

Deaf Southern Star



New Zealand's Catholic Deaf Newsletter since 1978 Volume 39 Number 2, 2017

The Guardian Angels—2nd October

On the 2nd of October the Church celebrates the 'Guardian Angels'. Interest in Angels has made a bit of a comeback lately on TV and in the movies. There was a recent screening on TV of Wim Wenders 1987 movie:



'Wings of Desire' about angels in Berlin, Germany. It was an interesting movie highlighting many of the perceived aspects of angelic existence. Though theology tells us that angels are 'pure spirits', we have always tended to portray them as 'humans with wings'. One common theme about their existence is the perceived role they have as 'guardians'. Faith teaches us that each individual has a Guardian Angel who watches over them during the whole course of their lives.

It would be fair to say that usually we are not aware of their presence. However most of us could probably point out some event in the course of our lives where we were extremely lucky, or had a very close brush with death but came through. This raises some interesting points about

our experiences of being 'Deaf'. Usually when we talk about the extra use of other senses when we are Deaf, we are talking about the importance of our eyes and visual perception. But deaf can also have a strong sense of touch or feeling (especially some Deaf / blind). I remember an experience I had once when I was waiting for the 'Green Man' at a busy traffic intersection. Naturally my focus was on the lights. When the lights changed and the green man came on I prepared to step out onto the road but felt a tap on my shoulder. [\(go to page 7\)](#)

First Hand News - Jackie Overall

Hello Readers,

Yay, Spring time coming and one hour forward is going to be nice for a change since the cold winter gone. Early this month Mary Fifield from the Wellington and Palmerston North Deaf Catholic went to the Deaf Catholic Conference 2017 in Melbourne with the 3 ladies from Akld Deaf Catholic. She said the conference were very interesting and the mass was very beautiful.

Maree Carroll passed away 7 years this month, Clare Holtham's Dad passed away one year in August also Toni Rees one year on the 31st October this year. For Toni Rees - We will organise the service in November for anyone who want to come and share about her.

God's Grace - Roman 5:18-21. Cheating happens all the time in our world today - in schools, athletes and in business. But when become a Christian or Catholic you did not have to cheat any more. God gave you something so much better. He gave you grace! The bible talks a lot about grace, here are some things that grace does for us: blesses us, saves us, encourages us, gives us victory over sin and gives us power. Prayer - Thank you, God for your grace which never stops. In

Jesus' name. Amen.

God Bless *Jackie*



*INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Under the Lamp-post 2 City of Sails 3—4 New Faces 5
A Time for Prayer 8 Hurricane Watch 9*

UNDER THE LAMP-POST

Hello Everyone

It's hard to believe we are into September already! There are plenty of signs of Spring in the air, but the weather has been a bit changeable. One of my main focuses this year has been our Catholic Schools in the Palmerston North and Wellington dioceses. That is where many of our Catholic Deaf of the future will be coming from—mainstreamed in our Catholic Schools. It is a real challenge because the Deaf youth of today are very different from those of my generation. In the early days of Deaf Ministry many of our Catholic Deaf young people came through the Deaf school system whether it was St. Dominic's or the Christchurch or Auckland schools. The Roll Call of students that attended St. Dominic's from 1944 through to the end of 1989, which appears in our book: 'We See What You Mean' by Dorothy Pilkington shows that in that time 251 students passed through it's doors. That is a significant number of Deaf people who experienced a Catholic Deaf education at a Catholic Deaf school.

With the closure of St. Dominic's, the advent of superior technology especially cochlear implants, and the widespread education policy of mainstreaming, today's Deaf education landscape is completely different with the vast majority of Catholic Deaf students attending either Catholic hearing schools or hearing government schools. The 2nd big difference is somewhat ironic given our Deaf education history. Historically New Zealand used the Oral Method in Deaf education and Sign Language use was banned in schools. However, once Deaf children left their Deaf schools they soon picked up New Zealand Sign Language and it became very popular in the adult Deaf community.

