held at the Household of Martin and Clare Holtham in Stokes Valley, they welcomed Mary, Angela C, Donna and Janette, all arriving on time at 10am. Martin and Clare provided us with lots of Christmas goodies and it was a beautiful day and we chatted away, while we were chatting and we had 2 more lovely visitors joined us and they were Jim and Patricia Henry. We all left after 2pm and it was a great day as everyone enjoyed it. Thanks to Martin and Clare for having us. That was the last one for 2017.

Our 1st Deaf Café on 21 February 2018 was at the Fig Tree Leaf in Trentham, Upper Hutt attended by our normal group, food was yummy, great coffee too.



Our next Deaf Café is on:

21st March 2018 at Norma Blue Café, 2 Trafalgar Street, Waterloo. 10am to 11am. Everyone welcome.

God bless you all take care and see you in the next issue Cheers

Clare, Martin and Mary

The significance of having a Catholic Deaf school is put into perspective by the historical reality in many countries overseas where there were large areas with no Catholic Deaf schools at all. For example in Australia only 2 of its 7 States had Catholic Deaf schools. The Dominican legacy for the Catholic Deaf community in New Zealand is effectively a national legacy as pupils from all over New Zealand came to St. Dominic's. Looking back the Sisters did an amazing job to reach out to the whole country especially those areas which had significant Catholic Deaf communities.

Just as government Deaf schools were crucial for Deaf children to learn their Deaf identity and culture, so too, Catholic Deaf schools were crucial for Catholic Deaf children to learn their Catholic Deaf identity and culture. The other very important aspect of Deaf culture which was first systematically learnt in Deaf schools was the local Sign Language. It is an historical fact that all fully developed Sign Languages were first learnt systematically in Deaf schools which used Sign Language. Of course not all Deaf schools used Sign Language.

None of New Zealand's 3 Deaf schools systemically taught Sign Language, but Deaf children used their own Signs outside the classroom. Catholic Deaf children, who went to St. Dominic's Island Bay and Feilding, therefore developed some Catholic Signs to express the Catholic culture which surrounded them. These are called: 'St. Dominic's Signs'. This small group of Signs can claim to be the first 'Catholic' Signs developed in New Zealand.

The Dominican Sisters had prepared for their ministry by learning Sign Language from the Dominican Deaf School in Newcastle, NSW. However the Sisters found on their return from Australia at the end of 1943 that they were not allowed to use Sign Language at St. Dominic's because the government supported the Oral Method of education which was being taught at Sumner in Christchurch. This would have been a big disappointment for the Sisters when they started in Island Bay in 1944. But it is testimony to their educational skills, that the Sisters regularly trained and updated their expertise through attending courses and important Deaf education opportunities overseas. This enabled the Sisters to always be up to date in providing the best education they could to their Deaf pupils.

The 'Catholic' cultural aspect of Catholic Deaf schools is often overlooked by those who did not attend a Catholic Deaf school. In my experience I have seen that ex-pupils of Catholic Deaf schools often have a stronger Catholic identity than Catholic Deaf who did not go to a Catholic Deaf school. This is similar to the experience of the wider Deaf community where those Deaf who attended a Deaf school usually had a stronger Deaf identity than those who did not. The Sisters today will be very proud to see that among us here are some strong Catholic Deaf who are very grateful for their Catholic cultural upbringing.

But the legacy of the Dominican Sisters in the Catholic Deaf community isn't just about strong Catholics. The Dominican way is more about encouraging individuals to develop to their full potential as contributors to the wider community. It is testimony to the dedication, care, and work of the Sisters over many years, that a good number of prominent Deaf leaders in New Zealand have been ex-pupils of St. Dominic's. This is especially notable today when we are farewelling not only the Dominican Congregation from our diocese, but also Sr. Maureen O'Hanlon OP. It is right that we acknowledge Sr. Maureen's 45 years of service to the Catholic Deaf in our diocese and nationally, as a teacher, pastoral worker and friend. Among us here are a good number of fine Deaf leaders who had Sr. Maureen as their teacher and mentor.

With this momentous departure of the Dominican congregation from active involvement in the ministry, the Catholic Deaf Community now faces new challenges and big changes in the way the ministry will be approached in the future. The local Church can be confident that the Dominican Sisters have prepared us well to step into this new future. In following issues of the Deaf Southern Star this year, I will be looking more into my belief that the Catholic Deaf community is a sub-culture of the wider Deaf community and in particular I will be investigating what can be said to be authentic Catholic Signs.

David Loving-Molloy

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