

Launch Out Letter (LOL)

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Leadership and Culture

Leadership and culture are two sides of the same coin. Leadership shapes culture and culture is important because it shapes everything about the way things are done. A key to effective leadership is understanding the culture, in this case a Parish. A Parish culture includes leadership, values and beliefs, structure, behaviours, services and activities.



Let me just reflect on a recent trip to Samoa for my nephew's ordination as a Priest, and how I perceived "leadership and culture" while I was there. I heard peoples' cries of the struggle to meet the demands of the church leaders, especially around monetary contributions. The expectations of families and individuals to organise and provide food and monetary contributions and gifts to leaders were beyond me. Celebrating someone's achievements and their calling to their mission is not necessarily meant to be a stressful event in terms of pleasing the leaders.

Although I felt unease, I reflected positively and ponder on my own mission and leadership within my family and the Parish. Yes I need to have respect for the leaders, but I struggle with some of the Samoans' view of the "leader", in this case Bishop and priests are perceived as the highest title of all, and people will do anything and go the extra mile to fulfil any demands from that person.

I thought about Jesus and his leadership missions. He did not befriend the rich and those of status for glorification but associated himself with the poor and the needy of society. I think at best, culture clashes with the Bible to some extent, especially with leaders, the line is blurred and open to interpretations. As Pope Francis stated: "I am a believer and I know that sin is always within us. And there is always human greed, the lack of solidarity, selfishness, which create poverty. For this reason, it seems to me a little difficult to imagine a world without poverty – but we must always struggle, always..."

A wider perspective of Samoan life and culture is founded on the relationship of the aiga (family) and village community. Young adults are exposed to the life of service and the art of serving others which affirms a Samoan proverb "O le Ala ile Pule ole Tautua", meaning the way to leadership is service. This cultural value in Samoan traditional society is also reflected in the Gospel– Jesus, the 'man for others' who came to serve and not to be served. We should be mindful that such model is counterculture to the prevailing culture of capitalism, materialism and individualism that plague our modern world.

Everything rises and falls on leadership. Leaders can shape culture through influence and encouragement, and by being present in the critical moments of the Parish's life. Jesus' model of leadership is one of service and care for the people, and it is only by the grace of God that we can do the same.

(Please note that the views on this reflection are that of the writer and no intentions to offend anyone else and their cultural values).

Fa'afetai lava --- Telesia, Jan 2020



Happy Birthday!

Birthday Greetings and Blessings to *Margaret Bearsley* (08 Jan)
and *Telesia Alaimonana* (27 Jan).

Remembering Pat Greally

Visionary and Pioneer in Lay Leadership

By : Cecily McNeill

Hundreds turned out on Thursday 9 January 2020 for the funeral of beloved and respected archdiocesan priest, Pat Greally. In Lower Hutt's Ss Peter and Paul church, people spilled out into the foyer while on the previous night, St Bernadette's of Te Awakairangi Parish in Naenae was similarly packed for the Rosary.

Pat was a friend to many, particularly Samoan, Filipino and Tokelauan immigrants with whom he ministered in Petone, Richmond and, for the last 30 years of his life, Naenae.

He well understood the importance of practicality in ministry, setting up a housing trust in Petone to help migrant people buy their first home. This helped give them the base and economic stability to find work locally and have their children well educated.

In Richmond, Pat put his energies into another aspect of his concern to meet social as well as faith needs in the Catholic community – he developed Vincentian homes for the care of the elderly.

Throughout his ministry, Pat lived his priesthood supporting people in their family life, in their social and economic needs as well as their faith life.

He absolutely understood what Pope Francis is now emphasising for the clergy of today, that priesthood is essentially about bringing the church and our Catholic faith to the people.

Naenae gave Pat a new opportunity to live out another aspect of his dream for the church and understanding of what his priesthood meant. He believed that the greatest wisdom of the Gospel message is held and lived by the community of Catholic laity, more than by the clergy.

