



**NEWSLETTER**  
**August – November 2024**

**Chairperson's message**

***"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven."* Matthew 10:32**

I have included some testimonies in the newsletter, including a miracle. Please read them and be ready to share your own, for the glory of God, and to encourage one another.

At our last service group meeting we discussed having some prayer group meetings over the summer holiday break. As most prayer groups take a break, Noel and Nigel will run a prayer meeting every Tuesday evening in January 2025 at Sacred Heart Hall, Ponsonby, 7- 8.30pm. This is open to everyone. We also considered a meeting and mass on New Years Eve, but heard that Bishop Steve plans to celebrate a mass on New Years Eve at the Cathedral.

We look forward to seeing many prayer group members at our end of year event on Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please check with your prayer group leaders re registration.

At present we have a team planning a Praise and Worship event for late February or early March 2025. We also plan to have a Healing of the Family Tree seminar in March 2025. We will send out more information as plans develop.

While in the UK in August I attended an online prayer group meeting. After Covid some members couldn't get back to a live prayer group meeting due to age, health or distance so one couple agreed to continue leading a separate online group. If you feel called to set up a similar online prayer group here in Auckland please contact me.

On Aug 31st I attended a zoom meeting organised by the Commission for Prayer Groups for National prayer group coordinators. Jean Christophe spoke of the Role of the charismatic prayer group today. Two key points he made are:

**Every prayer meeting should be a chance to encounter the Holy Spirit again.**

**And Ask God what he wants of your prayer group Then pray, pray, pray and listen to what God wants.**

As you come towards the end of the year it's good to reflect back on what's gone well and what could be done differently. I came across this article when googling for something else. **Ingredients of a Spirit-filled Meeting.** It is worth a read. It could be a tool for prayer group discussion. <https://scrc.org/prayergroup/ingredients.php>.

East Coast Bays and Orewa prayer groups are hosting Life in the Spirit seminars at present, and Olivia and I are working on zoom with about ten participants trialling Michael Powells A -school prayer ministry course, please keep all the participants and leaders in prayer. Also please keep Service Group members in prayer as we pray for you.

May God bless you all.

**Deidre**

### **Our Vision**

To lead people into a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and develop the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the lives of all believers, especially by restoring the Gifts of the Holy Spirit as a normal part of Catholic Church life.

### **Mission Statement**

ACCPGN seeks to serve the Catholic Church by being one of the agents and instruments of the Holy Spirit working for the ongoing renewal and growth of the Church today.

### **Praise and worship event**

Thursday 14 November, 7-9pm, **co-hosted by Pakuranga's Life in the Spirit Prayer Group All welcome.**

Praise and Worship with Rachel Wilson, singer-songwriter from The Satiations. Venue Parish Centre of St Mark's Catholic Mission Parish, Pakuranga. Presented by the Young Adults Ministry and Life in the Spirit prayer group.

### **Reports from the prayer groups**

**Stepping out:** A report from Pakuranga's Life in the Spirit Prayer Group on their recent Life in the Spirit Seminar during August-September. With a small team, we were fortunate to have a speaker present on two evenings, using The Gift video series on the remaining evenings with around 25 people in attendance each week. We had a good mix of ages and experience and were privileged to witness people trusting and experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit for the first time. All were open to growing in faith and understanding over the course. This was also a blessed environment for members of the team to stretch beyond our own comfort zones and step out in faith. - 10/10. We will do it again!

**Orewa Prayer Group:** Have begun a 6 week LISS-The Gift. Wednesdays at 7.15pm, until Nov 27<sup>th</sup>.

**The Living Water Prayer Group:** Are hosting a parish 7 week Life in the Spirit Seminar, Monday evenings from Oct 7- Nov 25. **at St Johns Church, Mairangi Bay, 7\_9pm.**

**Jesus the Good Shepherd** Takapuna are currently doing a teaching series on "We Live by Faith"

**Jesus my Light Blockhouse Bay prayer group** are growing their members as they take turns leading praise and worship and presenting the teachings.

**Voice of God Prayer Group** had their last Healing mass last 8 November and will resume on the First Friday of January 2025. They are planning to have their end of the year retreat and Christmas party on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of December.

### **Testimonies**

While praying about this newsletter I got the message to collect some testimonies, to give glory to God and encouragement to others. Here are some testimonies from different prayer groups.

**Remuera: A Miracle. Shared by Sr Alice, St Michaels prayer group, Remuera.**

A member of our St Michaels Prayer Group was miraculously healed a few weeks ago. She suddenly collapsed, falling unconscious to the ground. Family and members of our Prayer Group prayed for her healing. The priest anointed her. The ambulance took her to Auckland Public Hospital. The scan showed that half her brain had died. Her father showed me a copy of this very scan.

