



# Stories of Hope

September 2015

News from Our Lady of Hope Catholic Parish in Titahi Bay and Tawa



*Experiencing the triumvirate of  
ecumenism, necessity and good will -  
parish life across three churches.*

*Confirmation mass for Tawa & Titahi Bay children  
St Pius X church , 30 August 2015 with Cardinal John Dew*

## Notice to contributors

Deadline date for contributions for our next issue of *Stories of Hope* will be advertised in the weekly newsletter. We always like to hear about your group or parish organization. We generally prefer content relating to specific events and persons - as a guideline, 500 words will fill one page of this magazine. Short newsy articles, anecdotes, reflections, poems, and page fillers are also welcome.

E-copy is preferred but hard copy can be submitted. Photos enhance all content - high resolution please.

Send copy to either of the following or leave for collection at the parish office.

Michelle Anthony  
16 Rembrandt Street  
232 3373  
m.anthony@xtra.co.nz

Bernie Griffin  
64 Oxford St  
232 9292  
scoobydo741@gmail.com

## Disclaimer

Any views or opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the author, and do not necessarily represent those of the Editorial Committee or the administrators of Our Lady of Hope parish. The editor exercises sole discretion as to the acceptance of items for publication, insofar as they reflect Catholic life in the parish and do not tend to give offence. All items submitted may be subject to editorial amendment, revision or rejection and all items published are without prejudice.

---

## Stories of Hope - Mission Statement

**Our mission** - To promote a sense of community in the Catholic parish of Our Lady of Hope, Tawa & Titahi Bay, by publishing the full variety of Catholic life in our parish.

Principal source of written contributions is the people in our parish.

**Our objective:** Every edition to every Catholic home in the parish.

### Copyright:

All items published in *Stories of Hope* are copyright and may not be otherwise published for general distribution without the prior approval of the editor. Items may only be copied for the use of private individuals or circulated for the use of small discussion groups, providing that the source is acknowledged.

### With Thanks to:

Our sponsors, to all volunteers who help distribute copies, and to all others whose efforts have made this issue possible.

## Contents for September Issue 2015

<a href="#"><u>Magazine Policy Statements .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>2</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Editorial column - Three Churches .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>4</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Reports from St Pius X .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>6</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>From the Parish Council .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>8</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>From Lyndhurst Rd to Wyndham Street .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>9</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Interview with Sr Francine McGovern .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>12</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Summary of Laudato Si .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>14</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Jesus 4 Real Senior Camp .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>18</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Equal Human Rights .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>20</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>St Francis Xavier School Report .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>22</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>St Pius X School Report .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>23</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Obituaries .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>26</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Parish records: Baptisms, Deaths, Marriages .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>28</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Catholic Women’s League .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>29</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Notices, Coming Events .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>30</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Message from Ninness .....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>31</u></a>

### **Editorial committee:**

Michelle Anthony, Bernie Griffin, Fr John van der Kaa, Jane Langham

### **Contributors this issue:**

Wayne Devine, Denise Dorman, Ted Gallen, Bernie Griffin, Sally Horan, Jane Langham, Jane Lee, Kevin & Eileen Mackey, Sr Francine McGovern, Bernadette Murfitt, Fr Paul O’Connor, Andrew Oliver, Teresa Rayner, Jane Reddish, Rev Julie Rokotokala, Fr John van der Kaa .

## The triumvirate of ecumenism, necessity and good will

by *Bernie Griffin*



Three churches. Two Catholic and one Anglican.

Three churches in a sort of benign triumvirate -- Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa, St. Pius X, Titahi Bay and St. Christopher's Anglican church, Tawa. All brought together in sharing because of earthquakes.

Not that a shake-up was needed, really. Not in a big ecumenical sense. In recent years there has been plenty of evidence of cooperation among denominations in our region. Maybe more could be done, but there is no doubting the willingness is there.

Our Lady of Fatima is in shutdown for some months while strengthening work and other renovations are carried out.

*All ready to begin work, inside and out (work is now almost complete).*



In the meantime, parishioners are able to use St. Christopher's Anglican Church premises for weekday masses and services .

Rev. Julie Rokotakala of St. Christopher's Anglican Church shows compassion and leadership, as she has done on other occasions in the past, when she literally opened St Christopher's doors in welcome to the temporarily displaced Tawa Catholics. She makes her motives very clear and likens the relationship to family:

*"We share the same love for Christ, the same desire to see God's kingdom come on earth as in heaven, the same transforming presence and power of the Holy Spirit- it is a natural thing for family to share the resources God has provided us with for mission and ministry..."*

*We are very pleased to welcome the 9am congregation of Our Lady of Fatima Church to use St Christopher's Church for your weekday mass whilst Our Lady of Fatima is being earthquake-strengthened. If you find you have need of the church for any other occasional services we hope you will let us know and we would be happy to accommodate you as we can...*

*Thank you for blessing us with the opportunity to share our Church, once again, affirming our belonging together as brothers and sisters in the faith of Christ, and household of God."*

*Julie Rokotakala*

[Back](#)



**Left:** Venerable Julie Rokotakala with Fr John van der Kaa and Rev Terry McIvor (assistant priest, St Christopher's) at the annual Ash Wednesday service.

