

The Order of Friars Minor Capuchin

There are three major branches of the Franciscan First Order for Religious men, the Franciscan Friars Minor, the Conventual Friars Minor and the Capuchin Friars Minor, but all share St. Francis of Assisi as their Father and Founder.

The Capuchins are the youngest branch, going back to 1525, when some Friars Minor in the Marches wanted to live a stricter life of prayer and poverty to be closer to the original intentions of St. Francis. The founding friars received the blessing of Pope Clement VII who gave them permission to wear the habit with the pointed hood. The name Capuchins refers to the peculiar shape of the long hood. Originally a popular nickname, it has become the official name of the Order. The fraternity grew fast, first in Italy, and since 1574 all over Europe, and now present in 101 countries all over the world, with around 11,000 brothers living in more than 1,800 communities (fraternities, friaries).

Simplicity, closeness to the people, a fraternal spirit in our houses and our apostolate are visible signs that mark our lifestyle and charism.

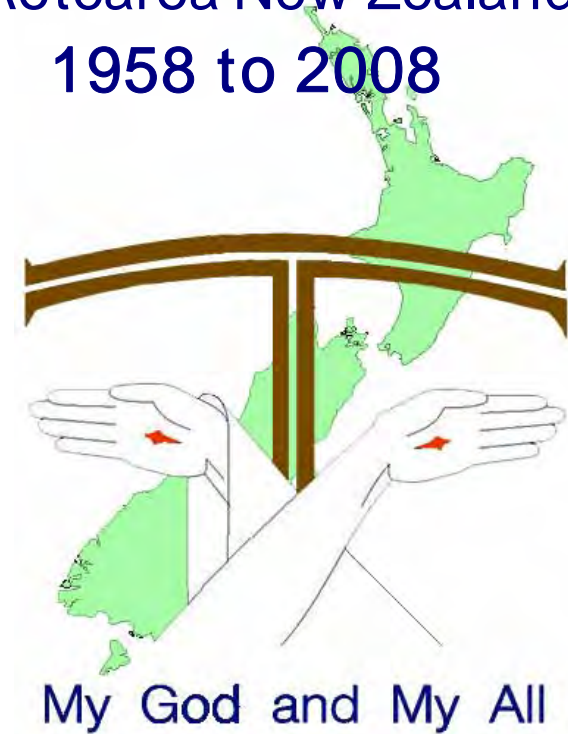
Besides the Capuchin Order for Religious men, there exist many contemplative monasteries of Capuchin nuns and a multitude of religious congregations for women with the Capuchin spirit, often founded with the assistance of a Capuchin friar.

The Secular Franciscan Order for lay people is an independent organisation encompassing the whole Franciscan spectrum. Franciscans, Conventuals, Capuchins and other members of the Franciscan Family give spiritual assistance to the Secular Franciscan Order. All these groups of professed religious and secular Franciscans form the Franciscan Family.

The New Zealand Capuchin Fraternity is a Provincial Custody of the Irish Capuchin Province. The Irish Capuchins have vice-provinces in South Africa and Zambia, and a Provincial Custody in South Korea. The Western American province is an Irish foundation. From the earliest years the Capuchin Friars have gone to foreign lands to spread the Good News of Jesus and witness to the Capuchin Charism and way of life in these countries.

Capuchin Franciscan Friars

Celebrate 50 Years
in Aotearoa New Zealand
1958 to 2008





ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

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An Appreciation from the Archbishop of Wellington

Father Jeremiah O'Reily, OFM.Cap, founding personality of the Catholic Church in Wellington, arrived in January 1843 after an eventful voyage out to New Zealand. There he found a small, but thriving Catholic community, led by Dr John Patrick Fitzgerald. He came as their priest, expecting to stay for only 7 years, but the 7 years became 37 and he died in Wellington in 1880.

So the Capuchins had laid a solid foundation for their return to the Archdiocese in 1958 at the invitation of Archbishop McKeefry. He proposed three main areas of ministry:

- A chaplaincy for Catholic university students and staff, and students at Wellington Teachers' College;
- Pastoral care to the parish of St Vincent de Paul (Northland); and
- work with the religious of the Archdiocese of Wellington and to provide parish missions and retreats.

Over the years, nearly 20 Capuchins have served the Archdiocese in these diverse ministries. The university chaplain, in particular, was deeply blessed by the hours and years that the late Father Matthias spent in listening to students, guiding and counselling them on their faith journey. Father Agathangelus was parish priest at Northland for 10 years, a fitting preparation for the 15 years he then spent in South Africa and Zambia, before returning to Wellington.

