

# Archivally Speaking

No. 9 — August 2012

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

The new archive space has now been recarpeted and an amount of funding has come through for the necessary fittings and furniture. Applications for funding needed to be made from various trusts etc, because the equipment required for the satisfactory working of the archives is not part of any insurance claim, but rather, new requirements.

The importance of out stored historical material is borne out strikingly to me by the very recent request by Dr Colin Barr, an American PhD, who will be doing research in Australia later this year. His subject is, broadly, Irish Immigration. He is very keen indeed to make a special trip to visit our archives. I have spoken

in detail of the total disarray of the material, describing it as a heap of boxes and papers four metres long, two metres wide and high; - and Dr Barr still wants to come to see what he can, even though he has only two days! He will be hear in early December. I will try to do some diving and digging before he comes in order to help him.

Won't it be great to take a researcher such as Colin Barr and say "Here is the material you want to research"; "Here is a desk"; "Here is a chair".

*Kevin Clark*  
Archivist

## New premises for the Diocesan Archives

As most of you will be aware, following the September 2010 earthquake, most of the contents of the archives room in the south tower of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament were rescued and put into storage, where everything has remained ever since.

Now, we are on the verge of being able to care for diocesan history in a suitable environment.

Following the earthquakes it was recognised an area needed to be set aside to record, store and display the archives of our Diocese. Unit 4, 9 Washington Way, has been leased for that purpose. This is part of the larger premises housing the Bishop's office and the administrative headquarters of the Diocese.

Phil Gourdie from the diocese was given the task of sourcing a design/layout, compiling a budget to prepare the premises, sourcing the relevant funding and oversee the implementation of the project.

Michael Hanrahan, some four years earlier, had prepared an archives premises proposal that incorporated a suggested layout that required 108sm, Unit 4/9 provides an area of 127sm.

This proposal was given to the design engineers at Opus International to assist them in creating working drawings for the project. One specific task was to identify the floor loadings for the building.

When taking into consideration the shelving that would be utilised for storing and displaying the archives specialist engineers set about designing a structure that would provide suspended shelving that would keep the load off the main floor area.

The overall cost of the project was estimated at \$158,000.00. The project has been broken into four stages:

1. Paint and carpet the interior.
2. Design and install the internal dividing walls and suspended shelving.
3. Source and install the specialist display cabinets.
4. Provide the office equipment and staff to record details of the archives.

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# New book recalls memories of Christchurch Diocese churches

Over the 170 years from 1840 about 180 Catholic churches were built in the Christchurch diocese. Some were in the larger towns, but many were built in small villages, often in very remote areas, especially on the goldfields.

As the years have gone by some have been replaced, some moved to new areas and, with population decline, others were simply no longer necessary. The churches ranged from simple corrugated iron huts to massive stone buildings.

A new book, aimed at bringing existing information about all of them together in one place, revives the memories of these churches. It contains more than 300 photos as well as information gleaned from early newspapers, parish histories and other sources.

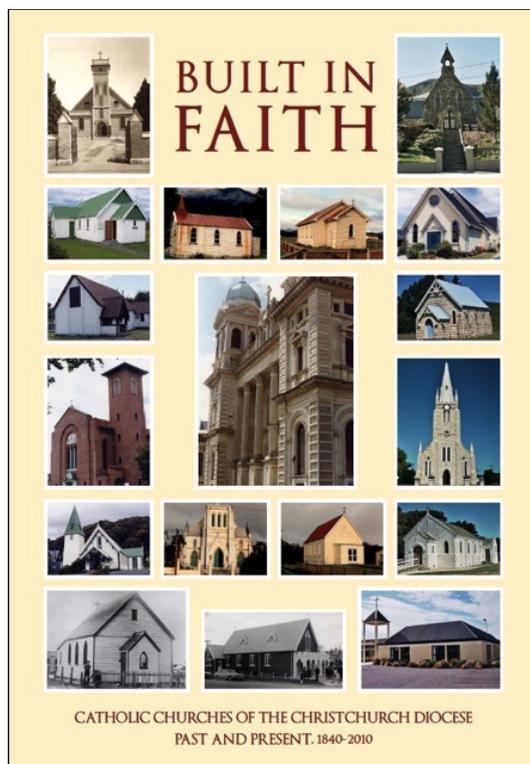
The book was about to be published when the September 2010 earthquake struck Canterbury. Publication was delayed, but after two years, and with the situation regarding many churches still uncertain, it has been decided to proceed without reference to changes since September 2010.

The book is compiled by Michael Hanrahan, who in 2004 wrote the centennial history of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

The price for the 240 page A4 size book is \$60 per copy (GST included) plus postage of \$6

It may be ordered (money with order) from "Churches Book, P O Box 483, Ashburton 7740" or on line to [mhhh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mhhh@xtra.co.nz). If ordering on line, payment is to be made to BNZ Ashburton 02 0836 0080469 97—please use your name as reference.

Orders close on October 31, 2012. The print run will be limited to numbers ordered at that date, so be in early.



## New home for Archives cont...

Stage one has been completed by the landlord and the diocese. The existing boxes of archives from the south tower of the Cathedral have been shifted into unit 4/9 at Washington Way.

An application for funding was submitted to the lotteries commission and has resulted in a grant of \$50,000.00 being approved.

This grant provides for costs incurred in stage 3 of the project.

An application for funding assistance of approximately \$56,000.00 will be made to another fund-

ing source specifically to cover stage 2 of the project. This will allow considerable progress to be made. A response to that application is anticipated within the next two months.

Once funding is in place for stages 2 and 3, work will be scheduled and progress will be made. Stage 4 of the project is the finishing and whilst funding will be required to finish the project this is not viewed as a major obstacle.

It is hoped to have the project completed by the end of March 2013.

### TO CONTACT THE ARCHIVE GROUP:

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