

**Conference of Anglican Religious Orders
In Aotearoa New Zealand**



The annual meeting of the Conference of Anglican Religious Orders in Aotearoa (CAROANZ) gathered in Hamilton at Te Ara Hou Village over the weekend of 30 / 31 August 2014. The conference began with a time of reflection led by Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop of Waikato and then an address from Bishop Victoria Matthews, the Liaison bishop for the Religious Life. Participants represented the Community of the Sacred Name, the Society of St Francis—both First and Third Orders, the Associates of the Holy Cross, and the Urban Vision community. Apologies were received from the Sisters of the Love of God, the Order of St Stephen and the Kopua Associates. Next year's meeting will be held in Christchurch slightly earlier in the year.

Society of St Francis
PO Box 13117
Hillcrest
Hamilton 3251

Telephone (07) 856 6701
friary@franciscan.org.nz
<http://www.franciscan.org.nz>

The Friary of the Divine Compassion
Te Ara Hou Village
100a Morrinsville Road
Hillcrest, Hamilton 3216

Franciscan Angles is a free publication funded by your donations

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A Newsletter of Anglican Franciscans in Aotearoa New Zealand

2014 - 2

Brother Brian Celebrates Sixty Years of Priestly Ministry

On Trinity Sunday, June 15th, Brian gave thanks to God for 60 years as an ordained priest of the One Church of God in the Anglican / Episcopal tradition. He is grateful to Peter Rickman, the Dean of St Peter's Cathedral, Hamilton, for inviting him on that day to preside at the choral Eucharist and choose the preacher whom he would invite. That was Richard Hancock of the Auckland Diocese. He was ordained priest on that day in Bristol Cathedral, the ordaining bishop being Frederick Arthur Cockin, and the retreat conductor and preacher Sydney Evans, Warden of St Boniface College Warminster, later Dean of Kings College London succeeding Eric Abbot. He owes them both much gratitude, as he had been both at Kings College and Warminster as a student. The residentiary Canon at that time in Bristol Cathedral, who was in charge of ordinands and junior clergy of the diocese and in that capacity helped him through three years as a parish curate before joining SSF First Order, was J Ralph Peacey. He was Richard Hancock's uncle and god-father, which was one reason for inviting Richard to be the preacher on Trinity Sunday this year.

It happened to be the very good Cathedral choir's "Sunday Off". So the girls' and boys' choir of Southwell School were a worthy substitute. Among the good congregation were Brothers Christopher John and Damian Kenneth, Sr Anne SLG and relatives from Auckland as well as friends. Afterwards there was a lovely cake made by one of the Cathedral congregation and a brief speech or two. Later about twenty invited people including the new Bishop of Waikato Helen-Ann Hartley came to the Friary for a splendid lunch cooked and prepared by Carol Taylor, a good friend of the friary. He is very grateful for the messages and cards he received including heartening letters from the Roman Catholic Bishops of Hamilton (Denis Browne) and Christchurch (Barry Jones). Thanks be to God and to all for a wonderful day.

Another reason was that he knew and valued Richard over the years as a fellow Anglican member of ARCCANZ (Anglican Roman Catholic Commission of Aotearoa New Zealand). He thanks him for his sermon on the Mystery of the Holy Trinity and for the kind things he said about him and his uncle. Two of J.R.Peacey's hymns were



Sermon Preached by Rev'd Richard Hancock at Brother Brian's Anniversary

Trinity Sunday, 15 June 2014 - Genesis 1:1-2:4a 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20

**Go forth for God,
go to the world in joy,
to serve God's people
every day and hour,
and serving Christ,
our every gift employ,
rejoicing
in the Holy Spirit's power.**

This is a day to celebrate. As it's Trinity Sunday we celebrate the mystery and wonder of God, and also today Brother Brian's 60 years as a priest, the mystery of vocation and priesthood. These two are intertwined, Brian's vocation and priesthood being dependent on the greater mystery and wonder that is God.

I must confess to a sense of surprise and inadequacy when Brother Brian first approached me about preaching today. It was because of one outstanding priest, who influenced us both, Canon J. R. Peacey, or as I knew him, uncle Raphe, my godfather. I began with quoting words from a hymn he wrote. And although it may surprise you, for I am nearly two decades younger than Brother Brian, uncle Raphe influenced me in ministry before he influenced Brian.

In 1948 or '49, as a four-year-old, uncle Raphe took me on his knee and asked me what I wanted to do when I grew up. I immediately replied, "I want to be a priest like Daddy." (for my father was a parish priest). Uncle Raphe never forgot, continually encouraged me even after we migrated to NZ, and eventually came here 20

years later in order to preach at my ordination to the priesthood in St Mary's Cathedral, Auckland, a mere 46 years ago.

