



# Lantern Flame

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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At the heart of our



movement  
lies:

*A partnership with  
the Divine*

we attend to God  
each day and our  
actions are  
informed by that  
commitment.

*A passion for the  
poorest*

we stand with the  
poorest in society.

*A covenant with  
creation*

honouring all of  
creation, we live  
and promote  
sustainable lives.

A newsletter to keep  
us connected to  
each other and be  
better informed  
about what is  
happening.

To share ideas.

To come to know  
Nano better.

To connect with  
Friends of Nano in  
other parts of the  
world.

## Friends of Nano Newsletter Launch

For just over two years now a small group of Friends of Nano from Dunedin, Upper Hutt and the Kapiti Coast have been meeting regularly via Skype. We spend time praying together, sharing what is happening in our area, and planning for the future. We have also organized a few events—like when Sr. Anne Boyd came from Australia, and Sr Anne Lyons from Ireland.

The group that meets is the Aotearoa New Zealand core group. Following the 2011 Gathering in Ireland that Trixie Campbell and Mary-Ann Greaney attended the Central Leadership Team, based in Ireland, asked that

every country set up a core team.

Those of us on the team have grown in our understanding of each other,



**Venerable Nano Sculpture  
at Ballygriffin.**

what is happening in other areas, and clarified what it means to be a Friend of Nano. The time has come

when we need to provide a regular newsletter for anyone interested in the Nano Movement.

This first newsletter will introduce you to the core team and say a little about who Friends of Nano are and what our values are. On the back page is a brief biography of Nano.

A number of sisters who shared many years with us ministering in Aotearoa New Zealand have returned to Ireland or are ministering in other lands. As time goes by we will catch up with them and find out what they are doing today. The first sister profiled is Catherine Mulcahy.

## Nano and our daily life

The core values (*above*), or guiding principles, inform our work and our development as a movement. Our logo, a triple spiral, is a visual reminder of what lies at the centre of our endeavours, inspired by Nano's way. We endeavour to give practical expression to these core

values in our own daily lives through the following characteristics of her charism:

- **compassion** for those most in need
- **commitment** to our aims, persevering with our work
- **courage** in the face of

setbacks and difficulties

- **confidence** in Divine providence
  - **creativity** in exploring innovative solutions
  - in **communion** with our fellow Friends of Nano and others
- all underpinned by the practice of **contemplation**.

# South Island Team



Trixie Campbell



Trish Brensell



Noreen McGrath pbvm



Jan Adams

*'If I could be of service in saving souls in any part of the globe I would willingly do all in my power'*  
Nano Nagle

# Kapiti Coast Team



Mary Anne Kindell



Margaret Bevin



Tony Bevin

# Hutt Valley Team



Mary-Ann Greaney



Ruth Coleman pbvm



Teresa Homan



Stewart Homan



Anything marked with the lantern symbol has been taken from the PBVM website:  
<http://www.presentationsistersunion.org/friends/default.cfm?loadref=422>

# Who are Friends of Nano

Friends of Nano are all those people who are inspired by the charism of Nano. Some are friends of Nano as vowed religious, others are lay co-workers, partners in mission and colleagues. Today, associates are part of the broader network of Friends of Nano.

Associate members share in the charism, spirituality and mission of Nano Nagle

and its lived expression in our world today. Associate groups act in partnership with the vowed members of the Presentation Congregation in a relationship of equality and interdependence. Associates recognise the importance of on-going dialogue and discernment in the growth of the movement. Together with the sisters, associates share dreams and goals, vision

and values and together find a way to be of service to our brothers and sisters, especially to those who are on the margins of our societies.

Associates link with initiatives of the Presentation Sisters or network with any local, national or international initiatives that seek to bring about a better world.



## Associates

Associates are friends of Nano, attracted and fired with the charism and Spirit of Nano who felt called to make a commitment to live this out in their personal and professional lives. The Associate movement was a work of the Spirit whose members were invited to an ever deeper living of the Christian life and to participate more actively in the Presentation Mission.