When the Northland parish was amalgamated to Wilton in 2000, the Capuchins took over responsibility for the Kilbirnie parish which is also their community base for the service of the Archdiocese in response to new needs such as youth ministry and ethnic chaplaincies.

However, when one takes a closer look at the first three forms of ministry proposed to the Capuchins in the 1950s we see how relevant these are today. The Archdiocese of Wellington has been blessed by the presence of Capuchins since the earliest years of the Church here, and strengthened by the establishment of a formal community in 1958.

Once again, I thank you for all you have contributed in the uniqueness of your Capuchin vocation, and in the varied services you have given in the Archdiocese. May God bless you, and us, with many more years of your presence in the Archdiocese.

+ John A Dew

Archbishop of Wellington

4th July 2008.



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE

P.O. Box 14-044
Wellington 6241
New Zealand

10 July 2008

No. 2766

Dear Father Helsham,

I am pleased to learn that the Capuchin Franciscan Friars will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of their presence in New Zealand.

During the years that I lived in Rome, both as a seminarian and in preparing for the diplomatic service of the Holy See, I have had the opportunity to visit Assisi on a number of occasions, principally to make spiritual retreats. In visiting the churches and places that were touched by Saint Francis I have always felt what I considered to be his living presence. The Franciscan spirit is alive and well today in the religious communities that continue the good work that he began.

I feel privileged that the Apostolic Nunciature is located within the Parish of Saint Patrick in Kilbirnie, which is entrusted to the pastoral care of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars. I have always appreciated the invitation to join the parish for various occasions and liturgies, especially at Christmas and during the Easter Triduum. I am grateful as well for the hospitality that I have always been shown by the priests and brothers of the community.

Even though I cannot be present at the Jubilee, as the representative of the Holy Father in New Zealand. I assure you of his spiritual closeness and of my own prayers for a joyful and a grace filled celebration.

With prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Charles D. Balvo
Apostolic Nuncio

Reverend Paul Helsham, OFM Cap.
Holy Cross Friary
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Letter from the Irish Capuchin Provincial

NEW ZEALAND

The Gospel message announces that Jesus Christ, who has conquered sin and death, is the one in whom we place our hope. The Capuchin friars in New Zealand have been full of zeal for the spreading of this good news over the last fifty years. At the beginning, all the friars were Irish. These were brave and courageous men. Such was their missionary spirit that they would have gone further if there had been further to go. Now the make-up of the Custody is far more diverse with friars from Indonesia, the Philippines, and India, as well as Ireland. This makes for a richness not known before.

All these friars have a profound respect for the culture, traditions and customs of the people of New Zealand. They know that their preaching and teaching has to be backed up by the witness of lives of integrity and coherence.

It is with justifiable pride that we celebrate 50 years in New Zealand. The friars who serve there to-day are part of a faith-filled, lively, humane tradition of evangelisers. May we be blessed in the future by others who will have the same spirit. I'm happy to be associated with this commemorative booklet and I, on behalf of the Irish friars, sincerely congratulate all who are associated with the Custody of New Zealand as they celebrate this milestone in their mission.

Terence Harrington
(Irish Provincial)

CELEBRATING THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE CAPUCHINS IN NEW ZEALAND



Summary history of the Capuchins in New Zealand

1958 was the year when the Irish Capuchin Franciscan Province began a new overseas venture in Wellington, New Zealand. Their coming to Wellington was in response to a request from the then Archbishop (later Cardinal) McKeefry. There had been an earlier Capuchin presence in Wellington in the person of Fr. Jeremiah Joseph Purcell O'Reily OFM Cap., the first resident Catholic priest in Wellington, who arrived on January 31 1843 and died on July 21 1880. He is buried at Mount Street Cemetery in Wellington.

The more recent arrivals in New Zealand



On August 9 1958 Brother Matthias Murphy OFM Cap., arrived in Wellington. Br. Matthias was ordained the previous year having spent some years completing an MA and a Higher Diploma in Education to become the tertiary chaplain at Victoria University and at the Teachers Training College. The Catholic Chaplaincy facilities were very meagre at that time, but the chaplaincy work began to grow year by year.

On September 9 1958 Brother Agathangelus Herlihy OFM Cap., arrived in Wellington. Br. Agathangelus had ministered for 20 years in Africa, both in the mission fields of Zambia and in parochial work in Cape Town, South Africa. He was to be Parish Priest of St. Vincent de Paul Parish (Northland-Kelburn) at the Rigi.



Before long, in addition to their assigned duties, the two friars were involved in various ministries. They conducted missions and retreats throughout New Zealand and gave conferences on various topics.

