

Outlook

Parish Diary

Palm Sunday, March 16,
8.00am Reading of the
Passion; 9.30am Family
Service

**Maundy Thursday, March
20,** 7.30pm Footwashing
Service and Vigil

**Good Friday, March
21,** 10.00am Combined
Churches Service at St
Ronan's; 2.30pm Prayers
around the Cross

Holy Saturday, March 22,
7.30pm Easter Vigil and
Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Easter Day, March 23
8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Festive Family
Eucharist

Sunday March 30
4.00pm Concert – Lauren
Armishaw

Sunday April 13
9.30am Harvest Festival

The Ministry of Healing is
available on the 3rd
Sunday of each month.

Regular services at St
Alban's - 10am Thursdays,
8am and 9.30am Sundays.

Dear Friends,

It's been a busy start to the year for the Parish.

Ash Wednesday, the start of the 40 days of Lent, was observed on February 6, the same day the rest of the country commemorated Waitangi Day. For the Anglican Diocese of Wellington it was also a day when we celebrated the beginning of our sesquicentennial year (see the article below by Geoff Martel).

In late January, Jutta Chisholm was appointed as the St Alban's Children and Families Co-ordinator. Her responsibilities include the oversight of the Sunday Clubs and the Play Group. Jutta brings with her plenty of creative flair and energy, and has already been a great source of support to the other teachers/helpers.

The Redevelopment Group has spent the first part of 2008 working on the plans for the upgrade of the entrance to the Hall, including the toilets. At the recent AGM Rob Burridge presented the Parish with a progress report and tabled working drawings outlining the proposed changes. This is an exciting project, long overdue, and Vestry's hope is that, subject to the Parish's approval, work will begin later in the year.

The AGM was held on Sunday March 2. The reports of Vestry members provide evidence of another good year for the Parish. Signs of growth and new life are everywhere. The 2008 Vestry is as follows: Phyllis Mossman (Vicar's Warden), Penny Grigg (People's Warden), Reid Booth, John Grigg, Louise Goble, Marina Hanbury-Sparrow, Libby Hinton, Don McIlroy, Charles Odlin, and Keith Young.

By the time you receive this publication Holy Week will have begun. The days of Holy Week have special significance for the Church. It is a time when we are invited to enter again into the final days of Jesus' life, to recommit ourselves to Christ, and to experience the transforming power of his death and resurrection.

So in the midst of all our activity, let's ensure that we make the most of this time. Let's keep our lives in perspective, and allow the life and love of God, which not even death can destroy, to pervade all that we are, so that we may become a source of hope and inspiration to others in our world.

May the peace and joy of Easter be with you always!

Damon

Copies of the AGM reports are available on the Parish Website <http://stalbans.eastbourne.net.nz> or from the Church Office. The Redevelopment Plans are currently on the notice board in the foyer of the Church.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Piles of pancakes arrived with children young and old as they filled the church hall. Soon the sizzly sound of batter, splashed into buttery fry pans, mingled with the chatter and excitement of Shrove Tuesday. This heralded not only Lent but also the start of the Sunday clubs and my new role as Children and Families Co-ordinator.

If you've ever been over to the Sunday Clubs, which I encourage you to do; you won't leave without a smile on your face. We have a wonderful team of teachers who each week produce an hour of faith lessons filled with fun and learning. This is no small task and I see myself very much in a supportive role.

We have our own club news sheet "What's the Buzz?" - a great way for our club members to share their faith, stories, pictures, puzzles and laughs. My role includes collating resources, helping to establish term activities and crafts and contacting people in the parish and wider community who would like to contribute their time and knowledge. We are fortunate to have Nick Pharazyn coming on the 6th of April to talk about seeds, which is this year's focus for Harvest Festival. If you feel you would like to join us in the hall sometime, maybe simply to read from one of our story books, we welcome you. Plans are underway to make our small but growing library more accessible to club members and guests.

It's been a busy fun filled term so far, all that fresh youthful vitality must be infectious! Look out for displays of our crafts and activities in the foyer. I feel blessed to be a part of this ministry and hope to serve you well.

Jutta Chisholm

STOP PRESS

Q. How old do you have to be to be "venerable"? A. Round about Damon's age apparently. On Tuesday this week a number of clergy from the Belmont Archdeaconry along with a large number of our own parishioners attended our church to take part in the collation service when Bishop Tom officially appointed Damon the Archdeacon of Belmont. Congratulations to the Venerable Damon on this appointment and recognition of his contribution to our faith.