Wherever Raphe Peacey went he helped people in ministry. Before and during WW2 he was the principal of the main Anglican Theological College in North India, "Bishop's College", in Calcutta. Later when my wife and I went through India in the mid '70's, 30 years after he had left, because of the quality of his ministry we were invited to stay at the college and I to preach at the Cathedral, where, I might add, I was asked to remove my shoes because it was a holy place! Very nice was a cool marble floor in Calcutta's heat - but I'm glad I don't have to do it here in Hamilton in winter.

Brother Brian met Raphe Peacey as he prepared for ordination in Bristol, and was under his supervision for post ordination training - every Thursday for a year after his ordination as he remembers it. And he has spoken warmly to me about Raphe's encouragement as he began to shape his life as a priest - "he even came to speak to my youth group."

Brother Brian's, 60 years of priesthood have taken him from Bristol on the other side of the world to Hamilton New Zealand. After his curacy in a parish, he entered the Franciscan world and made his life profession in 1961 when he was sent to work in PNG at Port Moresby and Popondetta, then the

Solomon Islands, then 20 years at Stroud in Newcastle NSW Australia, during that time he was Minister General for the Society of St Francis from 1991-97, then to the quiet of St Isaac's Opononi, eventually to the Friary here in Hamilton.

That hymn verse fits so well:

**Go forth for God,
go to the world in joy,
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There is a great mystery to the priesthood - whatever the circumstances of ordination. Brian and I were ordained when the 1662 Prayer Book was used - we were charged to *have in remembrance, into how high a dignity and to how weighty an office and charge ye are called: that is to say, to be messengers, watchmen, and stewards of the Lord; to teach, and to premonish (which means to warn), to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children who are in the midst of this naughty world, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.* The charge continues warning us of the horrible punishment that will ensue if anyone takes harm by reason of our neglect. Jesus himself made clear that a neighbour was anyone in need, so *his children* means any human being - as a priest our calling is infinitely wide.



Some Changes at the Friary



It is, of course, an impossible charge, no one could take it on without the clear response, repeated several times in the service, *the Lord being my helper*. Indeed in the mystery of priesthood I have often found that our best witness is made at the times of our greatest weakness and vulnerability - and our greatest mistakes made when we think we are strong. As Paul so eloquently reminds us in the First letter to the Corinthians *God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.... So Paul preached Christ, and him crucified.*

One of the great wonders of the Christian faith is that the more you come to know God, the more you know God as mystery, we only tentatively touch the edge of understanding. Part of the struggle for early Christianity was to find a way of expressing the mystery of God that included the richness of Jewish experience, the amazing and challenging life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the extraordinary power of God continually calling and enabling us into a new and richer way of living in Christ, which we call the Holy Spirit.

So God became known as Holy Trinity - faithful to the Jewish idea of ONE, but also honouring the experience of the followers of Jesus. For He was a direct experience of God, in this unique person in first century Palestine, God walked as one of us - fully human in all our frailty. His life surprised and still does when we read the Gospels with open minds. He never dominated by force - he

treated every person first Christian Pentecost. At creation the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters drawing life into existence; in the Sinai desert God told Moses who it was he had inspired with his divine spirit for the craftsmanship required to build the tabernacle; Jeremiah the prophet wanted to keep silent, but the fire burnt so hot within him that he had to speak.

Where love was shown, Jesus could be generous in response, where love was denied he could be harsh. His life, as recorded for us, is a never failing treasure of inspiration - both about God and about human living. When a Christian talks of love, it is embodied in Jesus. Here quite simply, is the model for every Christian. For priest and baptized laity alike. A human model, but also in a way beyond our understanding, the heart of God.

The Holy Spirit the third aspect of the Trinity is far more than that extraordinary experience recorded in the Acts of the Apostles of the

The significance of the Holy Spirit is emphasized at ordination, the whole congregation is bidden to pray earnestly for God's Holy Spirit, and those being ordained for the assistance of the Holy Ghost. Then before the laying on of hands, the *Veni, Creator Spiritus, Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,* was to be sung.