However the introduction of Sign Language into the Deaf education system in the early 1980s was doomed to fail for a number of reasons. Firstly, the Sign Language introduced was not the local New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) but was imported from Australia. Total Communication or TC was in fact not an authentic Sign Language at all but rather a systematic effort to teach Deaf children the English language. Historically, real Sign Languages were taught at Deaf Schools to children from an early age by Deaf and hearing teachers who were confident and fluent in the language. Usually many of the Deaf children who attended these schools were boarders and so they were able to immerse their whole school experience into Sign Language.

A central aspect of a fully developed real Sign Language is the ability to incorporate finger-spelling. This aspect—the full parallel development of finger-spelling—was never properly integrated into the Deaf education system in New Zealand, as TC focused on the one-Sign one-word methodology. Coupled with the fast improving technology and the focus on mainstreaming, New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) is now left mostly with a minority group of students who have high needs. The vast majority of mainstreamed students are not exposed to any Sign Language in their entire education. So whereas in the past Catholic Deaf Ministry nurtured and promoted NZSL as a necessary means of achieving access for Deaf adults in the Church, in the future we are looking at a lot of young Deaf who do not use NZSL at all. As a Deaf adult who uses NZSL and as a chaplain who has always promoted it in my ministry, I am seeing the biggest challenge as moving out of my comfort zone and reaching out to the hidden majority of young Deaf and hearing-impaired students who are in our Catholic schools.

There are of course some who are not in our Catholic schools, but working for the Church obliges me to focus first on those that are in our schools. In the Palmerston North and Wellington dioceses in 2016 we had 38 primary school Deaf and hearing-impaired children and 35 secondary school Deaf and hearing-impaired, all mainstreamed in our Catholic schools. Nationally we have a total of 188 Catholic primary schools and 49 Catholic Colleges. In the Auckland diocese there are 42 Catholic primary schools and 16 Catholic Colleges; in the Hamilton there are 28 Catholic primary schools and 5 Catholic Colleges; in the Christchurch diocese there are 28 Catholic primary schools and 7 Catholic Colleges; and in the Dunedin diocese there are 24 Catholic primary schools and 4 Catholic Colleges. If the Palmerston North and Wellington statistics are anything to go by there would appear to be a significant number of Catholic Deaf and hearing-impaired children and secondary students spread throughout New Zealand.

An example of the changing times was brought home to me just recently when the Manawatu region had a KIT Day for Deaf and hearing-impaired students under the Van Asch umbrella.

Continued on page 11

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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DSS 03:

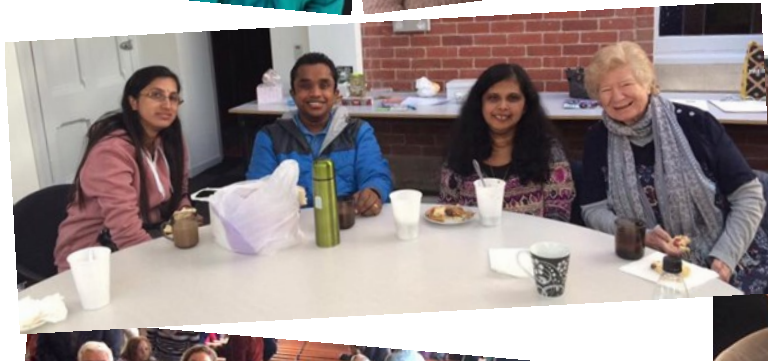
City of Sails

Kia Ora to Deaf community members, Whanau and Friends,

Wow, what a busy in past few months with lots of events!

We were pleased to have our lovely Father John back for our monthly Signed Mass. We had large numbers attending the service.

