

News from St Michael's Community

September 2005
Volume 23

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

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Revelations



The parish and finance councils urge all parishioners to help save St Michael's stained glass windows.

Anna Friis reports

What can we do?

Many parishioners will remember how much fun we had two years ago at the parish fundraising dinner/auction. We successfully raised enough money to paint the St Michael's parish house.

This time it's the stained glass windows that give St Michael's Church much of its special character that require attention. Money needs to be raised for restoration work.

Heritage architect Dave Pearson says the windows are in sad need of repair and that at least \$50,000 is required to pay for restoration work on the windows in most urgent need.

He says a range of technical issues need to be addressed to ensure the ongoing strength of the windows and, if these are not addressed properly, it could lead to their collapse

**St Michael's
Stained Glass Window Restoration
Gala Auction Evening
Friday 14 October 2005 7.00pm
Guineas Room 3rd Floor
Ellerslie Racecourse**

and ultimate loss.

A fundraising team has been established to urgently set about raising the necessary money. Their first initiative is a dinner/auction which will be held on Friday, October 14, at the Ellerslie Event Centre, starting at 7pm.

The fundraising team promises it will be a fun night with a sumptuous dinner, a dance band, and fabulous auction items up for grabs, with prices expected to range from \$200 to \$20,000.

History of the windows

While St Michael's was officially opened on the 1st of October 1933, the stained glass windows were not added until the 1950's. As a temporary measure, plain tinted glass (amber double rolled cathedral glass tint number 929, to be precise) was installed for the opening.

The design, manufacture and installation of the stained glass windows had to wait until the parish had raised enough money. That process saw individual parishioners (including original architect George Tole) making substantial donations to pay for specific windows.

Most of the windows were designed and made by Harry Clarke Stained Glass in Dublin, Ireland, or Carl Edwards Studios of London, England, both very highly regarded companies, producing high quality and expensive work.

Extensive remedial work was done on the windows and their surrounds between 1980 and 1990. 15 years on, another round of work is required to preserve these historical and valuable works of art.

What do the windows depict?

The Archangel St Michael (for whom the church is named) is featured high in the west transept, wearing chain mail armour and gold-plated leggings. St George of the dragon-slaying fame stands beside him.

Our Lady and St Columcille (also known as St Columba), occupy similar positions in the east transept.

The four windows in the apse (behind the altar, partly obscured by the baldachino) depict the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The rose windows in the transepts represent Hope and Charity. The rose window above the main entrance was intended to represent Faith, but was never finished.

Six of the 15 mysteries of the Rosary are represented in the lower windows of the nave and transept. The Annunciation and Visitation are in the west transept; the Assumption of Mary and the Crowning of Mary are in the east transept; and the Birth of Our Lord and Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple are in the west nave. The Risen Christ (speaking to Mary of Magdala "Go tell my brother") and The Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost are in the east nave. These two windows were made in Auckland and were given by Dr Frank Kearns in memory of his wife.

Auction/Dinner details

St Michael's parishioners (and non-parishioners interested in the preservation of Auckland's cultural and religious heritage) are encouraged to buy tickets to this event and to bid enthusiastically at the auction.

For ticket sales and all enquiries, please contact **Pat de Zoete** at the Parish Office (09 520-1226) or **Tony Everitt** (021 780 721).



Cluny Sister Angela celebrated 65 years of Religious Profession on 12 August 2005.

Sister Angela has spent over 30 of those years in the Cluny Convent in Victoria Ave, Remuera.

*She is seen here with **Monsignor Arahill** after he presented flowers to her at 10am Mass on a recent Sunday.*

Habemus Papam!

Parishoner **Anthony Segedin**, writing to friends from Rome at the time of Pope Benedict's election, has kindly agreed to share his personal response with the wider parish community.



Dear All,

Right now, I am trying to come to terms with and understand the enormity of what I have experienced this afternoon and evening. It is incredibly moving for me and, having just spoken a short while ago to my own dear bishop, I have had to sit down and wipe a few tears away. It is at times like this that one misses being able to talk to a friend in person. It took some two hours for the realization to strike, but strike it has!

Please ignore my earlier papal and conclave predictions.

