

# CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL PARISH

KO TE KARAITI KEI TE PŪ

*Christ in the Centre*

ŌTAUHAHI - CHRISTCHURCH

## Welcome!

***Welcome to this special edition of our parish newsletter. This has been an extraordinary year of change for us in Christchurch. Against the unwanted backdrop of the Covid-19 virus, our diocese has embarked upon an exciting pastoral plan courageously focused on a renewed commitment to evangelisation – bringing the good news of the gospel to the world.***

Bishop Paul describes our new focus in this way:

*(This new plan)...“marks our desire to be more deliberate in our pastoral planning, in forming our parishes to be places where people’s faith is supported and nourished every day of the week, where we are focused on going out from our parishes to witness to Christ by our words and actions. This is a time of reinvigoration and renewal for us all. It will involve changes in the way we function as a parish, what we offer for spiritual support and nourishment, where we target our resources and energies.”*

*(Bishop's Pastoral Letter Pentecost 2020)*



We love our parishes, but in our hearts we know that we cannot continue as before. Our Mass count is gradually declining, and our population aging. It's time to find new ways to bring timeless truths to a world eager for good news and the hope that only Jesus Christ can offer.

We are restructuring the leadership of the parish, drawing more people into positions of responsibility, providing new opportunities for everyone to contribute their gifts for the mission of the Church.

We want our parish to be equipped for this new evangelisation. We know we each need conversion of heart. We want to grow in confidence to tell others about what life in Christ means for us. And we want to welcome people to come join us in worship of God and proclamation of our faith to the ends of the earth.

In this special newsletter we outline the groups and persons who make up the leadership of our new parish community.

I hope that what you see here gives you new heart and confidence as we step forward along the path which Jesus himself lays out for us. Please pray for the success of our mission.

Sincerely in the Lord,

*Father Simon*

**Father Simon Eccleton  
Cathedral Administrator**



# Parishes grow

## when people are welcomed

*Speaking to the priests and people of the Diocese of Rome, Pope Francis emphasized the need for parishes to be places of welcome.*

"Our parishes," Pope Francis said, "must be capable of generating a people, that is, of offering and creating relationships where people feel that they are known, recognized, welcomed, listened to, loved – in other words, not anonymous parts of a whole."

The digital world is changing the dynamics of parish life, which is no longer bound to a particular geographic location, but increasingly reflects the dynamic of a "community by adoption". People commit to parishes where they feel welcomed and nourished – even if they need to travel outside their immediate area to go to church.

There are many kinds of people in the world and in our city. If as a parish community we are serious about welcoming, knowing and acknowledging newcomers, we must be willing to open ourselves without prejudice to their rich diversity, to understand their hopes, and to appreciate their potential. It is easy to welcome people who are like us, those with whom we feel comfortable. It is much more of a challenge to put on the shoes of people different from ourselves, to understand their thoughts and their experiences.

Yet, when we recognize that in welcoming the other – the

'neighbour' who is not like us and whom we fear may upset the established order – we are meeting Christ, what at first seems like an obligation or burden soon reveals itself as a blessing and an opportunity for growth. As Pope Francis reminds us, faith is not a list of things to do, but rather "a liberation that renews us at every step".

Whatever our talents, we are invited to use them to build up our parish community as we continue to journey in faith with one another.

**Charles Shaw**  
**Transition Committee**



# Meet our team...

## The Transition Committee

This group of parishioners was brought together by Fr Simon at the beginning of March 2020 to assist him with the merging of two existing parishes and establishing the new Cathedral Parish. Fr Simon stressed the importance of keeping the 'Bishop's plan' (explaining his thinking) in front of this group and our parishioners as we started to plan the way forwards for our new parish. The goal of this group was to provide best advice to Fr Simon as we worked our way through a range of issues that included ministries, liturgy, communications, parish records & archives, hospitality, finances and administrative matters.

Whilst the journey of this group was interrupted by the Covid-19



lockdown, it continued to hold regular meetings via Zoom. This group will continue its contribution to the oversight of the life of the parish, even when our Senior Leadership Team has been selected.

The Transition Committee members includes three parishioners from each of

Cathedral and St Francis of Assisi: Louise Boyle, Diana Clark, Maurice Lawlor, Carole Sandford, Charles Shaw, Bernard Toner together with Fr Simon, Fr Job and Fr Thanh. The group is convened by Mike Moore and joining the group following their appointment were Clare Bell and Kirsten Tester.