*Below After a weekday mass at St. Christopher's the congregation share fellowship and take time for quiet prayer. Usually 20-40 people are present for weekday mass.*



with St. Pius X Church for the regular Sunday masses. Reports suggest a number of benefits, an extra buzz about the place and an energetic start and appreciation for the new parish of Our Lady of Hope. Denise Dorman, from St Pius X church, shares her thoughts:

### **Report from St Pius X**

*by Denise Dorman*



*All the comments from parishioners at St Pius X are very positive about the current situation. We are happy to see the church full of parishioners now and especially the 9 am Mass where we get to see so many families with young children. The Children's Liturgy is especially good to witness and makes us all smile.*

*We all feel there is a vibrancy in the church that has been missing as our members become older and fewer, because a lot of people in Titahi Bay are frequently on the move .*

*The parishioners that attend the other Masses have enjoyed the different ways that the mass is celebrated, especially around the music experience.*

*We are already trying to imagine what we will lose when Our Lady of Fatima church is finished ready for the Tawa people to go back to.*

*Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August was the Feast of St Pius X. The school attended Mass with Father Paul officiating and other parishioners were invited too.*

*It was special for the children to hear about the life of our Patron Saint.*





It might be November before the Tawa church can be occupied once more. Extra repair work has been discovered, separate from earthquake strengthening, which is best dealt with now.

Much has been going on behind the scenes and the transitioning has been amazingly smooth. We are thankful for family ties that continue to bind.

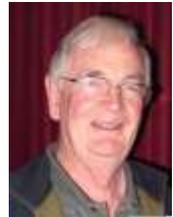
*Fr John and long-time parishioner Georgie Boyle check on progress.*

### **Renovations to St Pius X Church**

*by Ted Gallen*

While the seismic upgrading of Our Lady of Fatima Church is proceeding and St Pius X Church in Titahi Bay is being used as the alternative, parishioners may like to know of the changes and renovations to be made to St Pius X Church.

These changes can proceed as soon as the work at Our Lady of Fatima is completed



1. The block screen at the front of the Church is to be taken out and the front opened out with decorative panels on the back wall appropriately highlighted and spotlighted. While this is partly for earthquake reasons, it will also give the Church a much more welcoming appearance.
2. Access will be improved by indenting the front doors, raising the drive/walkway slightly to reduce the height of the step and placing handrails up to the doors.



*Diagrams of the changes can be seen on the notice board in the foyer at St Pius X church.*

[Back](#)

## **A note from the Parish Pastoral Council**

*by Andrew Oliver*



As this edition of Stories of Hope goes to print, we are half way into the first year of Our Lady of Hope Parish. This seems a good time to stop and reflect on how we are going as a new parish.

In February, we called for nominations for the Pastoral Council, outlining the particular focus on working with our young parishioners. There was an outstanding response with 17 parishioners being appointed to the council. 6 of these are, shall we say, younger than our usual councillors and expressed a particular interest in working with the youth and young adults in the parish. We also have good representation from the Samoan and Filipino communities.

As we have such a large Pastoral Council, we have formed a number of subcommittees to work on specific aspects of pastoral care: Celebrating God in Our Lives, Education in Faith, Youth and Young Adults, Community, and Social Justice. You may recognise these topics from the outcomes of the last Synod. Currently we are finalising our plan addressing each of these areas, outlining our objectives and supporting activities.

As a new parish, it is very important for us to get to know each other. As it turns out, the temporary closure of Our Lady of Fatima church for seismic strengthening has provided a perfect opportunity for us to come together as one large parish community as we worship together at St Pius X church. I encourage you mingle after Mass and introduce yourself to fellow parishioners you don't know. If you belong to a parish group, consider how you can open your group to parishioners from the other side of the parish. There was hardly any overlap in groups between the two former parishes, so don't assume there is a similar group already available on the other side of the parish! Jane Lee in the parish office or any members of the Pastoral Council would be happy to answer questions about available groups in the parish.

Blessings,

Andrew Oliver, Chair, Parish Pastoral Council (*See page 34 for names of members*)

## From Lyndhurst Road to Wyndham Street.

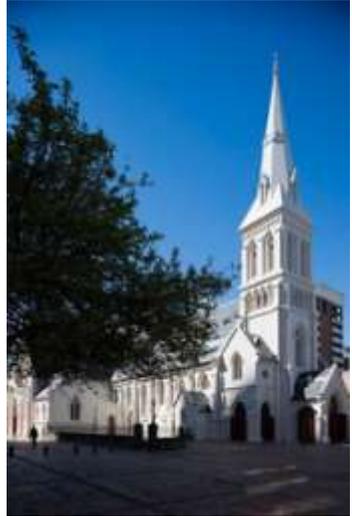
by Fr Paul O'Connor

In 2012 I was invited to teach Theology at Good Shepherd College in Auckland. Here seminarians and lay-students enroll in the Bachelor of Theology and the post-graduate Diploma of Theology programmes. This was not something that I sought, expected or even wanted. But our Assumptionist founder, Emmanuel d'Alzon, insisted that we should serve the urgent needs of the Church.

There is no longer an Assumptionist community in Auckland so I needed somewhere to live. Bishop Patrick Dunn (a class-mate at Sacred Heart College) offered me accommodation at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Wyndham Street, Auckland 1010.

There has been a church on the present Cathedral site since 1843. Those of you who have visited the Cathedral recently will, like me, have been impressed by the atmosphere of quiet prayerfulness and simple beauty.

Sundays at the Cathedral are full-on. There are four Masses and some 2,000+ regular Sunday parishioners. Professor Peter Lineham of Massey University noted in his recent book on the Destiny Church that any New Zealand church that draws 2,000 Kiwis is, in fact, the equivalent of a mega-church. St Patrick's Cathedral did not set out to become a mega-church. But there are, I believe, several factors that draw Auckland Catholics every weekend.