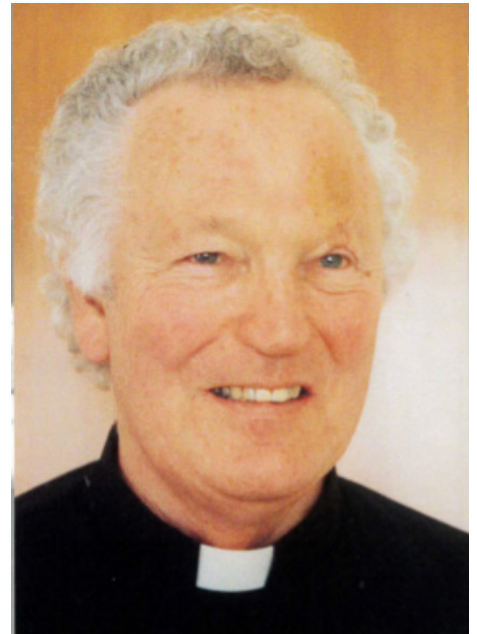
With Pat's wholehearted support, the church in Naenae has been led for many years by a lay pastoral leader. Barbara Rowley has done a heroic job of pioneering a lay-led Catholic community in Naenae for 13 years.

Pat once told me that having Barbara running the parish freed him to do what he most wanted to do – minister to the people thus living out his priesthood in a more authentic way. When people went to him for advice he used to say, "you'll have to ask Barbara about that". It wasn't that he didn't know, but he wanted people to catch on to the fact that Barbara knew as much as he did about parish ministry. After a while, people stopped asking him.

People have paid tribute to Pat's ability to bring laughter into the homes of the people he visited, teasing and joking – "he was so caring and funny", said one online tribute. He cared deeply about his Irish heritage (his parents emigrated from Ireland as adults) and Pat used to delight his family with his vigorous rendition of Irish songs.

In almost 60 years of priesthood, Pat Greally was a model of a serving, caring priest. One story he often told encapsulates his attitude to his priesthood which he compared to riding a tandem bike with Jesus. "Everything was safe and predictable while Pat was in the front doing the steering, but whenever Jesus took over, the journey got exciting, wild and a little scary. Jesus would simply smile and say 'pedal!'"

Patrick Dermod Greally, may you have a peaceful and vigorous eternal life.



NOTE: Cecily McNeill with thanks to Jim Dooley sm for access to his eulogy for his friend and cousin Pat Greally.

Salt of the earth and light to the world

By : Joe Green

NOTE: Joe originally wrote this piece for the parish newsletter of the Wellington South Parish

Exactly one month ago I went to the funeral of Fr Patrick Dermot Greally (Pat), long time parish priest at Naenae.

I got to know Pat during my formation as a Lay Pastoral Leader. Pat was one of the first priests to call someone from his parish to formation as a Lay Pastoral Leader, and to work in a co-responsible way with her after she graduated and was commissioned. What was unique about Pat is that he studied alongside Barbara Rowley: he knew intimately the training and formation that Lay Pastoral Leaders are required to do. He had an exuberant confidence in the Lay Leadership model developing in the Archdiocese.

In his eulogy Fr Jim Dooley SM, Pat's cousin, told us about some of the work Pat had done since he was ordained in 1961. He described Pat as totally and positively dedicated to the ministerial priesthood, and that Pat saw the role of the ordained priest as being to support and collaborate with lay people. Jim told us that Pat believed that the faith resided first and foremost with the laity, not only with the ordained. That belief is what drove him to be foremost among those developing formal ecclesial lay pastoral leadership.

Pat was positive about everything, about life in general, and especially about young people. Pat came from a very large family, including many young people. In our conversations he could not emphasize enough that while many young people didn't 'practice the faith' as we traditionally understood it, they were wonderful, good people working out God's plan for them in the world.

Pat thought that the Church had yet to catch up with societal and sociological changes. As one theologian put it, "the road map has changed, and the Church doesn't yet have the new map".

It was an honour to know Pat, and to be motivated by his infectious positive attitude to the Church, changes in the Church, young people and the world in general.

Rest in Peace – salt of the earth and light to the world.



The Launch Out community, bid Pat farewell with a 'Guard of Honour' during the funeral service on 9 January 2020

"The only important thing in my life is to be Christ to all those I encounter"

--Pat Greally, 11 Sept 2019

Many of the present Launch Out Candidates wouldn't know who Pat was, but the Launch Out Graduates knew him well. Pat was one of Launch Out's greatest clergy-supporters. He used to say "The Church needs the laity and the valuable insight their leadership provides".

We have invited Cecily McNeill, former Welcom Editor-in-Chief and current mentor to Patricia, and Joe Green, Lay Pastoral Leader of Wellington South Parish to share their tributes to beloved friend, mentor and advocate.

