

ISSUE 20

May 2025

PERPETUAL Eucharistic ADORATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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Newsletter for Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in the Diocese of Christchurch, New Zealand

Issue 20 - May 2025

Dear Adorers, welcome to the winter issue of our Perpetual Adoration Newsletter. I am writing this in the middle of Vocations Awareness week. This is the week every year following Good Shepherd Sunday in which we pray and promote vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. In preparing resources for this week, I have once again been reminded of the importance of praying for vocations. As Blessed Hannibal di Franco wrote “Jesus wanted to teach us how vocations in the church do not come by chance, neither by themselves, nor can we make them out of human efforts alone. They come to us from the mercy of God. “If we do not pray to obtain them, they will not be given to us”. As such, I have dedicated this issue to praying for vocations.

In the last issue I wrote about the 54th International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Sydney in 2028. The NZ Bishops Conference have appointed me as their liaison for this great event. I hope to be able to provide you with more information soon.

As part of the Jubilee Year, Bishop Michael is inviting all the faithful to a Eucharistic Holy Hour and Procession being held at St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral on the feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday June 22nd. You will find more information about this event in the newsletter.

In early August, I will be running a Diocesan Jubilee Prayer Conference in Temuka. This will be similar to the prayer conference I held in Ashburton last year. All are invited.

I also hope to have a dinner for adorers this year on Saturday June 28th at Nazareth House. I need a minimum of 40 people but so far I only have 20 so if you do want to attend please let me know asap!

Thanks for all you do, please keep me and your day leaders in your prayers .

Matt O’Connell

Perpetual Adoration Co-ordinator

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Fervent Prayer for Vocations

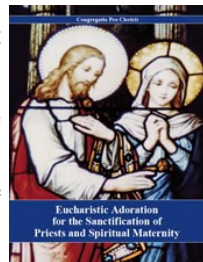
“Vocations often emerge from communities that are most fervent in praying for them – the Lord’s first call was to pray for vocations – plead with the Lord to send workers into the harvest. Are we fervent in praying for vocations?”

Fr Michael de Stoop

ADORATION, REPARATION, SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD FOR PRIESTS

News

A few years ago, the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy, concerned about the worldwide shortage of priestly vocations, released a booklet about the need for “the people of God” to pray. They wanted everybody to 1) dedicate themselves to prayer, 2) to adoration of Christ in the Eucharist, 3) to consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and 4) to the spiritual adoption of priests and future priests.



It is a deeply moving booklet called "Adoration, Reparation and Spiritual Motherhood for Priests," with amazing, miraculous, stories of the power of prayer for vocations. I have included a couple in this issue. If you want a copy, please contact me.

INTERCESSORS WANTED TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

In light of this newsletter and the need for fervent prayer for vocations, I really want to encourage Thursday adorers, and of course all of us, to pray for vocations on Thursday's (and to use the Holy Hour prayers for Vocations in the chapel). In this Diocese it has long been the tradition to pray for priests, seminarians and for vocations to the priesthood every Thursday. I would also like to dedicate a special hour in the chapel every Thursday for praying for vocations – in particular those young men whom the Lord is calling to Priesthood in this Diocese. Look at what a weekly holy hour by Mothers did for the village of Lu Monferrato – see below. Please pray about this and let me know if you are keen to attend.

Praying for Vocations – the example of Lu Monferrato

The example of a tiny Italian village called Lu Monferrato in northern Italy is hugely inspiring . In 1881, the mothers of this little village of a few thousand inhabitants began to gather each Tuesday afternoon for Eucharistic adoration to ask the Lord for vocations. They would pray together,

"O God, grant that one of my sons may become a priest! I myself want to live as a good Christian and want to guide my children always to do what is right, so that I may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give you a holy priest! Amen!"

That prayer, and their fervent desire for vocations, bore more fruit than any of them could have ever imagined. In the span of a few decades, this one village parish produced 152 priestly vocations and 171 religious women to 41 different congregations.

‘PRAY THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABOURERS’

Reflection

POPE BENEDICT XVI

**MEETING WITH THE PRIESTS AND DEACONS IN FREISING, GERMANY,
14 SEPTEMBER 2006**

“Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers”. This means that the harvest is ready, but God wishes to enlist helpers to bring it into the storehouse. God needs them. He needs people to say: Yes, I am ready to become your harvest labourer; I am ready to offer help so that this harvest which is ripening in people’s hearts may truly be brought into the storehouses of eternity and become an enduring, divine communion of joy and love.



