



MEMORIES OF MANGERE BRIDGE

"I remember my stay in the Parish with gratitude. For that year, I think it was 1990, the Parish tolerated a part-time Parish Priest. My time was divided between parish duties and working to establish a community housing development called "Project Shelter". The parish's support was expressed in a willingness to allow Project Shelter to "borrow" land beside the church to be used as "transition housing" sites. Unfortunately (or fortunately) no building action resulted but I do remember a general meeting of the parish almost unanimously endorsing such a use of the land. This support was extremely encouraging to my work. Now the land is being used to grow vegetables, providing work and food and supporting a food-bank. It shows the parish's continuing willingness to use its resources in equally creative ways and translate Jesus' "Good News" with practical action. It is with memories of that experience and the working together of ethnic communities in worship, social action and play, that made the time I spent in Mangere Bridge Parish a time to give thanks for what the church can be like.



Father Bill Fletcher.
Past Parish Priest.

WELCOME

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MAY I JUST BRIEFLY INTERPRET SOME OF THE PACIFIC ISLAND CUSTOMS YOU WILL WITNESS WHILE WE CELEBRATE THE EUCHARIST THIS MORNING. HOPING THAT WE COULD SHARE AND REFLECT IN THE SPIRITUAL SENSES THE INTERPRETATION OF THESE CULTURES CONTAIN.

THE SOUNDS OF THE BEATING DRUMS BY THE COOK ISLANDERS AND THE BLOWN SEA-SHELL (foafoa) BY THE SAMOANS, AWAKEN US PEOPLE TO RISE AND COME TOGETHER TO MEET SOME VERY IMPORTANT VISITORS AND GUESTS, IN THE VILLAGE LIFE.

WHEN THE HONOURED GUESTS HAVE ASSEMBLED BEFORE THE ALTAR (AS IS THE GUEST-HOUSE), A PARAMOUNT SAMOAN CHIEF GREETES AND ADDRESSES THE GUESTS IN THE CUSTOMARY MANNER.

AS IS THE CUSTOM, AN ORATOR ESCORTING THE BISHOP AND THE GUESTS, WILL EXCHANGE THE GREETINGS AND WORD OF PRAISE WITH THE HOST COMMUNITY'S CHIEF.

THROUGHOUT THE MASS, TWO SAMOAN MEN DRESSED IN TRADITIONAL DIGNITARY COSTUME, SHOWING THEIR PE'A, (or tatoo) WILL STAND-TO-GUARD ALONGSIDE THE ALTAR. THIS SIGNIFIES HOW WE INTEND TO HONOUR AND SERVE OUR GOD THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES.

THE TRADITIONAL TATOO (tatau) IS A LIFETIME VEST OF A SAMOAN PERSON WHO WISHES TO DEMONSTRATE HIM OR HER AS A VERY COURAGEOUS SERVANT FOR THE CHIEFS AND VILLAGE PEOPLE. DIGNITY AND PRIDE RESEMBLE AS A TATOOED PERSON SERVES THE GUESTS.

THE STAFF AND WHISK THE MEN POSSESS ARE TRADE-MARKS OF A SAMOAN SPEAKER IN A GATHERING.

IN THIS MEMORABLE CELEBRATION, WE AS ST ANTHONY'S PAST AND PRESENT PARISHIONERS, WOULD BE PROUD TO RISE, STAND, GUARD AND SPEAK IN PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING TO OUR ALMIGHTY GOD FOR LIFE.