

## News from St Michael's Community

November 2004  
Volume 21

### Services Timetable

#### Sunday Eucharist

8am & 10am

Saturday Vigil 5pm

Monday 7.15am Cluny Convent

Tuesday 7am

Wednesday 9am

Thursday 7am

Friday 12.05pm

Saturday 8am

#### Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Friday 11am

Benediction

Friday 12 noon

Reconciliation

Friday 11.30am

Saturday 9.30am

#### Revelations

is produced for the friends and  
parishioners of

St Michael's Parish

6 Beatrice Road

Auckland, New Zealand

Parish Office:

Telephone 09 520 1226

Facsimile 09 520 1956

[stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz](mailto:stmichaels.remuera@clear.net.nz)

[www.catholicremuera.org.nz](http://www.catholicremuera.org.nz)

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

Christmas In Papua New Guinea	P2
Spreading the Columban Word	P3
Thankyou	P3
Towards Pastoral Staffing	P4
One Family's Christmas	P5
Projects Galore	P5
Songs That Had No Words	P6
Milestones	P7
Celebrating Our Diversity	P8

# Revelations

**Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**



Blessed are you Lord, God of all creation:  
In the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you as we wait in joyful hope  
for the coming of our Saviour  
Jesus Christ.

## Christmas in Papua New Guinea

*When retired librarian Elizabeth Connell sat down at 5pm Mass one Saturday in the middle of last year, she had no idea how her life was about to change. There in the parish bulletin was a brief paragraph from the Catholic volunteer agency Mahitahi, calling for a part-time librarian. Elizabeth decided to apply. It wasn't until she arrived for the interview that Elizabeth discovered the position was based in Madang, Papua New Guinea and involved a four month stint which included Christmas 2003. Elizabeth reflects on Christmas, Papua New Guinea style.*



In November 2003 I travelled to Papua New Guinea to help set up a new library at Divine Word University in Madang. I had the privilege of experiencing Christmas on Campus. It proved to be Christmas with a difference.

Sadly many nationals (the term used for the indigenous people) in Madang were homeless that Christmas Eve.

The settlements (areas where people squat or "settle" on land that is not theirs by right) just outside our perimeter fences had been "cleared" in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Included in the displacement fallout were two of our library staff, Theresa and Philomina. Both women found themselves homeless.

Many of the men working on the library building disappeared. Work slowed down. Some settlers had been sent back to their home villages; others were in town waiting to be shipped out; still others were in hiding, waiting to see where they could settle next.

We had a large contingent of National police from around the province stationed temporarily on campus. They all had rifles. They continued to patrol the settlement area to stop people creeping back to squat, and to be on hand in case of more trouble. I found them menacing.

Night falls swiftly in the tropics. By seven, the night was pitch black, steamy hot and deliciously scented by the pink frangipani blooming outside my kitchen window.

Because of the settlement "trouble," Midnight Mass was to start at 7.30pm.

The church on campus was a couple of minutes walk from my house. As I walked I delighted in the tropical evening, and was not a bit frightened when two bright green frogs leapt out of the darkness across my path! I thought about my family, and how much I missed them. At the same time I was enjoying the "differentness" of it all, and hoping as always that my favourite

carols, "O Holy Night" and "Unto us a Child is Born" would be sung.

The lights from the church spilled out of the darkness to greet me. I chose a seat directly under one of the slowly circling fans that stirred the hot night air.

Time to look around (no parish bulletin to read!)

There on the altar steps was Sister Petronella's dog Duke. (No Mass was complete without Duke asleep on the chancel steps). Two Christmas trees, both real, stood on either side of the altar. Children from the campus and Father Robert had decorated them that day. Bowls filled with beautiful tropical orchids graced the altar. A big banner hung on the wall proclaiming "Glory to God in the Highest" A crib with the Christ child already in the manger sat centre stage. Lights of various colours ran in a continuous stream around the crib.

Father Robert, our wonderful national parish priest, processed in with his five altar boys, all resplendent in their immaculate robes.

Glory to God in the highest indeed! We sang many hymns, we sang our hearts out, the joy could be heard and felt. But not one carol did we sing!