## Where are they now?

Catherine Mulcahy pbvm arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand 4 September 1965 and returned to Ireland 19 November 2006. In her time with us she taught in Paraparaumu, Naenae, and Green Island before accepting a congregational leadership role and moving to Eastbourne. Among other things Catherine is remembered fondly as a passionate

supporter of the Associate movement.

Catherine is in 'retirement' in Tipperary as a volunteer at a day care centre, involved in Fair Trade, fundraising for Eastern Europe and Africa as well as serving on a number of boards. In her spare time she may be found in her organic vegetable or flower garden.



## Useful Websites

Place the cursor over the site and click to take you to the website

<http://cathnews.co.nz/2014/10/17/former-convent-site-developed-low-cost-housing/>

<http://internationalpresentationassociation.org/>

<http://presentationsociety.org.au/about/associates/associates-photo-gallery/>

<http://www.erinearth.org.au/>

<http://www.presentationistersunion.org/spirituality/default.cfm?loadref=413>

<http://www.presentationistersunion.org/resources/default.cfm?loadref=327>

Feel free to forward this newsletter to others who may be interested.

To go onto the distribution list or to make a contribution or suggestion please contact

Mary-Ann Greaney  
[m.greaney@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:m.greaney@wn.catholic.org.nz)

# May the blessings of Advent and Christmas be with you and those you love

## Incarnation

"Our eyes sought Him in the glory of the stars,  
our ears strained to hear His voice,  
and when the heavens were rent asunder with His brightness we thought to glimpse His mystery.  
But of course it did not happen like that at all.  
Everything was quiet, still, normal again,  
And we went stumbling through the darkness  
To a cattle-shelter where a light was showing,

And there we saw the sign ... the sign we'd been given ...  
An infant, wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
A baby, flesh like you and me,  
But God, for all that.  
The Lord Christ Himself."

So might the old shepherd muse,  
Long years afterwards,  
Remembering,  
And we, long pondering, pray:



"Let our eyes see Your glory,  
Let our ears hear Your voice,  
And let the brightness of Your love be round about us,  
And let us glimpse Your mystery.  
And do not let us miss Your coming.  
Because it is so commonplace,  
so everyday,  
So far from what we think befits Your beauty.  
But let Faith lead us to the knowledge,  
Light us daily in awareness  
That, swaddled in the bands of each one's weakness.  
You are flesh amongst us still"

Raphael Consedine pbvm

## Sketch of Nano Nagle 1718 - 1784

Nano founded the Presentation Sisters, the first congregation primarily for education. She started and financed seven schools for Catholic children. Evenings were spent visiting unsanitary, overcrowded hovels of the sick and dying, before spending time in prayer.

Her involvement with brothels lead to accusations she was running 'a seminary of prostitution'. She opened a home for destitute elderly women, and trained catechists to evangelise children in the West Indies. Her achievements are more remarkable when understood in the context of the times in which she lived.

The whole of her life was lived in the shadow of a series of Penal Laws. It was against the law for Catholics to teach or attend school. Penalties for breaking the

law included transportation, imprisonment, and death.

Her approach to education was holistic. Education provided the means to enable the poor to break the cycle of poverty and raise their status in society.

She came into conflict with the hierarchy and on one occasion the local priest threatened to destroy the convent she was building.

*Nano was a woman in tune with the political and social conditions of her time and its effect on people.*

Nano understood hospitality very well, reaching out and providing a welcome for those on the margins. She made a start by stepping outside into her own community and doing what she could.

She didn't allow disappointments and set-

backs to prevent her moving forward and was prepared to take calculated risks.

She networked with people that could offer help and guidance. She animated and enabled people to be self sufficient. She recognised that education was the key to empower people to help themselves.

Nano was a woman in tune with the political and social conditions of her time and its effect on people. She was passionate about justice and took steps to alleviate the misery of her compatriots, challenging and holding out against Church and civil authority to achieve her ends.

Presentation Sisters and lay men and women gifted with the same charism are ministering in every continent working to bring about the reign of God where they live and work.

Mary-Ann Greaney