

LETTERBOX

October 23, 2007

Dear Father John Fitzmaurice

I grew up in Christchurch, and attended mass with my Mum. I have such fond memories of going to the "big Cathedral", we went often for Midnight Mass or when a big choral mass was on, but our "locale" was St Peters in Beckenham.

In May of this year, my husband René and I visited family and friends back in New Zealand stopping in Christchurch (we now live in Seattle, Washington) and one of the places on our lists was the Cathedral. It was getting late in the day and we found that the door was locked. But we returned the next day and started walking thru. The place still looked the same; it smelled the same – that wonderful aroma of incense with cold stone. I showed him the stairs leading to the choir – but it was chained off. I continued guiding René thru various spots – talking about the small chapel to the right, the tapestry etc. We arrived at the stained glass window of St Peter & I said a quick prayer:

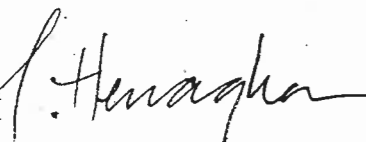
"Dear St Peter I'd really like to show René the 2nd floor of this wonderful church – any chance you could find us some keys?"

Now I'm not saying the response was immediate but within three minutes a nice gentleman came towards us – with a large jingly set of keys! His name was Frank and was connected with the choir. He asked us if he could help and I explained that I was a frequent visitor when I was young and that I was hoping to show my husband upstairs. Frank happily obliged – letting us in and up & gave us a little background on the renovation. My husband found the view from the 2nd floor awe-inspiring. I showed him where I used to run along with friends hiding in the columns (perfect angels of course...) So, I like to think St Peter had a hand guiding Frank to help us, and although I said it at the time, I would like to say "thank you" again, to Frank and to the staff at the Cathedral for up keeping such a wonderful building.

I stopped by the icon of Mary and the wonderful carving of the angels on the wall and lit a candle and said another little prayer, that René & I could have a baby. We had been trying for many years and approaching 39 I was thinking time was running out. I am now 5 months pregnant!

Thank you seems insignificant. God bless you seems more in keeping.

Joanna Henaghan



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'Friends of the Cathedral' Newsletter: Cathedral House, PO Box 4544, Christchurch.

NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE CATHEDRAL



No. 72 : DECEMBER 2007

THE GATHERING OF THE 'FRIENDS' 07

More than seventy 'Friends' were present at this year's 'Gathering' on Sunday 28th October. Bishop Barry Jones celebrated the annual Mass, and at the luncheon which followed Prof. John Simpson shared with the 'Friends' matters which had been on the agenda of the Cathedral Trust over the previous few months.

The first was the 'Stadium Walk' proposed by the Christchurch City Council for the forthcoming Rugby World Cup in 2011. It features a High Street link through the grounds of the Christchurch Polytechnic and the Cathedral precincts on to the AMI Stadium, where hopefully a semi-final match will be played. The Christchurch City Council is to be commended for initiating a higher profile for the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament which has long been on the 'wish list' of the Cathedral Trust.

The second matter addressed was a proposed re-ordering of the interior of the Cathedral to provide more user-friendly toilet facilities and to make possible a new Reconciliation precinct. In his original plan for the Cathedral, the architect Francis William Petre made no provision for toilets. Presumably, parishioners were expected to have been to the toilet before coming to Mass.

Again, strangely, while the architect's brief for the interior re-ordering of the Cathedral (1970-75) makes mention of telephones and first aid, no mention is made of toilet facilities. It was the proposed visit to the Cathedral of Pope John Paul II and some aging cardinals that saw to the introduction of toilets in 1986. Whether they were used on that auspicious occasion is not recorded, but the toilets did little to enhance the image of a user-friendly cathedral. They were located near the priest's sacristy, which meant people had to trek to reach them from the body of the church. Also to be negotiated was the built up area adjacent to the sanctuary, which precluded their use by disabled people, to say nothing of the distraction of the able-bodied crossing the perimeter of the sanctuary during sacred celebrations!

