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Bishop Steve Lowe
Diocesan House
30 New Street
Auckland 1011
New Zealand

8th December 2022

Re: the late Fr Anselm Aherne

Dear Bishop Steve,

I hope my letter finds you keeping well. I am Fr Anselm Aherne's nephew. I write on behalf of the Aherne Family to say Thank You for the Funeral Mass last September for my uncle. As a family we were moved by the lovely tribute you, the priests and the people who gathered gave to celebrate my uncle's life. Thanks to modern technology we were able to watch and be part of it. We were also delighted to be kept up to date before and during the days after Anselm's death.

We wish to acknowledge also the kindness you showed to my uncle; he often spoke so highly of you and to the priests who cared for him and attended to his spiritual needs before he died.

Unfortunately, none of the family ever got to travel to New Zealand to visit my uncle even though it was our intention – always something happened for this not to happen. I think that is one of our regrets in life.

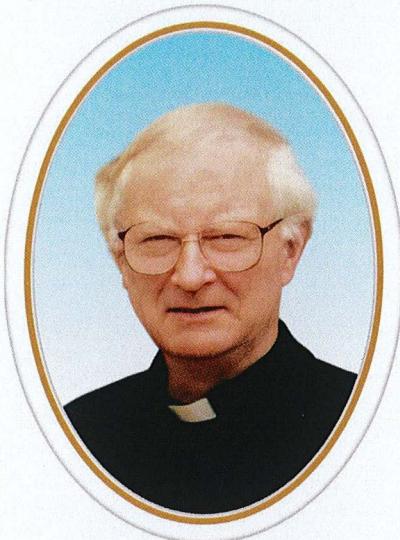
A month after Anselm's death we had a Memorial Mass and we had a large gathering in the parish church where Anselm grew up and we placed a memorial stone at his parents' grave in his memory.

Again many thanks

With every good wish

Fr Charles KIELY

Memorial Mass of Thanksgiving



for the repose of the soul of

Rev. Fr. Anselm Aherne MHM
Mill Hill Missionaries

Curra, Belgooly, Co. Cork.
Hamilton, New Zealand.

Born: 21st April 1938

Ordained: 7th July 1963

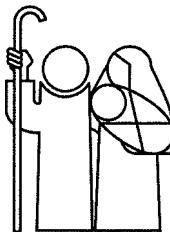
Died: 25th September 2022

Funeral Mass & Burial: 29th September 2022

**on Monday 31st October 2022
at St Patrick's Church, Nohoval, Co. Cork.
12.00 noon**

**Followed by blessing of Memorial Stone
in St Patrick's Cemetery Nohoval**

kia okioki ia i runga i te rangimarie tonu
Māori



Celebrant
Fr Charles Kiely

Concelebrants
Priests from the Mill Hill Missionaries & Diocese of Cork and Ross

Liturgy of the Word
Michael Aherne and Martina Aherne

Prayer of the Faithful
Patrick Grainger, Kylieanne Hurley, Cathal Kiely, Fifi Aherne and Sam Kiely

Offertory Procession
Patrick Aherne and Margaret Kiely-Hurley

Vocalist: Linda Kenny **Organist:** David O'Sullivan

Acknowledgement

The family of the late Fr Anselm would like to express their deep gratitude to all who were involved in his priestly ministry over the past 60 years especially the Mill Hill Missionaries, the bishops and priests of the Dioceses of Hamilton and Auckland where he spent over 50 years of his life in New Zealand, to his parishioners in the various parishes in which he ministered and the Māori Community. A special word of thanks to all who cared for him in his recent short illness especially the medical professionals and staff of Atawhai Assisi Care Home & Hospital, Hamilton who took care of his every need. To Peter and Ana-Maria Richardson of Ana-Maria Funeral Services Hamilton for their professionalism in the Funeral and Burial and their friendship with Fr Anselm over the years. Thank you too to Bishop Steve Lowe, Fr Stuart Young, Fr Danny Fraser-Jones and Fr Frank Eggleton who took care of his spiritual needs especially in his final days and for the prayerful Funeral Mass on September 29th. A word of appreciation to the staff at the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Hamilton, and to the Parish of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, Rotorua for the Vigil Mass in Miha Māori on September 28th. A heartfelt thank you to the children of the various schools who attended the Funeral Mass and who performed the Māori Haka after the Funeral Mass. Gratitude is also expressed to all our great neighbours and friends who kept in contact with Fr Anselm over the years and who always made him feel at home when he returned on holidays. Fr Anselm always appreciated the kindness and support of people wherever he went. Thank You.

