

ISSUE 13

July 2022

# PERPETUAL Eucharistic ADORATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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Issue 13 - July 2022

Greetings. This second newsletter of the year coincides with the 9th anniversary of the opening of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. What a great blessing it continues to be amongst all the challenges of life. Recently I decided to look at the sign in book for the first week that the chapel was open. See below for some interesting statistics.

In late May, Bishop Michael Gielen was appointed as the 11th Bishop of Christchurch. Bishop Michael is a strong supporter of Perpetual Adoration, and he has written a letter to all adorers that can be found over the page.

COVID has continued to impact the Adoration Roster. I want to thank all those who have covered extra hours over the past 6 months. Without your willingness, dedication and generosity, the chapel could not have remained open.

I want to welcome Marina Krijgsman as our new our Sunday Day Leader. Marina has been a long time Adorer on Sundays and we look forward to working with her. Thanks to all Adorers for your continued support and generosity. For those who have picked up the newsletter in the chapel or are reading it online, please do consider coming on the roster. We continue to need more people and I know they Lord will bless you abundantly for your commitment as he is never outdone in generosity - **Matt O'Connell**

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### **Statistics from Nine Years of Perpetual Adoration.**

- **59 people** are still doing the same hour as they did in the first week of the chapel opening in 2013.
- A further 24 people are still adoring although at a different hour, making **a total of 83 people who are still on the roster.**
- There have been approximately 128,500 holy hours since the chapel opened.
- **Three of our Day Leaders** have been with us from the beginning. Dominic Orr , Sr Marietta and Michael Burke. In addition, Lyn Fahey, who retired this past Easter, was also a day leader from the beginning.
- The person who has adored the most rostered hours in the chapel has completed **2417 holy hours**. The next has completed 2180 holy hours.
- We have **burned approx 34,421 candles** in the chapel over the past 9 years.

# GREETINGS FROM BISHOP MICHAEL

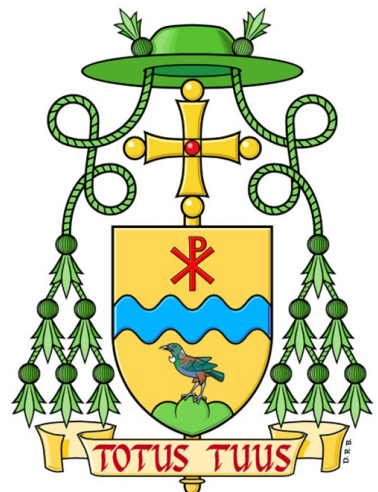
Dear Adorers, I wish to offer you my greetings and thanks, as I take up my role as Bishop of Christchurch. Thank you for your prayers – I know that many of you have been praying for the appointment of a new Bishop and I thank you for praying for me since the appointment. Please continue to pray for me. I understand that the Perpetual Adoration Chapel has been open now for 9 years – having opened on 30th June, 2013. While I write to you as a newcomer, I have had the privilege of praying in the chapel a number of times over the years.

Letter

Bishop Barry Jones, who opened the chapel, wrote that "It is an extraordinary grace that our perpetual adoration has been started, and has continued". He wrote this back in 2014 and now, 8 years later, the chapel continues. I wish to thank Bishop Barry for his courage and wisdom in opening the chapel. Thank you also for your dedication and faithfulness to a weekly holy hour that has enabled the chapel to remain open. So many fruits and graces have flowed from those adorers and visitors growing in their relationship with Jesus Christ. I too have developed a deep devotion to the Blessed Sacrament over the years and look forward to joining with you in prayer in the years to come.



As I begin my time as your Bishop, I ask for your continued prayers, particularly while you are adoring in the chapel. I hope to take on a weekly holy hour and I also hope to meet each of you in due course. Bishop Basil Meeking, in his homily at the funeral of Bishop Barry, said that opening the adoration chapel was the most important thing he did as Bishop. Can I also take this opportunity to thank those who have coordinated the roster over the chapel's life. With your help, support and prayers, let's ensure that the chapel remains open for many years to come.



# TESTIMONY FROM CHRIS JORDAN

TESTIMONY

*We have had a number of deaths of rostered adorers in recent months. The most recent was Chris Jordan. A few years ago, Chris wrote the following testimony about his experiences as an Adorer and I have reprinted it below. May Chris and all those who have passed rest in peace.*



"I have the privilege of spending 1 hour each week in our adoration chapel. I view it as a weekly retreat from the mad world into the silence and stillness of the Lord. Normally, the first ¼ hour is my mind dashing around from idea to idea but this slows down as time moves on. At times I sing (silently) songs of praise, other times I read the daily gospel, if very "dry" I say repetitive prayers (Rosary, Divine Mercy) but mostly I try to just "sit" in front of the Lord and look at him (and He looks back at me). I actually like to sit/kneel near to my friend and Lord. It has become a very intimate time of friendship.

