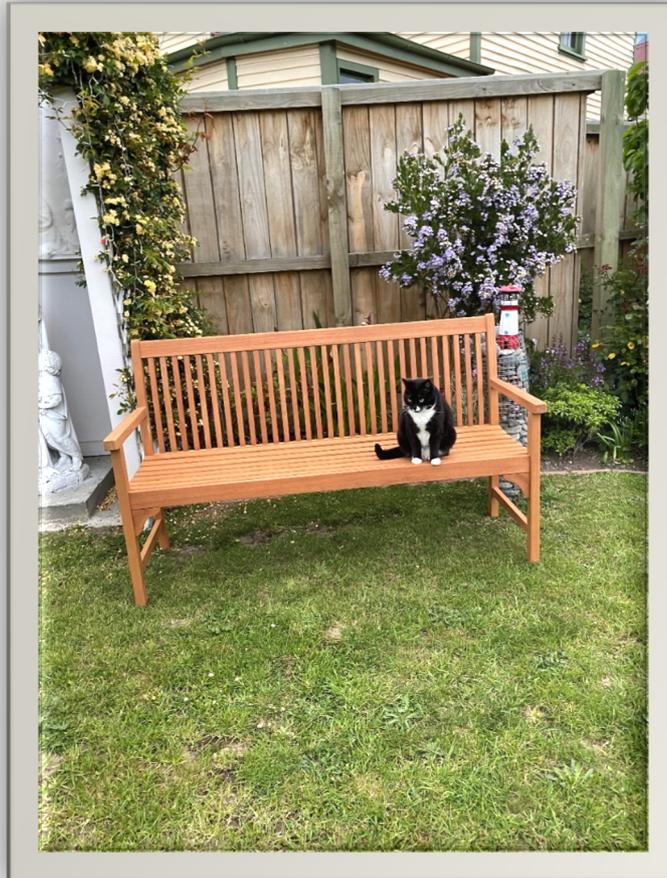


Community of the Sacred Name Christmas Newsletter 2020



George our cat sitting on the Garden Seat donated by St. Barnabas' AAW In-Between Group

Christmas is the day in which we celebrate the incarnation of God through the birth of a baby boy by the name of Jesus. In a year that has been beset with unanticipated challenges and the spread of the virus, we still have so much for which to be grateful.

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This Christmas many presents will be exchanged. Some were shipped well in advance of this day in order to ensure timely delivery. Others will be offered in person. Dinner may look a little different as we share meals over Zoom of large family-style gatherings, and indeed, we are still grateful. Our normal traditions have been greatly altered, and yet the day is just as special.

COVID-19 shuttered many small businesses this year. COVID-19 forced major layoffs at many of our larger places of employment. There is tremendous fear that many will be left homeless in the aftermath of this global pandemic. COVID-19 has left countless widowed and orphaned. Many people around the world this Christmas will celebrate this day alone or with no gifts to offer or receive.

This is also the time in which we are called to celebrate the magic that is Christmas. We rejoice as we recall the miraculous birth of the baby born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary. As we celebrate this Christmas with festivities to whatever extent, we give thanks for those who gather with us and those whom the Lord received into eternity. Make it a joyous occasion. Share the love of Christ with others who have been waiting a lifetime to hear the good news that Christmas offers, love and compassion.

We would like to thank the In-Between AAW Group from St. Barnabas for their gift. The garden chair is now well used by the retreatants. We also had a surprise visit in October, Diane and her son Adam who live in Tauranga. Diane is the niece of our late Sr. Evelyn Poole.

Our Sisters in Fiji and Tonga are all well and we thank them all for the work and prayer they do every day for our people in the Islands. They are fortunate that everything is going normally there despite the pandemic. Fiji has some cases but all from those who arrive from other countries and are in quarantine. Tonga is one of the few countries in the world that has no cases of Covid-19.

The two novices are well, and they have been involved with the school assembly and visiting the sick. Please continue to pray for our Community and for more vocations.

To all Friends and Associates, Oblates and Companions of the Community, thank you for all your love and prayers and support to the Community throughout this year. To our Warden, the Very Revd. Lawrence Kimberley, and Chaplain the Revd. Michael Holdaway, and to our Finance Committee, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your tireless work to support us, (not forgetting our treasurer Katie Klingenberg for your marvellous work!) God bless you all! Sr. Annette and Sr. Anne are in good spirits and they are well looked after by the staff at Radius Millstream. Many thanks to Chris Ellis and Andrew Rogers who keep our compound beautiful all the time. Lastly to all my Sisters for your love and your support to me this year.

May we all celebrate the joy of the Christmas season and give thanks for the continuing presence of our Creator. May the light of Jesus bring new life into this world and may it shine brightly forever.

Mother Alena CSN

St. Barnabas AAW In-Between group on their visit to the Community.



We are forever thankful for God's faithfulness to our Community this year 2020, especially with lockdown and shifts of alert levels, yet we were able to celebrate important services and have friends visit us.



Rev. Lawrence and Rev. Thomas Bauer



Sr. Annette and Elizabeth Kimberley



Andrew our gardener



Clergy, Peter & wife Johann, Phillip & Lawrence



President of the Mother's Union



Our visit to Sr. Eveleen Retreat House, Sumner



Diane and son Adam (niece of the late Sr. Evelyn Poole)

FIJI



Blessing and Dedication of Bishop Kempthorne Primary School Computer Lab, Library, Headteacher and Administrator's office. Sr. Miria is the Chaplain of the school

Sr. Sandra with the Head Teacher of the School, Mrs Joyce Tiko Prasad. Mrs Joyce Tiko was one of the children brought up at St. Christopher's Home. With them is the Priest-in-charge of St. Mark's Church, and Chairman of the school board.



Tonga

The two Novices, Melania and Malia



Sr. Fehoko gardening



Gardening time for Sr. Mele



Sr. Luisa still smiling



Novice Malia with Ma who is taking care of Sr. Luisa who is bedridden