Br. Agathangelus became a popular invited speaker on his knowledge of the apartheid situation in South Africa. Br. Matthias began a series of fortnightly conferences for the Sisters of Mercy and for the Little Company of Mary, and gave retreats and conferences to other religious congregations. Br. Matthias also worked with novices, junior professed and religious congregation leaders.

The two original friars were joined on October 31 1960 by Br. Eustace McSweeney, and on July 16 1960 by Br. Michael Mulvey, both from Ireland, increasing the number of friars to four. The friars resided initially at 2 Plunket St., Kelburn, which had been purchased earlier by the diocese as a parish presbytery.



Brothers Matthias and Agathangelus outside the newly built St Anthony's Friary at the corner of the Rigi and Glenmore St. in Kelburn

It was decided to build a friary in Glenmore Street. Excavation work began on April 6 1960. The completed friary was dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua, blessed and officially opened by Archbishop McKeefry on Sunday March 26 1961. About 800 people, priests, religious and laity attended. On April 14 the friars left 2 Plunket St. and took up residence in the new friary at 186 Glenmore St. The

Chronicle records that the friars experienced their first earthquake at the friary on December 28 1961

Br. Eustace worked for about eighteen months in the Dunedin Diocese promoting and canvassing for the new college which is now St. Peter's College in Gore. Eustace served as Guardian and as Parish Priest both in Wellington and Auckland. In 1979 Br. Eustace travelled to Ireland to attend the Irish Provincial chapter. He was elected Vicar-Provincial and so ended his time in New Zealand. In 1984 Br. Eustace was elected Provincial of the Irish Capuchin Province, and later Definitor General of the Capuchin Order in Rome. Eustace now ministers as Chaplain to St. Francis Hospice for advanced cancer and motor neuron disease, which is situated in the grounds of the Capuchin Friary in Raheny, Dublin.

Br. Michael worked as cook and housekeeper at the Catholic Presbytery in Plunket St, and St. Anthony's Friary, and as Sacristan at the St. Vincent de Paul Church. Michael was very popular with parishioners for his hospitality and service within the parish, and was sadly missed when he returned to Ireland in 1963.

In those early years visitors enjoyed their stay at St. Anthony's Friary; bishops and priests from throughout New Zealand on vacation or just visiting Wellington, or in transit travelling to or from other countries. The friary was renowned as a place of hospitality and remained so for many years.

On 26 January 1963, Br. Kieran Garvey arrived from Ireland. Kieran has resided in Wellington since then, first at the Rigi and now at Kilbirnie. Having graduated with a Post Graduate Certificate in Social Studies at Victoria University in 1974, Kieran worked with the Wellington Catholic Social Services as a Social Work Counsellor, which led to his appointment as Chaplain to Wellington Prison in 1974. In 1989 Kieran was appointed Senior Catholic Prison Chaplain for New Zealand, a post which he held until his retirement from it in 2007. Kieran continues to minister as part-time prison chaplain to Wellington Prison, and is actively involved with the Worldwide Steering Committee of IPCA (International Prison Chaplain Association), and with ICCPPC, the International Catholic Chaplaincy.

Br. Vincent Corrigan arrived in Wellington in 1967 and ministered at St. Anthony's Friary and St. Vincent de Paul Parish until his return to Ireland in 1969. Br. Vincent now ministers at our Capuchin Friary in Korea.

Br. Alexius Healy arrived from Ireland in November 1967. Br. Alexius gave missions and retreats throughout New Zealand. Alexius returned to Ireland on 26th. November 1968.

A major sadness for the friars was the death of Br. Agathangelus from cancer on June 5 1968 at Calvary Hospital to which he had been admitted on April 20 1968. His funeral took place on June 7 at St. Mary of the Angels. Principal celebrant was his brother from Ireland, Fr. Michael Herlihy.

The next friar to come from Ireland was Br. Cronan Fahey who arrived on August 21 1969. During his dedicated life in New Zealand, Cronan travelled around the country giving Missions and Retreats. He ministered

as Parish Priest in Wellington and Christchurch, and also ministered in the Auckland and Dunedin dioceses. Cronan returned home to Ireland terminally ill with tumour on the brain on April 19 2006, and died on September 12 2006 in Dublin.

Br. Owen O’Sullivan came to New Zealand on February 28 1971. Owen took over the role of tertiary chaplain to Victoria University and Teachers Training College in June 1972. He researched and wrote a book on Fr. Jeremiah O’Reily. It was a difficult task due to the research needed and the limited availability of sources, particularly the records of the Archdiocese. The book was published on November 21 1977 with the title *Apostle in Aotearoa*. A couple of weeks later another booklet by Owen was published entitled *Church and Society in History*. Owen left for our mission in Zambia in 1978.