Opening Hymn: Be thou my vision

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

(Jer: 1: 4-9)

"Go now to those to whom I send you and say whatever I command you"

The word of the Lord was addressed me, saying,

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

I said, "Ah Lord; I do not know how to speak; I am a child!"

But the Lord replied, "Do not say, 'I am a child.' "Go now to those to whom I send you and say whatever I command you"

Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my Shepherd

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy (2Tim 4:6-8, 16-18)

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith: all there is to come now is the cross of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Alleluia!
Go make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.
Alleluia

Gospel (Fr Philip O'Halloran MHM)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

(Mk: 16: 15-20)

And he said to them, "Go out to the whole world; and proclaim the Good News to all creation. The one who believes and is baptised will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.

These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven; and at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Homily: Fr Charles Kiely

Prayer of the Faithful

Patrick Grainger, Kylieanne Hurley, Cathal Kiely, Fifi Aherne and Sam Kiely

1. In Baptism Fr Anselm was promised the pledge of Eternal Life; in his ministerial priesthood of almost 60 years he was a faithful servant who led the People of God in prayer and worship. May he be admitted to the company of saints and take his place in the heavenly liturgy. Lord hear us.
2. Fr Anselm was always proud of his Irish Heritage; he left his homeland to serve as a Mill Hill Missionary. We give thanks for the way he ministered to people and his gentle presence in living out his vocation. May the Church be blessed with more vocations to the priesthood. Lord hear us.
3. We give thanks for all those who cared for Fr Anselm over the years: his parishioners, his bishop and brother priests, and the medical professionals. We pray for all who care for the sick to be given the strength and the results they need to continue in their work. Lord hear us.
4. We pray for those who cannot be with us today especially his sister Mary and her husband Bill in Florida, his parishioners and priest colleagues in New Zealand and the Mill Hill Fathers. Lord hear us.
5. We pray too for those who formed Fr Anselm in the faith especially his late parents Michael and Margaret Aherne and all those gone before us – may they rest in peace. Lord hear us.

**Fr Anselm for almost 60 years gave wholehearted service to the Church.
May he now enjoy a place at the Heavenly Banquet. Amen**

Offertory Procession

Patrick Aherne – The Aherne Chalice

Margaret Kiely-Hurley – The Paten

Offertory Hymn: Ag Críost an Síol

Communion Hymns

There is a Place – by Liam Lawton

A Mhuire Mháthair

Recessional Hymn

Mō Maria

This Maori-language hymn about Mary was written in 1842 by French Catholic Jean Baptiste Francois Pompallier, (1802-1871) who was the first Roman Catholic bishop of New Zealand. The original hymn had 14 verses. This hymn was sung as the Recessional Hymn at Fr Anselm's Funeral Mass.

Mō Maria aiane,
ō tātou waiata,
Kia kaha rā tātou,
kia nui te aroha.

Chorus:
Mō Maria aiane,
ō tātou waiata,
Kia kaha rā tātou,
kia nui te aroha.

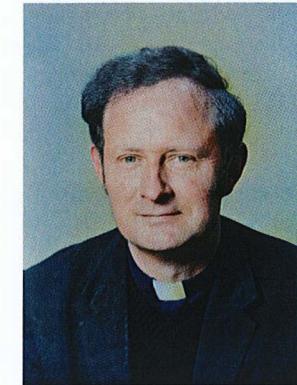
Kei ā koe te Atua;
I whiriwhiria ko-e
Hei Whaea pū anō mō
Hē hu Atua pono.

Kia mahara pū ko-e
Ki te kupu i meinga,
E Hēhu Kerito anō i
Runga i te Rīpeka.

E te wahine mamae,
Tēnei rā tōu Tama
Kai rongo, e Hoane,
Tēnei tōu whaea.

**Following the Memorial Mass – there will be a blessing of
Fr Anselm's Memorial Stone at the family grave in St Patrick's Cemetery, Nohoval.**

**Please remember in your prayers the souls of Fr Anselm's parents
who fostered and supported his vocation to the priesthood.**



Rev. Fr. Anselm Aherne R.I.P (1938 to 2022)

Michael Anselm Aherne was born on the 21st of April, 1938 in Curra, Belgooly, Co. Cork. His parents were Michael Aherne and Margaret Aherne - née Ross. Together they had six sons and two daughters. Anselm, as we knew him was baptised shortly after birth at St Patrick's Church, Nohoval in the Parish of Tracton Abbey, and where he also received his First Holy Communion, Confirmation, served Mass as an Alter-Server and said his First Mass. He attended his local primary school in Oysterhaven and was taught by Mrs Catherine McHugh who always showed a great interest in his abilities during and after his time there.

