



# the Cornerstone

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE FOUNDATION MAGAZINE ISSUE 23 | AUTUMN/WINTER 2018

## Former Rector now Bishop of Christchurch

St Patrick's College's former Rector Father Paul Martin SM has been ordained as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Christchurch.

He was Rector from 2008-13 and is the first to be made a Bishop.

His appointment was announced late last year by Pope Francis. Bishop Paul succeeds Bishop Barry Jones who died in February 2016.

The ordination was held at Christchurch Boys' High School's auditorium on Saturday, March 3.

In a ceremony involving Latin, Maori and English, Pope Francis' diplomatic representative to New Zealand, Archbishop Martin Krebs, read the Pope's message mandating Bishop Paul's appointment.

Speaking at the ordination Cardinal John Dew highlighted the important role of service in the life of a bishop.

"Service is never far from the mind of a bishop," he said.

"A bishop's role is not one of honour but of function, striving to serve rather than rule."

Addressing the people of Christchurch, he told them, "Today you are gifted with someone who is ready to serve you.

"I am sure the people of Christchurch will delight in Bishop Paul as someone who is here with you and for you."

Describing Bishop Paul as a "humble servant," he told the congregation that the only authority the bishop had was that of service.

At the conclusion of the ceremony Bishop Paul spoke with raw honesty and showed what a gift he will be to the diocese of Christchurch.

Thanking his family, particularly his mother and late father, he said, "I am very blessed being born into a family that is stable, loving and showed me what living a Christian life looks like".



Father Paul is ordained Bishop by Cardinal John Dew in the Christchurch Boys' High School auditorium.

He continued, "Growing up in Hastings, there were 14 Marists living in the presbytery and so I had lots of great examples of how Marist life could be lived.

"I could see myself living that way also.

"So today, I am who I am because of my natural family and religious family."

Reflecting on his 24 years of priestly ministry in various dioceses in New Zealand he told the people that he now belonged to them.

"I'm no longer a wandering religious. Christchurch is my home," he said.

Bishop Paul's appointment is potentially for 25 years. Aged 50 and relatively young for a Bishop, church policy says he will remain in the role until he is 75.

St Pat's was well-represented at the ordination. Rector Neal Swindells headed staff Sarah Parkinson, Andrew Brennan, Krystyna Geris, Gerardine Parkinson, Maria Elenio and Peter Amitrano plus his wife Trudy Amitrano.

In addition there were our College Marists Fr Pat Brophy SM, Fr Matt Crawford SM and Brother Matt Morris SM.

Also in the group were the college's past Board of Trustees chair Chris McCarthy, current board member Audrey Madigan, her husband Paul and two sons Liam Madigan (Old Boy) and Jacob Madigan (current student) plus students Samson Alaimoana and Joseph Sison.

Sources include [www.cathnews.co.nz](http://www.cathnews.co.nz)



Bishop Paul with student Johnny English and his father Connor English after the St Patrick's Day Big Boys' Breakfast in March. Bishop Paul was honoured with a haka by students. In the afternoon he celebrated the St Patrick's Day Mass for staff and senior students at St Mary of the Angels. The last time the college held the Mass there was in 2012 when Bishop Paul was the College Rector. Since then the church was closed for earthquake strengthening and re-opened in time for Easter last year.

### NEW APPOINTMENT Q & A

**How and when did you learn of your appointment as Bishop of Christchurch?**

I was visiting Christchurch for a couple of days, while on holiday from Rome, and I received a message from the Apostolic Nuncio asking me to ring him. I got that message while I was at Diamond Harbour, so I was looking over the harbour back to Lyttelton while he told me that the Holy Father had appointed me the Bishop of Christchurch.

**Was your recent work as General Bursar for the Society of Mary in Rome preparation for a Bishop's role in general?**

I don't think that the intention was ever to train me to be a Bishop, it was the role that I was asked to fill after the previous Bursar General had cancer and had to return to Australia, so it was all very quickly set up. Obviously working in the financial side of things is helpful in this

new role of being bishop. But I probably learnt the most about finances when I was Rector at St Pat's.

**Where will you live in Christchurch?**

I will be living at the Cathedral Presbytery in Barbadoes Street, which is next to the damaged Catholic Cathedral.

**What does your role as Bishop involve?**

Being Bishop has a number of aspects. Firstly I am responsible for all the parishes in the diocese, to see that they are staffed with priests, that the people are receiving the spiritual care they need and that the material welfare is being looked after. The Bishop is the proprietor of all the primary schools in the diocese and four secondary schools, so ensuring that they are supported and have what is needed is also important. Then there are the different Catholic groups in the diocese to support them and ensure they fulfil their tasks. The Bishop visits

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## Adventurer Mike Allsop guest speaker at Benefit Dinner



Everest mountaineer, adventurer, pilot and extreme marathon competitor **Mike Allsop** will be guest speaker at this year's Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction.

