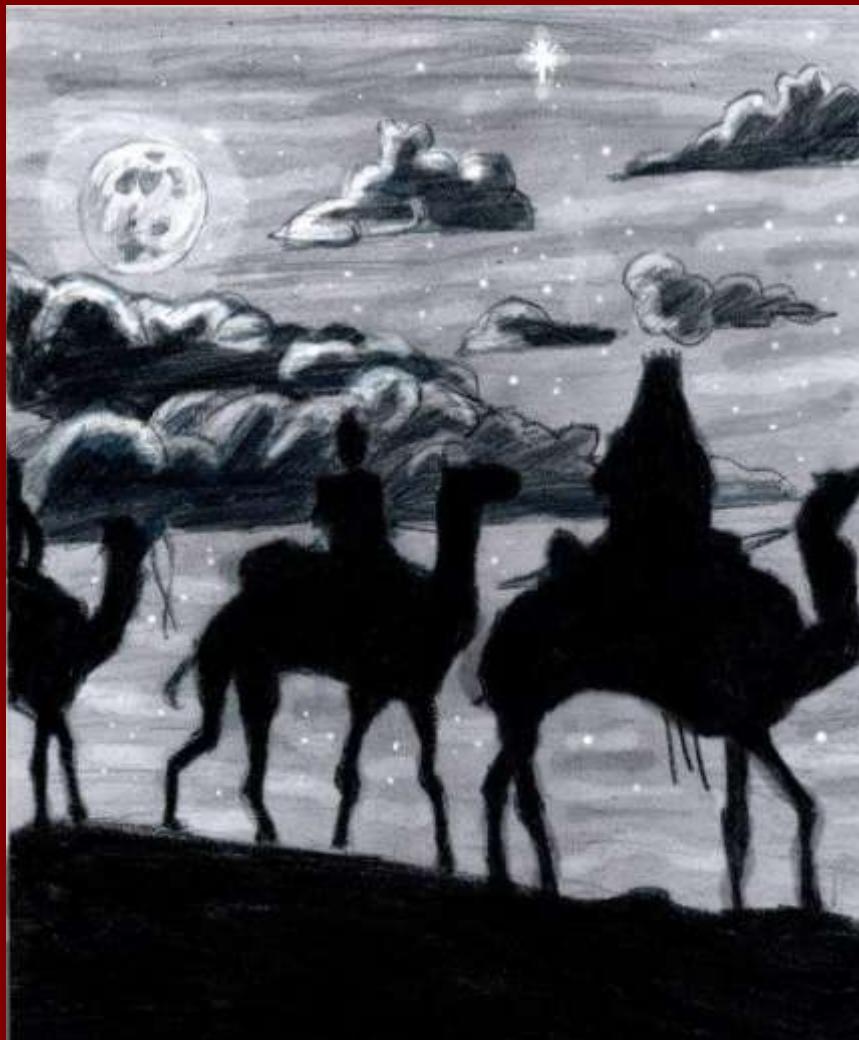




# Stories of HOPE

December 2016

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



O come let us adore Him

Cover picture by ANTON RAYNER (Parishioner and BVC student)

## **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 organisation. 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, family events 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 Jane Langham or leave for collection at the parish office.

Email: [langham@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:langham@slingshot.co.nz)

Phone: 232 7206

## **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 sponsor, the contributors, volunteers who help sort or distribute copies, and all others whose efforts have made this issue possible.

## Contents

<u>Magazine Policy Statements</u>	.....	2
<u>The Gift of Prayer</u>	.....	4
<u>I always knew He was there</u>	.....	6
<u>Interview with Wendy &amp; Allan Holden</u>	.....	8
<u>The Hand of God?</u>	.....	11
<u>Christian Dignity &amp; Respect</u>	.....	12
<u>Communication</u>	.....	13
<u>Why Sing?</u>	.....	14
<u>Catholic Women's League</u>	.....	16
<u>Dust to Dust, Ashes to ?</u>	.....	18
<u>St Francis Xavier School Report</u>	.....	20
<u>ANZRATH</u>	.....	21
<u>Obituaries</u>	.....	22
<u>Advent &amp; Christmas Timetable</u>	.....	24
<u>Parish records: Baptisms, Deaths, Marriages</u>	.....	25
<u>Notices, Coming Events</u>	.....	26
<u>Message from Ninness</u>	.....	27

### In this edition:

We have *inspiration*: on the cover, from Anton, with another of his artworks; from Helen Keller, described by Bernie (P.6); from the Holden family who are moving to Christchurch for some years (P.8); from Simon, encouraging us to sing (P.14) and from Sr. Francine about the work done by Religious for trafficked people (P.21). There is also an intriguing poem from Patrick (P.11) which helps us reflect on the good we can do by offering a helping hand—can our ‘hand’ to others be like God’s ‘hand’ to us? We remember well-loved parishioners who have died (P.22) and Fr. Paul talks about what happens next ... (P.18)

### Editorial committee:

Bernie Griffin, Fr John van der Kaa, Jane Langham.