## Our Parish Name

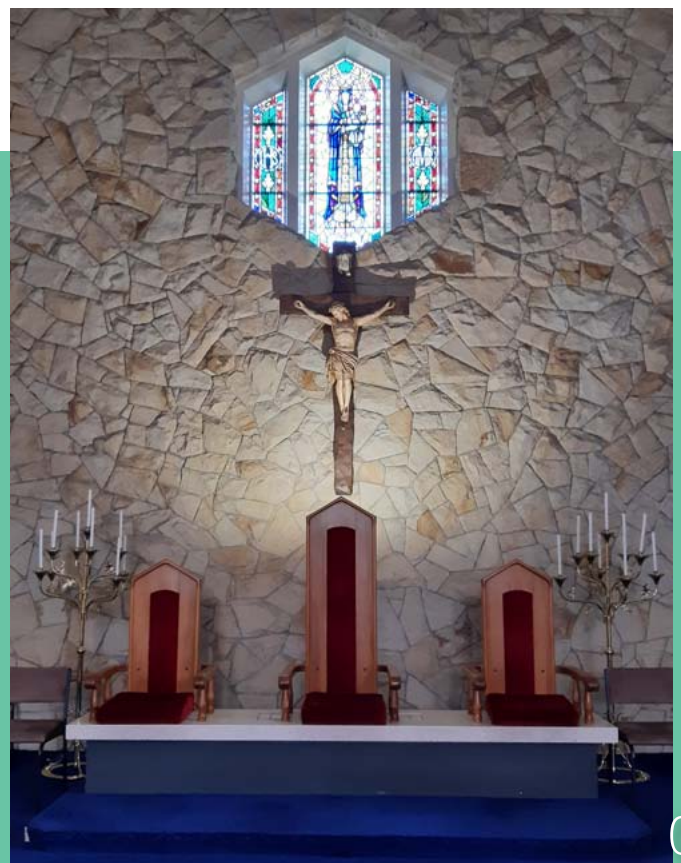
Some parishioners may be a little unsure of what the correct name of our Parish is.

**Our Parish is called Cathedral Parish**

**Our Church is called St Mary's Pro-Cathedral**

The church has had the title of Pro-Cathedral since the Bishop's Chair (*centre in photo*) was moved to St Mary's after the earthquakes.

A decision on the future name of the parish rests with Bishop Paul.





# Meet our team...



**Clare Bell**  
(Pastoral Worker)

My responsibilities in the Parish are varied.

With no church on site at St Francis of Assisi School I am working in the school community building a link to the Parish. I work with the school senior leadership team to support the school in the areas of pastoral care and evangelization.

I love to work in a team so in my role I am forming teams so that many people in the parish can be actively involved in Parish life. I am such a believer that when we become actively involved, we have more of a sense of belonging. For example, we are forming a team who will oversee and support

youth and young adult ministry in the Parish and a team to develop Children and Family Ministry.

My other hat is the Sunday Experience. This includes ensuring we have enough people to serve in ministries at Mass on Sundays but also finding ways to grow in faith and in community on a Sunday.

I am passionate about building a Parish where we are family, building strong connections, sharing faith and inviting others to join us.

You can contact Clare on  
**[cbell@cathedralparish.nz](mailto:cbell@cathedralparish.nz)**  
or 021 213 5620



**Kirsten Challies**  
(Pastoral Worker)

It is a privilege to serve our parish and to be part of a team that is continually aware of God at work in our Diocese, and one that is attentive to their responsibility of listening to God's leading. I am excited about our Bishop's encouragement to be open to new ways of doing things in order that we minister effectively in this time and in this place. This is a new age we live in and I feel the responsibility of keeping the flame of faith alive for this period of history and passing it on to the next.

I personally feel called to continually come to know God more and to draw near to Him, so, my responsibilities within the

parish align well with my personal desires. My efforts are targeted toward ensuring that we look beyond our doors, to find ways to make Christ known and relevant to 'Joe Bloggs' on the street and to all those within our parish boundary. Also, to implement what we can to enable all those within our doors to have the opportunity to know God personally and grow in their relationship with Him. In addition to this, I help ensure that members of our parish family are cared for and supported in both spiritual and practical ways.

You can contact Kirsten on  
**[kchallies@cathedralparish.nz](mailto:kchallies@cathedralparish.nz)**  
or 027 437 6737



**Fr Simon Eccleton**  
(Cathedral  
Administrator)

From my teenage years I have generally lived in Christchurch. I have a brother and sister living overseas and a younger sister here in Christchurch. I've worked in various parishes around the diocese over my 31 years as a priest. More recently I was at

Papanui Parish, briefly at St Paul's, Dallington, and then the last eight years at St Francis of Assisi Parish, Mairehau. I enjoy running, movies and travel, listening to a range of music, and relaxing with friends. I am happy to be among you all at the Cathedral Parish.



