

4TH APRIL 2010 : EASTER SUNDAY

Reflections on Easter

This week I have been giving a good deal of thought to the celebration of Easter in our Parish and have been asking the question: 'What difference does it make?'

All of us are acutely aware at the moment of the focus which the world media are placing on the Church and especially on Pope Benedict in terms of historical sexual abuse. Many of us at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday listened to the letter I read from Archbishop John Dew apologizing to the victims and to the people of the Diocese for the hurt and distress this issue has caused. He mentioned that for many this issue presents 'a crisis of faith'.

Yet despite this ongoing situation the Church of St Mary of the Angels was filled over Easter with people coming to walk the journey with Christ through his suffering, death and resurrection. And many of these people were young. They came because they understand the significance of Easter. They know that it is through the 'power of the cross' that resurrection takes place. The young adults from St Mary of the Angels joined other groups from the Catholic Tertiary Chaplaincy in walking through the streets of Wellington praying the Stations of the Cross.

This commitment of faith shown by our young people should give us great hope. As Bishop Peter Cullinane wrote in the Dominion Post last week: 'The actions of one family member does not condemn the whole family'. While some in the Church have betrayed the trust given to them and this needs to be 'put right' we also understand as Archbishop John wrote 'that we can be lifted up in renewal of heart through the power of the One who makes all things new'.

That is what Easter is about and the difference that the resurrection of Christ makes to each of us.

Father Barry Scannell s.m.

Masses have been offered for

Recently Deceased Lionel O'Neil

Anniversaries Rita O'Driscoll, Aloysia Horvath

Special Intentions 6

Prayers for the Sick Fr Tom O'Connor sm, Patricia Smyth, Cecilia Dickson, Da Van Luyn, Des Cartright, Dulcie Campbell, Oinah Macpherson, Joan O'Neill, Nomaza Sidima-Jacob, Harrie Bode, Kath Cosgrave, Mary Egan, Peter Tawhaki, Peter Gilbert, Ron Blair, Paul Carr, Mary Jarvis, Maria Kasperowicz, Marie McWilliams, Paul Rajan, Angela Hong, Eileen Gallagher, Carolyne Collins.

St Mary of the Angels Young Adults' Group

St Mary of the Angels Young Adults' Group: A group for 18-35s and the young at heart - come and share faith, fellowship and friendship.

Events

Theology on Tap

Last Sunday of every Month following the 5pm Mass at the General Practitioner (across the road) - top floor. Hear a range of great speakers providing insights on various aspects of our faith and other issues. Suggestions for topics/speakers welcome.

Youth Masses

Second Sunday of every month at 5pm. The next Youth Mass is on the 11 April - please contact us if you would like to be involved in any way!

Holy Hour

Third Thursday of every month 6 - 7pm. An hour of adoration lead by young people of the parish and elsewhere.

Bible Study

All are welcome to join a small group of young adults who meet to discuss the Gospel for the following Sunday or join in some form of spiritual reflection. Every Tuesday 8 - 9 pm in the Crypt (below the Church).

We welcome newcomers to the group, your ideas and your comments. Contact us at smayaacs@gmail.com or through Vicky Wall 027 327 4895 or Anna Fleming 027 463 7008.

Join our facebook group "St Mary of the Angels Young Adult Group".

Being Young, Catholic, Together.

Maxwell Fernie 100 Year Tribute



You are warmly invited to a **free concert** at St Mary of the Angels on Sunday 25 April, at 7pm celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Maxwell Fernie, organist and director of music at St Mary of the Angels from 1958-1999. Max Fernie's contribution to New Zealand music, as choral director, organist, teacher, composer and also his impact on the listener will be touched on in the course of the evening by a number of concert participants. The centrepiece of the evening will be the presentation of the first Maxwell Fernie Organ Scholarship by the Hon Chris Finlayson, Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage. A specially collated centennial CD to remember the occasion will be available on the day. And to conclude, a birthday cake and supper will be served in the hall adjacent to the church to round off this special and long-awaited celebration.