### Contributors this issue:

Michelle Anthony, Tony Barkley, Denise Dorman, Bernie Griffin, Patrick Horan, Sally Horan, Wendy & Allan Holden, Jane Langham, Jane Lee, Sr. Francine McGovern, Mary Morley, Fr. Paul O'Connor, Anton Rayner, Simon Rayner, Joan Woods.

## The Gift of Prayer

by Jane Langham

*We've all had that feeling approaching Christmas ...*

there's someone we really want to acknowledge and thank for who they are for us, but they seem to have everything you could afford to get them. In the great scheme of things this annual little challenge is small.



We face a more difficult challenge when a loved one is facing bereavement, illness or loss, especially if that person is far away. We don't know how to help or what to do to demonstrate our concern and love. There can also be times we wish to mark a happy occasion - birthdays, weddings, or successes.

There is a long tradition in the Catholic church of having a mass offered for a particular intention - this can be requested for a named person or intention or for 'a private intention' and the person making the request would usually be present at that mass. This is the greatest gift of prayer that we can give to anyone.

In our parish of Our Lady of Hope, mass intentions are usually booked and a date arranged through the parish office, (phone, email or in person) though it is also possible to ask the priest before a weekday mass if there is an intention already arranged for that day. The main mass at the weekend is always offered for all parishioners.

There is no charge for having mass offered, though it is usual to give a koha/stipend according to one's means (this could be anything from \$1-\$20).

*Think of the joy in the heart of the recipient* when they get a card or letter from you letting them know that mass is to be offered for them/their needs on a particular day! What better gift could they receive than the blessings that come from that offered mass.



*The mass card shown above is from Pleroma Christian Supplies*

*38 Higginson St, Otane, Central Hawkes Bay 4202*

*E-mail: [order@pleroma.org.nz](mailto:order@pleroma.org.nz)*

*Free Phone: 0508 988 988 (8.30am - 5pm Mon-Fri)*

*Free Fax: 0508 988 989 Web site: <https://www.christiansupplies.co.nz/>*

## ***Alpha*** is coming to Tawa in 2017!

Look out for the national advertising that will be in all media from the start of April 2017. This promotion will be fronted by Bear Grylls, whose own faith journey began with ***Alpha*** some years ago. Bear says his greatest adventure was finding a simple faith in God through ***Alpha***.

Now we're all invited to "Join the Adventure" and bring some friends along too.



Courses in Tawa will begin in May 2017. Full details will be in the next edition of Stories of Hope. If you would like to be part of the team in any capacity (group leading, group helper, hospitality, technical, music, prayer) please contact Jane. Email: langham@slingshot.co.nz or phone 232 7206

## I always knew he was there ... but I never knew his name

by Bernie Griffin

If you were born blind and deaf, how would you ever know about your world around you?

How would you know about God, the scriptures and the story of Jesus? How could anyone teach you? Where does communication begin for a person blind and deaf and not speaking?

Is it with the mind? Your senses?

Taste, smell and touch are still there. So can knowledge – especially spiritual knowledge -- be emotional or come through a sixth sense or simply through the heart?

Back in the somewhat ignorant past, the tragedy for many children born deaf and blind was that they were often regarded as medical imbeciles by the very professionals they should have been able to trust -- doctors who should have understood their affliction and their potential.



Helen Keller lived a long life in the world of darkness and silence. From the age of 19 months, after being smitten with an illness, she was left blind, deaf and of course not speaking.

She says in her autobiography that the greatest day of her life was when as a six-year-old she first met her teacher, companion and friend, Anne Sullivan. Often referred to as a miracle worker, Anne Sullivan taught her to communicate through her hands. She got to spell out words and understand them and mastered a vast vocabulary.

There were many big events in her life, including her first Christmas.