***If we are attentive to the challenge of the new evangelization, meeting and greeting are basic***

People are made to feel welcome. If we are attentive to the challenge of the new evangelization, meeting and greeting are basic. The style of the liturgy is formal: everything is carefully planned and prepared. All extraordinary ministers, lectors, cantors and servers know what they are doing. Now formality does not mean fussiness: formality leads to a simple dignity so that no-one gets in God's way.

Cont. over page ...

The congregational singing is amazing: the music chosen for each Sunday is a deliberate and careful blend of the best of what is old and new in our Catholic musical repertoire.

Every week-day there are Masses at 7 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. There is daily Eucharistic adoration from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered from 11.30 a.m. till 12.10 p.m. Because most of my working week is spent teaching at Good Shepherd College, I mostly serve the 7 a.m. Mass. And here I meet the regular congregation who come from throughout Auckland to begin their working day in the Cathedral. Many get up before the sun rises: their faith and faithfulness inspire me. They seem to appreciate a very short sermon. And they, like me, often need a coffee before their daily working day begins.

### ***The Sacrament of Reconciliation takes place within the context of Eucharistic adoration***

For the last three years I have had a working day at home. On such days I serve the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This takes place within the context of Eucharistic adoration. A former administrator of the Cathedral, Monsignor Brian Arahill, told me that he asked the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master to be a prayerful presence during this time. Presently Sister Christiane provides this presence. So, while she is praying, I am hearing confessions. The Cathedral ensures that those coming to the sacrament of confession can do so anonymously: I believe that this is why so many come. And this also accentuates the intermediary role of the priest. As at the Eucharist, so in sacrament of reconciliation: we act *in persona Christi* – in the person and in the name of our humble Lord Jesus Christ.

Serving this sacrament at St Patrick's Cathedral has been enormously humbling. This year I have reflected that so many Auckland Catholics, both young and old, are prepared to reveal their sinfulness – their shadow-side – so that they might receive the light of the Lord's forgiveness. And no matter how early I slip into the Cathedral to pray for wisdom, there is usually someone waiting for reconciliation.

Most of my time in Auckland is, of course, spent at Good Shepherd College, preparing lectures and seminars and teaching. But there is, I have discovered, an organic unity between the Cathedral and the College. Theology flows from worship – our sacramental experience of God. Preaching is a demanding art: how is a priest or deacon to make a credible connection between the inspired word of God and ordinary life? And how do those who study theology in Auckland learn to pray and study so as to become effective ministers of the new evangelization?

Often I will tell Cathedral parishioners and Good Shepherd students that we live in big, bad, beautiful Auckland. Here in Wellington we live in a city of well-educated, ambitious and affluent post-modern pagans: so many of these are our family members, our co-workers and our neighbors. Our Catholic tradition is intellectually coherent. Our sacraments can satisfy our thirsting minds and hearts when celebrated with a primary focus on God and not on ourselves. Both in Auckland and in Our Lady of Hope parish we try to serve those on the margins. More than ever I give thanks for our Vinnies and for the Auckland City Mission.

Serving at the Cathedral has taught me that beauty can lead us to God. There is a direct link between beauty and holiness (which is, interestingly, the opposite of noisiness). Each week day the doors of the Cathedral open soon after 6 a.m. When I am serving the 7 a.m. Mass I try to arrive early. And as I try to sit still, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, I am moved by the daily faithfulness of ordinary Auckland Catholics who come early, seeking God in the silence of the early morning.

Teaching at Good Shepherd College and serving at St Patrick's Cathedral has taught me that, we assemble to pray, it's not all about us. How can we best help each other to sing, listen and to pray so as to put on the mind of our humble Lord Jesus Christ?

***Serving at the Cathedral has taught me that beauty  
can lead us to God.***

[Back](#)



## Vocation - an interview with Sr Francine McGovern sm

by Jane Langham

**For the Year of Consecrated Life.** *Sr Francine is a Marist sister living and serving in the Tawa area. She lives in community with Sr Margaret Vaney sm*

**Sr Francine, you are a Marist religious sister. When you were first aware of your 'calling' was it to be Marist or to be a nun, or were both always together?**

*Neither.* I felt called to deepen my relationship with Christ and follow Him in the best way I could and for me, to enter religious life was the way to do this. I did my music training with the Mission Sisters in Hamilton and after college I lived with them for a year as a lady boarder. As a young woman I was intrigued by the mystery of their lives. I looked at various religious congregations and when I met the Marist Sisters in Mt Albert two years later, I knew that I had found where I wanted to go.

**How did your family and friends react when you told them of your vocation?**

My family reacted negatively and my friends with disbelief. I did have support from a family whose daughter was entering the Marist Sisters the following year. Although I was 18, I was considered too young to make such a decision. My father thought that a career in teaching would be a better option, so I went to Ardmore Teachers' Training College for 3 years and taught for a further year. When my father saw that I still wanted to enter, he gave me his blessing and came to the Marist Sisters' Novitiate in Merrylands, NSW for my reception.

**Do you see the same needs in society today that you responded to 50 years ago?**

Active religious congregations were then focused on Education and Nursing which have now mainly been taken over by the public sector. The needs of today are very complex and religious are called, in the words of Pope Francis, *'To wake up the world'* in a prophetic way. We are called to *'go out'* and live the life of Jesus and be amongst those experiencing difficulties and problems in a multitude of ways.

**In the words of Pope Francis, religious are called  
to *'wake up the world'* in a prophetic way**

**If you were starting out today, what might call you to religious life now?**

The Gospel is the same today as it was 50 years ago and I would like to think I would again heed the call of the Gospel, that I would listen to the words of Jesus and the promptings of the Spirit which call me to follow Him. The joy which radiates from Pope Francis, his love for people, especially those on the margins of society and his efforts to bring the church into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, I find inspirational.