On June 16 1972, Br. Flannan (or Flann) Lynch arrived from Ireland. Br. Flann became the tertiary chaplain to Victoria University and the Teachers Training College. He ministered in Wellington, Auckland and Dunedin. In 1976 Flann published a book *The Path to Happiness* that grew out of his extensive parish mission and retreat ministry. He also developed a Spirituality Programme titled “More of You” and taught and promoted that programme throughout New Zealand. Flann returned to Ireland in 1999 where he continues to teach an updated and revised version of the “More of You” programme, entitled “Vision”.

Br. John Wright arrived from Ireland in 1973. Br. John ministered in Auckland, Dunedin, and in both houses in Wellington, St Anthony’s Friary and the Kilbirnie Presbytery. John held the position of Community Guardian in each of the communities in which he served. Br. John returned to Ireland at the end of 2002.

It was now time to expand our presence in New Zealand. Following the Irish Provincial Chapter of 1973, a new community was established at Meadowbank in Auckland. Appointed to the Meadowbank Community were Br. Eustace McSweeney as Guardian and Parish Priest, Br. Flann Lynch and Br. John Wright. The friars took over the care of the parish officially on 2nd. September 1973.

Br. Matthew Clerkin arrived from Ireland in October 1973. For the next three years Br. Matthew would be involved in preaching missions and retreats as well as giving lectures to religious. In 1974, Matthew revived

the Secular Franciscan Order in Wellington which had been established at Newtown in 1932 but had been inactive for several years. The Secular Franciscan Order began to meet on a regular basis in Wellington, and now continues to meet on a monthly basis at the Kilbirnie Presbytery in Wellington. From 1988-1994 inclusive, Br. Matthew lectured in Sacred Scripture at Holy Cross Seminary Mosgiel, Otago University Dunedin, and Knox Presbyterian College, Dunedin. Br. Matthew has held the positions of Provincial Delegate, for two years, and Vice Provincial for a total of fifteen years as well as Community Guardian and parish priest in Auckland and Wellington.

At the end of October and beginning of November 1975, Br. Paschal Rywalski, Minister General of the Capuchin Order, and Br. Aloysius Ward, Definitor General (later Archbishop of Cardiff), made a visitation of the friars in New Zealand.

In July 1975 Br. Berard Creed, a former Irish Provincial (1967 to 1973), joined the community at Meadowbank. While in New Zealand Br Berard engaged mainly in retreat work with religious and clergy. He returned to Ireland in July 1976



Holy Cross Friary
Lavelle Road, Henderson, Auckland

About this time, it was announced that the friars in Auckland would transfer in February 1976 from the parish in Meadowbank to the Henderson parish in the west of Auckland. Initially, in Henderson, the friars lived at the presbytery, 29 View Road. In November 1977 they purchased the Mercy Convent at 14 Lavelle Road from the diocese. Sisters Elizabeth and Joanna, who had resided there, switched residence with the friars to reside at the old presbytery. Sr. Elizabeth worked as pastoral worker in Holy Cross Parish, Henderson, and Sr. Joanna had a similar role in Holy Family parish in the Te Atatu Peninsula. An extension was built to the existing convent which is now the Holy Cross Capuchin Friary.

At the end of December 1977 the friars from Wellington and Auckland met at Southern Star Abbey in Hawkes Bay to reflect on their life and ministry. Over the ensuing few years the Abbey was to become their meeting place for these annual get-togethers



In January 1978 Br. Michael Burgess arrived from Ireland to take up his appointment to the Henderson fraternity and as Assistant priest in Holy Cross Parish. Br. Michael ministered as Provincial Delegate from 2002 to 2004. Michael was Guardian and Student Formation Director in Dunedin, and was Parish Priest and Guardian in the Wellington Communities, St. Anthony's Friary and the Kilbirnie Parish. Michael is presently Guardian at the Holy Cross Friary in Auckland.

In 1978 the Holy Cross Friary was designated as the joint Australia-New Zealand Centre for the Capuchin Postulancy Year in our formation programme. In February 1979 Ross Gow-Smith, John Worters and Christopher Rodney arrived to begin their postulancy programme. They were joined the following day by Alban Hunt, Gary Devery, Stephen Claydon and Martin Bruno - all from Australia. The Postulancy programme at Henderson continued until around 1984.

In February 1980 Br. Angelus Leahy arrived from Ireland. He ministered in the Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin Communities. Angelus was one of the great characters of our New Zealand Fraternity. Affectionately known as 'brother walky-talky', he loved walking and talking. Angelus was an excellent cook and renowned for his great pavalovas! Angelus became seriously ill with cancer while ministering in Dunedin, and returned to Ireland where he died in 1992.