How wrong can wrong be? At least at age 78, I think I can say that Ratzinger will not be around for 26 years (like his predecessor). I cannot truly say that I am excited at this choice. But I can say that I have complete confidence and faith in the workings of the Holy Spirit. I pray for the new Holy Father with all my heart, for he faces an enormous task. I have just heard that the Holy Father is now celebrating Holy Mass at St. Peter's, but as my hotel is half an hour's quick walk from there, I am too late and too exhausted to attend. The buses here are regular but now very crowded, and the madness of Rome traffic has assumed a new meaning right now. I regret that I shall not be attending this Mass.

I shall return home on Monday with two great memories of this trip, dominated as it is by the death of John Paul (the Great), the conclave process and the election of the new Pope.

On the Monday evening after the death of the last Pope, I was walking down the Stradun, the major street and a very old and beautiful street of Dubrovnik, one of great character and old buildings. It must be seen and experienced to be believed.

At the end of the street is the church of the city's patron saint. Cascading down the stairs of the church, situated at the end of the Stradun, were

hundreds of red candles flickering in the night. At the centre of them was a large cross formed of some of these candles and at the foot of that over three steps were the words "Papa - Ivana - Pavla II". It was truly beautiful.

I was at St. Peter's this morning, visited the basilica, attended Mass, saw the lunchtime black smoke and returned to my hotel for lunch and siesta. Later, I then decided to return to experience the crowds and visit the tomb of John Paul II. After visiting the tomb in the crypt, I was wandering about the Square thinking that "this is not going to happen today" and was about to leave when the smoke started from the Sistine Chapel. It was initially as black as, and I was about to leave to beat the traffic (fat hope that was!) when the smoke



turned white and then the bells of St. Peter's started: I was transfixed. Could this be? The large bell and its two smaller "acolytes". I just watched

and even noticed the timing difference between the clash of steel and hearing of that beautiful deep sound. We had a new Pope and the crowds were wild with joy.

As if the crowds weren't already large, more people were pouring in, swelling the thousands already there. I thought that the Square was full, but there was still more room and more room, and people kept arriving and being accommodated. That square is absolutely humungous! Then the Italian military band arrived and played and the military services lined up in honour. The crowds were growing more and more excited. It was an amazing feeling, a top experience.

About fifty minutes after the white smoke, the great doors in the centre of the facade and above the Church opened and a cardinal appeared to make the great and joyous announcement "Habemus Papam", first greeting us in several languages. I could hardly believe that I was experiencing this. I listened carefully to him to ensure that I caught the new Pope's name, and chosen name. I can say that I was disappointed at the choice, but I



have commented on that. The crowds were growing wild and we all clapped, some no doubt more fervently than others.



Then Benedict XVI appeared and spoke to us. He asked us to pray for him; my Italian was good enough to understand him. Then he blessed us, in Latin, which I also understood - Urbi et Orbi. I could hardly believe that I was witnessing this, and I have never had so many goose pimples, and felt quite cold. To be there for the election, the white smoke, the crowd response and at the first blessing of a new Pope! What can I say? I am absolutely overwhelmed. I walked back to my hotel with celebrating throngs, lost in my own thoughts. I was in Barcelona when Barca won the European Cup in 1992. The traffic and crowds were then even more insane, but that is only relative. I am over the moon to be here and hope that this note conveys something of my thoughts and feelings. I consider myself to be a very lucky little boy.

God bless you all
and with love,

Anthony.



Mission accomplished!

Anna Friis reflects on the recent parish mission.

The first mission at St Michael's in many a year stirred and inspired, challenged and surprised, leaving many who attended with a renewed feeling of optimism and an altered sense of what spirituality means for them in their lives in 2005.

Sister Joan Bukrey, Father Nicholas Punch and Father Michael Champlin concluded the week of spiritual revitalisation held in June with a simple message of hope and heart that was reflected in how the parish came together to help support the mission.

From the well-organised, week-long programme, through to the walkers who delivered the flyers and the people who organised child-minding facilities and the quite exceptional home-baked morning teas and suppers, the "Lively Up Your Soul" mission was a unique experience.

For Monsignor Arahill the most rewarding aspect of the mission experience at St Michael's was in how the parish came alive.