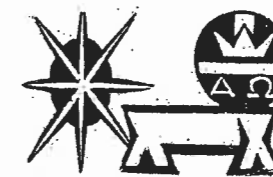
Thought was given to the building of outdoor toilets, but this was discounted because of security problems. Attention then turned to what has served as the Reconciliation Room in the Cathedral since 1976. It is well positioned towards the rear of the Cathedral, adjacent to drains, and large enough to accommodate toilets for both men and women.

But how to provide for the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Older 'Friends' will still remember the days when the aisles of the Cathedral were dotted with 'confessionals'. Even the possibility of creating a kiosk for the purpose found little favour.

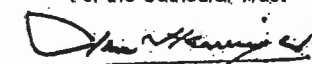
The question was then asked, was there merit in looking at the creation of a 'Reconciliation Chapel' alongside the sanctuary? It was the area which Francis William Petre had originally designated for the 'confessionals', and Simon Pascoe, the present consultant architect for the Cathedral saw no difficulty in modifying the built-up area adjacent to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel to allow access to a 'Reconciliation precinct' at the level of the nave. Since then, initial drawings have been prepared for the areas now designated for the toilets and the 'Reconciliation Chapel'. Hopefully, 2008 will see progress in implementing both.



A Blessed Christmas
to all the 'friends'



For the Cathedral Trust


Monsignor J.M. Harrington

FOR THE RECORD

Since 1995, as Chancellor of the Diocese, one of my duties has been the interment of Diocesan clergy and the care of their graves. I have also conducted visits to Bromley cemetery for young priests and students on pastoral placement. One has only to keep on living to have knowledge of the 'ancestors' and to be acquainted with the stories of our tribe! JMH



'AWAITING THE BLESSED HOPE, AND THE COMING OF THE LORD'

in THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

The Most Rev John Joseph Grimes, S.M., D.D.,
First Bishop of Christchurch,
Died 15th March 1915.

The Most Rev Edward Michael Joyce, D.D.,
Fourth Bishop of Christchurch,
Died 28th January 1964.

in THE CHAPEL OF ST JOHN OF GOD, HALSWELL:

The Most Rev Matthew Joseph Brodie, D.D.,
Second Bishop of Christchurch,
Died 11 October 1943.

in BROMLEY CEMETERY:

The Most Rev Denis William Hanrahan, D.D.,
Sixth Bishop of Christchurch,
Died 1 February 1987.

The Most Rev Brian Patrick Ashby, D.D., C.B.E.,
Fifth Bishop of Christchurch,
Died 5 June 1988.

ALSO BURIED IN BROMLEY CEMETERY ARE:

Fr Alex O'Hare,
Died 30 December 1929, aged 62.

Fr James P. O'Connor,
Died 3 May 1939, aged 62.

Fr Edwin Arthur Anderson,
Died 30 April 1944, aged 54.

Fr Gordon Bowen O'Meehan,
Died 11 August 1944, aged 46.

Fr John McMonagle,
Died 20th February 1949, aged 57.

Fr John A. McKay,
Died 6 December 1953.

Fr James Quinn,
Died 14 June 1958, aged 60.

Fr Peter O'Meehan,
Died 13 February 1962, aged 67.

Mons. Thomas Hanrahan
Died 26 August 1963, aged 78.

Fr Henry G. Bowers, V.G.,
Died 22 October 1938, aged 77.

Fr John Arthur Kilgour,
Died 10 October 1939, aged 41.

Fr Frank Bramwell Seward
Died 14 May 1944, aged 62.

Fr Thomas Browne,
Died 1 June 1945, aged 49.

Fr John William Keane,
Died 6 November 1949, aged 30.

Fr Patrick Madden,
Died 28 May 1955, aged 56.

Mons. James Hanrahan,
Died 2 July 1960, aged 74.

Fr Patrick Timoney,
Died 14 May 1963, aged 66.

Mons. James Aloysius Kennedy, P.A.,
V.G., died 6 September 1963,
aged 85.

A BEQUEST?

Did you ever think of the Cathedral when revising your will?

We cannot take worldly goods with us when we go, but we can so dispose of them that our good works continue after we are gone.

Why not speak to your lawyer about it next time you revise your will?

FORM OF WILL:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Roman Catholic Bishop for the time being of the Christchurch Diocese, the sum of \$ for the general purposes of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament Charitable Trust.