*Sr Francine with some of those she ministers to through music at the Redwood Centre in Tawa*



**What brings you your greatest joy in life?**

I find my joy in living the mystery of God in Jesus who surrounds us with his love at every moment, the presence of Mary, the Mother of God in my life, friendship, nature –birds, animals etc., and music is especially important to me.

**What ministries have you been involved in?**

Teaching in primary and secondary schools as well as music teaching, looking after boarders, secretarial work in an Australian seminary, music therapy in both Australia and New Zealand, Marist Sisters' Sector Leadership and always pastoral work, wherever I am. [Back](#)

**Advance Notice**

50th anniversary of ordination for Fr John van der Kaa 18th December . To mark this occasion, there will be a parish celebration, probably in early December. Please look out in the weekly newsletter or web site for details nearer the time.

## Summary of 'Laudato Si' chapter 2

by Fr John van der Kaa



### Laudato Si – Chapter Two “The Gospel of Creation”

Chapter 1 of the Encyclical reads like a science book. Pope Francis uses 61 paragraphs to explain the ecological crisis the world is engulfed in. He then suggests that Science and Religion should enter into an intense dialogue towards an integral ecology and the full development of humanity. In Chapter 2 Pope Francis offers us an important document for reflection and action.

From the outset, faith convictions can offer Christians, and other believers, ample motivation to care for nature & for the most vulnerable of their brothers & sisters.

### ***To care for creation is an essential part of our faith.***



To quote just one text from Jeremiah: “*Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.*” (Jer 1:5) we become aware of the dignity of each human being. We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason each of us is the result of a thought of God.

***Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary.***

Each of us has a relationship with God, with our neighbour and with the earth itself. According to the Bible, each of these relationships has been broken by sin. The original harmonious relationship between human beings and nature became conflictual. St Francis somehow returned to the state of original innocence. This is a far cry from the situation today, where sin is manifest in all its destructive power in wars, various forms of violence and abuse, neglect of the most vulnerable and attacks on nature.

There ought to be a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature. The Bible tells us to “*till and keep*” the garden of the world. **Tilling** refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while **keeping** means caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving.

***We are not given absolute dominion over the earth.***

We human beings must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world.

Read Deuteronomy 22:4,6: *You shall not see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen down by the way and withhold your help... If you chance to come upon a bird's nest in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs and the mother sitting upon the young or upon the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young.* Rest on the 7<sup>th</sup> day is meant not only for human beings, but also so *"that your ox and your donkey may have rest"* (Ex 23:12). Each creature possesses its own goodness and perfection. Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray of God's infinite wisdom and goodness. ***Man must respect the goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things.***

The story of Cain and Abel, and of the flood in the story of Noah clearly tell us that everything is interconnected, that genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others. No matter how bad things were, it only took one good person (Noah) to restore hope. It means recovering and respecting the rhythms inscribed in nature by the hand of the Creator. The gift of the earth with its fruits belongs to everyone. Those who tilled and kept the land were obliged to share its fruits, especially with the poor, with widows, orphans and foreigners in their midst. (Read Leviticus 19:9-10). The Psalms, the Prophets, the experience of the Babylonian captivity all point to our All-Powerful God who can intervene in this world and overcome every form of evil. We must remember our heavenly Father who alone owns the world.

In our Judaeo-Christian tradition the word "creation" has a broader meaning than "nature". It points to God's loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance. ***Creation is of the order of love. God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things.*** Every creature is the object of the Father's tenderness. Dante spoke of the love which moves the sun, the stars.

We skip a few paragraphs to come to an important line about the way we look at other human beings. When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society. This vision of "might is right" has engendered immense inequality, injustice and acts of violence against the majority of humanity, since resources end up in the hands of the first-comer or the most powerful: the winner takes all. Completely at odds with this model are the ideals of harmony, justice, fraternity and peace as proposed by Jesus. Read Matthew 20:25-26. The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, already attained by the risen Christ. All creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things. ***Human beings are called to lead all creatures back to their Creator.***

Cont. over page ...

The entire universe speaks of God's love. Soil, water, mountains: everything is as it were, a caress of God. Nature is a constant source of wonder and awe, it is also a continuing revelation of the divine. ***"To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God's love and hope."*** The universe as a whole shows forth the inexhaustible riches of God. God wills the interdependence of creatures. The sun and the moon, the cedar and the little flower, the eagle and the sparrow, the spectacle of their countless diversities and inequalities tells us that no creature is self-sufficient. Creatures exist only in dependence on each other, to complete each other, in the service of each other. Seeing God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise God:



(As in this Hymn of St Francis):

Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,  
especially Sir Brother Sun,  
who is the day and through whom you give us light.  
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;  
and bears a likeness of you, Most High.  
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,  
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.  
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind,  
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather  
through whom you give sustenance to your creatures.  
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.  
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom you light the night,  
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong".



Another 12 paragraphs complete chapter 2. I was touched particularly by Jesus' own attitude towards nature. *"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God."* (Lk 12:6).