In April 1980, Br. Benjamin O'Connell arrived from Ireland. Benjamin ministered in the Auckland and Wellington communities. His main apostolate was giving missions and retreats around New Zealand. Benjamin returned to Ireland in 1983.

September 1981 was a very significant month in the life of the Capuchins in New Zealand. On Monday September 21, Brother Paschal Rywalski, Minister General, formally established the Capuchin Vice-Province of New Zealand under the patronage and title of The Immaculate Conception. Br. Matthew Clerkin was appointed Vice-Provincial with Br. John Wright as First councillor and Br. Matthias Murphy as Second Councillor. Along with Br. Paschal Rywalski, Minister General from Rome, Br. John Corriveau (Definitor General) and Br. Brendan O'Mahony, Minister Provincial of Ireland, the following Capuchin friars from outside New Zealand were present for the formal establishment of the Vice-Province: Br. Carmel Flora, Minister Provincial of Australia; Br. Matteo Goldaraz, Vice-Provincial of the Philippines; Br. Benjamin Madden, Regular Superior of Papua New Guinea; Br. Colga O'Riordan from Ireland. Br. Colga had spent time as Novice-Master in Australia in the 1950's and 1960's. He was invited to Australia for the formal establishment of the Australian Assumption Capuchin Province some weeks before.

Br. Paschal Rywalski presented the New Zealand Vice-Province with an icon of the Christ of San Damiano.

Photo from left to right: Br. Michael Burgess, Br. Brendan O'Mahony (Irish Provincial), Br. Paschal Rywalski, (Minister General of the Capuchin Order), Br. Matthew Clerkin and Br. Angelus Leahy RIP



This icon hangs in the Chapel of Holy Cross Friary, Henderson. It expresses the link with our Franciscan beginnings in Assisi where the original icon is in the care of the Poor Clare nuns at the Basilica of St. Clare. While praying before this icon, St. Francis received the commission from Christ: "Go and repair my church which as you see is falling into ruin." The establishment of the Vice-Province was publicly promulgated and celebrated during a special Eucharist in Holy Cross Church on Monday 21st of September. Br. Paschal Rywalski, Minister General, was principal celebrant of the Mass with Most Reverend John Mackey, Bishop of Auckland, presiding in the sanctuary. There was a large congregation at this Mass. Representatives from the wider Franciscan family were also present: The Franciscan friars (OFM); Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood (FMDM); the Anglican Society of St. Francis (SSF); the Secular Franciscans (SFO).

Our first New Zealand friar to make Final Profession was Br. Paul Clarke. Paul was professed at 10am Mass at the Rigi on February 1 1981. He was, later in the year, ordained deacon and ordained priest on 26 September 1981 at Levin by Cardinal Williams.

In May 1981, Br. Brian Browne arrived from Ireland to join the friars in Auckland where he ministered for some time before he was transferred to the Wellington Community. Brian had been a missionary in Zambia for many years before coming to New Zealand. During his ministry at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Br. Brian did parish supplies at other parishes, gave conferences and lectures to religious congregations and talks to various Christian groups. Brian returned to Ireland in 1987.

In March 1983 Br. Macartan Hogan arrived to take up an appointment to the Henderson fraternity. Br. Macartan (known to everyone as 'Mac') was a very popular friar not only within the Henderson Parish, but also within the Auckland Irish Society. He was a very active member of the Society, including participation in its Indoor Bowling Team.

When Br. Macartan died in 2006, there was a very large participation of Auckland Irish Society members in his funeral liturgy. Br. Mac's coffin was draped with the Irish Flag, and at his graveside, as well as hymns, the Irish Society members sang many renowned Irish melodies.

Another addition in 1983 to the community in New Zealand was Br. Michael Tobin. Br. Michael had spent twelve years on the missions in Zambia. Michael Tobin ministered in both the Christchurch and Dunedin Parishes. Michael spent some weeks in Antarctica as a temporary replacement for the Diocesan chaplain that ministers there. Michael returned to Ireland in 1994.

A big day in the life of the Capuchins in New Zealand was the celebration of 25 years since their arrival in 1958. This celebration on December 8 1983, took place at Cardinal McKeefry School, Wilton, with a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Williams, several Capuchins, and many other priests. A large gathering of parishioners and many visitors celebrated the meal which followed the Mass. Eleven friars in all attended.

In 1984, the Wilton area, which had been part of the Basilica parish in Thorndon, was added to the St. Vincent de Paul Parish as Northland-Kelburn-Wilton parish.