The SPC Wellington Foundation will host this year's event on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Mike is an ordinary family man proving that anybody can accomplish extraordinary things.

But this isn't a talk about how to climb Everest or run a marathon. It's a talk about how to achieve the things that seem impossible.

These core principles will help you draw parallels in your own life, both personally and professionally. He will speak from the heart about the power of goal setting.

The focus for our fundraising will be Teacher Professional Development - Promoting Excellence in Practice.

The theme is in line with our core values of excellence and learning and we are aiming to continue supporting our staff, giving them opportunities to develop excellence in teaching – excellent teachers help our students to be the best they can be.

The modern environment provides many challenges: The digital age is ever-changing and moves rapidly, teachers must be increasingly culturally responsive, striving to teach well multiple ethnicities and it is also critically important that they are prepared to deal with the complexities of mental health and well-being of students.

Teachers must themselves be constantly learning. We want to encourage good teachers to be amazing teachers.

We also want to recognise the special role of the teacher in a student's life, and that the role at St Pat's is also so much more

than just teacher – they are a role model and fundamental in enhancing the special character of the College.

You are warmly invited to join fellow Old Boys, current and past parents, staff and friends of the College to enjoy an entertaining night celebrating and supporting St Pat's.

The ticket price of \$80 per person includes a glass of bubbles on arrival, a three-course dinner with table wine, and a night of great live entertainment. With the annual fast-paced live auction not to be missed, of course!

Book tables for groups of 10. Individuals and smaller groups can be accommodated.

For further information or to book your ticket(s) email [development@stpats.school.nz](mailto:development@stpats.school.nz)

Our grateful thanks to the 2018 dinner sponsors:

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*New Appointment Q & A continued...*

all the parishes regularly, has a number of committees to attend, and obviously ensures that the priests are cared for and supported. There are a number of Trusts that the Bishop is a member of as well. So generally there is enough to keep the Bishop going!

### What are you most looking forward to in the role?

I am looking forward to meeting the people of the diocese and being with them over the coming 25 years, working with them to see that our parish life is strong, that our young people are supported and have the opportunities they need to come to love and know Christ, and that we keep looking out for ways to spread the Gospel in the diocese. We are

living in quite a dynamic time in terms of a number of decisions to be made, and I like the challenge and opportunities that come with that.

### What are the major challenges facing the property side of the diocese?

The biggest challenge and decision will be around the Cathedral and what we are going to do about that in terms of rebuilding or restoring. Marian College, which has been on a temporary site for six years after the earthquake also needs to be found a permanent home, and I am very keen that this is done as soon as possible. A number of other buildings require strengthening and so we need to look at the financial implications of this and also around the siting of parishes into the future for the city.

### What are the major challenges facing the spiritual life of the diocese?

Like all diocese we are concerned that our young people are not participating in the life of the Church as we would hope. We want to keep finding ways of supporting them and giving them an experience of loving Christ so that they will value that and keep growing in their faith once they have finished school. Family life is under a lot of pressure in our modern society and so helping families to be places of prayer and stability is also a challenge, both on the spiritual level but also on the practical level. Ensuring that our older Catholics receive the care and support spiritually that they need is also important, especially as they come to the later stages of their lives that their spiritual needs are being met and supported.

## Senior students help teach English at Marist mission

Nine senior St Pat's students became temporary teachers themselves to Burmese students at a Marist mission in Ranong in southern Thailand in January.

Most of the Burmese students were from the Marist school in Ranong but others from neighbouring learning centres also joined them for the "English camp".

The mission helps Burmese refugees who have crossed over the border into Thailand.

The students were accompanied by teachers Maurice Atkinson and Fr Matt Crawford.

The idea for the visit came from Mr Atkinson. He and his wife Natalie spent 18 months in Ranong as volunteer teachers, and the experience of helping those in difficult circumstances made a lasting impression on both.

Fr Matt said the St Patrick's students were struck by the dedication and determination the Burmese teenagers brought to their studies.

The St Patrick's College Foundation gave a \$2000 grant towards the \$3000 cost for Year 12 student Duh Ceu to be part of the trip. He came to New Zealand as a child refugee from Myanmar.

Trip organisers Mr Atkinson and Father Matt were keen to include Duh Ceu as he speaks Burmese and is doing well at school. Duh Ceu taught the other St Pat's students some rudimentary Burmese language before they left.

The foundation funds came from the 2017 Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction for Educational Diversity and Learning Support.

