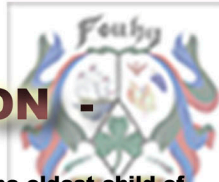


MARY FOUHY

- SILVERSTREAM, WELLINGTON -



Mary was born in Petone, New Zealand on the 10th of October 1919, the oldest child of Arthur and Juliette Pritchard. Her father owned a shoe repair business and for a time payment of school fees was offset by him repairing the nun's shoes, as family funds were very tough through the depression years. As Mary comments she was fortunate to complete her secondary schooling, as many of her friend's families could not afford the ongoing educational costs for their children.



Mary worked as a shorthand typist for the Social Security Department and there met John Fouhy a young cadet from Brooklyn, Wellington. World War II postponed any future wedding plans as John was posted to the Solomon Islands until his home leave on the 8th of August 1942, where they were married in the Petone Catholic Church, before returning to the Solomon's for the duration of the war.

Mary and John bought a small ramshackle house in Silverstream, which after many renovations was to become the Fouhy family home for the next 35 years where 6 children were raised.

After their move to Silverstream in the mid-1940's this young married couple became part of Upper Hutt's only Catholic parish, 'Our Lady of Grace', involving themselves at the time the first church was built, (where St Brendan's school now sits) in Heretaunga.

Mary was a foundation member of the 'Catholic Women's League' in Upper Hutt and has been involved in nearly every aspect of parish life from cleaning the church to writing the parish history for its 50th anniversary several year's ago. She wrote the musical drama 'People of Power' and put together a display of wedding gowns modeled to a packed church.

In December 2004 the head of the Catholic Church in New Zealand, Cardinal Williams, presented Mary with a papal award, a medal and framed citation acknowledging her services to the Catholic community. The citation reads 'it is presented to people eminent by reason of their zeal and devoted activity'. Mary say's "I'm not a women's libber but believe women can do it". She also describes all she has done in the parish as "part of everyday living". Her latest interest is making tiny angels, which she sends to ill people to lift their spirits.