In February 1984 Br. Paul Helsham from Papatoetoe, Auckland, entered the Capuchin Postulancy at the Holy Cross Friary in Henderson, and in 1985 did his Novitiate with the Capuchin Friars in Brisbane, Australia. Paul made Perpetual Profession on August 15 1993 in Auckland. During this time Br. Paul studied at the Holy Cross Seminary in Mosgiel and resided at the Dunedin Friary. He was ordained to the Priesthood in December 1993 by Bishop Denis Browne of Auckland. He has ministered in Auckland since then, and was appointed Parish Priest of the Henderson Parish in 2000. Br. Paul presently ministers as Regular Superior for the Capuchins in New Zealand and Parish Priest of the Henderson parish.



The Capuchin Friary in the snow
At Cockerell Street, Brockville, Dunedin

In 1984 the Capuchins accepted the pastoral care of Brockville Parish in Dunedin. The Friars purchased a house in Cockerell Street which became the Friary and student house for students attending the Holy Cross Seminary in Mosgiel. The original Community was Br. Michael Tobin Parish Priest, Br. Michael Burgess Guardian and Student Formation Director, Br. John Wright, and two students, Brothers Peter Shaw and Seamus O'Malley. Br. Matthew Clerkin resided there from 1988-1994 while he lectured in Sacred Scripture at Holy Cross Seminary. There were times when the friars could not drive up or down the hill to or from the Friary due to snow or ice! The friars withdrew from Dunedin in 1995.

In December 1984 a Vice-Provincial Chapter was held at Henderson. At this chapter Br. Matthew Clerkin was elected Vice-Provincial and Brothers John Wright and Flann Lynch were elected as councillors. Br. Eustace McSweeney, Minister Provincial, presided at the Chapter. On Saturday 8th of December 1984, Br. Martin de Leeuw was ordained to priestly ministry at Holy Cross Church, Henderson, by Bishop Denis Browne of Auckland.

In August 1986 the New Zealand Capuchins hosted the annual meeting of the South East Asia Pacific Capuchin Conference (SAPCC) at Henderson. It was attended by Capuchin Ministers from Australia, Guam and the Marianas, Papua New Guinea, Japan, Philippines, the three Indonesian Provinces, and Korea.

We had another addition to the Vice-Province (for one year) on December 16 1986, Br. Ignatius Galvin. Ignatius ministered at St. Anthony's Friary and the St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Ignatius, a keen soccer player, coached a few local junior soccer teams. He returned to Ireland at the end of 1987.

At the beginning of 1988 Br. Paul Clarke took over as Parish Priest of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. On February 7 of that year, Br. Peter Shaw, from Lower Hutt, made his Final Profession at the Rigi church, and was ordained priest by Cardinal Williams at Lower Hutt on October 15 1988.

On April 22 1990 Br. Martin O'Sullivan arrived and joined the Wellington Community. Br. Martin had been in South Africa from 1961 until 1988, and then spent over a year in Ireland before coming to New Zealand. Martin has been a member of the Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin communities, where he carried out fraternal and pastoral ministry and is presently in Kilbirnie, Wellington.

In February 1991 Br. Ruffino Ferris arrived from South Africa to join the Vice-Province and undertake pastoral work in New Zealand. During his time in New Zealand, he ministered as Parish Priest of the Brockville Parish in Dunedin and he returned to Ireland in late 1991.

June 17 1991 saw another venture undertaken by the friars, namely the care of Sacred Heart Parish in Addington, Christchurch. The friars resided at the Addington Presbytery. Br. Martin O'Sullivan was Guardian, and Br. Cronan Fahey was appointed Parish Priest. Others in the community for periods of time were Br. Macartan Hogan, Br. Paul Clarke and Br. Michael Tobin. This venture lasted until 1997, when the friars, in order to build up the two communities in the north island, withdrew from Christchurch.



Addington Presbytery

Br. Sylvius McCarthy joined the Dunedin community for one year, 1992 to 1993, and ministered as Parish Priest. He had been a missionary in Zambia and also served as Regular Superior of the Capuchin fraternity in South Africa to where he later returned. He is now resident in Ireland.

In 1992 we began to get personnel from other countries to support us in our life and ministry in New Zealand. That year, Br. Raymond Simanjorang arrived from Indonesia to spend time in New Zealand – sharing our fraternal life, learning English and undertaking pastoral work, in particular among the Indonesian Catholics resident here in New Zealand. When Br. Raymond returned to Indonesia at the end of 1994, the Holy Cross Parish “adopted” Br. Raymond's parish in Indonesia as its Mission Project. Ever since, a monthly collection has been held which has raised thousands of dollars for this cause. Br. Raymond was the first Indonesian Capuchin to live and work in New Zealand.