“Pray the Lord of the harvest” also means that we cannot simply “produce” vocations; they must come from God. This is not like other professions, we cannot simply recruit people by using the right kind of publicity or the correct type of strategy. The call which comes from the heart of God must always find its way into the heart of man. And yet, precisely so that it may reach into hearts, our cooperation is needed.

To pray the Lord of the harvest means above all to ask him for this, to stir his heart and say: “Please do this! Rouse labourers! Enkindle in them enthusiasm and joy for the Gospel! Make them understand that this is a treasure greater than any other, and that whoever has discovered it, must hand it on!”

We stir the heart of God. But our prayer to God does not consist of words alone; the words must lead to action so that from our praying heart a spark of our joy in God and in the Gospel may arise, enkindling in the hearts of others a readiness to say “yes”. As people of prayer, filled with his light, we reach out to others and bring them into our prayer and into the presence of God, who will not fail to do his part. In this sense we must continue to pray the Lord of the harvest, to stir his heart, and together with God touch the hearts of others through our prayer. And he, according to his purpose, will bring to maturity their “yes”, their readiness to respond; the constancy, in other words, through all this world’s perplexity, through the heat of the day and the darkness of the night, to persevere faithfully in his service. Hence they will know that their efforts, however arduous, are noble and worthwhile because they lead to what is essential, they ensure that people receive what they hope for: God’s light and God’s love.

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS - THE STORY OF ELIZA VAUGHAN

Story

It is a fact that vocations to the priesthood must be prayed for; Jesus speaks about it himself in the Gospel: "The harvest is abundant, but the labourers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest" (Mt. 9:37-38). Eliza Vaughan, an English family mother, is a particularly encouraging example of a woman with a priestly spirit who prayed very much for vocations.



Eliza came from a strong Protestant family. Yet even during her childhood education in France, she was deeply impressed by the exemplary efforts the Catholic Church made for the poor. After she married Colonel John Francis Vaughan in the summer of 1830, Eliza converted to the Catholic Faith, despite the objection of her relatives. During the time of the Catholic persecution in England under Queen Elisabeth I (1558-1603), the Vaughan's ancestors preferred imprisonment and expropriation to being unfaithful to their beliefs. Courtfield, the ancestral family home, became a place of refuge for priests during the decades of terror in England, a place where the Holy Mass was often celebrated secretly. Nearly three centuries had now passed, but the Catholic beliefs of the family had not changed.

Eliza was someone who converted with all her heart, so much so, that in her religious enthusiasm, she even proposed to her husband that they offer all their children back to God.

This remarkable woman made a habit of praying for an hour each day before the Blessed Sacrament in the house chapel at Courtfield. She prayed to God for a large family and for many religious vocations among her children. And her prayers were heard! She gave life to 14 children and died shortly after the birth of the last child, John, in 1853. Of the 13 children that lived, six of her eight boys became priests: two priests in religious orders, one diocesan priest, a bishop, an archbishop and a cardinal. From the five daughters, four became nuns in religious orders. What a blessing for the family and what an impact on all of England!

The Vaughan children enjoyed a pleasant childhood because their virtuous mother knew how to educate them in a very natural way by uniting spiritual and religious obligations with amusement and cheerfulness. Thanks to their mother, prayer and daily Mass in the house chapel were just as much a part of everyday life as music, athletics, amateur theatre, horse riding and playing. It was never boring for the children when their mother told them stories from the lives of the saints, who little by little became their dearest friends.

THE STORY OF ELIZA VAUGHAN - 2

Story

Mother Vaughan happily let her children accompany her on visits to the sick and needy of the area. On such occasions, they learned how to be generous, to make sacrifices and to give away their savings or their toys.

Shortly after the birth of her 14th child, Eliza died. Two months after her death, Colonel Vaughan wrote in a letter that he was convinced divine providence brought Eliza to him.



“I thanked the Lord in adoration today that I could give back to him my dearly beloved wife. I poured out my heart to him, full of thankfulness that, as an example and a guide, he gave me Eliza with whom I am still now bound by an inseparable, spiritual bond. What wonderful consolation and grace she brought me! I still see her as I always saw her before the Blessed Sacrament: her inner purity and extraordinary human kindness which her beautiful face reflected during prayer.”

