

ST JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL AVARUA RAROTONGA PARISH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015.

Phone. 26113.

SUNDAYS MASSES

**9.00 AM MAORI
10.30 AM ENGLISH
5.00 PM ADORATION/BENEDICTION**

WEEKDAY MASSES

**7.00 AM MON. – FRI.
8.00 AM : SATURDAY
CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS**

St Joseph's Cathedral Parish:

**Parish Priest: Bishop Paul Donoghue s.m.
Phone Contact: (682)20692 - Residence
(682)20817 - Office**

**Cathedral Administrator: Fr Epiloka Pahia
Phone Contact: (682)26113 – Residence
Mobile: 52734**

St Joseph's Cathedral Parish Council:

**Chair: Carl Glassie
Assistant: Joe Caffrey/Ron Patia
Treasurer: Unakea Kauvai
Assistant: Julia K. Cowan
Secretary: Mousie Skews
Assistant: Ruta Tomokino**

Sundays Readings for February:

Sunday, 1st February. 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Readings:

1. Deuteronomy 18: 15 - 20
2. 1 Corinthians 7: 32 -35
3. Mark 1; 21 – 28

Tuesday, 2nd February, The Presentation of the Lord.

Readings.

1. Malachi 3: 1 -4
2. Hebrews 2: 14 - 18
3. Luke 2: 22 - 24

NB. Blessing of Candles at mass is traditionally done on this day.

Sunday, 8th February. 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Readings:

4. Job 7; 1 -4,6,7
5. 1 Corinthians 9: 16 -19,22,23
6. Mark 1: 29 – 39

Wednesday, 18th February, 2015 Ash Wednesday

Readings:

1. Joel 2; 12 - 18
2. 2 Corinthians 5: 20 – 6:2
3. Matthew 6: 1 -6, 16 - 18

Sunday, 22nd February. FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT.

Readings:

1. Genesis 9: 8 - 15
2. 1 Peter 3: 18 – 22.
3. Mark 1: 12 – 15

PASTORAL NOTES ON LENT.

1.Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

2.Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self denial and helping others. In this way, the whole church prepares for Easter.

3.Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their eighteenth birthday, until the beginning of the sixtieth year: the law of abstinence binds those who completed their fourteenth year.

Abstinence means we do not eat meat on Ash Wednesday or Good Friday.

Fasting, is to reduce the amount of food eaten from normal. The Church defines this as one full meal a day, and two smaller meals. Such fasting is obligatory on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

CATHOLIC HIGHLIGHTS OF JANUARY

There has been an advertisement appearing on local television and in the local newspaper showing the faces of Pope Francis and President Obama. I have not heard anything on the content of this workshop and what was the connection between these two and the topic "The End is Here" Bible seminar. With 1.2 billion members of the Catholic Church world wide if one wants to find something to criticise the Catholic Church for it is not too difficult to dig something up given our numbers. However, during January there were three news events re our church that gave me heart.

NORMALISING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USA AND CUBA.

The first event does concern President Barack Obama and General Raúl Castro, the leader of Cuba. Both General Raúl Castro and President Obama thanked Pope Francis for helping broker a historic deal to begin normalising relations between the United States and Cuba to bring about a sudden end to decades of cold war hostility.

We know Pope Francis and our church in general, prays for world peace; that it is concerned about conflicts, atrocities and wars and it is encouraging to see that this is more than just mere words and positive results do come about from intervention.

NEW CARDINALS.

Again in January, Pope Francis named new Cardinals in order to keep their number current at 120. The pleasant surprise was that two of the new Cardinals come from Oceania. There was the appointment of Archbishop John Dew of Wellington New Zealand and closer still to Rarotonga, the bishop of Tonga, Bishop Soane Patita Paini Mafi. The surprise here is that there are only 120 Cardinals

world wide and in naming 15 new ones, that two came from this part of the world was a major talking point. However, Pope Francis has emphasised the universality of the church and that no one Region of the church is more important than another and this selection of Cardinals from New Zealand, Oceania, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam and Mozambique emphasises that. There were none named from the larger churches of the United States, Australia, Brazil which was unexpected.