After Mass there were the usual over excited children running around. Families and friends exchanged Christmas greetings and warm hugs just like at home. It was the same and yet different! I was sad to be far from home and family on this special night and yet I felt a joy to be part of this parish family in this place.

Notwithstanding the no carols, to be and I really mean to BE, part of midnight Mass, in a tropical paradise, where there was trouble and strife just outside the gate, but peace, love and harmony within, was a special and deeply moving experience.

Merry Christmas!

Lokum yu!



## Spreading the word of the Columban Mission

**Anna Friis** speaks to visiting Columban priest **Father Brian Vale**

Spreading word of the good work of the Columban Mission has been the mission of Father Brian Vale, a guest at the Parish House in October.



A New Zealander, who left here at the age of 18 returning only recently after many years working in Australia and Japan, Father Vale's role is to publicise the work of this small society as a way of broadening people's understanding of the wider church.

"This is particularly relevant in today's world where there is a prevalent fear of difference between people and religions. Part of our work is putting a name and a face to people and their stories as a way of breaking down barriers based on ignorance."

The Columban Mission's work is wide and varied and includes projects throughout Asia and the Pacific.

After a year back in New Zealand, Father Vale says he is still adjusting to the dramatic changes that have taken place in his own country.

"New Zealand has become so much more international and multicultural over the last decade," he says.

"Many of the issues that I was dealing with overseas are the same issues that we are now confronting here.

"There is a mission right here in New Zealand – the variety of cultures has changed New Zealand and the challenge is to share the riches we have as a result of the diversity of cultures."

Father Vale says communication is key in breaking down barriers between people – and taking the time to listen to people, particularly those for whom English is not their native language and who are harder to understand.

St Michael's parishioners have an opportunity to support the work of the Columban Fathers through their support of the Columban Mission magazine "The Far East," which many may have heard about if they were at Masses at which Father Vale spoke in October. The magazine is free in New Zealand and people can support the publication and the work of the Columbans through donation to either the magazine or directly to the many projects publicised in each issue

Articles include stories on the work of lay missionaries in many different countries and the various projects they are involved with around the world.

## Thank you. . .

*Neil Little reports from the Parish Council*

A big thank you to parishioners for making the August parish forum such a success. A particular thank you to those who assisted us in making things run so smoothly on the day. It was much appreciated. The thoughts and ideas so freely shared by attendees have assisted your parish pastoral council in putting together a pastoral plan for our three focus areas:

Evangelization  
Developing a vibrant parish  
Communication

The plan is available at the parish office. We hope it will address areas of interest to many parishioners. Some areas lend themselves to immediate action and others may take a little time, but having a reference point will help to keep us on track.

It is encouraging to see the results of our recent drive to renew some of the church ministries. Getting involved in a church ministry is one way we can all help to build a vibrant parish. We chose to focus on liturgy, hospitality and administration initially. Areas such as pastoral care, sharing the faith, and youth will be addressed in the new year. If for some reason you were overlooked in our recent ministry renewal and you would like to take on a role, please contact a member of the parish pastoral council or the church office.

Further details on ministries in our parish are available at [www.catholicremuera.org.nz](http://www.catholicremuera.org.nz).

In this season of advent, the parish pastoral council wish the parishioners of St Michael's a safe, happy and joyful Christmas.

**ARCHITECTS**

Residential • Liturgical • Education • Commercial



**Murray Cockburn Partnership**

Call Ron Seeto 09-579 8018  
visit [www.mcparchitects.com](http://www.mcparchitects.com)



Domain Realty MREINZ  
Operates Auckland-wide, across New Zealand and throughout the rest of the world!

- Residential Sales
- Commercial
- Business
- Investment
- Property Management
- Rentals
- Mortgage

**Mike Duffy**

A.R.E.I.N.Z  
MANAGING DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL  
Bus 520 5524 A?Hrs 524 8374 Mob 021 955 130  
103 Carlton Gore Dr, Newmarket  
[www.century21.co.nz/ndwmarket](http://www.century21.co.nz/ndwmarket)



## Towards Pastoral Staffing

**Monsignor Brian Arahill** and parishioner **Janne Pender** consider what this means for the church of Auckland.

“Towards Pastoral Staffing” sounds a very formal title. What it means, however, is that the priests of the diocese have been meeting with Bishop Patrick Dunn to consider ways of staffing our 65 parishes and the various ethnic communities that are growing stronger by the day. Thirteen parishes are without a resident parish priest.