Lovely to see some of you attending to St Dominic's Parish on 18 June. The Mass service was lovely about the Body and Blood of Christ. Mary doing the offering of drink. Fr Ramos warmly welcomed us. At the morning tea, I presented about Deaf awareness. Which had a big impact on the Parish community to hear about lack access of faith for Deaf



community. We had an Integrated Mass on 2nd of July – it was lovely to see everyone that attended for a special celebration day, First Holy Communion for G.J (Giema Coloso's son) plus another 35 children as well. The church was so cute and small. [\(see more news on next page\)](#)



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DSS 04:

City of Sails

Please pray for our lovely Oumaima Evenson who has been diagnosed with cancer,



please keep her in your pray to ask Lord to heal her health. On social event – we went to short films festivals. One of movie called, TAMA – one of Catholic Deaf youth member Eric Matthews was acting in the movie. Wow so amazing! On Tuesday 8th August, we attended a presentation Fit for Mission “Go! Announce the Good News” by David Wells. He is from England. It was a very interesting presentation – he talked about the Church wanting to return to be alive and enjoyable time listening to God’s words, not dull or strict. Church will be full of stories, laughs and practical tips. What a small world is David’s wife is Teacher for the Deaf in England!



Thank you to Auckland Catholic Youth Ministry for took this photo.



I went to Melbourne in Australia on 20th to 23rd August. Only 4 people from NZ attended the Conference: Sr



Sian, Felicity, Mary Fifield (from Wellington) and myself. We attended the Ephpheta Sunday Mass. It was great to see Father John Hill using sign language throughout the Mass service, after we have a celebration Lunch.

The Conference was held over three days, were lots of interesting information was shared. We learnt some new things, meet new faces, built better relationship with Pastoral workers between NZ and Australia. There were two guests from USA, they were very interesting people. One thing that impacted on me was Terry (from USA) said that Catholic Deaf people should in Mass with hearing people. Some of them knew my face from the Gospel reading through Facebook. I wish I could have added more photos but there was just no more room in the newsletter!



Have a look at the photos of us (the kiwis) doing the crazy things in the photo booth

This is all for now...

Lots of love and Blessings,

Rachel Marr



In this new look to page 5 of the Deaf Southern Star, we begin introducing the next generation of Deaf and hearing-impaired Catholics around New Zealand starting with Jack Dixon from Darfield near Christchurch. Jack was a boarder and prefect at St. Bede's College.



Weekly News

Week Ending 10 March 2017

JACK DIXON'S SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

The February newsletter of the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust carried the story of Jack Dixon's award of it's scholarship. Last year the November newsletter carried the speech made by Angela, his mother, at the Y13 Leaver's breakfast. Those attending will readily recall Jack crossing the floor to embrace his mother at the conclusion of her speech. It was a gesture that impressed many. The Association congratulates him on his success in winning the scholarship and wishes him well for the future. The following article is taken from the Southern Hearing Trust newsletter.



Jack with Angela, his mother and David Kent of the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust.

Eighteen-year-old Jack Dixon has been awarded the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust scholarship to assist him financially as he embarks on his university career.

Having received a cochlear implant at the age of 11, the young Darfield man fashioned an impressive leadership, academic and sporting record during his five years as a boarder at St Bede's College. He was a prefect in 2016.

David Kent, Chair of the Southern Hearing Charitable Trust, said that Jack was an outstanding young man and that this scholarship was to assist him during study for a Bachelor of Science degree at Lincoln University.

Jack wants to become a leader and role model with the cochlear implant and deaf communities, which is an outstanding attribute as he will be able to give advice and potentially assist other teenagers with cochlear implants who are considering attending tertiary education.

"His ability to relate to them will be important," he said.

From once having to struggle to be a part of conversations, the cochlear implant has allowed Jack to actively participate in many different areas.

"Being physically active is important to me. I love to go running and participate in a variety of sports activities. In my last year at school I played for the tennis seniors and was goalkeeper in the U19 football team," he said.

His academic record at St Bede's was compelling. He was awarded Academic Honours Pockets in 2014 and 2015 for his achievements in NCEA Level One and Two and last year in Level Three received Excellence Endorsement awards for Chemistry, Geography, Religious Education and Earth and Space Science and 84 Level Three excellence credits.

He also won the NZ Federation for Deaf Children Excellence for a Year 13 student award and was overall winner in all year levels.