Hopefully, there will always be those who so appreciate their Catholic heritage, that they are moved to have a part in the work of revealing our Cathedral to the present, and preserving it for future generations as well.



Fr John O'Sullivan,
Died 19 January 1964, aged 42.

Fr Denis Lordan,
Died 5 November 1967.

Mons. Thomas McKeon,
28 August 1968, aged 71.

Fr David John Carey,
Died 1 December 1968, aged 38.

Fr Patrick Anthony Joyce,
Died 16 August 1979, aged 81.

Fr Bernard William Pearce,
19 May 1981, aged 59.

Fr John Sarsfield O'Brien,
Died 20 January 1983, aged 83.

Fr Thomas Colin Curnow,
Died 26 April 1984, aged 60.

Fr Gerard Francis Cook (Rosminian)
Died 13 April 1987, aged 64.

Fr William O'Mahony,
Died 15 May 1989, aged 74.

Fr Adolph Setz,
17 April 1991, aged 82.

Fr Thomas Joseph Cahill,
Died 15 December 1992, aged 62.

Fr Ronald Joseph O'Gorman,
Died 5 December 1993, aged 85.

Fr Gerard James Creagh,
Died 6 August 1994, aged 65.

Fr H. Anthony O'Reilly,
Died 24 November 1998, aged 73.

Fr John McHale,
Died 26 June 2001, aged 77.

Fr Edward John Coleman,
Died 9 May 2003, aged 72.

Fr William Gerard Grounds,
Died 16 April 2005, aged 68.

Fr Hubert Hayward (Columban)
Died 25 October 2006, aged 91.

Fr Daniel Healy,
Died 28 May 1965, aged 66.

Fr John Galvin,
Died 13 August 1968, aged 55.

Mons John Finerty, V.G.,
Died 11 December 1968, aged 74.

Fr Francis Kelly,
Died 10 November 1975, aged 68.

Fr Michael Jones,
Died 15 December 1979, aged 60.

Mons Gordon Vincent Daly,
Died 8 November 1981, aged 76.

Fr Thomas Farrell,
Died 14 February 1984, aged 68.

Fr Patrick Foley,
Died 9 September 1984, aged 70.

Fr Edward John Brosnahan,
Died 25 July 1988, aged 71.

Fr Gerard Maurice Kane,
Died 23 February 1991, aged 66.

Fr Edward John Curnow,
Died 25 July 1991, aged 71.

Fr Ciennell Charles Horgan,
Died 18 August 1993, aged 66.

Fr Joseph Patrick Kelly,
Died 31 May 1994, aged 69.

Fr Mark K-Moesbergen,
Died 12 November 1996, aged 47.

Mons Thomas Daly,
Died 9 February 1999, aged 78.

Mons. Thomas Joseph Liddy, P.A.,
O.B.E., died 20 January 2002, aged 85.

Fr John Martin Collins,
Died 10 September 2003, aged 60.

Fr Kevin O'Grady, (Hospital Chaplain)
Died 20 September 2006, aged 71.

(to be continued)



The Trust

*Bishop Barry Jones
Fr Kevin Clark
Mr John Brandts-Giesen
Fr John Fitzmaurice
Ms Alice Flett
Mons James Harrington
Mrs Nell Pascoe
Mr Dick Sullivan
Prof. John Simpson*

SUBSCRIPTIONS

As promised, receipts are enclosed for subscriptions and donations received for the year 2007 - 08.

Subscriptions are asked for with the September 'Newsletter' each year, and to save postage the receipts are sent out with the following 'Newsletter'.

The total received since September is \$1,875.00.

We are especially grateful to 'Friends' who include a donation, as so many do.



They say that bequests are the fastest growing form of fundraising in today's world. Why? Because accumulated wealth, and subsequently inherited wealth, is at an all time high.

They also say that 70% of people who make a bequest to a charitable organisation do so in the last three years of their life. That confirms the general understanding that when a person reviews his/her estate in their later years, they reflect on the various charities and causes with which they have been associated, and in doing so they often decide to leave a bequest to one or more of these charities to ensure they can continue their work.