

# Archivally Speaking

No. 4— July 2007

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

## The next Archives Day

**Sunday, October 14, 2007,  
Cathedral House (Diocesan office), Barbadoes Street**

**Theme: Writing a history (parish/school/church/organisation)**

It is not intended to be a “how to write” workshop, but rather a discussion on subjects such as where to find information, primary versus secondary sources, use of photos, use of footnotes, dealing with a printer, deciding on numbers to print, relying on people’s memories (or not), the costs involved, working for a committee — in fact anything you would like to discuss.

We will have examples of a number of already published works there and people who have already been through the process will be welcome to share their thoughts.

Anyone with an interest in the topic is welcome — please spread the word to friends and people you know in other parishes.

Please RSVP to Michael at [mhhh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mhhh@xtra.co.nz) or Merle on Christchurch 358 8758

## FROM THE ARCHIVIST

Photos, waiting for classification as to place (building); the person; the group; the occasion etc, have been waiting in the archives for many years. Now, the work is practically completed. This has taken hundreds of hours and is a great credit to the team which undertook the task.

Our next project is to update the diocesan baptismal data-

base. This will involve entering all the baptismal records from each parish for all baptisms administered subsequent to the entries originally made. The new entries will be made following the same process of entering; printing out; checking against original; correcting/confirming. It is a slow but thorough method.

The baptismal database and

the CD index to it, (which is available for sale) has been in great demand.. More than 170 CDs of the index have been sold.

It is a well worthwhile work which often brings a friendly contact with people who otherwise would seem to have had no contact with the church.

*Kevin Clark*

## An almost forgotten church

When Fr Kevin Clark wrote the history of the Grey Valley parish he referred to two baptisms recorded in the Ahaura register as having taken place in the Granville Church in 1875.

Granville today does not appear on even the largest scale maps, although its name still applies to a forest to the east of Totara Flat, right on the northern boundary of the diocese in Westland.

The 1917 New Zealand Index lists it as being three miles from Totara Flat and as having a post office. By then the place had probably declined considerably since its heyday in the gold mining era, when it was known as Duffers Creek or Half Ounce.

Other than those two baptisms the only reference found to a church at Granville was in Archbishop Redwoods 1887 “Sketch of the Work of the Church in the last Half-Century in the Archdiocese of Wellington”, where he wrote “The district was visited by Fathers Colomb SM and Binsfield SM and small churches were built at Nelson Creek, Granville .....

With no other record, there was every reason to suppose that confusion existed between Granville and nearby Totara Flat where Father (later Dean ) J.J. O’Donnell built St Munchin’s Church about 1885. But, that was 10 years too late for those two baptisms.

And then, Colleen Yee of Nelson who is researching the stories of Catholic churches in Nelson and northern Westland, discovered the answer in the Grey River Argus in 1874.

Firstly, on March 2 there was a notice:

“The consecration, dedication and opening services in connection with the new Roman Catholic Church at Granville, Half-Ounce, will take place on Sunday, 8th inst.”

Then, on March 12 the opening was reported:

“GREY VALLEY GOLD-FIELDS; [From Our Own Correspondent]; HALF-OUNCE

The new Roman Catholic Church at Granville was opened on Sunday, 8th instant. The Rev. E. Pertius, the parish priest, was the officiating clergyman, and there was a very numerous congregation, composed of residents of the immediate locality and visitors from all parts of the district. The church is a neat little structure, situated at the lower part of township, near the Government camp, and it reflects credit not only on the effort of the Messrs Noonan, P. Bourke and other members of the building committee on whom devolved the duty of raising the funds, but also on the workmanship and taste of the builders Messrs Michael Hartigan & Co.”

The question remains—what happened to the Granville Church?

## PROJECT REPORT

The photo project is drawing to an end, although more seem to keep appearing.

This project has seen a team of five dedicated ladies spending most Thursday afternoons at Cathedral House, copying photos from the archives and storing the originals in archivally safe filing containers.

The copies are available for researchers to examine, and if necessary to order copies of the original from.

They are filed under four main headings — buildings, events, individuals and groups. Some, in particular the events and groups photos, need people to look at them and if possible supply some names. Anyone who can help with this please contact Merle on Christchurch 358 8758 or Michael at mhhh@xtra.co.nz.

The other project is Churches of the Past, which is now sufficiently complete to appear on the diocesan website (you’ll find it at [www.chch.catholic.org.nz](http://www.chch.catholic.org.nz)—click on parishes and then on churches of the past.

It has now expanded into Churches Past and Present which may one day appear as a publication, but there a few church photos we need to get if that is to happen. If anyone can lend good photos of the following churches in their original setting it would be appreciated:

- **Addington, first church**
- **Beckenham, first church,**
- **Bryndwr, first church,**
- **Hoon Hay, first church, 1952– 1956**
- **Riccarton, first church in Peer St**
- **Shirley, Emmet St, first church.**
- **Woolston, first church**
- **Cheviot, present church**
- **Dobson**
- **Morvern, the first church (tin shed)**
- **Rangiora, first church**
- **Poerua/Rotomanu**
- **Hakataramea (either site)**
- **Totara Flat, first church, St Munchin’s**
- **Southbridge, first church**
- **Granville**
- **Hornby, St Michael’s Tower St**
- **Hornby, Manurere St, 1957—1962**
- **Notown, second church**
- **Whataroa, first church**

Contact the names above if you can help.