

Archivally Speaking

No. 5—May 2008

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

The next Archives Day

Sunday, June 15, 2008, 1pm to 3pm

**Meet in Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Barbadoes Street,
Meeting place in the Cathedral on the side nearest the Presbytery.**

Theme: TREASURES OF THE CATHEDRAL

With the permission of Cathedral Administrator Fr John Fitzmaurice our group will be treated to a behind the scenes look at some of the Cathedral treasures — vestments, sacred vessels, reliquaries, croziers, and some selected items from the archives.

We will then return to Cathedral House for afternoon tea.

Please spread the word and bring a friend.

To help with planning we would like to hear from everyone who intends to be there.

Please RSVP to Michael Hanrahan at mhhh@xtra.co.nz or 48 Philip St, Ashburton, or to Merle Conaghan on Christchurch 358 8758

FROM THE ARCHIVIST

OPEN HOME.

Sunday 15th June. 1pm - 3pm.

Our archive houses a collection of material that is not only of historical importance, but also surprisingly varied and interesting.

Not only are there the expected boxes upon boxes of correspondence and documents but there are many other treasures. We have the yearly diaries of Bishop Grimes, who founded the diocese. We have a collection of his sermons, - enough to fill about two tea chests, - all of them punched out on his fal-

tering typewriter. Both the diaries and the sermons await genuine study.

There are over 2000 photographs which have now been catalogued in a work which the little archive group continues as more photos arrive.

Recently, this same group has catalogued the collection of one hundred and forty five books which we keep for reference or for their intrinsic historical value.

Our next Archive Afternoon June 15th will be given over entirely to a perusal of these and other items of interest selected not only from the

archives, but from the sacristies and strongroom of the cathedral.

The displays will include sacred vessels, vestments old and modern, reliquaries, and many other items belonging to the cathedral. With the kind permission of the Administrator, Fr John Fitzmaurice, and his enthusiastic support this OPEN DAY will be held in the cathedral itself.

OPEN HOME. SUNDAY 15TH
June. 1PM ~ 3PM.

Kevin Clark

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 on the front page).

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.

BAPTISMS INDEX NEW CD RELEASED

The first CD containing the names of 26,500 individuals baptised in the Christchurch Diocese (Canterbury and Westland) was very well received and turned out to be a really useful resource for family historians and other researchers.

A further 2500 names have now been added for the period 1840 to June 30, 1908, bringing the total number of names to 29,000. It is searchable by surname, by partial spelling and by parish.

The new CD, version 1.2, will be released at the annual conference of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists at St Bede's College at Queen's Birthday Weekend.

It will also be available from the Diocesan Office — Address Catholic Archives—Baptism Records, P.O. Box 4544, Christchurch.

The cost is \$20, including postage within New Zealand. If you have the earlier version, by trading it in the cost will be reduced to \$10.

National Catholic Archivists' Conference 2008

Early in March I attended the National Catholic Archivist's Conference, a three day event at Mercy Centre in Wellington.

The size of the event surprised me. There were those you would expect to be there—diocesan archivists from Auckland and Wellington, archivists from religious orders and church organisations such as St Vincent de Paul Society — but there were also a number of Catholic Secondary Schools represented and there was one Sister of Mercy from Australia.

The involvement of the schools has come about because the rent Public Records Act requires all schools to maintain archives. Initially this applies to secondary schools but it will soon extend to all schools.

The conference was opened by Archbishop John Dew, who admitted that when the archivist was not about he had been known to sneak into the archives to check things out himself.

Keynote speaker was Dianne Macaskill, CEO of Archives New Zealand. Evelyn Wareham of Archives NZ spoke about standards for archival storage and making material accessible. Sandra Falconer, also from Archives NZ told us about matters such as shelving, boxes and lighting. Joanna Newman of Wellington City Archives spoke about the conflicts that can arise between servicing external clients and the organisation that owns the archive.

I attended several workshops, including one about managing maps and photos, another on computerized cataloguing and a very down to earth one by Pauline Porteous of Westpac about useful tips.

One rather frightening workshop detailed the massive headaches the digital age is creating for archivists and the dangers it poses for long-term preservation of photos and information.

The next national conference is to be held in three years, probably also in Wellington.

After the conference I spent some time in the Archdiocesan Archives, very ably run by Sister de Porres. There is much of interest to Christchurch there, especially pre-1887, and I quickly found information I was looking for about Dean J.J. O'Donnell in Archbishop Redwood's letter books.

I also visited Ken Scadden and Brother Gerard Hogg at Marist Archives and located some church photos from places like Hakattarama and Hornby that I had almost given up on.

To cap off a week of history I again visited Fr Mick O'Meeghan, author of the history of the Christchurch Diocese, at the Marist Centre.

Michael Hanrahan