After his primary education he went to St Joseph's College in Freshford, Co. Kilkenny from 1951 to 1957 which was run by the Mill Hill Missionary Fathers. It was during this time that he felt the call to be a priest.

On completing his secondary education, he entered the Mill Hill Missionary Seminary in Roosendaal in The Netherlands from 1957 to 1959; here he successfully completed his Philosophical studies. He then went to St Joseph's College, Mill Hill, London, from 1959 to 1963 to study Theology and associated subjects.

As his studies for priesthood drew to an end Anselm took the Perpetual Oath to God as a Mill Hill Missionary in the College Chapel on the 2nd of May, 1962. Just four months before Anselm's Ordination his father Michael died expectantly from a heart condition on the 2nd of March 1963.

On the 7th of July, 1963 Anselm was ordained a Mill Hill Missionary Priest in the Chapel of Saint Joseph's College, London.

Anselm was appointed to work in Jesselton, (Borneo) now Kota Kinabalu, in Malaysia. He worked there until 1970, due to visa/work permit government restrictions when he returned to Ireland.

He accepted his next appointment to New Zealand. In December of 1970 he took up his appointment to parish work in Auckland. Within a decade of working in various



Michael Aherne - Died: 2nd March 1963
Margaret (née Ross) - Died: 21st September 1980

parishes in Auckland, Anselm transferred to Hamilton Diocese specifically to work with the indigenous Māori peoples. Such specific work was called the "Māori Apostolate". Anselm was very much part of the Dioceses in which he worked, and part of the Mill Hill Missionary community in New Zealand.

President of Ireland Mrs Mary Robinson on her State Visit to New Zealand in 1993 met Fr Anselm when she spent time with the Māori Community and they both shared stories of Ireland.

In January 1996 he was elected Society Representative for the Mill Hill Community in New Zealand. This was an appointment to which he was re-elected in 1999. In the year 2000, he represented the Mill Hill Fathers working in New Zealand and Australia at the General Chapter. In April of 2005 he was elected a Consultor to the Society Representative in New Zealand, an appointment to which he was re-elected three times in 2008, 2010 and 2013. Sadly, during his term of office, in January 2008, he celebrated the official closing Mass of Mill Hill at St. Michael's Parish in Rotorua, New Zealand; the Mill Hill "Mission" in New Zealand had been fulfilled.

Anselm continued to work in Hamilton Diocese as a parish priest until April 2022 – when he felt it was time to retire due to ill health at the age of 84. It was at this stage that he retired to the Atawhai Assisi Care Home & Hospital, Hamilton. He passed peacefully from this world to the next at midnight on the 25th September 2022. Fr Anselm's Concelebrated Requiem Mass was led by Bishop Steve Lowe on Thursday 29th September at 10.00am at the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Hamilton, New Zealand followed by burial at Ohaupa Catholic Cemetery, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Fr Anselm is brother of Mary Thompson (Florida) and Patrick (Bandon) and predeceased by his brothers: John, Canon William (Cork and Ross) Br Albeus Thomas (Presentation Brothers) and James (Jim) his sister Anne (Kiely) and his nephew Conor. Deeply regretted by his sisters-in-law: Sheila and Kit and his brother-in-law Bill, his 10 nephews and nieces – The Aherne and Kiely families, his cousins, relatives, his many friends and Bishop Steve Lowe and the priests and parishioners of the Diocese of Hamilton and his Mill Hill Missionary colleagues.

A General Councillor on visitation to members of the Mill Hill Priests in New Zealand in recent years said of Anselm, "He is a good judge of character and his sound advice is highly valued. His short daily comments after the Gospel at Mass are gems of practical spirituality." Anselm's commitment to his missionary work in New Zealand stretched to 52 years!

Fr Anselm never forgot his Cork and Tracton roots and heritage; while his mother was alive she sent him the Southern Star every week until 1980. For over 20 years until Anselm died Ann and Monnie Ahern sent him the Tracton News Sheet every month. He loved to be kept up to date with the latest news. He came home regularly and stayed at the family home in Curra or with his sister in Ballindeenisk, Belgooly.

For almost 60 years Fr Anselm gave wholehearted service to the Church ~ may he now enjoy a place at the Heavenly Banquet.