

Monthly Message From Anil Baptist
Auckland CCR Chairperson



In the beginning was the word... John 1:1(CCB)

Hope all of you had a good break and have come back refreshed and ready for 2014.

During the Christmas season we heard of the birth of Jesus from Luke, Matthew and John. While the first two focus on the physical birth of Jesus, John focuses on Jesus being the Word of God. One pillar of our faith is the word of God. The world was created by a word "**Let there be light and there was light**" **Genesis 1:3 (CCB)**. Jesus calming the storm "**Quiet now be still**" **Mk 4:39(CCB)**. So the words we use are very powerful. One of the major problems with the English language is that since it is not a fundamental language but a derived one, which means that most of the words are based on another language it lends itself to manipulation or dilution. For example the word entrepreneur is derived from the French which is based on the word enterprising. I recently read a word called mumpreneur which was meant to read a stay at home mum operating a business from home. So if a woman were to say that she is an entrepreneur she would be telling her subconscious mind and others that she was enterprising, but if she were to say she is a mumpreneur she would be saying she is a mum. I hope you understand what I am trying to convey. With trivialisation well and truly mainstream we need to be careful as to the words we used and its meaning.

One word that seems to be lost in translation is the word 'Tithe'. All the teachings and debates have been as to how much very little has been said as to that is a tithe. **Malachi 3:10** spells it out clearly "**Turn over to the temple treasury the tenth part of all that there may be food in my House**" This verse tells us clearly that any money given for upkeep of places of worship including supporting the priests constitutes a tithe, the rest is charity. This is very important going forward if the charities commission changes the definition of charity. As of now the courts have gone by the 400 year tradition of the definition which includes furthering of religion as a charitable exercise. But with the anti religion sentiment part of our modern society furthering religion could be struck off that list as churches would lose their charitable status. This would definitely lead to a fall in donations. Money would go from our churches to other charitable organisations which although do good, on one hand go against the teachings of the church and further moral decay on the other. It is only in the case of a tithe that God has promised to open up the gates of heaven and bring blessed rain up till the last drop. If we are to become true worshippers of the Father we need to support our places of worship not only with prayers and service but tithing as well.

Well done, good and faithful servant(s)! Matt 25: 23

Every New Year brings change and we start off this year by bidding a fond farewell to Peter and Sheila Baker, who have been Caregivers at St Joseph's Centre for the last 22 years. After prayerful consideration, they have decided that the time has come for them to move on.

Their ministry started in 1992, when they were invited by Fr John Moss, to become the Caregivers of St Joseph's Centre. They were involved with the ministry of Hospitality and worked together with volunteers, doing whatever was necessary to enhance the Centre. One of the big transformations which Peter Baker and Peter Dekker accomplished with the help of volunteers was changing the dormitories into the bedrooms as they are today. Many other areas were transformed to suit the day to day activities in the Centre.

Totally trusting in God's providence, Peter and Sheila started their journey by moving into the Centre Flat on 26 March 1992, with just the bare necessities. They initiated a catering service as part of the hospitality and in 1993, started the 'St Joseph's Centre Prayer Group', which has met every Tuesday night since then. In 1994, they started a Bible Study, which has been held on every Thursday morning during the school term. The St Joseph's Centre Gift Shop also began from humble beginnings in 1994.

During the last 22 years, they dedicated their lives to Ministry at the Centre, building up a team of faithful supporters over the years. Some have passed on and some assist them to this day.

Over the years, Peter and Sheila have been involved in the Healing Ministry, including Deliverance and Life in the Spirit Ministry. They were also part of the distribution team of Tongues of Fire. Being attentive to the needs of people who came into the Centre, they were always available for Prayer Ministry. They encouraged Adoration in the Chapel at the Centre, starting each day with prayer there themselves. They furthered the Diocesan needs in the Centre, by offering Hospitality to the Council of Priests, Diocesan Pastoral Council and Justice and Peace Commission and assisted with Conferences and Retreats, held by different groups within the Diocese. This also included setting up for the Auckland Catholic Charismatic Service Group and for Dove and Joshua Fellowships meetings.

A great loss was felt by all last year, when Peter and Sheila's son Michael passed away. Michael was always ready with a joyful smile and encouraging word for everyone he met in the Centre.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Sheila and Peter for their faithful service throughout the years. We will miss them, but Sheila will still be in the St Joseph's Centre Gift Shop, which is open from Monday to Saturday.

We wish them well on their new journey as we pray: "*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.*" Num 6: 24-26.

God Bless, Anil



PRAYER GROUP REPORT'

This month we thank the Life in the Living Water Prayer Group for sharing about their Prayer Group.

Life in the Living Water

Life in the Living Water (LLW) is a Charismatic Prayer Group specifically serving Chinese Youth in the Auckland Chinese Catholic Community (ACCC), as well as for the whole community and occasionally for the Diocese, if required. Languages used in the meetings include Cantonese, Mandarin and English.

Generally, prayer meetings are held at our Centre every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, comprising praise and worship, spiritual nourishment and prayers. Spiritual nourishment is either based on topical studies or specific books in The Bible.

The goal of the group is to introduce Charismatic prayer to the community and provide a place where Charismatic gifts are exercised and developed. The prayer group has been meeting for more than 7 years under the guidance of our Chaplain, Father Peter Choy.

LLW has been serving the community through leading praise and worship. Some members also take significant leading roles in spiritual sessions for the community youth.

It has always been a blessing to see how LLW changes the youth within the community.

Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women West Auckland:

Come and Celebrate the start of a New Year and our Theme:

Jesus is...(*The Bread of Life*) with Mass

at St Michael and all Angels Anglican Church Hall
425 Great North Road, Henderson on

Tuesday 4th February at 7:30pm.

Reconciliation, Prayer Ministry and Fellowship to follow meeting.

For more information please call: Anne Marie 832 1155

The Service Group of the Auckland Catholic Charismatic Renewal

Warmly invites all Members and Friends to join us at our Annual Mass with

Bishop Patrick Dunn



**Friday 7th March 2014 at 7.30pm
Praise & Worship from 7pm**

**St Joseph's Church
10 Dominion Street, Takapuna**

**Please bring a plate to share
Afterwards for Supper in the Hall**

A Love offering will be taken up

ACCR LENTEN RETREAT 14th-15th March

"Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of our God. He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths."
(Isaiah 2:3)

Talks by Fr Maria Selvan

**Friday 14th March: 7.30-9.15pm and
Saturday 15th March: 9.00 - 4pm (includes
Mass)**

Numbers limited.

Information and Registrations:
Vanessa 4895613 or Deidre 4108899



Dates for your Diary 2014

Friday 11 April

ACCR Gathering Night

St Joseph's Centre, 1 Fred Thomas Drive,
Takapuna

**Praise & Worship, Teaching, Sharing
Prayer Ministry**