"For my science degree I intend to major in Land, Water and Environmental Science which will fit with my deep interest in the environment and sustainability," he said.

As well as his academic and sporting prowess, Jack was active in all aspects of School life. In 2013 he was awarded a NZ Federation for Deaf Children Excellence Award for his commitment and hard-working attitude. He was also a part of the CanTeen fundraising initiative, where teams of pupils ran 125km to raise money for teenagers with cancer.

David Kent said that Jack is a thoughtful, reliable and positive young man with a mature attitude who relates well to people of all ages.

Mary Fifield in Melbourne

Deaf Catholic Conference Melbourne 2017 *Reflect, Embrace, Nurture*

History: We remember those who gave for others

Language: We create open Communication: open minds and open hearts

Community: We celebrate our Community with its special warm, unique life

Reflect: Teach us to reflect on our History

Embrace: Help us to Embrace with our Culture

Nurture: Give us the ability to nurture all those in our Care

The conference began with Mass at the John Pierce Centre (JPC) in Melbourne on Sunday 20th August. Mass was celebrated by Fr John Hill – some of us met him at the Auckland conference two or three years ago. Mass was fully signed – Fr John used Auslan throughout the Mass – an interpreter spoke in English for the hearing people present. Mass was beautiful – Deaf were involved in all the Mass readings prayers etc – all the songs, prayers and readings were displayed on the screen to the left of the altar. The processions were colourful and moving. Mass celebrated the past, the present and the future.

I loved the Mass. There were 100 people at the Mass – everyone was friendly and kind. Lunch was very enjoyable too. Rachel, Sr Sian and Felicity came from Auckland to the conference – they are the Auckland team. I represented Wellington and Palmerston North.

There were a lot of speakers at the conference – the two lead speakers came from America – Mary and Terry O'Meara from the International Catholic Foundation for Deaf Persons. They spoke about where to from here for the Deaf Community – we need to embrace the journey – celebrate the journey – celebrate our call to holiness – our call from God. They focussed on the need to really listen to each other – deep listening – listen to understand not to reply. We need to meet Christ in all the people we meet – meet them where they are at – learn their story and journey with them. They also spoke about the need for inclusion – the church needs to celebrate the gifts and talents of the Deaf people and all the People of God. We can become a bright light shining forward together – together we can light up the world.

The other topics were: History of the Deaf population, Self-care of the Pastoral Worker; The importance of a Pastoral team; The disappearing Australian Irish sign language; Spirituality for the Aged; The evolution of Deaf people in the Catholic Church; Sustainability and Evolution of our community; Loss and Grief workshop; Building healthy relationships; Deafhood; Deaf youth – Passing on the Deafhood; The Church, the Deaf and the Interpreter; Inclusion of all people – the Deaf, those with a disability and all other people.

Several people spoke about the Deaf clubs in Melbourne closing down – there is concern about how the Deaf will form community in the future. There was also a lot of talk about technology. JPC in Melbourne have provided some isolated Deaf with I Pads so that they can keep in contact with JPC. It is a wonderful way of reaching out to those Deaf who are isolated – maybe because of disability or poverty.

The whole conference was about the way forward for the Deaf Catholic community and for all Deaf. There was also talk about ministry to the hearing impaired. There were a few Deaf/blind at the conference – it was a privilege and a blessing to watch the interpreters interpret for the Deaf/blind – those interpreters were so loving, compassionate and caring. The conference closed on Wednesday 23rd August with Mass – this Mass was also fully Auslan with interpreters for the hearing. It was a wonderful closing for a great conference.

For me everything about the conference was great – all the speakers signed / spoke clearly – the people were friendly and kind – the venue was very comfortable – the weather was mostly fine and the sun shone. I am very grateful that I was able to attend. Now I am thinking of ways to make happen what I learned. I have a few ideas in my head but I need to talk to David about them first.