**Fr Job  
Thyikalamuriyil**  
(Assistant Priest)

I feel privileged to be one of the Assistant Priests of the new Cathedral Parish and thank Bishop Paul for appointing me to this Parish. I was born and raised in India. I am one of eight children. My training for the priesthood was also undertaken in India. I was ordained in 1983 as a Diocesan Priest for the Diocese of Cochin and was parish priest after two years of my ordination. I arrived in New Zealand in 2010 before the earthquakes and have been parish priest in Burwood, Mairehau, Opihi,

Leeston and Lincoln parishes. I was also privileged to turn the first sod and open the key of the newly built church in Lincoln last year. I have enjoyed meeting and working with many wonderful people since being in New Zealand. My hobbies are playing violin, drawing pictures, and photography. I love visiting with parishioners in their homes and pastoral counselling. I am really excited about the vision of Bishop Paul for our Diocese and am looking forward to working with you. Blessings.



**Fr Thanh  
Tran**  
(Assistant Priest)

Hello everyone from Father Thanh Tran. I was born and grew up in a Catholic village in the middle part of Vietnam. While I was studying politics and public administration at the National Academy of Public Administration and Politics in Saigon, the biggest city in Vietnam, I was touched by the grace of God and was called to New Zealand to study for the priesthood.

I first landed in Christchurch, studied English here for about one and half years, and then went to Auckland to study theology and philosophy at Holy Cross Seminary and Good Shepherd College. I was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Christchurch at the end of 2015 and

have been working in a number of parishes in this beautiful land which I now call "home."

It is really an honour for me to be among you in this parish and to work with Fr Simon, Fr Job, and the members of the Cathedral Parish team. I look forward to getting to know you and your families better. I hope that through the mercy and grace of God, we'll work together to make our parish community even more fruitful and to help one another become closer to God. May the Lord bless us so that whatever we do may be for the greater glory of God and for the good of one another.



**Colleen Carr**  
(Parish Secretary)

I worked alongside Fr Chris Friel at the Cathedral Parish from 2011 until before the amalgamation of the Cathedral and St Francis of Assisi parishes and now have been appointed to the position of Parish Secretary at the new Cathedral Parish. I have enjoyed my time at the Cathedral and getting to know many of you and I look forward to maintaining these existing connections as well as developing new connections in our parish.

In my spare time I enjoy going for walks with my dog, travelling, reading and spending time with family and friends.

You are welcome to call into the office and make yourself known to me when you are at the Pro-Cathedral. My work hours are 8.30am - 12 noon Monday to Friday.

You can contact me on  
**office@cathedralparish.nz**  
or 379 1068



**Kirsten Tester**  
(EA to Fr Simon  
Eccleton)

Kia Ora, I have spent the last 8 years working with an amazing team at Mairehau and feel blessed to have been appointed to the role of EA to Fr Simon and to work in the Parish Office alongside Colleen. My role is primarily assisting Fr Simon with whatever he needs. The role also includes management of the parish financial processes, payroll, property, health & safety and safeguarding, and backing up the Parish Secretary.

I believe strongly that the Mission of the church, spreading the Good News of Jesus, needs to permeate all aspects of our lives and this includes being in the parish office. We have the Call to make someone's experience of church be a good experience from the first point of contact.

You can contact me in the parish office Tuesday to Friday on  
**ea@cathedralparish.nz**  
or 595 1053



**Don Whelan**  
Diocesan  
Musical Director

Don Whelan holds the position of Musical Director for the Diocese of Christchurch and has held this role for over 50 years.

Don provides music for our Sunday Masses and conducts the CBS

Choir and Orchestra at the Pro-Cathedral 11.00am Solemn Mass.

He has travelled extensively and enjoys technology and of course, sports cars.





**Paul and Sam  
Eastwood-Williams**  
(Sacristans)

Paul and Sam Eastwood-Williams are married with four adult children. They have been running their own business for 26 years. Sam was on the Parish Council for five years and served as Chairperson for one year.

Paul is on the Altar Serving team and for the last nine years has been in charge of the servers at the Solemn Mass on Sundays and helping with all the Diocesan liturgical events such as Christmas, Easter.

