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PERPETUAL  
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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# CONTENTS

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## Editorial

How Perpetual Adoration started in the Diocese of  
Christchurch

The Eucharist - From Christ through the Apostles  
Adorer Social at St Gregory's

Missionaries of God's Love Prayer

Eucharistic Adoration Retreat

A Eucharistic Miracle in a Concentration Camp

Pope Francis' Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the  
New Evangelisation

Welcome to the second newsletter for 2015. It is great see spring and that we have (hopefully) survived another winter with little or no snow! While we all love snow, thinking about it has caused me a few headaches because of the need to possibly close the chapel !

It was great to see many people at our **annual retreat** in early July. There were a good number of people who attended that were not rostered adorers. Please read a review of the retreat on page 9.

As I wrote in the last newsletter, I am really keen to promote the Perpetual Adoration Chapel more widely in the Diocese through the use of the 40 hour devotion. In early August I worked with St Bede's College to run the **40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration Devotion** during their vocations week. What a tremendous and blessed occasion it was. Nearly every boy in the school had at least 30 minutes in front of the Blessed Sacrament. All staff members also spent time in the chapel. In addition, many parents, friends and supporters of the College signed up for an hour to pray for the boys and the school. Thank you to those rostered adorers at St Gregory's who also signed up for an hour.

I am keen to help organise and run this devotion in any parish or school that wants to. If you are interested in holding this devotion in your parish please contact me.

In this edition you will find plenty of good material to pray and ponder over. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to friends and family. If you have any inspiring stories or testimonies to include in the next edition please don't hesitate to contact me.

**- Matt O'Connell**

# HOW PERPETUAL ADORATION STARTED IN THE DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE ASKED ME **HOW** THE PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL IN THE DIOCESE CAME ABOUT. **THE STORY STARTS MANY YEARS AGO.** THERE HAVE, OF COURSE, BEEN MANY PEOPLE PRAYING FOR PERPETUAL ADORATION IN THE CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS - *MATT O'CONNELL - COORDINATOR*

I was introduced to Adoration at 'Hearts Aflame' in January 2000 because they had Adoration every day. I quickly became devoted to it and tried to make a holy hour often. Prior to that I had become used to praying before the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle often as it was the place I enjoyed praying. Each time I went into a Church (often the small chapel in Chancery Lane) I experienced peace and hope. I slowly grew in my relationship with Jesus.

In August 2001 I entered a Franciscan Monastery for a year as a volunteer. This Monastery, which was also a retreat centre and national shrine, was the centre for Perpetual Adoration for the Archdiocese of Chicago. The Monastery had had Perpetual Adoration for many years.

There were 30 Franciscan Friars who lived in the Monastery and they committed to adoring between the hours of 11pm – 7am every day. As a volunteer I often covered these hours for them while they were away, busy or unwell. It was inspiring to see these men get up, night after night, to adore the Lord.

It was a great introduction to Perpetual Adoration. I especially loved the night hours when I would be by myself in the chapel with Jesus. I usually set three alarm clocks so I didn't sleep through – one night I only woke up at 2.59am and ran to the chapel.

When I came home to New Zealand I continued to make holy hours where possible and made sure I gave all the young adults and young people the opportunity for Adoration at all the retreats and camps I ran when part of the Catholic Youth Team.

It was always a bit of a dream to start Perpetual Adoration. Someone actually asked me to start Perpetual Adoration about six or seven years ago but it wasn't the right time.

In late 2011, at one of the final events I ran as the Young Adults Coordinator for the Catholic Youth Team, Bishop Barry Jones was giving a talk. After the talk there was a time for questions and answers and I thought I would be a bit cheeky and ask him when he was going to start Perpetual Adoration in the Diocese.

He responded by challenging me to write a proposal for Perpetual Adoration and to give it to him.

Over the next few months I worked on this proposal and I gave it to him in April 2012. Bishop Barry read it and asked me to form a committee to write a fully detailed proposal with all questions answered and make recommendations to him.

This committee was formed and met for the first time at the end of August 2012. The next four months saw the committee meeting regularly to pray, discuss, research and investigate all options for the implementation of Perpetual Adoration in the Diocese.