### Duh Ceu shares his memories of the Ranong trip:

My trip to Ranong has been amazing. I thank you for the opportunity for me to go with my two favourite teachers and eight other students.

This trip means a lot to me because I never thought I would be able to go back to the place where I lived in before.

The first day we arrived in Bangkok I feel like I'm home again because of the smell of pollution and the traffic. While we are in the

car on our way to the hotel I see people working with no shoes and not having a full over work equipment.

I imagine my Dad working like this for a long time, looking after six kids earning five New Zealand dollars an hour because of where we came from, like if you are from Myanmar you earn half of what the Thai people get. If my Dad earns five dollars Thai people earn ten dollars.

Also if you couldn't speak Thai you will earn very little.

When we arrive in Ranong two of the Priests pick us up at the airport, then we got in the minivan and they take us to the hotel.

The next day we went to visit the Marist Asia Foundation school, the school where we are going to teach English for the whole trip.

At the school all the students were from Myanmar. They happily smiled at us. I think to myself how they are excited to see us.

I was so happy too. On that day we didn't talk to any students because we need to prepare more on teaching. I feel really excited for the next day.

We also bring some gifts for them, pens and some New Zealand gifts as well as sports gear for the school. After that each of us has to chat with four to five people and we ask them about how they feel about being there in Ranong because they are all from Myanmar and they don't mean to stay in Ranong.

Each student has to tell us about themselves and their family. When I talk with them most of them say my parents are in Myanmar and their kids are here in Ranong. Some of them have no parents. I feel real pain and sad looking at them, the struggle they have been through I couldn't talk to them much as I want too because I have been through it as well.

They also tell me about how they love education, it just amazing seeing their



*Duh Ceu, right, teaching English to Burmese students in Ranong.*

passion in learning and they all have a dream to do something in the world.

I'm just feeling so sad because I was in the same situation when I was in Myanmar before I moved here. I couldn't go to school so I did farming with my Dad from age 7.

The last day was the sad one because we went to visit a home as the Dad was badly injured from working in the fishing boats. They have been in Thailand for 20 years and their house has got nothing apart from cooking equipment and the Dad got a broken foot which he cannot work properly.

Even though they are still smiling to us I feel so sad and pain in my heart. They are just incredible living day by day thinking and worrying about food they need for the table each day. We give a little money to this family which we all wanted to do and agree to it.

I have an amazing time to teach them. They have learned a lot and I have learned a lot from them as well. I feel thankful for this. I have connected with them and they have been talking to me on social media and they learn more of English.

One day when I finish university I hope to go back and do voluntary work. Lots of memories and lot of pictures.

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

*Past Present Future*

## Big turnout for popular Grandparents Day

Grandparents Day in April was a great success. About 90 grandparents and their Year 9 grandsons attended the annual event.

The morning included welcomes by Deputy Rector and Old Boy Wayne Mills, Development Manager Louise McKenzie and Head Prefect Ben Shepherd and guided tours of the school led by the grandsons.

The College song *Sectare Fidem* was sung by College choir *Con Anima* and Year 9 students Savio Concessio and Joshua Sison spoke about their first months as a young Patrician.

Grandparents present included two Old Boys, Kerry Turkington (1957) and Mark Fouhy (1958-62).



*Mark and Patricia Fouhy with grandson Jacob Fouhy.*



*Kerry and Jeanette Turkington (who had driven down from Thames earlier in the week) with grandson Alex Humphrey.*



Class of 1954 reunion dinner attendees were: Front row, Len Lane, Fr Peter Ewart, Tony Holloway and John Dellabaca. Middle row, George McLellan, Kevin Tolbit, Simon Taylor, John Dykes, Fr O'Neill (staff) and Jim Murtha. Back row, Bryan Weyburne, Barry Fitzgerald and David Rillstone.

## Class of '54 Reunion Mass and Dinner

Joining current students for the St Patrick's Day Mass at St Mary of the Angels brought back many memories for a group of 1954 third formers who joined them.

Jim Murtha and Simon Taylor organised the reunion which was attended by about 15 Old Boys and partners plus one of their teachers, Fr P J (John) O'Neill, 91.

It was the College's first St Patrick's Day Mass in six years at the church which had been closed for earthquake strengthening.

During the Mass, said by former Rector and now new Bishop of Christchurch Paul Martin,

the names of departed 1954 boys were read out during the prayers of the faithful.

Jim Murtha said the service was very emotional.

Fr O'Neill and Simon Taylor spoke at the dinner in the College staffroom in the evening.

Given the response from those who attended, Jim says they are thinking of another gathering on St Patrick's Day 2024 to mark 70 years since they started college.

## Old Boy's Karpal Singh book for library

An award-winning biography of Malaysian lawyer and politician Karpal Singh by Old Boy Tim Donoghue has been donated to the college library in English and Chinese.