Most visits I receive some form of inspiration / new understanding and I share these now as they may be of some help to others. In no particular order:

I have read a book about miracles of the Eucharist – many involve the host dripping blood or being stained by blood. When these blood particles are independently analysed, they are categorised as coming from the heart muscles or heart tissue of a man who has suffered greatly. Therefore in my mind the consecrated host is part of Jesus heart (not another part of his body). This has helped me understand the intimacy of receiving Jesus heart into our own hearts at Communion time.

Following on with this idea, when I am in front of the monstrance I figuratively offer my own heart to Jesus' heart in the monstrance. I imagine my heart moving to be alongside Jesus' heart and over time my heart then starts to beat to the same rhythm as Jesus heart. Reluctantly I then retrieve my heart, but it is now, even if only for a short time, in rhythm with Jesus! **P.T.O**



# TESTIMONY cont.

Looking at the host, it looks like a white piece of bread. I imagine like many believers; I struggle to see Jesus in this piece of bread. The gospel words of John came to my mind on one visit – “I am the living bread come down from heaven, whoever eats .... Will have eternal life”. This bread is not the normal everyday “dead” bread. This is the “Living” bread that has come down to us from God. This is special and feeds us in ways that we are not even aware of! Repeat these well-known gospel words when you are next having trouble believing.

At a recent talk by a priest, I heard that each Catholic Church front door is like the entrance chamber of heaven. When we enter we are on holy ground. This inspired me with the idea that looking at the monstrance is similarly like looking through the keyhole of the door to heaven. We look at the host and our thoughts are transported up to heaven. When we look past the monstrance to the wall behind, we see that there is nothing but air behind the monstrance, but mysteriously when we look at the monstrance, we are transported to holy place not in that room! Beyond our understanding but not beyond our belief.

I find the simple song – “He is lord ... he is risen from the dead...every knee shall bow ... etc.” is particularly helpful during my praise time in front of the Lord. This reminds me that Jesus is not only the crucified one, but very definitely the Risen Lord of our lives.

Most times when I enter the chapel, I am stressed to some degree. After spending an hour with the Lord, I am calm and at peace (even if the session has not felt that great).

I thoroughly recommend committing to this one-on-one time with the source of our Holy energy. My spiritual life has grown much since I started about 1 year ago”.



# GIVE GOD TIME

ARTICLE

*The following post, written by Sister Ann Shields, originally appeared in Renewal Ministries' June 2020 newsletter.*

These are very challenging times. Perhaps they're orchestrated by the Lord to bring us to a place where we can really hear his Word. By which I mean for us not just to think nice, pious thoughts, but to hear his Word and have a relationship with Him and love Him.



You may say, "Oh, yes, I know God." Okay. But do you know Jesus Christ, the One whom the Father sent to this earth to teach us the way we needed to go? God wants a personal relationship with you. It isn't enough to say, "No, God," or "Yes, God," to this or that. The importance is in knowing Him. Knowing Him who loves you. Knowing the One whom you are called to love and whom you want to serve.

God wants to encourage you, especially in this time when everyone is confused and bewildered and wondering what's next on the list. We are all asking, "What will get worse, and is anything going to get better?"

We all have these kinds of thoughts. What we want to do with these thoughts is to take them to the Lord and say, "Lord, I want to draw closer to you. I want to belong to you. Help me. Help me sit quietly with You every day, even if for just a few moments." And then just sit quietly every day. Tell God you love Him. Tell Him you want to follow Him. Ask Him to help you. He will be only too glad to help you. He died for you, not for billions. He died for each one of us. He promised us everlasting life if we follow Him and draw close to Him.

God sees you 24/7. God sees you. He knows what you are doing. He wants to relate to you. Each of us has a slightly different relationship with God. We each have different gifts and different abilities, but He wants a relationship with each of us.

I read a book entitled *God or Nothing* by Cardinal Robert Sarah from Africa. The book is a conversation on faith, and in it, Cardinal Sarah writes. **P.T.O**



# GIVE GOD TIME CONT.

ARTICLE

"It is important to give individuals the opportunity for the experience of close encounters with Christ. Without such a heart-to-heart conversation, we are fooling ourselves if we think that people will follow the Son of God in the long term. It reminds me of a saying of the Desert Fathers that left a deep impression on me during my Biblical studies in Jerusalem. Translated from Coptic, it expresses the importance of the indispensable interior life in being a Christian:



'One monk met another and asked him, 'Why do so many abandon the monastic life?' 'Why?' the other monk replied. 'Monastic life is like a dog chasing a rabbit. It runs after the rabbit, barking. Many other dogs, hearing the bark, join in, and they all run together after the rabbit. But after a while, all the dogs that run without seeing the rabbit wonder, 'Where are we going? Why are we running?' They become tired, get lost, and stop running, one after the other. Only the dogs that see the rabbit continue to pursue it to the end until they catch it.'