Once the research phase was complete, the committee wrote a fully detailed proposal with a number of recommendations as to how to implement Perpetual Adoration. This proposal was presented to Bishop Barry on the 15th of January, 2013.

The Bishop took the proposal to his Consulters who read it, discussed it and fully approved it in April 2013.

From there the committee met many times over the next two months as the proposed start date was June 23, 2013 which was the eve of the feast of St John the Baptist, the patron saint of the Diocese. Bishop Barry wrote a pastoral letter to the whole diocese about the proposal and encouraged people to sign up one week later at Sunday Mass throughout Christchurch. Meetings were held, the chapel was prepared and we were all ready to go for sign up Sunday.

The response was outstanding with over 400 people signing up to commit to one hour per week. We delayed the opening by one week so as to have every hour covered. Perpetual Adoration in the Diocese of Christchurch commenced on Sunday June 30th at St Gregory's in Bishopdale at 6pm following Mass said by Bishop Barry at 5pm. Perpetual Adoration has continued ever since.

A huge thank you to all the committee members who worked so hard to make this a reality and a special thanks to all who signed up to commit to an hour per week and still turn up faithfully every week.

As Bishop Barry has said, this project is one of extraordinary grace. All the glory and honour goes to Him who is our all.

*Below: Marytown, Chicago*



# The Eucharist - from Christ through the Apostles

*As adorers of the Blessed Sacrament how often have we been challenged intellectually by the profound mystery of the Eucharist? The incredible mystery of Jesus really present in the form of bread and wine defies all human understanding and yet appeals to our eyes of faith. In his Encyclical Letter, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (EE), given on Holy Thursday 2003, Pope John Paul II speaks in a very beautiful way on the Eucharist in its relationship to the Church.*

In this fourth of a series of articles, using the Encyclical as a starting point and borrowing from those two great pillars of the Church, Holy Scripture and Sacred Doctrine, we consider how the Eucharist is in its very nature apostolic just as the Church is apostolic. The Holy Father, in the third chapter of his encyclical, builds on the beautiful theme – ‘the Eucharist builds the Church and the Church makes the Eucharist’ (EE 26). This fundamental truth centres on the three ways in which the Church is referred to as being ‘apostolic’.

Firstly, the Church is apostolic because ‘she was and remains built on the foundation of the Apostles (Eph 20, 20) the witnesses chosen and sent on mission by Christ himself’ (CCC 857). It follows from this that the Eucharist too has its foundation in the Apostles. Notwithstanding the fact that Christ himself instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper (as we saw in the third article of this series), the Church continues to celebrate the Eucharist down through the centuries as was the practice of the early

Christian community – ‘These remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers’ (Acts 2, 42). Luke’s gospel sheds further light on the Eucharistic nature of the mission entrusted to the Apostles. At the institution of the Eucharist Jesus, after giving thanks and breaking the bread, exhorts the Apostles to ‘do this as a memorial of me’ (Luke 22, 19).

Further, the abovementioned passage from Acts leads us to the second manner in which the Church is apostolic, namely through the handing down of the Apostle’s teaching under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is through the faith of the Apostles transmitted from one generation to the next that the teaching on and celebration of the Eucharist find their continuity and authenticity. ‘This faith remains unchanged and it is essential for the Church that it remain unchanged’ (EE 27).

Thirdly, through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the Pope, his bishops and priests

assure that the Church continues to be taught, sanctified and guided by the Apostles until Christ's return (CCC 857). As the Catechism teaches, 'the college of bishops, with whom the priests are united in the priesthood, makes the college of the twelve an ever-present and ever-active reality until Christ's return' (CCC 1577). Through their participation in the priesthood of Christ, bishops and priests bring about the Eucharistic Sacrifice and offer it to God in the name of all the people.

Just as the Eucharist is the 'source and summit of the Christian life' (LG 11), it is also the 'summit of priestly ministry' (EE 31). The Holy Father is quite emphatic on this point, quoting his Apostolic Letter *Dominicae Cenae* – 'the Eucharist is the principal and central *raison d'être* of the sacrament of priesthood, which effectively came into being at the moment of the institution of the Eucharist, and together with it' (DC 2).