*"Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns and yet your heavenly Father feeds them."* (Mt 6:26). As Jesus made his way through the land he often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father: *"Lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest"* (John 4.35). *"The kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds but once it has grown it is the greatest of plants."* (Mt

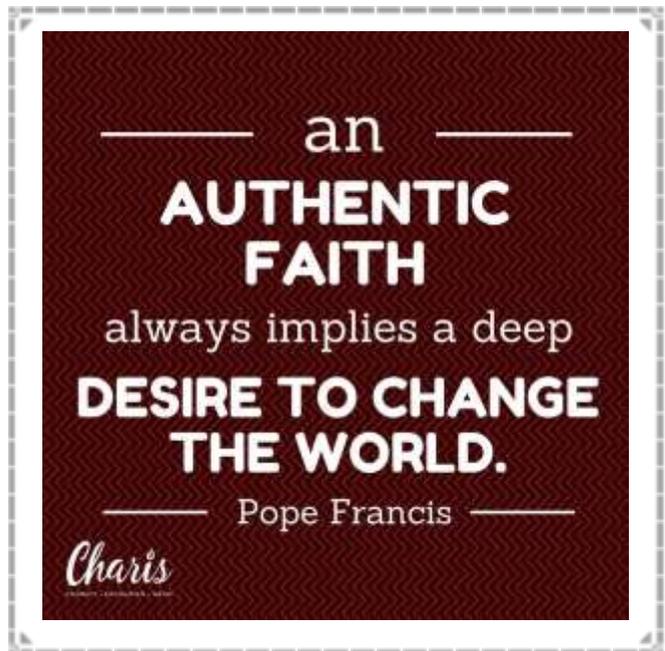
13:31-32). Jesus enjoyed a good meal. He sanctified human labour by working as a carpenter for many years.

Finally, as St Paul expresses so beautifully in his letter to the Colossians, himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his *“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to cross.”* (Col. 1:19-20) We are led to direct our gaze to the end of time, when the Son will deliver all things to the Father, so that God may be everything to every one. (1 Cor 15:28). Thus the creatures of this world no longer appear to us under merely natural guise because the risen One is holding them to himself and directing them towards fullness as their end. ***“The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eye contemplated and admired are now imbued with his radiant presence.”*** (End of Chapter 2).

**Note:** There will be more chapters in future edition of *Stories of Hope*

Letter of Pope Francis [Laudato Si](#)

[Back](#)



## Jesus 4 Real Senior Camp 2015 *by Teresa Rayner*



In the first week of the April school holidays, teens gathered at Palm Grove Christian Camp in Paraparaumu for what was to be a week of fun filled praise, worship, faith, fellowship and friendship - the 2015 Jesus 4 Real Senior camp (years 11-13).

On my first camp as a year 9 in 2012, I didn't want to go, and when I arrived I instantly regretted going after seeing all the crazy people hugging, screaming and laughing. But over the week, I began to see why they were all so crazy and happy to be at camp, and I found that on the last day, I actually didn't want to leave. And I have been back every year since, even returning to lead at the Junior camp (for years 9 -10) last year.

### **At camp, we were asked, “When you hear the word ‘Christian’, what do you think?”**

At camp, we were asked, “When you hear the word ‘*Christian*’, what do you think?” There were many answers, and the one word to sum them all up would be ‘*boring*’. For some, especially teens, when they hear the word ‘*Christian*’ (or ‘*Catholic*’) they immediately think about how boring it must be to be one - going to mass, reciting prayers, singing old songs. But through camp, ***I have learnt that being a Christian or a Catholic is only boring if you let it be.*** And camp, although Christian, is anything but boring. Otherwise people would not be so excited to be there, and I would not have returned year after year.

Jesus 4 Real Camps have taught me what it is like, and what a privilege it is, to be a Catholic - taught me through lively praise and worship at Masses, meeting amazing people who are enthusiastic about their faith, and through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

### **Jesus 4 Real Camps have taught me what it is like, and what a privilege it is to be a Catholic**

My first camp in 2012 was the first time I had experienced adoration, and it was so powerful and moving, and for me, a sign that there really was a God out there. I had grown up knowing this, but had never really experienced it or seen proof for myself.

As Catholics, we believe that the bread is truly the Body of Christ, so when the Monstrance containing the consecrated host is brought in for adoration, we believe that



*Top: Camp leaders engage in 'practical servant-hood' before the campers arrive. (from left) Kate Wyatt , Jennyfer John and Anya MacDonald.*

*Below: 'Purple Team' were the winners of a camp challenge.*

we are in the presence of God. Then the Holy Spirit moves. In our case at camp, we can see it through emotions. People cry or laugh or feel so peaceful that they fall over and 'rest in the spirit'. Nothing else could possibly cause it but the presence of the Holy Spirit - people don't just fall over or cry or laugh hysterically for no reason at all.

This, and many other experiences from camp, have shown me that ***Jesus is for real.***

If you want to find out more, have a look at the website: [www.jesus4real.org.nz/](http://www.jesus4real.org.nz/)

or you can watch the camp videos by searching 'Jesus 4 Real' on Youtube.

[Back](#)

## Equal Human Rights

by Wayne Devine

Equal rights is a sound principle and, I'm sure, one all parishioners support. Any debate on the subject may, however, founder on the issue of what is or isn't a 'right'. Many groups campaign for equal rights and, more often than not nowadays, religious groups pursue the cause of social justice.

I expect readers of this article would agree that one has the right, for example, to live out the lifespan allotted at birth. So doubtless you believe no-one has the right to take that away and maybe you're against capital punishment as well.



My parents gave me life and did not allow it to be taken from me, even in the womb. Since you are reading this, the same is true for you and your parents.

Some claim that a woman has a right to exercise freewill in terminating a pregnancy (and legislators, as you know, may take away legal constraints to

that). I've read all the rhetoric that supports 'choice' and I have compassion for women driven to exercise an option that the law allows. I remain convinced, nonetheless, that it is not possible to validly justify the unborn being denied the same right as you and I were entitled to at conception. The right to life is fundamental to human values. Nothing can make abortion a moral right.