CARDINAL ELECT JOHN DEW.

NEW ZEALAND

The naming of Archbishop John Dew as a Cardinal brought a good deal of joy to us in the Cook Islands as he has previously worked here. Fr. John Dew arrived in Rarotonga in 1980 on loan from the archdiocese of Wellington. We associate the then Fr John Dew with the Cathedral Parish, where he was appointed the administrator. But he also had outer island experiences with two weeks in Mauke in 1980. Noteworthy was when he led the St. Joseph's tere party to New Zealand in April, 1981. Also in 1981 he was the supervisor of the building of the St. Joseph's Community Centre. He made a pastoral visit to Manihiki in Feb. 1982. It was in this year that he returned to his own diocese. While here in the Cook Islands Fr

Dew was an enthusiastic worker and was well known within and outside of the Catholic Church. I note in the write ups that I have read it is always acknowledged by writers that Cardinal-elect Dew worked in the Cook Islands.

Archbishop John Dew is the fourth Cardinal for the Church of New Zealand. His predecessor, Cardinal Thomas Williams left his mark on this diocese as the dedicator of the new Cathedral in 1994.

TONGA.

That the church area of CEPAC received a cardinal was indeed an honour. And certainly shows how much Pope Francis wants the voice of all areas of world heard at the highest level in Rome. Why Tonga? Bishop Mafi is the current president of CEPAC and has attended the last two Synods in Rome, so in that role he would be known. A talking point with regards Cardinal-elect Mafi is his age of 53. He is the youngest Cardinal in the world. Perhaps of interest re his background is that he is the son of a catechist. And as a seminarian, studied at the Pacific Regional Seminary in Suva. He would be the first Cardinal to have studied at the Pacific Regional Seminary.

However, Bishop Paini is not the first cardinal for CEPAC. The first was Cardinal Pio Taofinu'u sm of the Archdiocese of Samoa-Apia who became a Cardinal in 1973 and died in 2006.

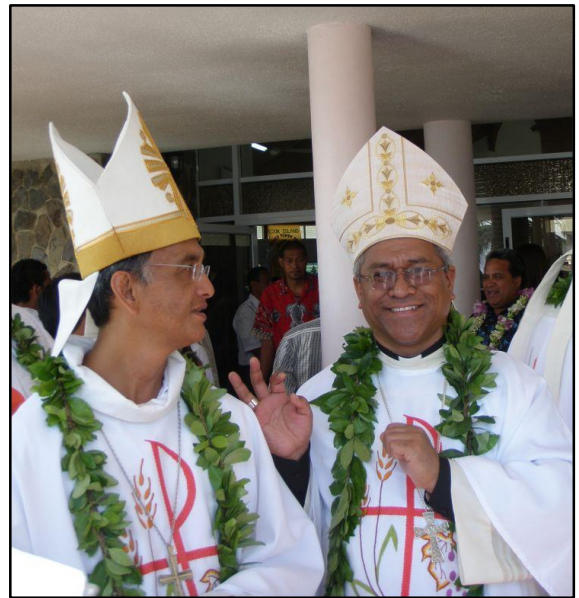
THE ROLE OF CARDINAL

Archbishop Dew and Bishop Mafi as cardinals will continue to work in their respective dioceses. Their role as bishops of their dioceses is unchanged.

Cardinals are called to help the Pope in his leadership of the Church. During this month

all the Cardinals will gather in Rome for a meeting known as a consistory and will be consulted by Pope Francis on matters concerning the Church at this time. Likely topics are what is happening in the Middle East and further discussion on the family, which is being dealt with in the Synod.

The singular role cardinals play in the Church is that of electing a new Pope when the See of Peter is vacant. In other words when a Pope dies or resigns cardinals gather in Rome to choose the next Pope in what is known as a conclave. Both men, as cardinals are eligible to be elected Pope.



Bishop Pascal Chang Soi (Administrator of Papeete) with Cardinal-elect Bishop Mafi.