The celebration of the Eucharist is not only central to the spiritual life of the priest but is at the same time vital to the good of the Church and the world (EE 31). It is for this reason that the Holy Father exhorts all priests to celebrate the Eucharist daily (EE 31). By extension, the participation of the lay faithful at daily Mass is also to be encouraged as is adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as a continuity of the Eucharistic mission of the Church to the world.

It is also imperative that the laity recognise the fundamental link between the priesthood and the Eucharist. Without priests there can be no Eucharist. It is therefore incumbent upon the Church to

fervently pray for and to promote priestly vocations. Both priests and laity alike are called to witness powerfully to young men through their participation in the Eucharist. Our priests are indeed indispensable and can never be replaced as they alone are qualified to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass in persona Christi. For this reason, the leading of Sunday celebrations by lay or religious faithful can only ever be seen as a temporary solution. For as Pope Paul VI stated in his Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, 'no Christian community can be built up unless it has as its basis and centre the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist' (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 4). Thus, the very survival of our Christian communities depends upon a willing response on the part of our men in the service of Christ and of His Church through the priesthood.

We have seen in the preceding paragraphs how the Church and the Eucharist are both fundamentally apostolic in their nature. In order for the Church to remain strong and for the Eucharist to be celebrated, we need as lay faithful to grow in our love of Jesus present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. We are also called to pray fervently for an increase in vocations to the priesthood as Christ himself exhorts us – 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest' (Mt 9, 38).

# ADORER SOCIAL

**SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER**

We warmly invite you to join us for our end of year get together at St Gregory's in Bishopdale. It is our way of saying 'thank you' to the many people who make Perpetual Adoration possible, here in the Christchurch diocese.

An hour of Adoration in the Church will begin at 2pm. Following this, we ask you to join us for afternoon tea in the Parish Centre. As a day leader I find this time of being together a real highlight. Often our only contact with adorers is by phone (or email), so it's lovely to put faces to names, to meet and chat.

We hope to see you there. *Traci Luxford - Monday Day Leader*

## THE MISSIONARIES OF GOD'S LOVE PRAYER

The Missionaries of God's Love is a new Religious Congregation founded in Australia in 1986. One of their Priests, Fr Chris Eaton, is originally from this Diocese. One of their charisms is the promoting of Eucharistic Adoration and they have established Adoration Centres in a number of places. Congregational prayer is very beautiful and is below.

**Lord Jesus, send the fire of your Spirit into  
our hearts.**

**Inflame us with a deep hunger for prayer,  
an enduring desire to do the Father's will,  
a burning zeal to spread the Good News of  
the Kingdom**

**and a thirst for the salvation of all men and  
women.**

**Draw us into the fire of love in your heart so  
that, embracing your Cross,**

**we may be truly missionaries of your love  
to all whom we meet.**

**Now and always. AMEN.**





# EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION RETREAT

On Saturday July 4th our (second) annual day retreat was held at the Parish Centre at St Gregory's Bishopdale. The theme for the day was "Lord, Teach Us to Pray".



A large number of people gathered to hear the four speakers give talks on prayer. We began the day at 9.30am, and after a welcome from Matt O'Connell, Bishop Barry Jones gave the first talk. Monica Lee, Fr. Mathew Valloppallil and Matt O'Connell were the other speakers. All gave excellent talks, with guidance, reflection, and encouragement on different aspects of prayer. During the day we were able to attend a time of Adoration in the church, followed by Mass. Reconciliation was available for a short time prior to the celebration of the Mass.

The format and structure of the retreat day make it easy for people to come for the day, or for the morning, or afternoon only, as preferred. There is no cost, as we ask attendees to bring their own lunch. A koha (donation) can be made toward the Adoration Chapel running costs (eg. candles).