"And the moral of that little story is this; only those whose eyes are fixed on the person of Christ on the cross persevere to the end."



God wants a personal relationship with each of us, and I encourage you to draw near to Him now.

In the morning, give Him at least some moments before you go to work. Offer your day to Him. Ask Him to help you. At the end of the day, take some time to thank God. Plan a time to read the Scripture passages of the day, ponder them, and ask, "How do they apply to me?"

You may say, "I don't have time," but something is not in the right order if you don't have time for God. Give Him time daily in prayer however you need to do it. Maybe it's fifteen minutes in the morning and fifteen minutes in the evening, or something that works for your schedule. Give God time. The more you share your heart with Him, the more you talk to Him, the more you ask Him for help, and the more you thank Him for what He has given you, the nearer and deeper your relationship with God will become. Ask the Lord to help you with this, and count on the fact that I am praying for you every day.



# **“GOD’S MASTERPIECES” - THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH**

## **DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION CHRISTCHURCH NEWSLETTER 1994**

The sacraments of the Church are its lifeblood. They exist to make present the Word she preaches. They are mysteries of faith. Like all the mysteries God has revealed to us, they are not puzzles to confuse us or problems to be solved. They are realities so profound that we can only begin to grasp them with faith and love, and we need to go on pondering over them always.

### **WHY “GOD’S MASTERPIECES”?**

Human beings are the crown of God’s original, marvellous creation – creatures made in his own image, capable of knowing him and loving him and delighting in the works of his hands, even capable of using what he has given us to go on creating in our turn. When we turned away from him and opened ourselves to sin and suffering, he sent his son to become one of us and redeem us. With the birth of Christ, the Creator of all that is entered the world he had made in a new way and began the work of transforming it into a new creation. Christ’s power to bring this about, won by his death and resurrection, passes from him into the sacraments of the Church, the Church that was born from his side on the Cross. As Pope St Leo the Great put it, “The visible presence of our Redeemer passed over into the sacraments.” The sacraments belong to the Church. They are Christ’s gift to his Church. It is in and through them that the risen Christ fulfils his promise to be with us always. God is and always has been present throughout his creation, holding it in being, loving all his people. His Spirit blows where it wills. But in the sacraments of the Church Christ is present and active in our lives through the power of his Spirit in a new and unique way that does not exist outside the Church. They are the means by which we are made into the new creation. This is why they have been called “God’s masterpieces”.

### **THE SACRAMENTS AND THE “REAL” WORLD**

We should pray for the grace to participate with all our minds and hearts. If we are going to receive Holy Communion, be fasting for one hour. When We Arrive in Church we should show reverence to the Blessed Sacrament by genuflecting, and to the Altar by bowing, greet each other warmly, but quietly, kneel, and begin to collect our thoughts, prepare ourselves to enter into the sacred action that is about to happen.

### **THE SACRAMENTS AND OUR FAITH**

The sacraments are divine actions. We did not invent them. They are the fullest actualisation of God’s longing for communion with his people, the means by which the risen Christ continues to dwell amongst us. His real presence under the appearances of bread and wine in the Eucharist, and his actions in the other sacraments, exist objectively, independently of whether we believe in them or not. At the same time, we have free will. Christ does not impose his grace on us. The sacraments are encounters with a living person. How we prepare for them, how we allow them to affect our lives, will determine how effective and fruitful these encounters are for us. We must have faith to engage in them.

# “GOD’S MASTERPIECES CONT”

To put this another way – our faith is necessary for us to believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, but it is not necessary to bring this presence about, it does not cause it. That happens through the power of the Spirit acting in his Church, and in the case of the Eucharist, for example, through the sacramental power given to the priest, who, as St Pope John Paul II says, lends Christ his mouth to utter the words “This is my body...”.

## **SACRAMENTS AND HOLINESS**

In the sacraments, the saving actions of Christ are made available to each of us. They are the signs and instruments by which the Holy Spirit dispenses the mystery of our salvation. (CCC 1111). They bring about the effect they signify. They are “powers that come forth” from the body of Christ, which is ever-living and ever life giving. Through them, Christ enters our lives to draw us into a loving relationship with him by the power of his Spirit and thus into the life of the Trinity. This is grace, God’s gift, which justifies, elevates and empowers the soul for a new life and equips it for truly supernatural activity. Because they are divine actions, they do not depend for their efficacy on the holiness of the minister. Nor do we need to have attained holiness to receive them, only to want to grow in it. God, who knows of what we are made, does not allow the factual immediacy of his sacramental presence to us to be conditioned by our sinfulness.