The Sacristan position is more

than setting up the Masses. We help the priests with weddings, funerals and welcome visiting dignitaries and also deal with the maintenance and presentation of the church. We are here to help with visitor's and parishioner's queries. We are helped by a team, Christina Killkelly who helps with weekend Masses and does a wonderful job with the linen and Helen McKenzie who helps with the 9.30am Sunday Mass. We are honoured to be doing this ministry and are both excited to be working with the new parish team.

## Interim Finance Committee

The Interim Finance Committee members shown in the photo (are from the left) Michael McDrury, Bernard Toner, Robert Watson, Fr Simon and Wayne McTague.

From before the formation of the new parish the Interim Finance Committee has been providing advice to Father Simon as Cathedral Administrator and liaising with the Diocese about the financial matters relating to closing off the old Parish Charitable Trusts and laying the ground work for sound financial management in the new Parish.

Much of the hands-on work in setting up the new financial accounts and processes for the new parish falls onto the



Parish Office staff, Kirsten Tester and Colleen Carr. We acknowledge the many hurdles and challenges our admin team have overcome to make the new Parish function well on a daily basis.

The Interim Finance Committee continues to look

at best practice in managing the parish accounts as well as reviewing all the property and assets the new parish hold to ensure good stewardship of funds to allow us to carry out the Mission of the church.

**Bernard Toner**  
**Interim Finance Committee**

*“This is a time of reinvigoration and renewal for us all.”*

- Bishop Paul Martin SM

# New Logo & Description



## CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL PARISH

KO TE KARAITI KEI TE PŪ

*Christ in the Centre*

ŌTAUTAHĪ - CHRISTCHURCH

The logo of the Catholic Cathedral Parish, Ōtautahi-Christchurch, takes its origin from scripture:

*"I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery."*  
- Col 2:2.

The logo represents the people, ethnicities and communities that make up the parish, each bringing their gifts and 'colour', being 'woven' together to make something new and stronger. The woven 'tapestry' created is a cross, the symbol of our salvation, that represents Christ himself.

As the Catholic Cathedral Parish in the centre of the city, we are the visible and tangible sign of His love and outreach. With our minds "focussed on Christ", and with Christ at the centre of everything we do, we will more fully live out the call of the Church to bring Christ and be Christ in the world today.

We are "Ko te Karaiti kei te pū"  
- Christ in the centre of Ōtautahi-Christchurch.

*"Christ has no body now, but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."* - Teresa of Avila

*Visit us:* 373 Manchester Street, Christchurch

*Online:* [catholiccathedralchch.org.nz](http://catholiccathedralchch.org.nz)

[facebook.com/catholiccathedralchch.org.nz](https://facebook.com/catholiccathedralchch.org.nz)

*Write to us:* PO Box 10069, Phillipstown, Christchurch 8145

## PARISH INFORMATION

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm  
Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am, 11am  
Choral Mass, 4.30pm, 6.00pm  
Te Rangimarie 11.00am

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday to Friday  
7.30am, 9.15am, 12.05pm  
Saturday 9.15am  
(Novena at 9.45am Saturday)  
Public Holiday 9.15am

### RECONCILIATION

Monday to Friday 11.30am  
Saturday 9.45am

### BISHOP OF CHRISTCHURCH

Bishop Paul Martin SM

### PRESBYTERY

03 377 5610

### CATHEDRAL ADMINISTRATOR

Fr Simon Eccleton  
[adm@cathedralparish.nz](mailto:adm@cathedralparish.nz)

### ASSISTANT PRIESTS

Fr Job Thyikalarmuriyil  
[frjobs@gmail.com](mailto:frjobs@gmail.com)

Fr Thanh Tran  
[frthanh@cathedralparish.nz](mailto:frthanh@cathedralparish.nz)

### PARISH OFFICE

03 379 1068

### Office Hours

Mon 8.30am - 12 noon  
Tues - Fri 8.30am - 2.00pm

### Parish Secretary

Colleen Carr 03 379 1068  
[office@cathedralparish.nz](mailto:office@cathedralparish.nz)

### Executive Assistant to the Administrator

Kirsten Tester 03 595 1053  
[ea@cathedralparish.nz](mailto:ea@cathedralparish.nz)

### PARISH PASTORAL WORKERS

03 379 1068

### Kirsten Challies

[kchallies@cathedralparish.nz](mailto:kchallies@cathedralparish.nz)

### Clare Bell

[cbell@cathedralparish.nz](mailto:cbell@cathedralparish.nz)