New Launch Out Candidates

Margaret Bearsley-Margaret originally hails from the rural farming community of Te Rore in the Waikato, with European connections from Bohemia on her Mother's side and Britain on her Father's, who settled in Aotearoa New Zealand in the 1800s. Margaret studied theology through Holy Cross College Mosgiel in the late 1980s and, after two years working at the National Centre for Religious Studies in Auckland, studied law at Waikato Law School. She has lived in the wider Wellington region since moving there with her husband in 1997. She moved from the Hutt Valley to Rongotai in Wellington's Eastern Suburbs in 2008 when her husband was very ill and had been living in care since 2002. After he died in 2011 she began to consider how she could become active in parish life, initially beginning with St Vinnies a few years later. Her intentions on becoming a member of the Holy Trinity Parish Pastoral Council in 2019 were to help the parish flourish as a united Catholic community, and to support the spiritual growth and missionary outreach of parishioners.

Bernadette Patelesio- Grew up in Petone and now living in Wainuiomata for the past 25 years where she and husband Peter raised five children. She currently works as an Analyst in the Healthcare sector and has also spent some years in Social Services. She is an active parishioner at St Patrick's, which is part of Wairua Tapu Parish, as a volunteer musician. She loves the challenge of choosing, learning and sharing Mass music and finding ways to make people feel they belong and welcomed in the Church.

Vicky Raw- Vicky was born in London, England, where her father and sister currently reside. She works as a research associate for Plant and Food Research, specialising in viticulture on Blenheim. She first joined Launch Out in 2004 and is now relaunching into Launch Out. She is active in her parish of Te Whetu o te Moana (Star of the Sea) in sunny Marlborough. She is also a member of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. Vicky speaks fluent French, Spanish and Portuguese. She is passionate about forging and building strong partnerships between and within the local parish and the school communities, celebrating Marlborough's cultural diversity, sharing good food and wine, promoting the dignity of every human being most of all being a beloved child of God.

Updates

- Thank you for all those who attended the first Professional Development Seminar on 25 January 2020. We had seven of you who came and 10 guests. A big thank you to Bridget Taumoepeau for facilitating the morning session and to Mary-Ann Greaney, Sharon Penny and Charles Cooper for leading us in the afternoon.
- Make sure you have already enrolled with Te Kupenga (former TCI) by now.
- Launch Out Candidates need to take up 3 additional papers on top of the Diploma: PM602 Celebrating Liturgy, TH613 Catholic Spiritual Tradition and TH625 The Church in Aotearoa NZ. I need to confirm if all three papers are still being offered in the NZQA accredited programmes of Te Kupenga.
- The Professional Development Days are in addition to the Prayer Days formerly aimed to supplement areas of learning which your academic studies will not be able to cover in depth and are crucial to your ministry. In former cohorts, they used to meet once a month for a similar learning session. Instead we incorporated it in the year's calendar of activities.
- Your attendance to the Professional Development Days and Prayer Days will be noted and taken to account in your endorsement by the Archbishop upon your graduation from the Launch Out Programme.

Final Words: Servant Leadership and Cornerstones

There are as many theories of leadership as there are of true love. Over a hundred of them, in fact. It is informed by various disciplines from psychology, military science, anthropology, theology, etc. Most of these are not actually proper theories but are leadership styles. Leadership styles are confluence of leaders' personalities, values, visions and actions. There is one leadership theory that I do favour among the rest---Servant Leadership. It was developed in the 70s by Robert Greenleaf. Servant Leadership is a philosophy and a way of looking at leadership and I believe that this is the kind of leadership theory that fits well into Launch Out (Click on these for short videos of its [definition](#) and [behaviours](#)). It's specific connection to Launch Out is the kind of leaders the Church, and Jesus, Himself is looking for---Cornerstones. When we are screening LO Candidates, we are not looking for "rock stars", we are looking for Cornerstones.

Cornerstones are sturdy as that is where the weight of the rests of the structure rest upon. It is hidden and its' significance is in reference to it's relationship to the rest of the other stones but without it the rest of the structure cannot be built. Telesia gave us a picture of what rock star leadership looks like. Then we have the example of Pat Grealley whose Servant Leadership has been a cornerstone to many ministries in ADW, including Launch Out.



When he had finished eating, he said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch". Luke 5:4

We are Servant Leaders striving to do our mission as Cornerstones for the Church

--Maya, Jan 2020