I only have to see a photo of what abortionists call 'tissue' to know that a murder has been committed (even if sanctioned by law). Be aware, however, that: *"Confronted with a jarring photo of the violence of abortion, the pro-abortion supporter may not feel sadness or horror for the child, but anger at the pro-lifer for offending him [or her]. They simply do not see the baby. They see only their own opinion assaulted"* (source: Christen Walker [www.Lifenews.com](http://www.Lifenews.com) ). Christen said: *"I looked at the photos and I had a visceral reaction. No words formed. But something inside me, something simple and human, said, 'That is not okay.' I knew that what I was looking at was a dead human being. I knew it."*

Should we be silent about the wrong that is being committed? On the back cover of 'Footprints – Newsletter of Right to Life New Zealand Inc.' we are reminded that: *"He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetuate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really co-operating."*

Or, as a major Italian poet of the Middle Ages, Dante Alighieri, put it: ***"The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis."***



## Pregnant? And Worried? We Care!

We offer **FREE** and confidential:

- pregnancy tests
- information on pregnancy options
- practical help and support
- advocacy after an adverse ante-natal diagnosis
- fertility awareness
- post-abortion healing and recovery
- steps to sexual health and integrity
- practical help and support

Option Line: 0800 367 45433

Text: 027 5112205

[pregnantandworried.org.nz](http://pregnantandworried.org.nz)

*Please pray for the work of Family Life Pregnancy Centre  
located at 6 Parumoana St., Porirua*



[Back](#)

Coming in our next edition: (December 2015)

- Report and photos of this year's sacramental programme
- Interview/profile of another parishioner
- More news of your groups and family events
- Photos of the two restored churches in our parish

## St Francis Xavier School - 'Strength & Gentleness'

by *Bernadette Murfitt (Principal)*

### Term 2 & 3 News

School life seems to get very busy as the school year moves along. During Terms 2 and 3 our students have experienced many exciting learning opportunities. Our Year 5 and 6 children had a wonderful time on **camp at El Rancho**, Waikanae where they were fortunate to be involved in a range of activities and experiences outside the classroom. Some activities included archery, orienteering, beach walk, go karts, horse riding, waterslide, rock wall etc. While the senior students were at camp, the rest of the school were involved in **EOTC Week** the focus being using the Push/Play trolley, creating enviro art, making human knots, music in tents and some scouting skills. It was all a fun way of learning.

A highlight this term would have to be a night on a **Marae** for our Year 4 students.

The next day these students welcomed the rest of the school on to the Wainuiomata Marae. The children had the opportunity to share their Mihis in their House groups. School families also joined us at the Marae for the pōwhiri and spent the day with us.

We had a **liturgy for Anzac Day**, class liturgies continue to be held at school and we had a **School/Parish Mass** for Pentecost Sunday. At this Mass, three of our students were baptised. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience a baptismal celebration with the school community.



### At the Pentecost Mass three of our students were baptised

We held a "Crazy Hat Day" **Mufti Day** to raise funds for Nepal after their devastating earthquake and another Mufti Day to raise funds for Catholic Social Services.

**Cross country events** have been held, the children have learnt **tennis** and **soccer** skills and our Year 5 and 6 girls play Saturday **netball** under our school name.

**Gym** sessions for the whole school have taken place at Big Air Gym.

Our **Kapa Haka** group performed at the Kapo Kapo Festival, we celebrated **Matariki, Māori Language Week** and **Cook Islands Language Week**.

A **Talent Quest** was held where students performed their talents at assembly and Parents & Friends held a **Disco** night.

The **Firewise truck** visited our junior classes which caused great excitement. **Parent/teacher** interviews have been held.

I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for supporting my Sabbatical during Term 2. I learnt so much about effective strategies that help students learn. It is wonderful to be back. I am very fortunate to work in such a superb school.

*He aha te mea nui o tēnei ao?*

*He tangata*

*He tangata*

*He tangata*

*What is the most important thing in this world?*

*It is people, it is people, it is people.*

## St Pius X School - 'Strong and Gentle

*by Jane Reddish (Principal)*

Principal Jane Reddish experienced a severe bout of flu during August so was unable to contribute the anticipated content.



### Term 3 Events at St Pius X School

Grandparents Day 31 July

First Reconciliation 30 June & Confirmation 30 August

Welcoming Pōwhiri for new-comers to St Pius X School in Term 2

Class Mass for Kereru, Tui and Kiwi classes 11 August

St Pius X Feast Day 21 August - photo on page 6

Fundraising – Quiz Night

Family Disco

**Photos from some of these events over the page.**

## Stories of Hope



Pōwhiri for new students



Grandparents' Day



Fr Paul celebrating a class mass with Kereru, Tui and Kiwi Classes

Don't want to face another cold winter like  
you've just experienced?

Appliance Repairs | Catering Equipment | Sales & Service

# GAS

**Dermot O'Shaughnessy**  
**0274 349 427**  
**fixgas@xtra.co.nz**



Call in the experts in Gas Heating & Repairs

Please support our sponsors  
- your fellow parishioners

## Those who have died ...

### Obituary for Pat Childs *by Denise Dorman*



Pat Childs lived in the Parish of St Pius X for over 50 years & was always very active in the parish community.

She had six children, 36 grand and great grandchildren. Our parishioners remember her for her great faith, regularly attending weekday masses as well as her Sunday ones. She had a lovely caring nature for all those who knew her and was a real inspiration to us all.

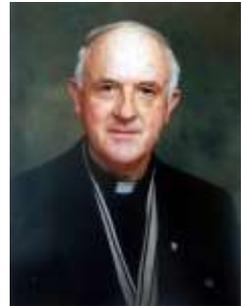
Pat died on 16 August 2015 aged 87.