The age distribution of diocesan priests (not including members of religious orders, e.g. Marist Fathers) is rather startling.

75 and over	8
70-74	11
65-69	6
60-64	8
55-59	8
50-54	3
40-49	4
30-39	2



St Michael's parishioner, Janne Pender (above) has been helping us to make this seeming crisis into an opportunity. Janne has been working us hard, urging us to consider where our strengths lie and how we might maximise the opportunities to ensure and even enhance the vigour of the life of the church in Auckland.

I have asked Janne to comment on the issues....

You will notice that the title of this article is *Towards Pastoral Staffing* and not “Towards Parish Staffing”. Therein lies the genesis of the approach to solving the situation of insufficient numbers of priests to staff each parish.

It has been obvious to many of us that the “parish” as it is currently defined, both geographically and in canon law, can no longer function in the ways of old. As a child in the parish of St Patrick's in Palmerston North we had a parish priest and at least three assistant priests. Many years later when Michael and I became members of St Michael's there was a parish priest and an assistant priest. Now we are fortunate to have just a parish priest.

So, it is a brave initiative of the Bishop and the diocesan priests to face up to the situation and to plan strategically for the next five years. The fact is that no longer can there be one priest per parish. Look at the figures above and you realise that new ways of thinking about “parish” are urgently needed. A small lead team comprising the bishop and priests has taken the initiative to ask the hard questions and suggest ways forward. A large number of priests have responded on two occasions coming together to provide valuable input as to how things could be done differently.

There will be changes which the clergy will need to face. Some will find these too difficult to change. As laity we too will need to change and adapt to a new concept of “parish”.

You may have noticed in the October 17-30 issue of *New Zealand Catholic* that worldwide there is one priest for every 2642 Catholics. In New Zealand there is one priest for every 1107 Catholics. In comparison we are richly served. Yet so many of our priests are carrying very heavy loads. The demands on them are not only to serve their parish but to take on extra work on behalf of the bishop. They cannot continue as they are. It is time for a change; time to re-think how our priests might best serve the people of God.

Part of the thinking is about the role of the laity in pastoral staffing. The diocesan and religious order priests that I have been working with have many sound, innovative ideas on how to balance the workload by entrusting some tasks to lay people. One of the keys will be identifying, recruiting, training and developing more lay people to undertake specific roles in support of the priest. The same issue of *New Zealand Catholic* featured an interview with a woman visiting New Zealand from Malibu, California, where she is business manager in a parish, a job that involves her in nearly every aspect of parish life. This is but one possible role; there are others.

Right now, what can we do? All of us should be praying that enough people will be touched by the impending crisis to consider what their contribution will be in ensuring the life of the church community in Auckland.

# GO INTERNATIONAL

**Tony Fernandez** MNZITT  
Travel Broker

151 Victoria Street West  
P O Box 28 646, Remuera  
Auckland, New Zealand  
DDI Tel **64-9-520 0584**  
DDI Fax **64-9-520 0514**  
Mobile **021 250 7283**

Email [tonyf@gogogo.co.nz](mailto:tonyf@gogogo.co.nz)

Website [www.goholidays.co.nz](http://www.goholidays.co.nz)



\*A division of GO International Holdings Limited.\*

## Thinking of Selling?

Then for professional advice when selling your home, contact . . .

**Dennis Dunford**

An established consultant in your neighbourhood renowned for gaining results.



A/Hrs:520 5822 Mobile: 025-914 666



## One Family's Christmas

*How do you celebrate Christmas with 15 children and 44 immediate family? Parishioners **Bob and Viv Coombe** tell **Elizabeth Connell** about their family Christmas.*

The Oxford Concise Dictionary describes Christmas in this way: "Christmas, a festival of Christ's birth devoted especially to family reunion and merrymaking; the personification of family festivity".