The many vocations from the Vaughan family are really a unique legacy in British history and a blessing which came especially through Mother Eliza. At the age of 16, Herbert, the oldest son, shared with his parents that he wanted to become a priest. Their reactions were very different. His mother, who had prayed a great deal for it, only smiled and said, “Child, I have known it for a long time.” The father, however, needed a little time to come to terms with the decision, since the inheritance goes to the oldest and he had hoped Herbert would have a prestigious military career. How could he have known that his son would one day be the Archbishop of Westminster, founder of the Millhill Missionaries and a cardinal? Yet the father also bowed to his wishes writing once to his friend, “If God wants Herbert for himself, he can have all the others as well.”

Whereas Reginald married, as did Francis, who inherited the family possessions, the Lord did call nine other Vaughan children. Roger, the second oldest, became a Benedictine prior and later the beloved Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, where he built the Cathedral. Kenelm was a Cistercian and later a diocesan priest; Joseph, the fourth son, became a Benedictine prior like his brother and founded a new abbey. Bernard, the most lively of them all, who loved dancing, sports and anything fun, became a Jesuit. It is said that the day before he entered the order, he still went to a ball where he told his dance partner, “This dance with you is my last, because I am joining the Jesuits.” Shocked, the girl replied, “Really? You want to become a Jesuit!? You who love the world so much and are such an excellent dancer!?” His equivocal, but beautiful answer was, “That is why I am consecrating myself to God.”

THE STORY OF ELIZA VAUGHAN - 3

Story

John, the youngest, was ordained a priest by his oldest brother, Herbert, and later became the Auxiliary Bishop of Salford, England. Four of the five daughters in the family entered convents. Gladis entered the Order of the Visitation, Teresa joined the Sisters of Mercy, Claire became a Poor Clare, and Mary an Augustinian prioress. Margaret, the fifth Vaughan daughter, wanted to be a religious sister, but could not due to her poor health. She lived at home, also consecrated to God, but was able to join a convent in her later years.



Cardinal Herbert Vaughan

During a personal summer retreat at the age of 16, Herbert Vaughan decided to become a priest. He was ordained in Rome at the age of 22 and later became the Bishop of Salford, England and founder of the Millhill Missionaries who today work all over the world. He was eventually made a cardinal and the third Archbishop of Westminster. His motto on his coat of arms reads: "Amare et servire!" "Love and serve!" Cardinal



Vaughan said, "These two words express my agenda: Love must be the root from which all my service blossoms."

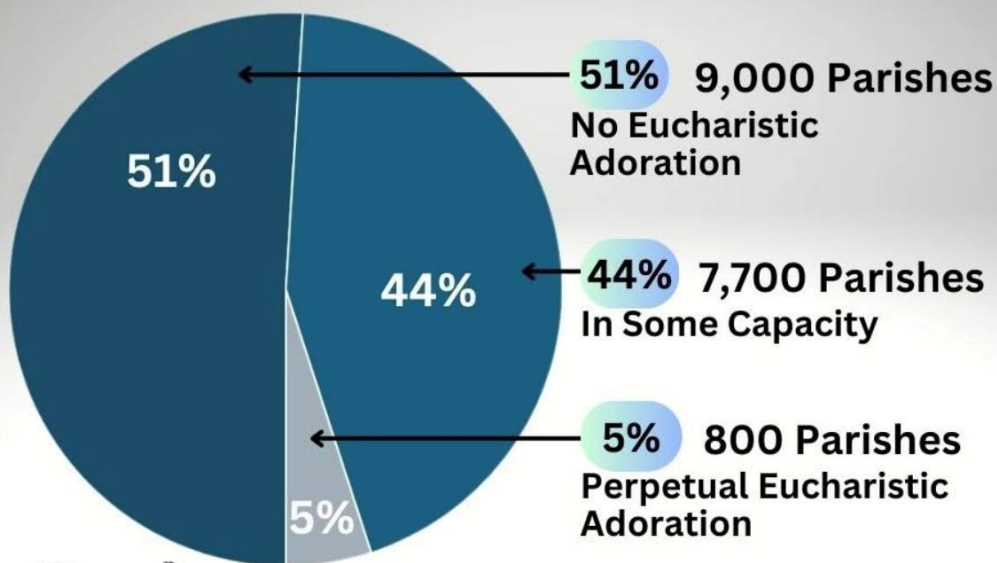
Gathering of Vocations from the Village of Lu Monferrato



PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPELS IN EVERY PARISH IN THE WORLD?