Josephine, Lucy, Charlotte, and Mia

Thanksgiving Celebrations: February 6 2008

About 400 people (7 from St Alban's) gathered at Rangiatea Church, Otaki on Waitangi Day to celebrate 150 years of the founding of the Anglican Diocese of Wellington, Ash Wednesday and the fourteenth anniversary of a partnership accord between three local Iwi and the Kapiti Coast District Council.

Three Archbishops in their colourful robes and mitres led the procession followed by a 'clutch' of clergy, His Excellency the High Commissioner George Raukawa Fergusson, local iwi leaders and District mayors. The whole was set against kowhaiwhai patterns on the beams, tukutuku panels and the beautiful altar and pew woodwork of the new church restored after the disastrous fire some years ago.

The service was an appealing, free-flowing mix of Maori and English hymns and prayers. The key address was delivered by the Most Reverend Philip Aspinall, Archbishop of Brisbane, the Diocese twinned with ours. He gave a broad brush, well articulated and at times humorous account of creation, the Fall, through to Christ's life and ministry being the fulfilment of the divine mission.

The High Commissioner made a special presentation. In an amusing and pertinent address George Raukawa Fergusson told of his personal link to the iwi and church, stemming from his father's time as Governor General and his, Geordie's, induction into the tribe. He brought back a collection bowl presented to Sir Bernard on his return home to Ballantrae, Scotland. The bowl was used for the collection in their Presbyterian parish church for the next 40 years. It was fitting for it to be returned to its proper home especially as the church taonga had been destroyed in the fire.

After communion, the congregation retired to Coehaven Gardens for an alfresco lunch on the lawn among the flowers and in the shade of magnificent trees.

Geoff Martel



A number of other events are planned for this year, including a walk up the Hutt River on Saturday June 14, and a final celebration at the Cathedral on November 1.

From the Registers

Marriages:

Catherine Harmer and Mark Stone	m. 29/12/07
Sasha Drennan and Grant McKinlay	m. 26/01/08
Tracey Geddes and David Grigg	m. 16/02/08
Jennifer Cheyne and Benjamin Morrison	m. 8/03/08

Funerals:

Melody Gilmour	d. 16/12/07
Dorothy Haughton	d. 9/01/08
Bonsall Budd	d. 22/02/08
Sylvia Rooney	d. 8/3/08



Graeme Thomson and Tony Martin, with the Whanganui River behind

Lenten Retreat: February 22-24

The weekend of February 22/24 was a happy one for the fourteen parishioners attending the Lenten Retreat at Hiruharama (Jerusalem), situated 60 km up the Whanganui river. We travelled in four cars with several breaks en route and an evening meal in the city of Wanganui before venturing up the road to the settlement.

On arrival at Hiruharama we were met and made welcome by Sr Sue Cosgrove and a visiting priest, then shown our accommodation in the old convent building which has been restored. We were later shown a video by Sr Sue explaining some of the history of the settlement and the reasons for its establishment. It now carries a designation of the Historic Places signifying its very special place in our early history.

The Catholic Mission was first established in the area in 1854 and it was in Jerusalem that Suzanne Aubert founded the congregation of the Sisters of Compassion in 1892. Mother Aubert grew up in Lyons with a French provincial family.

Imbued with the missionary spirit she arrived in war-anxious Auckland in 1860 to work with young Maori girls. She later nursed Maori and Pakeha in the Hawkes Bay as the settler populations swelled there. At the direction of Archbishop Redwood she moved to Jerusalem site up the Whanganui River in 1883 where she broke in a hill farm, published a Maori text, manufactured medicines and set up the only New Zealand home-grown Catholic religious community which sheltered babies and children through the years of great economic difficulty late in the nineteenth century.

In the 1970s the New Zealand poet James K Baxter (Hemi) lived there with many of his followers where they also formed a small community. Baxter was buried in Jerusalem.

The theme of the retreat was "living water" and we concentrated on three readings over the weekend. There was opportunity for the group to participate and bring together thoughts and conclusions from these Bible extracts. Regular times of worship were held in the Convent's little chapel. The Sunday Eucharist was celebrated in the church of Saint Joseph dedicated to Mother Suzanne Aubert. There were opportunities for relaxation and several of our folk plunged into the Whanganui River, while others took short walks.

Our thanks must go to Damon and Peter for an enlightening retreat and to all those others who made a good weekend possible.

Kay Griffin

St Alban's Anglican Church
11 Ngaio St, Eastbourne
Ph: 562 6269
e-mail: stalbandsch@xtra.co.nz
Parish Website: <http://stalbandsch.eastbourne.net.nz>
Diocesan Website: <http://wn.anglican.org.nz>