I encourage you to look out for the retreat day being advertised next year, and to join us for as much of the day as you are able to. The retreat day is for anyone and everyone, (you don't need to be a regular or rostered adorer). We were greatly encouraged by the very positive comments received afterward, both in person on the day, and by email:-



*"Many, many thanks for the retreat last Saturday. The speakers were excellent and the day was very prayerful".*

A big thank you to Bishop Barry Jones, and the priests who made the day possible. Your input, and support are wonderful. Thank you too, Matt O'Connell, for the well-structured retreat day, and for the many hours you so generously give to make Perpetual Adoration possible in our diocese. **Traci Luxford**

# A EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE IN A CONCENTRATION CAMP

Father Leloir was interned at Buchenwald, where at 6 p.m. each day the prisoners and deportees were lined up for inspection by the S.S. troops. On the evening of August 23, 1944, Father Leloir had carefully concealed on his person a small white envelope containing six consecrated Hosts, which he intended to distribute secretly among his comrades. The presence of the Blessed Sacrament on the person of the priest was known to several fellow-prisoners.

Consternation filled all when the soldiers began to search the prisoners one by one. What would be the fate of the priest when the envelope containing the Hosts was found? Too well they knew what punishment would be given him. And what unspeakable irreverence would be done to the Sacred Hosts!

Down the line the S.S. troops contemptuously searched each man, and finally came Father Leloir's turn. Into his pockets one after another the Nazi soldiers pried, and found the "evidence." Father Leloir stood erect, a trifle pale, but silently praying to the Lord whose Precious Body was within the folds of the white envelope. His companions trembled and grew faint.

With an insolent air the S.S. guard tore open the envelope. Several prisoners gasped. Father Leloir stared in open amazement as the Nazi soldiers threw the envelope scornfully to the ground saying: "Just an empty envelope."

Just an empty envelope! The Hosts had disappeared! To prevent the desecration of the Sacred Hosts and to save the priest and his fellow Catholics from certain punishment, perhaps death, Our Lord had worked this "little miracle!"



## **Pope Francis' Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the New Evangelization**

Mary, Virgin and Mother,  
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit,  
welcomed the word of life in the depths of your humble faith:  
as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,  
help us to say our own "yes" to the urgent call, as pressing as ever,  
to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Filled with Christ's presence, you brought joy to John the Baptist,  
making him exult in the womb of his mother.  
Brimming over with joy, you sang of the great things done by God.  
Standing at the foot of the cross with unyielding faith,  
you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection,  
and joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit  
so that the evangelizing Church might be born.

Obtain for us now a new ardour born of the resurrection,  
that we may bring to all the Gospel of life which triumphs over death.  
Give us a holy courage to seek new paths,  
that the gift of unfading beauty may reach every man and woman.  
Virgin of listening and contemplation,  
Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast,  
pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are,  
that she may never be closed in on herself  
or lose her passion for establishing God's kingdom.

Star of the new evangelization,  
help us to bear radiant witness to communion,  
service, ardent and generous faith, justice and love of the poor,  
that the joy of the Gospel may reach to the ends of the earth,  
illuminating even the fringes of our world.  
Mother of the living Gospel,  
wellspring of happiness for God's little ones,  
pray for us.  
Amen. Alleluia!

# CAN YOU HELP?

Currently we have over 300 adorers signed up to Adore Jesus every week at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. However we still have 32 hours during the week where there is only one adorer rostered on. We are trying to ensure that we have a minimum of two per hour so if something happens there is at least one person in the chapel. Although we have lots of visitors, we don't know how long they stay and how regular they are. The need for two rostered adorers per hour was brought home to us when a person got a flat tyre on the way and was the only rostered adorer. On other occasions people have forgotten and people have had to stay for an extra hour.

If you feel that you could sign up to adore once a week it would be greatly appreciated. Please fill out the form below and send/email it to the address provided.

The hours that require adorers include:

Sundays (12am, 4am, 7am, 8am, 10am, 2pm), Mondays (8am), Tuesdays (1am, 3am, 4am), Wednesdays (2 - 5 am), Thursdays (6am, 8am - 10am, 4pm), Fridays (12 - 2am, 3 - 5am, 8 - 11am, 12pm) and Saturdays (11am, 1pm, 2 pm and 6pm)



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## ADORER SIGN UP FORM

NAME: ..... PHONE: .....

E-MAIL: ..... MOBILE: .....

ADDRESS: .....

What day would you like to adore? .....

What time would you like to adore? .....

Are you also available to be a substitute? .....

Please return the completed form to:

Perpetual Adoration, PO Box 4544, Christchurch 8140 or e-mail to [chchadoration@gmail.com](mailto:chchadoration@gmail.com)