At St Michael's we know that the meaning of Christmas is much deeper than that stated in a dictionary. However, wherever we are, and whatever we are doing, family reunions - not to mention merrymaking - are the personification of Christmas for most of us.

The Coombe family starts planning for Christmas in October. All family members' names are put into a hat for a Christmas present buying draw. Each person buys a present for the person whose name they draw from the hat. The gift-buying list is sent out to all families. The list also includes details about what food each member is to bring for the shared family Christmas brunch. As some of the family are overseas, overseas travellers may be asked to take Christmas presents with them, to save on postage.

On Christmas day it's open house.

All who can come home for Christmas do so. The tree surrounded by presents is set up in the lounge. The crib is ready for the Christ child to be placed in the manger as soon as all family members arrive.

When all the family is gathered, it's time for Bob to hand out the presents from under the tree. Viv no longer cooks the traditional Christmas roast. With everyone bringing food to share, hers is a supervisor's role. The table is set by willing small helpers. It remains set up all day. Much of the food is cooked outside on the barbeque.

There is lots of talking and merrymaking! Siblings and their partners enjoy being together. Cousins play happily. For them this is the best part of Christmas, and a joy for Viv and Bob to see all their grandchildren playing together. Then it's time to play pass the phone! All those unable to be at home for Christmas are rung, or ring in. Viv and Bob say that these phone calls can last for over an hour, but in this way all family members, wherever they are, have that important family contact on Christmas day.

## Projects Galore

**Monsignor Arahill** writes about three important building projects he hopes the parish will support.

PROJECTS — and more projects! Three projects have been presented to parishioners these last few months.

### Cathedral Restoration

Following a letter from Bishop Dunn to the whole diocese, envelopes were distributed at the end of October for individual donations to be sent to the cathedral. The cathedral is the bishop's church where he has his *cathedra*, the chair that is a sign of his leadership of the church of Auckland

It is everybody's church. The cathedral publicity has highlighted for us what time has done to the building and the need for restoration. It is an appeal well deserving of our support as individuals and as a parish. The parish council, taking advice from the parish finance council, will give a direct donation.

### School Hall

The need for a school hall has become more obvious with recent increases in the roll. The school has had the use of the parish centre for many years, but is now too small to fit everyone in. The project has to be funded by the local community. The board of trustees will seek grants from various trusts, but will also be seeking the support of parishioners.

### Parish Jubilee Project

In 2008 we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of St Michael's Church. The suggested jubilee project is a gathering space in front of the church in the setting of a piazza. There will be increased parking and general enhancement of our unique church.

The parish pastoral council and the finance council believe they have the approval of the majority of parishioners for the concept design that has been presented. But it will take some time to complete details and obtain all the necessary legal consents.

### Like a Zip

These three projects are exciting and will merge together (to use the traffic image) like a zip. We expect the building of the hall to begin before the jubilee project, but both projects, along with the cathedral restoration, will be a challenge to us all, well deserving of our support.

Accountant  
Anthony Martin  
B.COM ACIS CIMA TINI

Friendly Personal Service

51 Bell Road, Remuera, Auckland  
Email: anthoymartin@xtra.co.nz

Phone: (09) 524-2882  
Mobile: 025-642-0429

## Songs That Had No Words

### A nativity story for New Zealand children

*Parishoner Mark Casey dedicates his Christmas poem to Georgia, Savannah, Helena and Hunter (pictured below).*

The red Pohutukawa  
was almost in full bloom  
when Mary and her husband Joe  
were looking for a room.

They had to find a place to stay  
before the day was done  
for Mary knew she'd soon give birth  
to a precious baby son.

They'd started out at dawn  
as the Tui sang his greeting  
with a voice made sweet as honey  
by the nectar he'd been eating.

They'd tried in every town  
and travelled all the highways,  
but everywhere was booked up full  
for the Summer holidays.

Every door was bolted shut  
and every heart was hard;  
and no one even offered them  
a tent in the back yard.

The Fantail flew beside them  
to help them in their search,  
and the Falcon kept an eye on them  
from her sky-high cliff-top perch.

