



The new classrooms, completed for the 2014 fourth term, were blessed by Bishop Dunn on December 12.

The new Mary MacKillop classrooms, designed to provide exciting new facilities and the most modern learning environment, were financed by the diocese and furnished by the school community. They will allow our 321 roll to increase over the years as demand grows. Demolishing a concrete classroom and reciting a re-locatable one, helped replace lost playground space.

The parish council arranged workshops on 'child poverty' - a highly political and moral issue. These culminated in candidates from all parties in the 2014 elections being invited to speak and answer questions at a large public meeting we held in the parish centre.

Although seldom publicised parishioners are well aware much of the success of the parish is due to our parish coordinator, Maggie Hamilton. For a dozen years her leadership, guidance and backup are behind nearly all parish activities. An elderly parishioner was heard to say "She is worth three priests".

Giving in to public pressure, the government, aided by Fonterra and Sanitarium, introduced a breakfast scheme for needy schools. Our parish's Glenbrae breakfast programme was then taken over by the government.

Jannie van Hees, initiator of the Glenbrae Partnership, appealed for funds because the school and parents could not afford musical instruments. Parishioners donated \$1400. Recorders and ukuleles were bought and 12 enthusiastic pupils were given a ukulele to own and first classes were begun in October.

Two large heat pumps on either side of the church were generously donated by Brian Leamy who has family in the parish and who lives both in St. Heliers and California.

In November a small group of teachers, parents and pupils from Glenbrae School came to our Sunday Mass and thanked the parish for its ongoing support of the school. After Mass the students put on a singing and dancing exhibition in the parish centre.

The monthly sausage sizzle to raise funds proved fun and popular. It was set to continue and was held when our Youth Music Group played at Sunday Mass.

SAD NEWS FROM IRELAND
Sister Eileen died on Holy Thursday 2015. We prayed for her on Good Friday and had a largely attended special memorial Mass in early April.



Christmas 2014 hampers awaiting delivery to 66 families from Glenbrae State and St. Pius Schools.

Parishioners led by Gina Matijasevich gave much time, gifts, food items, and money in a huge logistics operation to supply two Christmas wrapped banana boxes filled with \$170 worth of basic food and household items to each family. Every child in the family was given a Christmas gift. Bakers Delight generously supplied Christmas cakes. Boys from Sacred Heart College helped parishioners to pack the boxes. On December 15 a car cavalcade of volunteers did the deliveries.

Coffee after Sunday Mass put such a gloss on Parish life, a monthly social after Saturdays vigil was begun.

Preparation for First Communion for St. Ignatius pupils who have not been brought up in the tradition of regularly attending Sunday Mass, will now begin their sacramental programme in year 3 - giving them an extra year's preparation as they will continue the course during their year 4. They will then receive the Sacrament in year 4 along with the other children (totalling almost 80 in 2015) who have been receiving the one year Catholic School RE programme.

The St Ignatius Circle, sponsored by Sister Paula Mary SMSM, a resident at 6 Kotiri St., provides a very popular, monthly get-together for those in their "Wisdom Years". A group for playing cards has also begun monthly meetings.

PARISH GROUPS ARE PROMOTED WEEKLY IN THE NEWSLETTER

Youth Music Group

6.30pm Wednesdays in the Parish Centre.

If you're bored with traditional music lessons but enjoy playing your own kind of music with others your age, you'll love being part of this lively, fun and social group! Call Ruth on ph 021 880 424.

Christian

Meditation

Thursdays 2pm, Herne Bay. Call Jane ph 361 4657. All welcome.

Playgroup

Tuesdays 9am - 11.30am in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

St Ignatius Social Club

Fourth Friday of the month. A great opportunity for teenagers to get-together for events, entertainment, outings & general good times!

Join the Group: facebook.com/groups/stignatiusocialclub/

Tween Scene

Meeting regularly. Keep an eye on the Parish Newsletter for details of upcoming Tween Scene get-togethers, or email Melinda at melindapdwir@gmail.com to join the mailing list.

About mid 2016 a couple of rows of seats began to be occupied by Tongan families on Sundays. They soon became regular parishioners taking part in the readings and now they provide a full Tongan choir once a month for Sunday Mass.

Running parish youth activities has always been difficult but at the 2017 AGM two years of successful operations were reported. *Tween Scene* for school years 6 to 8 and the *St. Ignatius Social Club* for years 9 to 13 met regularly and are well supported.

Our Youth Band is now well established and able to call on about 20 volunteers. It plays at our monthly youth Masses.

The Principal of St. Pius X School spoke at our September 3, 2017 Sunday Mass and thanked parishioners for their strong continuing support. He also appealed for funds to take his pupils on an educational trip to the zoo. Thanks to parishioners' donations the \$1500 target was topped the next day.

Our parish organised a well-attended public meeting of all party candidates for the local electorate 2017 election in the parish centre. Candidates were subjected to vigorous questions from a multi view audience.

At Sunday Mass December 10, 2017 and three days later at a school Mass, tributes were paid to Carol Sullivan, principal of St. Ignatius who was retiring after 25 years at the school. Presentations from Glendowie Parish, the school and our parish were made in appreciation of her astounding contribution to St. Ignatius School for so many years.

In 2017, 60 children made their First Holy Communion - the same number as the previous year.

Christmas Food Hampers
DECEMBER 2017

Wow! What an amazing response we have had from our community for this year's Christmas Food Hamper mission. A grand total of \$19,402 has been donated which has exceeded our initial target of \$16,000. This has allowed us to add some extra items to each hamper and increase the total number of hampers donated from 180 to 200. What an incredible and worthwhile achievement for our community! The Hampers will be delivered to Glenbrae School on Monday 11 December and to St Pius X School on Monday 18 December. A big thank you to all who have played their part in making this happen!