The next morning she unexpectedly began to talk. Another scan was taken. Her brain was completely restored! The doctors were amazed. Medically there was no explanation. She was kept in hospital simply for observation for two days then returned home, completely healed. Praise God!

**From a member of Blockhouse Bay prayer group:** I prayed for my grandson's baptism. Finally the father who is not a catholic has agreed. I am so excited that my grandson can be baptized. Praise the Lord!!! and Holy His Name !!

**From another member of Blockhouse Bay prayer group:**(( Jesus My Light) .

My Life is full of miracles and recently while on a visit to India we got an opportunity to sell our property. I was about to stay back since the paper work with the bank got delayed. However, miraculously, every step went smoothly and the doors got opened and hurdles were cleared and I could return along with my family. All Praise and Glory to Jesus and intercession of dear mother Mary.

**From a member of East Coast Bays prayer group:** I don't have any great miracles to talk about, though I've prayed for some, but I have the following testimony: Some time ago I was praying to the Holy Spirit asking him to help me to become a better person. I asked him to transform me. I have prayed for this on a daily basis. I didn't have this in mind when I prayed that but I had a habit when things went wrong to get really angry at myself or sometimes God, ultimately hurting myself and my relationship with God. One day I realised I didn't do that anymore, instead, I stay calm and I believe it has to be the work of the Holy Spirit. I know I didn't knowingly change myself. I am so grateful to be free of those negative self-destructive emotions.

There is another thing I have noticed since really talking to the Heavenly Father and confiding in him my problems, worries and the things that make me sad. Although he didn't answer the ones I had hoped to get answers to, little things that I had told him about he did answer quite soon after I told him about them. At first I put it down to coincidence, but after 3 or 4 times I no longer do. Maybe it's to let me know that he is listening and he cares, or maybe he thinks those things are more important than my 'big' worries. But it has made me feel closer to him and feel loved which in turn helps grow my love for him.

**A conversion testimony:** A Catholic man shares about his strong conversion experience while looking at Jesus on the cross at church. Listen here. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/meeting-jesus/id512306177?i=1000673343663>

### **Would you like to discern your gifts? Called and Gifted Course**

Aim: to determine which of the gifts/charisms God has given you so you can fulfil the purpose God has for your life.

Part 1 involves the content, learning about charisms and the principles of

discernment. Cameron Surrey facilitates this over Zoom Participants receive a printed course book, online video and a gifts inventory to complete.

Part 2 is a 60 minute one-on-one Zoom interview with Cheryl Surrey to help you identify which charism(s) will be part of your practical discernment in Part 3.

Part 3 is four in-person small group sessions occurring approximately once a fortnight to support you in your practical discernment

**Val is looking for 2 or 3 Aucklanders to form a small group with her for this**

**course.** For more info contact Val at 022 102 9978 or go to <https://siena.org/called-gifted>. Total cost of the entire course is \$160 per person.

**DOVE Northshore Retreat Day for women, Nov 16<sup>th</sup>. See Flyer. All welcome.**

**Some prayer intentions:**

**November is a time to pray for our deceased family and friends.** Our destiny is to live eternally with the Lord. So our life is built on hope. Praying for the deceased is an act of hope. Let us pray for them. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**International events**

**Charis International invite you to register for the 2025 CHARIS Jubilee meetings in Rome, March 31 – April 6, 2025**

- 1- Meeting of Priests, Pastors and Ministers – *Walking together towards Unity*
- 2- Global Training in Prophetic Intercession
- 3- RCC World Prayer Group Meeting - *Joyful Witnesses of Hope*

To register: <https://www.charis.international/en/calendar/> then click on the event you want to register for

**Something to read:**

ENCYCLICAL LETTER *DILEXIT NOS* OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS ON THE HUMAN AND DIVINE LOVE OF THE HEART OF JESUS CHRIST

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html>

A review by Fr John O’Connor: Pope Francis’s fourth encyclical is a powerful, poetic, enticing, captivating reflection, grounded in personal human experience of love yet every bit as theologically robust as earlier papal communications.

This letter engages the heart of the reader offering an invitation to encounter Jesus in the heart of human reality.

<b>Please calendar these ACCPGN dates</b>		
Nov-14	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Praise & Worship Event. Parish Centre. St Mark'sCatholic Mission Parish, Pakuranga
Nov-16	9:00am - 4:30pm	Dove Women's Retreat Day, Mary-Woman of the Spirit, St. Thomas More, Glenfield
Nov-30		Prayer Group Members Get-Together
Jan 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2025	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Prayer Meeting open to all at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Vermont St., Ponsonby

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