But everywhere they went  
the story was the same:  
"There's no room here, so move  
along...  
go back the way you came."

It didn't need to be too flash...  
just somewhere clean and dry;  
but as the day wore on  
there was nowhere left to try.

"I can't believe this is happening,"  
thought Kingfisher, looking down  
from his favourite spot on a telephone  
pole  
just at the edge of town.

Poor Joseph got quite frantic;  
he was a worried man...  
an abandoned shack would be alright  
or a broken-down caravan.

They'd happily share a lean-to  
with the animals of the farm  
or lay down in a tractor shed  
or the corner of a barn.

But they were welcome nowhere  
so they wandered through the trees  
all alone but for the forest birds  
and the whisper of the breeze.

Then Mary gazed around her  
and said, "This lovely place  
might be the first in all the world  
to see my baby's face."

"We can't stop here," said Joseph,  
"we have no bed for you!"  
But the birds had all been listening...  
and they knew just what to do.

The Pukeko brought some flax  
and the Kiwi brought some fern  
and when their beaks got tired  
the Shining Cuckoo took a turn.



#### Photography Stops Time Forever.

.....  
Robert captures weddings, families, portraits and those important occasions, where "snapshots" are just not good enough. Using 5M digital equipment that gives clarity and versatility, he can supply standard photo prints to well as CD-Rom discs or e-mail copies. They are all available at affordable rates.

For a quotation & bookings.  
Phone: 521 0933 or  
E-mail: Robert@Tingeys.com

#### Capturing

love, beauty & happiness



## Clegg & Co Ltd

Specialists in Computer Financing  
Level 2, 371 Parnell Road, Parnell  
Telephone 307 3880

The Kea and the Kakapo  
together wove a bed;  
White Heron fluffed a feather pillow  
for Mary's weary head.

The Southern Cross shone down its light  
and the Summer night was warm;  
and the Morepork watched in wide-eyed wonder  
as the Christ child was born.

"I wish my old friend Moa  
had lived to see this day,"  
said Paradise Duck as he waddled close  
to where the baby lay.

The Gannet and the Albatross  
and the Giant Petrel flew  
from far away, with priceless gifts,  
across the Pacific blue.

They carried the gold of the sunrise  
resplendent on their wings  
as a sign the child they'd come to see  
was indeed the King of Kings.

"This baby is called Jesus,"  
said Mary to the birds;  
and they raised their voices up  
in the sweetest song you've ever heard.

From the warble of the Warbler  
to the Bellbird's ringing tone  
they filled the air with joy  
throughout their forest home.

And so each year at Christmas time  
we celebrate the birth  
of the child who came to save us all  
and bring God's love to earth.

We're thankful for the Summer sun  
and everything we're given  
in this country that we call "God's own"...  
this lucky land we live in.

And we sing our Christmas carols  
just like our friends the birds  
who welcomed Jesus to the world  
with songs that had no words.