Photo Gallery



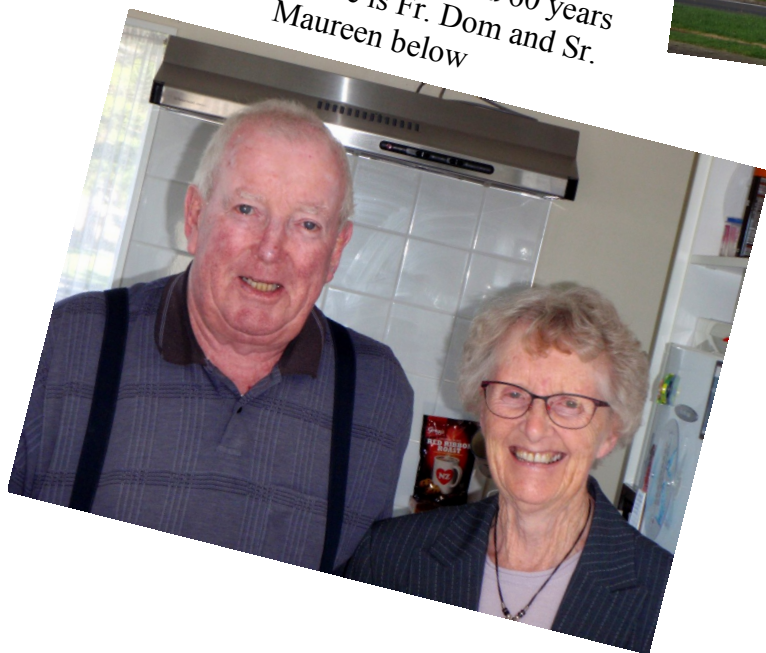
*Georgina Anne McNamara
1946—2017*



Patsy and Pat Kuklinski in Inglewood with some local photos below including inside Inglewood's Sacred Heart Church



David Loving-Molloy and Sr. Maureen O'Hanlon OP paid Fr. Dominic Heslin a visit at his home in Bulls. Fr. Dom celebrated his 80th Birthday this year and 60 years as a priest. Here is Fr. Dom and Sr. Maureen below



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—

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
12 / 09 / 15: Paul O'Hanlon
22 / 09 / 15: Peter Raymond Hill
26 / 09 / 16: Claire Liddicoat

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
23 / 10 / 16: Mary Casper
25 / 10 / 16: Alan Davidson
31 / 10 / 16: Toni Rees

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

The Guardian Angels continued:

At that precise moment a car sped around the corner in front of me, missing me by a whisker. When I looked around there was no-one behind me. I was convinced that without that tap on my shoulder I would probably be dead.

Who tapped my shoulder? I believe it would have been my Guardian Angel. How can a purely spiritual reality interrupt the physical world of human existence? That is perhaps a question for metaphysicians. For us we can only attest to the belief based on personal experience, that such possibilities do exist. This to my knowledge is what Churches and religions are really about.

I don't believe that Jesus was into proselytising, nor do I believe that any of the great religions of the world are either. Essentially the Good News, and the example that Jesus left us was all about attuning our lives to God, the Spirit, Infinity, whatever you want to call it. Some people would call it 'waking up'. Experiencing the presence of Guardian Angels is a wonderful reminder that there is much more to life than what we normally perceive.

A key issue from our perspective is the question of how we can become more attuned to 'experiencing' the spiritual aspects of our lives which we are usually unaware of. Each person has their own spiritual journey which they alone can undertake. But as an analogy—we could look at the life of a professional athlete. Professional athletes are usually very disciplined people and often make huge sacrifices to achieve their goal.

Part of their regime is to ensure that only the right type of food goes into their bodies. For their particular discipline they know exactly what the right types of food are for them. Similarly, for a person who endeavours to take their spiritual journey seriously, they too must ensure that they have good spiritual food. We sometimes call feeding our spirits—prayer. Spiritual reading can also be useful. Like the professional athlete, we must be very disciplined—there are no short cuts. The great spiritual masters and mystics can help us along the way.