Into this extraordinary ministry Brother Brian was ordained 60 years ago - and I am sure that there are people in the various places where he served, who remember him with a similar gratitude to that with which he remembers Raphe Peacey. 60 years ago Brian was ordained to serve the church,



Brian and Richard Hancock at lunch

to enable and equip the baptized to live their vocation in the world. Where he has gone he has sought to do this in the spirit of the Gospel - filtered through the lens of St Francis. By becoming a Franciscan Brother Brian has associated himself with one of the best known examples in Christian history of those who sought to give up everything and follow and identify with Christ. To own nothing so to be totally free to be the servant of the servants of God.

Thank you Brian for your ministry - and the best is yet to come.

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Hamilton Friary Changes

It is true when people say that the only constant in life is that there will always be change. Life in the friary in Hamilton has been in a constant state of change since late last year. In October and November 2014 it appeared fairly certain that Brian and Damian Kenneth would be unable to maintain the life of the friary due to their various health concerns. A plan was devised to return the 'front' house to the diocese and for the friary to concentrate into the 'back' house.

The diocese, as landlord of the house and grounds, undertook some refurbishment and combined two rooms into one making a space in the front of the house which would accommodate the Centre for Spirituality, Education and Social Justice. The Centre moved into this space for a time and then relocated into another room in Anglican Action.

Much deliberation resulted in a move of the library from what was originally the Bishop's chapel into the more spacious newly formed room which has turned out to be a very worthwhile change.

With the former library becoming vacant, discussion happened about how best to use this room, and it was decided to return what had been the chapel when the house was built for the newly-created Bishop of Hamilton, Edward Gaines, into a sacred space as the Friary Oratory from where we pray our Daily Offices.

The oratory had been in what started out as the garage and then refurbished as the friary office. Life has completed one more cycle as it is now once more back as the friary office.

One of the rooms lost during the overhaul was our interview / counselling / spiritual direction room. The SSF Trust has purchased a re-locatable cabin which has been erected on the front lawn and has become a well-used quiet space to fill that need.

Our Tertiary Brother Phil Dyer, who has been a member of the community for two years now, adds a further dimension to the scope and ministry of the friary.

There are some photos of the changes on pages 6 & 7.



The Friary Library

Among all that has been happening at the Friary over the past months the Library has also been having a 'make-over'.

Initially, it was decided to reorganize and re-catalogue the books using the support and expertise of Kinder Library staff at St John's Theological College. Br Brian and Phil made a trip up to St Johns earlier in the year to seek the advice of the College Librarians, Judith Bright and Helen Greenwood. With over 3,400 books, the task sounded rather daunting. All the books needed to be rearranged in alphabetical order then each book bar coded and the title page and copyright page photographed. The information and photos to be sent in batches to the Kinder Library for them to record on their On-line catalogue. They would issue us in return with new Spine labels to attach to the correct books. In the process books needed to be repaired, covered and sorted, re-shelved and an off-site Stack Collection created to house duplicate copies and books no longer in current use so as to create space to update our collection.

This slow and intensive job has been greatly helped by a willing volunteer librarian that appeared one day at the Friary door, saying she had heard we were re-cataloguing our library and did we need some help? Vicki Jones has been an invaluable support and has spent countless hours quietly working away processing our collection. If you logon to the Kinder Library you will see 'Franciscan Friary Hamilton' appears now under the ANGLICAT search options

While this was happening, the enlarged room created for the Centre of Spirituality, Justice and Education came available and Vicki and Phil transferred all the shelves and books across creating a pleasant new library space that provides a very inviting reading and study room, with easy access to all the books.

We are now updating our process for issuing books along the following guidelines:

GUIDELINES FOR BORROWING BOOKS

CATALOGUE: Currently the Library is being re-catalogued. An up to date computer catalogue is available in the Friary Library and will be available online via the John Kinder Theological Library ANGLICAT database www.kinderlibrary.ac.nz. If you need help in locating a book, please ask.

ISSUING BOOKS: Please fill in the **Issuing Register on the desk** before you take books out of the Library.

LOAN PERIOD: Books are issued for a four week period, and may be renewed once unless they have been requested by another borrower. You will be sent a reminder email when your books are overdue. Always ensure the library has your up-to-date email address.

Please Note: You will be invoiced for any books unreturned, lost or damaged.

RETURNS: Please place books in the **"Library Returns"** box in the Library. If you are returning books by post they must be securely wrapped in cardboard or posted in a handbag, and addressed to:

**The Friary of the Divine Compassion
P.O Box 13-117, Hillcrest,
HAMILTON 3251.**

DONATIONS: There is no charge to use the library. However, as we are seeking to enlarge our collection, financial donations are always welcomed.

This exciting venture is a great improvement to the resources, facilities and ministry of hospitality now available at the Friary. Do drop by and visit and see what has been happening. You are always welcome.