**DAVIS**



**Funeral Home**

**Mt Eden, Henderson, Pakuranga**

**Cedric, Neil and Craig Little**

**Telephone 09-638-9026**

**24 hours**

**[www.davisfunerals.co.nz](http://www.davisfunerals.co.nz)**

## MILESTONES

### Baptisms: the parish welcomes...

Madeleine Harper **Srzych** daughter of Ivan & Michelle  
Oliver Joseph **Bramley** son of Philip & Vanessa  
Ella Rose **Bramley** daughter of Philip & Vanessa  
Kate **Purdon** daughter of Glen & Robyn  
Joshua **Purdon** son of Glen & Robyn  
Inez Barbara Fay **Glass-Hawken** daughter of Roberta & Matthew  
Thomas Anthony **Gibbs Walker** son of Campbell & Charlotte  
Harrison Anthony Arahill **Ragg** son of Anthony & Theresa  
Sebastian King Mullaney **Baird** son of Timothy and Deborah  
Sharon **Chan** daughter of Kenneth & Ka Lai  
Ruby-Jean Elizabeth **Clark** daughter of Simon & Jane  
Sabrina Bridget **Grogan** daughter of Edward & Glenys  
Rebecca Anne **Lepper** daughter of Geraldine & Cecil  
Jessica Lee **Lepper** daughter of Geraldine & Cecil  
Rhonda Maree **Lepper** daughter of Geraldine & Cecil  
Anthony Cecil **Lepper** son of Geraldine & Cecil  
Lauren **Fraser** daughter of Wayne & Lisa-Simone  
Lauchlan **Fraser** son of Wayne & Lisa-Simone  
Madeleine Johanna **Walker** daughter of Matthew & Kimberley  
Georgina Kate **Walker** daughter of Matthew & Kimberley  
Alexandra Grace **Stone** daughter of Matthew & Melinda  
Philippa **Young** daughter of Allan & Baksho  
Arabella **Young** daughter of Allan & Baksho  
Anna **Egan** daughter of Paul & Yoko  
William Christopher **Abel** son of Christopher & Claire  
Tino Miguel **Villarama** son of Edward & Marjorie  
Hannah Lilly Lim **Bautista** daughter of George & Theresa  
Caitlin Teri **Brighouse** daughter of Roger & Theresa

### Marriages: blessings on...

Rachel Maree **Lambess** & Austin Gilbert **Laurensen**  
Penelope **Scott-Morrison** & Joseph Simon **Butler**  
Mary Norah **Dyer** & Mark Hunter **Richardson**  
Lisa Melanie **Everitt** & Shane Andrew **Thorsen**  
Kerri Jane **Bell** & Bryce Cameron **Tait**

### Deaths: we pray for...

Frances Anne **Bramwell**  
Ronald Douglas Patrick **Hassett**  
Mary Angland **Polson**  
Josephus Willem Bernardus Ignatius **van Veenendaal**  
William Stanley **Alderson**  
Graham Francis **Cawthorn**

## A celebration of St Michael's diversity

The diversity of the St Michael's school community was vibrantly demonstrated at a recent school parish Mass. Traditionally held on the fifth Sunday of each month, the Mass on October 31 was a spectacular occasion. As part of the Mass, the school presented stationary packs — donated by families as part of a recent missionary day — to be sent to Rarotonga and distributed among needy children.

Pictured here: 1. Saskia Willox in Scottish national costume and Alexandra Cuadros in Dutch national costume. 2. The Ryoo family Patrick and Rosario with children Michael and William in Korean national dress 3. Three generations of one family, grandmother Anna Maria Van Rijn, daughter Rosita Murray and granddaughter Chantelle. 4. The Garelja family in Yugoslav national costume. 5. The Roy children Sadhana (green) and Ranita (red) with brother Rajeev.



## St Michael's Contacts

### Parish Priest:

Monsignor Brian Arahill  
[bfarahill@clear.net.nz](mailto:bfarahill@clear.net.nz)

### In Residence:

Father Stephen Berez

### Religious Education:

Sister Francis Kelly

### Family Ministry:

Sister Francis Kelly

### Caring Co-ordinator:

Kathryn Schollum

### Youth Ministry:

Tim Gasson

### Music Rosters:

Tony Vela

### Secretary/Administration:

Pat de Zoete

### Parish Office:

9am-1pm Monday-Friday  
Telephone: 520 1226

### Parish Council:

Monsignor Arahill, Susy Bell, Anne Duffy, Mark Jeffaries, Neil Little (Chairperson), Christabelle Matthews, Alicia Murray, Giles Potter, Jessica Spencer and Peter Zink (Secretary)

### Finance Council:

Monsignor Arahill, Phillip Bell, Kevin Pickworth, Bob Coombe Carey Pearce, Mike Going and Pat de Zoete

### Liturgy Committee:

Monsignor Arahill, Margaret Garrett, Patricia Kessler, Jennifer Spencer, Catherine Everitt, Viki Cullen, Ruth Miller, and Peter Ravlich

### Revelations Team:

Elizabeth Connell, Anna Friis, Frances Hay-Mackenzie, Christabelle Matthews, Anthony Martin and Robert Tingey

Would you like to advertise in  
REVELATIONS?

Contact Anthony Martin Ph 525 2882  
email: [anthonymartin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:anthonymartin@xtra.co.nz)