"So many people made such a huge commitment," he said.

"It was truly rewarding to see what St Michael's can



**Sister Joan Bukrey,
Father Nicholas Punch
and Father Michael
Champlin**

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do when we all work together and I know from the feedback I have received that it was well worth the effort.”

From the Thomas More Center for Preaching and Prayer in Wisconsin, USA, the team travel the world together leading parish missions to revitalise spirituality and renew faith. Here’s what people had to say about their work in Remuera.

“The three sessions I attended were fantastic. Such a positive take on scripture and teachings. Well done to you all and to the St Michael’s Mission Team for taking this on!”

“One of the most spiritually inspiring experiences of my life. Thanks to the Mission team.”

“It was an interactive, spiritual and awesome experience. Thank you. A million thanks.”

“I really enjoyed all the sessions I went to. My favourites were on Journeys and women. I had a really good time and I learned lots. They were really friendly (12 years old).



“Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Mission. It has been a long time since I have been to one and well needed. I have been able to resolve a problem of 50 years standing. Thank you.”

“An uplifting experience.”

“I think the parish community owes a big thank you to all the people involved in making the mission the great success it undoubtedly was. We were fortunate indeed in being able to participate in

such a memorable experience.”

“I just wish many more Catholics had attended this mission, regardless of their faith and relationship with God and the church. They don’t know what they are missing!”

“Initially, I thought the mission was going to be charismatic and I was slightly disappointed when this was not the case. However, over the period of the mission I found the quiet, enthusiastic, knowledgeable, professional and caring way in which the sessions were conducted had a profound effect on me.”



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Feminist agenda reaches fruition

Sandra Paterson is a contributor to the *Weekend Herald*. **Monsignor Arahill** summarises an article she wrote recently.

A lady who in her younger years used to go in the 1970s to various feminists' meetings recently handed Sandra some papers. The lady remembers many of the women who addressed these meetings, among them Helen Clark, Sylvia Cartwright, Marilyn Waring, Cath Tizard and Margaret Wilson. These young feminists of the 70s have become powerful leaders in our country.

Among the papers is one written by Kay Goodger, now senior adviser in the Ministry of Social Development. She calls on the feminists of the day to do everything they could to replace or sideline traditional family values. *"The family distorts all human relationships by imposing on them the framework of economic compulsion, social dependence and sexual repression. Our goal must be to create economic and social institutions that are superior to the present family.....The rearing, social welfare and education of children should become the responsibility of society rather than individual parents."*

"Steps to be taken:

- *Abortion free and on demand.*
- *Integrate sex education into all levels of school system.*
- *Ensure birth control freely available.*
- *De facto relationships same status as marriage.*
- *Victimising prostitutes abolished.*
- *24 hour child-care to free women from domestic slavery"*.

"It all sounds very familiar and you have to admire the dedication of those who have devoted their careers to seeing these goals achieved. Quietly and systematically, a radical agenda, set in motion in the 1970s, has all but been completed."

Sandra Paterson concludes her article: *"The little old lady who used to go to feminist meetings wants a change of government this election because she dreams of a more pro-family society for her five children and seven grandchildren."*

What do you think?

You might like to email some comments that could go on the parish website. Addresses on the back page.

Monsignor Brian Arahill

parish priest

Family Mass – calling young and old

Tim Gasson and Mara Bebich call for contributors to the monthly family Mass.

As many of you will know, the 10 am Mass on the third Sunday of the month is family Mass at St Michael's. This Mass has a family focus with all the readings coming from the Children's Lectionary and being read by youth. The children are invited by Monsignor to come and sit on the carpet at the front to listen to the readings with him before the homily which is aimed at their level. At this family focussed Mass we are blessed to have the skilful youth music group led by the ever dedicated Tim Gasson. This group leads the 10 am Mass with their instruments on both the first and third Sundays. In addition the parish council has initiated morning tea after the family Mass which is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with, or meet, your fellow parishioners

This Mass does not happen without willing readers, processors and musicians. Many people have given, and continue to give, willingly of their time to read, practise and play at these masses. A big thank you goes out to them all.