Journalist Tim (1963-1967) published *Karpal Singh - Tiger of Jelutong* in 2013 and updated it the following year after Singh's death in a road crash.

Tim began writing the book in the 1980s when he was based in Hong Kong as the New Zealand Press Association's Asia correspondent.

His work frequently took him to Malaysia where New Zealand mother and son Lorraine and Aaron Cohen faced the death penalty for trafficking in drugs.

Singh, also an opposition politician for the Democratic Action Party, was their lawyer and was twice imprisoned for his political activities.

Tim visited Singh in prison in 1988 and they agreed Tim would write the book.

The 350-page book opens with the American bombing of Japanese-occupied Penang where Singh lived with his Sikh parents.

They sought shelter in the bombed remains of an Anglican church.

After the war ended Singh began school at St Xavier's Institution and in 1960, aged 20, was runner-up to the dux.

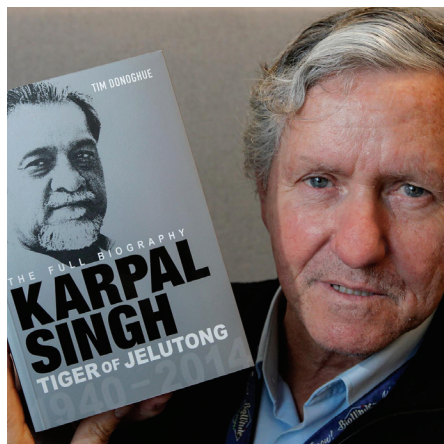
He chose a career in law over medicine and studied in Singapore.

Singh was a fearless advocate for justice and a defender of human rights in South-east Asia.

Three editions of the English version were printed by Marshall Cavendish out of Singapore in 2013-14 and the translated Chinese edition was published by Malaysia's largest book publisher, Popular, in 2016.

In 2014 the book won Malaysia's non-fiction book of the year award.

Since Tim's retirement from fulltime journalism in 2015 he and wife Gabrielle have split their time living in Raetihi and in Australia.



Old Boy Tim Donoghue

## In Memoriam



We remember in our prayers Old Boys and staff who have passed away:

### Old Boys

CLEGG, Patrick James 1945-1949  
 CONROY, Wilfred Francis (Wilf) 1948-1950  
 FROST, Martin Burke 1958-1961  
 HALL, Rodney William Joseph 1963-1964  
 HODGINS, Owen 1941-1944  
 HOGG, James Ross 1942-1945  
 McDONALD, Gordon Fraser 1953-1957  
 MAHER, Michael Charles 1956-1960  
 METCALF, Robert Walter (Bob) 1935-1939, one of our oldest living Old Boys at the time of his death. He was 97.  
 NELSON, William John (Bill) 1952-1956  
 O'BRIEN, John Gerald (Gerald) 1938  
 O'CONNOR, Maurice 1955  
 QUINN, Kevin John 1963-1967  
 SCAHILL, Noel Redwood 1956-1959  
 SHARP, Thomas James 1944-1945  
 SWEETMAN, Joseph 1945-1948

### Former MP dies

Old Boy and former MP **John Gerald (Gerald) O'Brien** died on 13 December 2017 in Wellington, aged 93. He attended St Pat's at Cambridge Terrace in 1938.

Mr O'Brien's political career began as a Wellington city councillor. He was later elected to Parliament as the Labour MP for Island Bay from 1969 until 1978. He also served as the party's vice-president.

### Retired teachers pass away

Former college teacher **Fr Donald Hamilton SM** died in Hastings on January 24, aged 86.

His years spent in Catholic education, Maori pastoral care and parishes totalled 50.

Educated at St John's College in the Hawke's Bay, Fr Don had two teaching stints at St Pat's - 1960-61 and 1971-73.

He completed his BA in English and history during his second appointment here. He was a cricket coach and also coached actors in college dramatic productions.

He left in 1973 for St Patrick's High School in Timaru and several years later became Rector there.

**Fr Brian Quin SM** was an Old Boy (1949-1950) and after completing a BA joined the staff as a layperson for 1964 and 1965.

He was ordained in 1972 and served on the staff at Chanel College in Samoa, St Patrick's High School (now Roncalli College) in Timaru, St Patrick's Silverstream and Hato Paora College until returning to St Pat's Town in 1992. During that year he had a kidney transplant.

He did parish work in Mt Maunganui, Wairoa and Whanganui before joining the Apostolic team at Pukekaraka, Otaki. This was followed by four years at the Marist Centre in Wellington before he retired to Marian Court in Upper Hutt in 2006.

He died at the Home of Compassion, Silverstream, on 24 March 2018, aged 81.