In September 1992 Br. Otto Bucher a Capuchin from the Detroit Province in the USA visited New Zealand. He returned in July 1999 to spend some months in Henderson doing pastoral work while on a year's sabbatical.



1993 saw the 150th anniversary of the coming of Fr. Jeremiah O'Reily OFM Cap., to Wellington as the first resident priest. His arrival on January 31 1843 was commemorated with a Mass celebrated at the Cathedral by Cardinal Williams and a memorial ceremony at his grave in the Mount Street cemetery. On February 12, there was a further ceremony at St. Mary of the Angels commemorating the first Catholic church built in Wellington in 1843 by Fr. Jeremiah O'Reily.

In July 1993 there were celebrations to mark the eighth centenary of the birth of St. Clare of Assisi and two Poor Clare Sisters from Sydney came to celebrate the event here along with members of the New Zealand Franciscan family.

Since 1994 the following Capuchin Friars have ministered for periods of time in New Zealand: Br. Ernesto Lagasca from the Philippines and Br. Nestor Manalu, Br. Alfonsus Mendrofa, Br. Silvinus Senan and Br. Fidelis Mendrofa, from Indonesia.

Between 1994 and 2002 Br. Michael Murphy on two occasions came to New Zealand to do general pastoral work in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin. Br. Michael spent many years as a missionary in Zambia.

A big move for the friars was the transfer of the Capuchin Community from care of the Kelburn-Northland-Wilton parish to care of Kilbirnie Parish. This took place at the beginning of February 1998, when, on 1st. February, Br. Paul Clarke became Parish Priest of St. Patrick's, Kilbirnie. The present Parish Priest Br. Matthew Clerkin was appointed in 2000. The members of the community have changed off and on over the past eight to nine years but Brs. Martin and Kieran have been here all this time. We had a sad event when Br. Cronan Fahey developed a brain tumour in March 2006 and returned to Ireland in April 2006, where he died in September, as mentioned above.



Kilbirnie Presbytery Wellington



The friary at 186 Glenmore St. was sold to Mr. Tan who developed it (interiorly) as accommodation for Victoria University students. Fr. Brian Austin, a priest of the Archdiocese was appointed Parish Priest of the Northland-Kelburn-Wilton Parish. Before long the St. Vincent de Paul church was closed, and along with the former primary school, the property was sold. The St. Thomas More church in Wilton is now the parish church; there is no resident priest, but a lay pastoral leader.

In July 2003 Br. Benedict Cullen came from Ireland to Wellington to minister as temporary Parish Priest for six months in the absence of Br. Matthew Clerkin who was overseas for vacation and study.

In January 2006 Bros. Jerome D'Souza and Ephrem Tigga from the North India Capuchin Province came to New Zealand and are residing in Henderson. Br. Jerome is currently Assistant Priest in Henderson Parish. In February 2008 Br. Ephrem Tigga was appointed Parish Priest of Avondale

following an agreement between the friars and Most Reverend Patrick Dunne DD, Bishop of Auckland.

In October 2006 Br. Mario Dorado, a Friar from the Philippines Province, came to New Zealand for an initial period of three years and joined the Kilbirnie Community. Br. Mario was a missionary in Papua New Guinea for ten years. Mario ministers as a priest at Kilbirnie Parish, and is Spiritual Assistant to the Secular Franciscan Fraternities in Christchurch, Hokitika and Palmerston North. Mario also works with the Wellington Filipino Community.

The Present Capuchin Friars serving in New Zealand are from New Zealand, Ireland, India and the Philippines.



Br. Kieran Garvey. Wellington



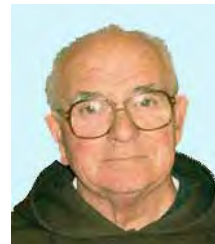
Br. Matthew Clerkin. Wellington



Br. Michael Burgess. Auckland



Br. Paul Helsham. Auckland



Br. Martin O'Sullivan. Wellington



Br. Ephrem Tigga Auckland



Br. Jerome D'Souza. Auckland



Br. Mario Dorado. Wellington

Friars' Assembly and Retreat 2006 at Star of the Sea in Seatoun, Wellington



Names: On bottom platform left to right – Matthias Murphy, Kieran Garvey, Matthew Clerkin, Peter Rodgers (Irish Provincial): Back row on steps left to right Joseph Nacua (Definitior General), Jerome D'Souza, Macartan Hogan, Ephrem Tigga, Michael Burgess. Front Row on steps left to right – Paul Helsham, Robert Stewart (Retreat Master), Fidelis Mendrofa, Martin O'Sullivan.