*Rest in Peace Pat, you will be sadly missed.*

### Reflection on Fr. William (Bill) Corcoran *by Eileen & Kevin Mackie*

Fr William (Bill) Corcoran, a former parish priest of Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa, from 1981 to 1983, died at the New Vista Rest Home in Wanganui on 4 July 2015.

We learned of Father Corcoran's death when Father John told us at the 9.00am mass on Monday 6 July. After our initial gasp, fond memories of this well-liked priest came flooding back. We decided immediately that we would attend his rosary and vigil mass in Wanganui. This was a relief to Father John as he felt that our parish should be represented but was unable to go at that time.



When we arrived at the church in Wanganui we met Father Levins and gave him Father John's apology and explained to him that we were representing Our Lady of Fatima Tawa. He was pleased that we had come and shared memories of his time as curate here when Father Connor was parish priest. Many of you oldies will remember him as well as he remembered you. We also met up with Sister John Bosco. She is as busy as ever and it was great talking with her. She asked us to convey her regards to all those who remember her when she was here in Tawa.

We also caught up with Father Tom Sherry who is now living in Palmerston North. He was about to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday (where has the time gone to; he was just a young priest fresh from studying in Rome when he was in our Parish).

Bishop Charles Drennan also spoke to us and thanked us for coming from Tawa to pray the rosary and attend mass for Father Corcoran.

**Biography:** Fr. Bill was born in Newcastle, County Tipperary, Ireland on 22 June 1923 and after training ordained at Thurles on 11 June 1950. He came to New Zealand after his ordination, responding to a recruitment drive by Archbishop O'Shea, and served in several parishes in the Wellington and Palmerston North Dioceses including Reefton, Fielding, Tawa and Pahiatua. In total he achieved 65 years of priestly vocation.

One of the more memorable occasions in his life was his experience of the Inangahua Earthquake in 1968 while he was stationed in Reefton. The church building was destroyed and the area became isolated by road and rail for about four months mainly as a result of the bridges becoming unusable.

In Tawa, a tangible reminder of Fr. Bill is the structure he had erected to provide shelter at the old main door of the church. Not only has it proved useful for funeral and wedding services but the semi-enclosed area has become a place for children to play after the Sunday masses. Some adults also congregate there after mass to chat before heading home.

It was a privilege to represent Our Lady of Fatima at the vigil mass for Fr. Corcoran.

*We ask that you remember him in your prayers for the dead.*

[Back](#)



At the requiem mass for Fr Corcoran

## Parish Notices - Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths

### Baptisms

Name of child	Parents	Date
Kendrick Cornelius Kele	Kelekolio & Fa'anoi Yue	2/5/15
Fuapau Francis Fa'aoso	Sitani & Molini Fa'aoso	3/5/15
Arlo George Francis Tither	Richard Tither & Victoria Phillips	3/5/15
Robert Kevin Schwalger	Kevin Schwalger & Maria Kinsada	9/5/15
Theodore Ioane Murray Roberts	David Roberts & Julia Tualima-Roberts	16/5/15
Lilly Mary Hartnett	Maurice Hartnett & Hannah Burr	17/5/15
Thomas Anthony van Wamel	Paul & Kathryn van Wamel	24/5/15
Daphne-Rae Patricia Nellie Hunt	Cliff Hunt Snr & Angela Cameron	24/5/15
Te Arai-Marani Glover	Jayden Glover & Katarina Crawford	24/5/15
Seamus Owen Davidson	Duncan & Frances Davidson	7/6/15
Joel Henry Francis Prescott Siave	Daniel & Rebekah Siave	14/6/15
Shreya Garielle Mittal	Gagan & Airell Mittal	20/6/15
Joel Francis McGavin	Leon & Anna McGavin	28/6/15
Kaia Olive McGavin	Leon & Anna McGavin	28/6/15
Osten Tyler Mahinay	Bonifacio Mihinay Jnr & Arlyn Rupita	24/7/15
Maisie Catherine Elizabeth Dillon	Gregory & Heather Dillon	2/8/15

### Deaths

John Joseph Heeney	9/5/15
Margaret Mary O'Connell	28/5/15
Mary Catherine Rattigan	31/5/15
Terube Maen Tebitara	15/6/15
Patricia Elaine Childs	16/8/15

## Catholic Women's League

by *Sally Horan (CWL Secretary)*

The Catholic Women's League meets on the first Thursday of each month in the church meeting room. All women of the parish are welcome.



A faith-based organisation, it gives women the opportunity to contribute to the social, intellectual and spiritual life of the Church and the wider society of New Zealand.

In Tawa we promote opportunities for the women in the parish to meet together. We are active in educating ourselves on social issues and media happenings. Any funds that we raise through catering etc. are donated back into local charities.

Tawa branch is part of a national organisation which holds conferences during the year within our district and also throughout New Zealand.

The Catholic Women's League is affiliated to the National Council of Women in New Zealand and the Worldwide Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) which represents over five million women. The more members we have the more our voice is listened to when we make submissions to Parliament.

The League is a great way to get to know and support other women in the parish.

Editor's Note: CWL will serve funeral catering in the church for their fundraising.

### Regular worship:

**Titahi Bay Mass times:** Sat 6:00 pm, Sun 9:00 am & 11am,

(Please note: Tawa Sunday worship is likely to resume in November)

**Tawa Weekdays:** Mon, Wed-Fri. 9 am;

Tues. liturgy of the Word with communion 9 am

- Children's worship during 9 am Sun mass **during term time**,
- Monthly rosary & benediction, 2:00 pm third Sun;
- Prayer ministry teams, after 9 am mass, Sun;

---

### .Other English language masses in our pastoral area

- St Teresa, Plimmerton, Sat 6:00 pm, Sun 9:30 am
- Holy Family, Porirua E. Sat 6:00 pm, Sun 9:30 am (*incl. Pacific content*)
- Te Ngakau Tapu, Porirua, Sun 5:15 pm (*may include Te Reo Māori*)

## New Parishioners

If you are new to the parish, Welcome!