## **WHY DOES CHRIST’S SACRAMENTAL PRESENCE NEED MATERIAL SIGNS?**

Our bodies are intrinsic to who we are. We can only give and receive love through visible, material signs and words and bodily actions. The risen Christ is not at present visible to us in his glorified body. But we are still what he once was. To continue to act with his saving healing love among us he uses the material signs we need. So, he baptises us with water and words to let us share his life in the Church and anoints us with oil to be sealed with his Spirit. In the bread and wine which have become his body and blood the whole Christ enters us to make us one with him. With the words of absolution, he forgives our sins. Oil is used to anoint the sick and dying. The exchange of vows and the bodily consummation that follows make a man and a woman one flesh. Prayer and the laying on of hands ordain a man to act in Christ’s own person.

## **THE CHURCH’S POWER OVER THE SACRAMENTS**

The sacraments belong to the Church only because they are entrusted to her by Christ. They are her life because Christ is her life. The Church therefore has no power to change the essence of a sacrament though from time to time she may properly change how a sacrament is administered. For example, the Church can permit lay people to distribute Holy Communion; it cannot substitute rice and tea for bread and wine as the sacramental sign of the Eucharist. Nor replace a man by a woman as the sacramental sign of the risen Christ, who remains a man.

## **OUR SACRAMENTAL LIVES**

The sacraments of baptism, confirmation and holy orders give us the power to share in Jesus’ office and mission. They imprint a seal on us. We can only receive them once. But we can only carry out the responsibilities they give us if we participate in Christ’s life, death and resurrection. For this we need the other sacraments, above all regular reception of penance and the Eucharist, if we are truly to put on Christ.

The Catholic Church in the United States has embarked on a three year 'National Eucharistic Revival'. It opened on the Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup>, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. The Bishops have embarked on this revival because they recognise that the "world is hurting". They recognise that the "Church needs healing, and the world needs the church".

*"Scandal, division, disease, doubt. The Church has withstood each of these throughout our very human history. But today we confront all of them, all at once. Our response in this moment is pivotal. In the midst of these roaring waves, Jesus is present, reminding us that he is more powerful than the storm. He desires to heal, renew, and unify the Church and the world. How will he do it? By uniting us once again around the source and summit of our faith—the Holy Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is the joyful, expectant, grassroots response of the entire Catholic Church in the U.S. to this divine invitation".*

The bishops have recognised that we are all in "need (of) healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. In these years, "Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith—his Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist".

The three years are divided into, firstly, a year of Diocesan revival followed by a year of parish revival. The final year, which begins with the National Eucharistic Congress, is a year for going out on mission. Although the Church in New Zealand is not part of this revival, we are always called to renew ourselves, our parishes and our Dioceses. Below are a few thoughts about how we could renew our parishes through the lens of this Revival.

The Eucharist is the 'source and summit of the Church's life'. Fr Jacques Philippe writes "*all the great spiritual renewals, and even the renewals of society, begin by renewals of prayer*". The aim of the Eucharistic Revival at parish level is to foster "Eucharistic devotion at the parish level and strengthening our liturgical life". This is because, as St John Paul II wrote: "To evangelize the world, we need experts in the celebration of, in the adoration of and in the contemplation of the Eucharist", Pope Benedict XVI also wrote that the "more ardent the love for the Eucharist in the hearts of the Christian people, the more clearly will they recognize the goal of all mission: to bring Christ to others" ... The Eucharist is thus the source and summit not only of the Church's life, but also of her mission."

There are a number of ways we can foster and increase Eucharistic Devotion in our parish communities. These include:

- The 40 Hour Eucharistic Devotion
- Parish Eucharistic Mission
- Eucharistic Adoration daily and before Masses
- Eucharistic Processions and the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

I (Matt O'Connell) am very happy to assist any parish who wants to foster and increase Eucharistic Devotion.

# CAN YOU HELP?

Currently we have over 250 adorers signed up to Adore Jesus every week at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. However we still have many hours during the week where there is only one adorer rostered on, especially overnight. We always try 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. On occasions people have forgotten, had a flat tyre or been sick 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-5am, 7am-10am, 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 6pm, 10pm, 11pm),  
Mondays (2am, 7am, 9am, 12pm, 1pm - 4pm, 9pm, 11pm), Tuesdays (12am-11am, 1pm, 10pm, 11pm), Wednesdays (12am-6am, 9am, 2pm, 5pm, 7pm, 11pm), Thursdays (12am-5am, 9am, 10am, 12pm, 3pm-6pm, 11pm), Fridays (12am-3am, 5am, 7am-10am, 11am-2pm, 7pm, 10pm, 11pm) and Saturdays (2-4am, 7am-2pm), 6pm, 7pm)



## 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)