Hurricane Watch

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

Our monthly Masses continue each month – after Mass we gather 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. Jackie and Clare take turns each month leading our gathering.



Our July Mass was at Jackie and Lorraine's home church – St Peter & Paul's Church, Johnsonville. The Wellington and Levin/Palmerston North Catholic Deaf communities joined together for Mass. Fr Peter Fitzgibbon and the Johnsonville church community warmly welcomed us. Jackie served as Minister of the Eucharist and Angela was our interpreter. After Mass we gathered at the Dominican Sisters Home in Johnsonville for a shared lunch and a combined committee meeting. We enjoyed a lovely lunch – the sisters made a great vegetable soup – we enjoyed Sr Maureen's scones and all the lovely food people contributed.

Our next

Mass is Sunday 1st October, at 9am at St Peter & Paul's Church, 60 Knights Road, Lower Hutt.

Deaf Café continues on the third Wednesday of each month – we have been going to a local café each month. Our next

Deaf Café is on Wednesday 20th September at Coco Kai Cafe, 378 High Street, Lower Hutt.

God Bless you all.

Clare and Mary



*Photos from the Conference
In Melbourne*



KIT Days usually occur once a term and involve both primary and secondary school Deaf and hearing-impaired students in the Manawatu region (covering: Palmerston North; Feilding; Whanganui; Dannevirke; Marton; Bulls; Levin). These gatherings do not cover all mainstreamed Deaf and hearing-impaired students—only those that come under the Van Asch funding, so undoubtedly there will be a significant number of other students in the region who are not involved. What was noticeable to me was the large number of primary children who had cochlear implants. These children knew little or no Sign Language at all. The small number of secondary school students were generally high need students who relied primarily on NZSL for their communication.

This is going to be a real challenge for the Deaf community in the future, because the majority of these young children are growing up with no NZSL at all and they are in the Deaf education system. By the time these kids get to secondary school many will be outside the Deaf education system because of the use they can get from their CI's. If you combine this number with the majority of hearing-impaired children who are mainstreamed and not in the Deaf education system, then we are looking a lot of future Deaf who have no appreciation of NZSL. From a Catholic perspective this makes it imperative to cover our Catholic schools effectively. At present I am the only fulltime worker in Catholic Deaf Ministry in New Zealand. Rachel Marr is very very busy in Auckland but she is not contracted fulltime. There is no-one working in Catholic Deaf Ministry in the South Island.

Does this mean a national team approach could work? What would it look like? Probably the only comparable current model that could apply to New Zealand's population would be the Irish model. In Ireland they have a National Chaplaincy for Deaf People (NCDP) of 4 field workers and one administration person. 2 of the workers (one of whom is a priest) cover Dublin and central Ireland, 1 covers Belfast and the north, and 1 covers Cork and the south. Comparatively we would have 2 workers covering the Auckland / Hamilton dioceses, 1 covering the central dioceses, and 1 covering the southern dioceses. The Team Leader could be based at the Catholic Deaf Centre in Palmerston North. The big issue with the idea of a national team would be the question of funding.

The local Church simply can not afford to fund 4 people working for the Deaf and hearing-impaired in New Zealand even though geographically we have a bigger challenge compared to Ireland. Palmerston North and Auckland strategically remain the 2 key areas and in the future this will be for different reasons. The Auckland and Hamilton dioceses (together) have the most Catholic Deaf and hearing-impaired. Therefore it would be crucial to the development of the ministry in those areas to have at least 1 fulltime worker based in Auckland. Rachel currently fulfils this role even though she is only contracted for 28 hours a week. The Hamilton diocese has Rev Nick and Sue Bruce as part-time chaplains for the Deaf and hearing-impaired based in Rotorua. Palmerston North and Wellington continue to need 1 fulltime worker and the Catholic Deaf Centre remains of national significance for its archives, newsletter, and resources. There may be other possibilities for a non-paid worker to work in the South Island and these options need to be explored.

Donations, Deadlines and...

We hope you have enjoyed this 3rd 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 1st December

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