We are looking for anyone who is keen to read, bring up the offertory, be a communion minister, play (level 2 and above) or participate in any way you feel you can.

If you are keen to play your instrument or sing at the family Mass please email Tim at timgasson@free.net.nz or give him a text/call on 021754333.

If you want to read or bring up the offertory or become a eucharistic minister please email Mara at marabebich@hotmail.com or give her a text/call on 021 627282.



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Link – St Michael's Young Adults

Mara Bebich reports on a new youth initiative in the parish.

This year, 2005, has been characterised by an air of change in regards to youth activities at St Michael's.

Following the youth forum and the end of 2004, came the realisation of the need to step back and look at the wider picture for youth at St Michael's. Consequently this year we have decided to focus on building our young adults group.

Sunday the 13th of March marked our first meeting, complete with a pizza dinner, a battle of the sexes and a rather lengthy and vocal discussion over a name that was a move away from the generic 'St Michael's Young Adults Group'... Eventually we decided on '**Link.**' With a few worries about references to an unreliable bus service in the back of our minds, this decision was unanimous for one predominant reason. In a metaphorical sense it is our hope that the group will evolve into one which can be the link in the chain which connects the youth of our parish to the wider parish community.

Meeting monthly, we have discussed such ideas as fundamentalism and had the good fortune of having Jessica Patterson from Caritas speak to us about the issues surrounding Catholics and social justice.

If you have left school, are working, studying etc, and you would like to join us please email marabebich@hotmail.com or text me on 021 627282.

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MILESTONES

Baptisms: the parish welcomes...

Rose Darragh Jean **McKnight** daughter of Jamie and Darragh
Jacob Paul **Sheridan** son of James and Lucy
Ella Grace **Cotterall** daughter of Matthew and Sarah
Rocco Thomas Richard **Jepson** son of Carl and Megan
Skyler Madison **Trainer** daughter of Deryn and Jo-Anne
Conor Nguyen **Harris** son of Andrew and Laura
Harry Andrew **Edwards** son of Mark and Linda
Emily Grace **Gibson** daughter of Ian and Joanne
Ernst-Jove **Quianzon** son of Melchor and Hilda
Charlotte Rose **Davidson** daughter of Jeremy and Diane
Alexander Oliver **Humphrey** son of Matthew and Joanne
Ethan Malcolm **Genet** son of Malcolm and Andrea
Matthew Paul Herman Roger **Develter** son of Paul and Deborah
Charlotte Emily **Simpson** daughter of Grant and Maria
Hannah Jeanne **Lane-Gould** daughter of Jeremy and Natasha
Allegra Mercedes Sabine **Handa-Robles** daughter of Sameer and Dori
Thom Franciscus **Kleinsman** son of Paul and Susan
Rachel Elizabeth **Nel** daughter of Gert and Carey-Anne
Harrison Michael **Urquhart** son of Lydon and Gabrielle
Orlando Sebastian Gordon **Webb** son of Kenneth and Louise

Marriages: blessings on...

Kathryn Mary **Blackburn** and Jonathan Robert **Banks**
Kelly Lee **Tedcastle** and Brent Leslie **Spillane**
Juliet Gael **Ellis-Pegler** and Benjamin Patrick **Herlihy**
Sarah Therese **Langley** and Mark Jared **Green**
Gillian Tina **Bedding** and Ian **Lathwood**
Kelly Jane **Farrant** and Michael Carlos **Alofa**
Midori **Kaijo** and Telsuji **Kalano**
Donabel Gay **Fordham** and Shafiq Sonny **Reitveld**

Deaths: we pray for...

Catherine Johanna **Wester**
Thomas Joseph **Dwyer** (Brother Joachim)
Denis Russell **Jagger-Smith**
Susan Mary **Peach**
Pamela Anne **Martin**
Kathleen Pearl **Gray**
Aranka Helen **Pap**
Sister Jean **Caldwell** RSCJ
Susan Mary **Heard**
Raymond George **Noble**
Isabel Elizabeth **Hartshorne**
Maureen Kathleen **McCormick**



Some of the amazing stained glass windows needing maintenance and restoration work



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Mara Bebich

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Tony Vela

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Parish Council:

Monsignor Arahill, 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, Noel Davies 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

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