POPE FRANCIS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The third powerful event for me during January was Pope Francis' visit to the Philippines. That six million people turned out in the rain to celebrate mass with Pope Francis speaks to me of the importance of the Eucharist. His constant message during the trip was to learn compassion and serve others. In other words the centrality of loving the poor, and loving children who are helpless. Constantly he emphasized the importance of the family.

(Bishop Paul Donoghue sm)

APPRECIATION

I am frequently amazed by all the work that gets done by various groups around the Cathedral. The numbers are large and I hope we never take you for granted.

The cleaning of our Cathedral and its surroundings demonstrate your willingness to serve. The countless hours in the likes of arranging floral arrangements. The preparing of liturgies. The preparing of food in order to celebrate occasions, such as weddings, baptisms, unveilings, hair cutting. And it goes on. I am worried I may miss someone out in the list that follows:

Thank you to those who:

- Prepared the Christmas carol evening with its fund raising for our seminarian.
- Prepared Christmas liturgies.
- Prepared New Year liturgies one of which was broadcasted.
- To our musicians and readers.
- The tapere of Avatiu for their work during December.
- For Tupapa/Maraerenga for their work during January.
- To the Catechists and Parish Council for farwelling our seminarian Vincent Peters.
- For the final goodbyes arranged for the Daughters of Charity. Sr Margaret, Sr Patty and Sr Lucialam who left the Diocese on the 27th of December. Also, Fr. Salvadore Marcaida on his leaving.
- To the Maintenance Group for their work on the Bishop's House roof and on the roof of the Administration block.
- For the regular Sunday collections.

ADVANCED NOTIFICATION.

In the week beginning the 16th of March we will be hosting the Pope's representative in this part of the world, Archbishop Martin

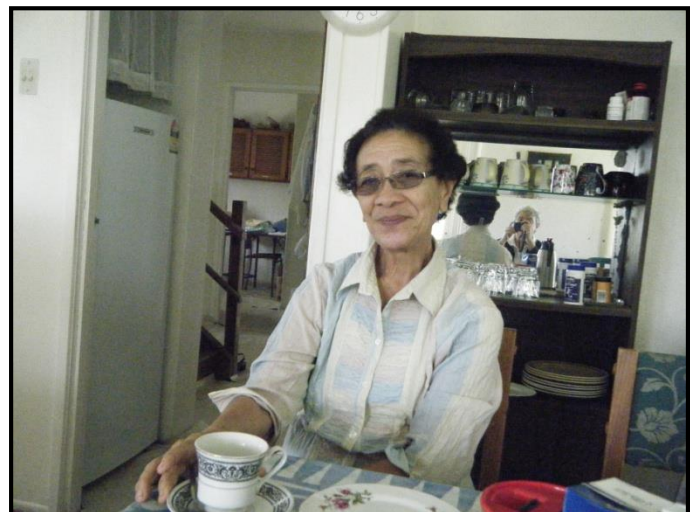
Krebs. It is the nuncio's first visit to the Cook Islands, so a good deal of his visit will be taken up with protocol. But there will be time for us to welcome him as a diocese and a committee is formed to organize that.

SISTER EMMA KAITARA SJC

The death of Sr Emma sjc was a total surprise, to which we had to respond quickly. With Sr Teresa and Sr Lusiana, the community members away at the time, it fell to Sr Elizabeth and family members to organize the vigil liturgy and the funeral. They were later joined by Sr Rosalie and Sr Francis.

An appreciation was published in the Cook Islands News shortly after the funeral in which the Sisters of Cluny, myself and family members thanked everyone who supported us, by their much appreciated presence, prayer and donations during the time of Sr Emma's death and burial.

This is the year of **Consecrated Life**. The Diocese is only too aware of Sr Emma and other Cook Island women who have given long years of faithful service as religious women in the congregation of St. Joseph of Cluny. It is my prayerful wish that Sr. Emma's death will be the spark to light the fire again and a new and exciting chapter will come about for religious women in the Diocese.



Sister Emma Kaitara sjc rip