Some of the early friars



Back row left to right; Cronan Fahey, John Wright, Kieran Garvey, Matthew Clerkin, Lance Barnard (student), Owen O'Sullivan.
Front row left to right; Flann Lynch, Godfrey Mannion, Matthias Murphy Eustace McSweeney.

Irish Provincial Visitation July 1971



Back row left to right; Owen O'Sullivan, Matthias Murphy, Cyril Kelleher (from West American Province), Eustace McSweeney, Cronan Fahey
Front row left to right: Mons. Herlihy, Bishop Snedden, Cardinal McKeefry, Berard Creed (Irish Provincial) and Fr. Michael Brennan.
Only Owen O'Sullivan and Eustace McSweeney are still living.



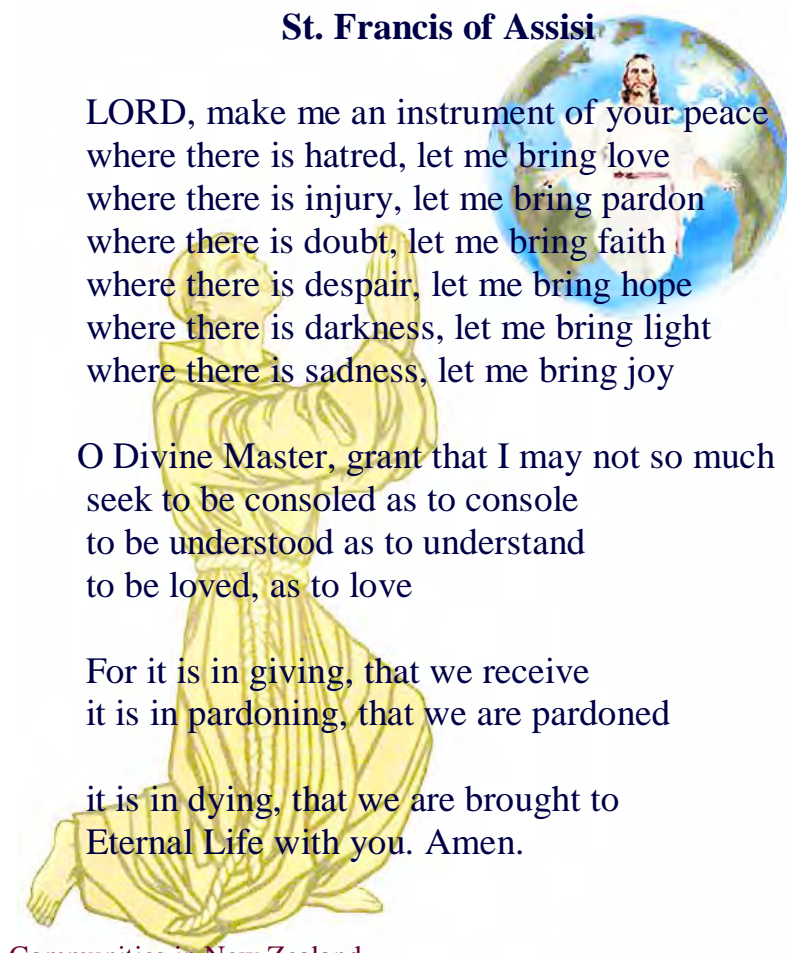
Printed for the occasion of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the
foundation of the
Capuchin Franciscan Friars in New Zealand

The Capuchin Franciscan Friars express their sincere and grateful thanks to the Bishops and Priests of New Zealand; to the Religious; to the people of Aotearoa New Zealand and to the friars from many countries who have supported and assisted the New Zealand Capuchin Friars in their ministry and endeavour to promote the Franciscan spirit and charism in their work of evangelization in New Zealand.

Our appreciation and thanks to;
His Eminence Cardinal Thomas S. Williams DD,
Archbishop Emeritus of Wellington
Most Reverend John A. Dew DD Archbishop of Wellington
His Excellency Archbishop Charles D. Balvo Apostolic Nuncio
Br. Terence Harrington OFM Cap., Irish Capuchin Provincial
for their letters of appreciation on this joyous occasion.

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PRAYER OF PEACE St. Francis of Assisi



LORD, make me an instrument of your peace
where there is hatred, let me bring love
where there is injury, let me bring pardon
where there is doubt, let me bring faith
where there is despair, let me bring hope
where there is darkness, let me bring light
where there is sadness, let me bring joy

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled as to console
to be understood as to understand
to be loved, as to love

For it is in giving, that we receive
it is in pardoning, that we are pardoned

it is in dying, that we are brought to
Eternal Life with you. Amen.

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