ANNA SWANN IS OUR NEW PRINCIPAL

On Friday February 2 we welcomed our new principal to St. Ignatius with a powhiri. It was a beautiful day, well attended by parents, families and the wider school community. Our new year 1 children also joined the Manuhiri as they were called onto the school by the Kapa Haka group. And popular Father John spoke on behalf of the school and Anna's brother and uncle spoke on her behalf.

Anna soon proved to be a brilliant and popular principal so when the year drew to an end and our school community learned she was leaving to become principal of St. Dominics College, where she and her daughters had been educated, we were shocked. St Dominics was in desperate need of leadership and the authorities appointed Anna. We had to console ourselves with the thought, their need was greater than ours.



Pupils from Glenbrae School, at Mass November 5, 2017, thanked the parish for donations to their holiday camp and showed us a film of the camp's activities and put on a Tongan dance exhibition.

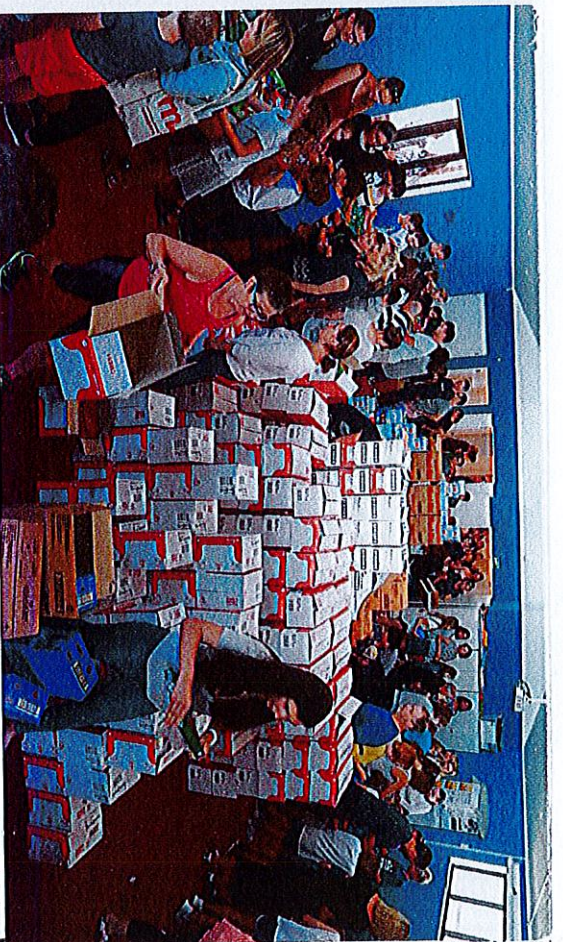
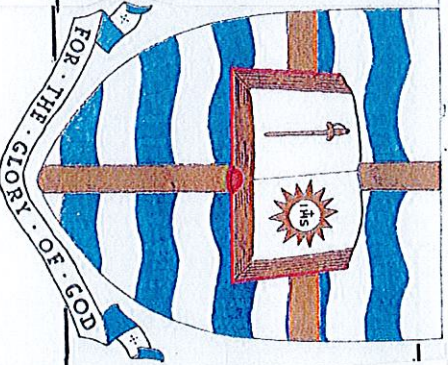
On Sunday October 26, Bishop Cullhane brought a party of Seminarians to Sunday Mass. Afterwards they mixed and talked with parishioners over coffee and all enjoyed this new experience.



THE SHARING FRUIT DISPLAY AT OUR EARTH FAIR

On November 18, 2018 the Parish staged an Earth Fair on our Church grounds after 9.30 Mass. Display stalls were set up illustrating ways we could lessen the impact of our lifestyles on our environment – in the spirit of Pope Francis encyclical “Laudate Si”. The displays’ themes included Compositing, Plastic Free St. Heliers, Garden to Table, Bike Riding, Community Harvesting, Sustainable Funerals and Waste Reduction. There was also a Poster Competition for Children. There was huge Parishioner interest and participation.

The first St. Ignatius School Board of Trustees chose this badge in 1989. Later it was used by the Parish and used as a symbol of the Parish. It was designed originally in colour by Colin Davis, long time parishioner, former Auckland City Councillor and president of the N.Z. Heraldry Society. An embroidered coloured version was used on the school uniform. Often the badge was reproduced in black and white which made it less meaningful. The wavy blue lines and white bars, symbolic of water, represent our seaside location.



PARISHIONERS, YOUNG AND OLD PACKING CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

On December 9, 2018 St. Ignatius parishioners packed 370 Christmas hampers to be given to each family attending Glenbrae State School and St. Pius Glen Innes Catholic School and also 100 hampers to be given to the Sisters of Mercy’s Te Waipuna Puawai for families in their care. Each hamper (a banana box decorated with Christmas paper) contained about \$100 worth of goods, all donated by our parishioners and with help from Countdown. A huge organisation of parishioners with cars completed the delivery in the one day.

The gold cross is a symbol ours is a Christian School and Parish. The open book with red binding symbolises learning and represents the Bible. The sword on the left page is a reminder St. Ignatius was a former soldier. The symbol on the right page represents the glory of the Eucharist with the monogram IHS. The motto: *FOR THE GLORY OF GOD* was suggested by Father Angland, former Parish Priest, and is associated with the Jesuits founded by St. Ignatius. It is also an inspiring expression of the vision of our Catholic School and Parish.