

# Archivally Speaking

No. 8 — August 2011

An occasional newsletter for those interested in the history of the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch.  
*Preserving the foundations of tomorrow's Diocese*

## FROM THE ARCHIVIST

### A LIGHT IN THE DISTANCE?

We all grieve for what the earthquakes did to our loved Cathedral, but added to that pain which we all experience, for us who are part of the Archive Group, or have an interest in the Archives, there is an added sense of loss, of desolation, when we look up at the façade from Barbadoes Street and see a gaping space that was formerly the archives.

We see a door which now opens to nowhere; we see the ceiling light still suspended and moving in the wind; and, sadder still, we see the shelving tilted and empty of files.

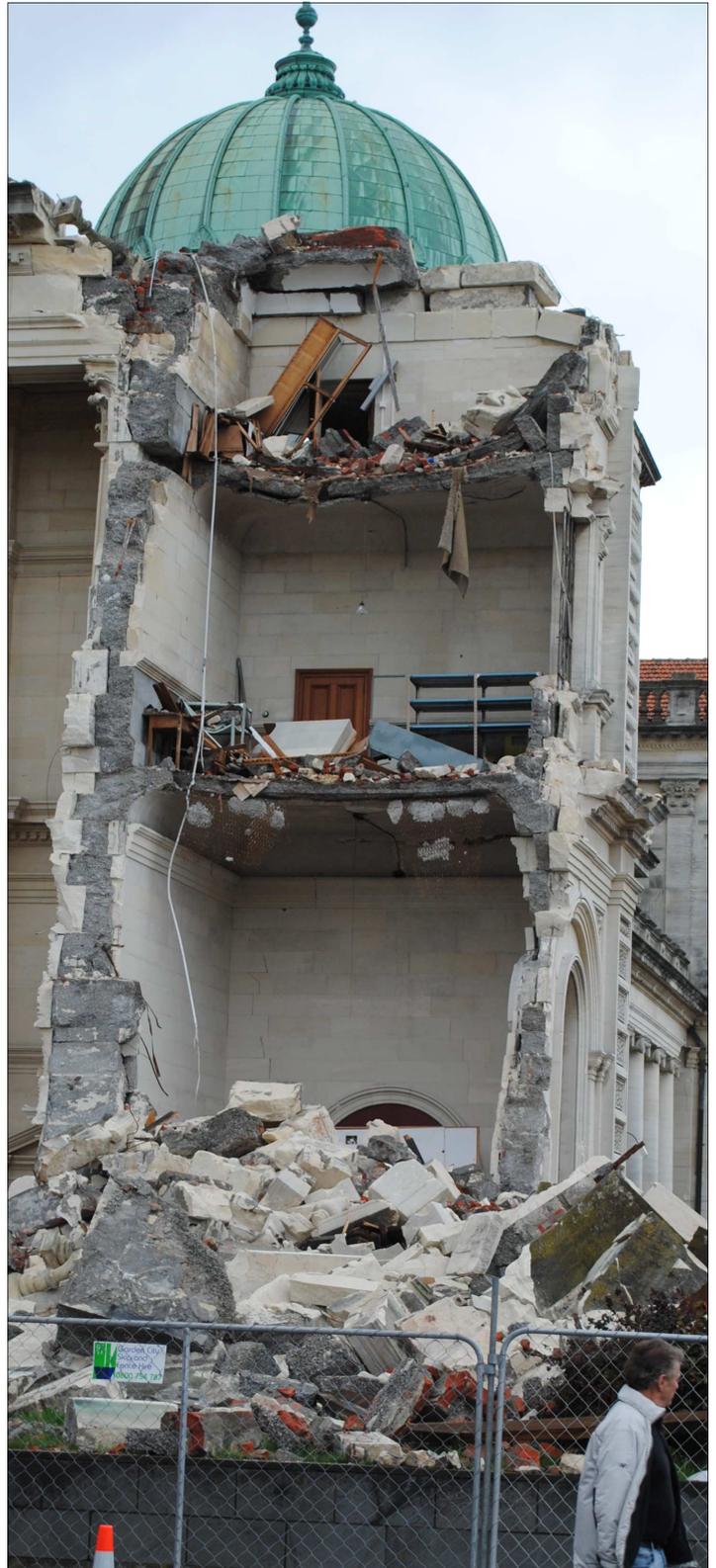
Fortunately, all the files and boxes of correspondence, all the photos, in fact all the papers stored in the archives were boxed and moved after the first quake in September.

The Diocese has leased a building in Washington Way (behind the old Railway Station) and there, in the meantime, all the contents of the archives rest in complete disarray.

Paddy Beban, the Financial Administrator of the Diocese, is concerning himself, among many other major issues, with the finding of a suitable place which could house the Archives for perhaps several years. He is aware of our need for secure storage space, shelving etc, but is also concerned for our need for work space.

We are grateful, because it will be so good to be able to go to work again.

*Kevin Clark*



# One Bright Spot

Since we last met, about this time last year, a huge amount has happened that has affected our interest in the history of the Christchurch Diocese.

Not much of what has happened is good, and in particular the loss of so many churches and damage, sometimes severe, to others, in Christchurch and as far away as Temuka, has affected all of us in some way.

The one bright spot is that the contents of the Archives Room were largely removed to a safe place after the September earthquake. In January it looked as though we would have more space than we had ever had to do archive work, then the February quake put paid

to that, with the Diocesan office having to move into our prospective archive space.

Now, as Father Clark says, there may be a light in the distance with the possibility of more space becoming available.

We hope to have some more news for you on that over the next few weeks.

In the meantime, it goes without saying that we will not be holding a meeting of our group this year, but we will try to organise something for next year, when hopefully the picture will be a little clearer.

If anyone has any ideas for an activity, please get in touch.

## WANTED

Often, material related to the history of parishes, buildings, clergy etc can be held by individual people.

In particular, photos of clergy are often held by relatives and photos of churches are held by people who were perhaps present at an event there, or were associated with them in some way.

As time passes on these photos and other items mean less to later generations, and are often discarded.

The Diocesan archives would be glad to receive such material. After assessment material related in some way to the history of the diocese and not duplicating that already held would be accepted into the archive collection. Photos can be scanned — we already have a large digital-only collection in addition to the extensive collection of prints.

If you have any items related to the history of the diocese that you would like to see preserved for future generations, please get in touch with us.

## This is your Newsletter

Our Archives group is growing in size, and as it grows maintaining an address list is becoming more complicated and mailing out newsletters is also becoming more expensive.

To help with the address list, would everyone please check the address we have used and let us know if changes are needed (contact details are below).

To help reduce the expense, would everyone who has an email address and can receive the newsletter as a PDF but is not already doing so please let us know what their address is. It costs nothing to send the newsletter out by email.

If you have email but can't receive a PDF, you can download the programme you need, Acrobat Reader, free of charge. Just Google it to find it.

Lastly if you have friends interested in being a member of our group, please ask them to get in touch.

### TO CONTACT THE ARCHIVE GROUP:

Archivist, Fr Kevin Clark, c/0 Diocesan Office, P.O. Box 4544, Christchurch:

Michael Hanrahan mhh@xtra.co.nz

Merle Conaghan 03 358 8758