Please introduce yourself to the celebrant, another parishioner,  
or call the parish office 9am-12noon weekdays . 04 232 5611

## Current Parish Pastoral Council Members

Fr John van der Kaa - parish priest Andrew Oliver - chair  
Kameloni Aiono, Telesia Alaimoana, Lagi Anamani, Chantelle Anthony,  
Gerard Bone, Denise Dorman, Ted Gallen, John Lafaele,  
Ray Lindsay, Hannah McCardle, Paul McCardle, Rupi Mapusua,  
Litia Meli, Joseph Mijares, Marie Prescott, Rebekah Siave.

## Coming events

- Dove Catholic Fellowship for Women, Third Sat. 1:30 pm, at Connolly Hall,  
Next to Cathedral, Wellington.
- Monthly luncheons in Tawa church foyer, First Tuesday of each month.
- Time together, weekly games, Tawa church meeting room, Thurs 1:30 pm,
- Youth Group, College Years 9 to 13, Fridays, 8:00 - 9:30pm  
Leo Connor Hall, **during school term;**
- Girls' Group Year 3 - 9 students, Fridays, 4:30 - 5:30 pm,  
Tawa church meeting room **during term time.**
- Other events, check website calendar: [www.tawacatholic.org.nz](http://www.tawacatholic.org.nz)

**We hope you enjoyed reading this issue of *Stories of Hope* .  
When you've finished reading it, why not pass it on to a friend?  
We need your input. Keep those contributions coming!!**

**This edition of *Stories of Hope* is proudly sponsored by  
Ninness Funeral Home**

17 Kenepuru Drive, Porirua ph: 04 237 4174 fax: 04 237 4172  
email: [info@ninness.co.nz](mailto:info@ninness.co.nz) [Ninness Web Site](http://www.ninness.co.nz)

**Spring and Advent**

With this edition of 'Stories of Hope', we are no doubt pleased the season of spring has arrived. From the cold days of winter, we see evidence of new life and growth. We see the gradual re-emergence of the flowers and warmth that mark this transition from one season to another.

This change of season offers us hope and ways of engaging with the message of Jesus when he calls himself The Resurrection and The Life. Jesus wishes to assure us that in death life has changed rather than ended.

At Ninness, we are very sensitive to your Catholic tradition and will be able to guide you through the various parts of the Order of Christian Funerals, which is where we are guided in the ways of the Catholic community's rites of farewell.

At the time of death, the community enters into a time of accompanying you on this journey of leave taking. Our belief in the resurrection enables us to grieve with hope and it is this reality that forms the focus of the celebration of your loved ones life.

Come December, it will be Advent, the beginning of another liturgical year. It is a season of hope and expectation. May this new liturgical year help our faith in the resurrection to flourish and enable us to offer this same hope in both practical and spiritual ways to those who are experiencing loss in our community.

**For further helpful information**, have a look at the Ninness Funeral Home website: [www.ninness.co.nz](http://www.ninness.co.nz). Go to '*Community Traditions*' and then '*Catholic community*'.

**Shuttle Service to Whenua Tapu Cemetery**

Ninness Funeral Home provides a complimentary shuttle service for people who either do not have their own transport or where the cemetery is not on a public transport route. The shuttle runs to Whenua Tapu cemetery every month (excluding December) on the last Wednesday.



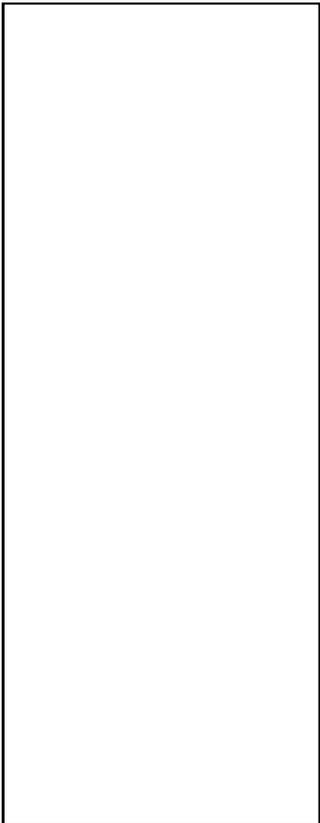
**Whenua Tapu Shuttle - remaining dates for 2015**

Wednesday – 30 September

Wednesday – 28 October 31

Wednesday – 25 November

[Back](#)



Time is of the essence at



**Rapid Copy Ltd**

191B Thorndon Quay  
Wellington 6011  
Ph. 04 471 2537

Digital Printing Solutions

The logo for Rapid Copy Ltd features a clock face with Roman numerals and a golden hourglass. The words "Rapid Copy Ltd" are written in a bold, sans-serif font, with "Rapid" being the largest. Below the logo, the company's address and phone number are listed. To the left of the logo, the text "Time is of the essence at" is written in a smaller font. Below the logo, the text "Digital Printing Solutions" is written in a smaller font.

Email: [copyit@rapidcopy.co.nz](mailto:copyit@rapidcopy.co.nz)

**Stories of Hope** is printed with care by **Rapid Copy**



John Greally



Brenden Jacobsen

**Ninness Funeral Home** - for caring, friendly and professional, funeral services.

**Call us for personal service today:**

**04 237 4174**