Saint Pope John Paul II stated on several occasions that he wanted to see Perpetual Adoration Chapels in every parish in the world. Apparently there are approximately 225,778 parishes in the world, times that by a minimum of 168 Adorers taking at least one hour a week. That is a lot of people praying. The statistics below are from the United States - so there is a long way to go! In New Zealand, as far as I am aware, there is only one Perpetual Adoration chapel. Of course, our parishes are, perhaps, much smaller than those in the United States. Interestingly, "The first clear historical example of Perpetual Adoration that we know of began as a single day of Adoration in the papal chapel in Avignon in September 1226. A month later Francis of Assisi died. (It drew so many people that Eucharistic Adoration became perpetual and was continuous until 1792 when it was finally shut down by the French Revolution".) *Sherry Weddell*

UNITED STATES ADORATION STATS



EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR & PROCESSION

SUNDAY JUNE 22 AT 1.30PM

ST MARY'S PRO-CATHEDRAL

Confessions

Procession around local streets

Homily from Bishop Michael

Prayers of Intercession

Rosary

Benediction and Divine Praises

Finish at 3pm

***Please contact Matt O'Connell on chchadoration@gmail.com
or***

0275369407

for more details

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PARISH STARTS PERPETUAL ADORATION?

TESTIMONY

Some great testimonies from a parish that started Perpetual Adoration in the United States

Diane started going to Adoration when the chapel first opened. “At first I couldn't sit there for more than a few minutes. I wasn't used to that kind of quietness and I was in so much turmoil; I couldn't calm myself down. But I'd force myself to stay and I poured out my heart to Him. I wanted to be in control all the time but I started giving my troubles and sufferings to God and I said, I place this on your shoulder. I realized I was getting so much peace there. I was staying longer, and I kept wanting to go back. I'm now closer to Jesus. Even if the problems don't get resolved right away, I now have acceptance and calmness. I say, ‘Jesus I can't do this alone. I give it to You.’ When I sit in front of the Blessed Sacrament, I learn to let God be in control.”

“Therese, (a parishioner), started experiencing extreme pain, which she assumed was from herniated discs. But an MRI found a completely different and unexpected cause — a large tumor. Her doctor said the first thing she had to do was get to an oncologist immediately. Therese knew going to God first was how she was going to handle this. “So I went to Adoration. I put my report from the doctor on the floor in front of the Jesus and I said, ‘Jesus, You are my doctor. If You want to heal me, I know you will heal me. If you don't want to heal me, I accept that. I place all my hope in you.’” Alone in the chapel in the middle of the night, Theresa lay down before the Blessed Sacrament. Tears came but she knew her confidence was with Jesus. The next day she scheduled the oncologist, and continued to go to Adoration until her appointment the next week. All sorts of tests were run by the oncologist, and then Therese had to wait another few days for the results. “I just kept going to Jesus, and I told Him I accept what He decides; if He chooses to heal me, or not heal me. My trust was in Him, not in the doctors.” Theresa noticed her pain was subsiding. Back at the oncologist's office this past January, she caught a look on his face she couldn't read. Then he shared with her that in spite of her previous MRI conclusively showing a large tumor, there was now no tumor to be found anywhere in her body. The doctor was stunned and had no explanation. Theresa knew Who she had to thank, and went right back to the Adoration chapel to thank Him. She's had no pain or symptoms since”.

CAN YOU HELP?

Currently we have over 200 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-9am, 10am-4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm, 11pm), Mondays (12am-5am, 7am, 1pm-4pm, 9pm-12am), Tuesdays (1am-6am, 9am-4pm, 6pm, 9pm, 11pm), Wednesdays (12am-5am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 2pm, 4pm, 5pm, 9pm-11pm), Thursdays (12am-3am, 5am, 11am-5pm), Fridays (12am-5am, 7am-10am, 12pm-8pm, 10pm, 11pm) and Saturdays (12-5am, 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