*"... my first Christmas came in my eighth year. In memory, it stands out vividly - the jump out of bed, waking everybody with a "Merry Christmas!" spelled by my hand, a hurried toilet, impatient waiting for others, a flurry of preparation for the family party after breakfast, and my incessant questions about everything..."*



*"But as I danced about, showing off my new possessions, I ran against a child in a corner - and as I touched her, I discovered that she had no present. She had been forgotten. I insisted on giving her my toys. Afterwards I was told that she received no present because she was poor.*

*"I had thought that everybody would be happy and get something good at Christmas. The next few days I bombarded my teacher with questions. 'Why is she poor?' I demanded. 'Why has God given me so much and her nothing?' There was hot resentment in my heart against a God who, I thought, was so cruel to her.*



*"Of course I did not have words to express all these feelings. But the little girl that had no gifts brought a real shock to my idea of a happy Christmas for everybody. And I think now that my childish feeling discovered a real fault in that first and happiest of all my Christmases."*

Later in life, after years of silence and darkness, Helen Keller became world-famous and a light and 'voice' for those who were disenfranchised and suffering injustice. She always remembered that first Christmas and the poor girl whom she thought was worse off than herself.

At the time when she was given instruction about God and the birth of Jesus she said: *"I always knew He was there, but I never knew His name."*

Michelle Anthony has been editor of *Stories of Hope* for almost three years now. We thank her for her generous contribution of time and skills. Unfortunately Michelle has had to give up this position because of health issues - the article by her in this issue (p. 12) was written several months ago. In the meantime, Jane Langham is acting editor with support and input from Bernie Griffin.

## An Interview with Wendy & Allan Holden



*The photo above shows Wendy, Allan, Brenda (Sr. Joy Marie MC), Rachel & Simon, taken in Tainan City, where Sr. Joy Marie is currently working.*

**I hear that you and your family will be moving to Christchurch at the end of this year – how long have you been in Tawa and what brought you here?**

*Allan was born in Tawa. He went to University, worked in Napier for a few years where we got married. We came to Tawa for Allan's work in Telecom in 1983 with two young children. Allan's parents were still here so it was the right part of Wellington to settle into.*

**Allan, as a foundation pupil of St Francis Xavier school, what input from family, schools, or other networks created and grew your faith?**

*St. Francis Xavier and St Pat's (Bishop Viard was not open then) both supported my faith. I was an Altar Server back in the days of Fr. Connor and Fr.s Donohue and Levins. Back then Altar Servers were rostered on 6.30am weekday Mass. One of the biggest influences on my faith was at university in Christchurch. The Newman Society was quite strong and strong relationships were formed and are still maintained. After university the Charismatic renewal had a big influence.*

**Wendy, you were not born a Catholic. Is there something in your journey to becoming a Catholic that can encourage our parishioners in how they can help others they know on this journey?**

*I had people around me who didn't put pressure on me to join the church but who lived their faith and I observed joy and answers to prayers.*

*An important time for me was one evening when I went to a house mass. At communion I experienced the power and grace of the sacrament in the room, but could not be a part of it. That began my journey to joining the church.*

**Your children have all been through St. Francis Xavier School and Bishop Viard College – how have you experienced support in your role as Catholic parents from our Catholic schools?**

*The Religious Education programme teaches about our faith, but more importantly the Catholic character is modelled throughout the school system. Other significant influences in their lives have been Catholic youth events; Firepower, Jesus for Real camps, Lifeteen, as well as local youth groups.*

**You lost your son Ross in a tragic accident in 1996 – did this change your faith in any way?**

*We were very appreciative of support from the church community in Tawa, Wellington and beyond. There were so many prayers lifted to the Lord that He sent great grace upon us. It was the first time that I (Wendy) understood what grace is, as it came down as a physical presence of warmth and comfort. Through others God gave us scriptures and words of knowledge assuring us that our son was (and is) with His son. It was a great strength knowing that God in His mercy had a place prepared for him.*

**Wendy, you have been part of the parish Children's Liturgy team since it began on a regular basis in our parish in 1987 – what have you seen in that time as 'benefits' or 'outcomes' from having this ministry here and what has it done for you personally?**

*Allan also was a Children's Liturgy leader for a few years. The children enjoyed having male leaders. Children's Liturgy is a huge part of the reason why there are a good number of younger people at Mass on Sundays. We have a generation of young people who have grown up with Our Lady of Fatima Parish being a welcoming, safe and enjoyable place. The relationships that develop continue beyond Children's Liturgy. We wouldn't put our children into an adult seminar and expect them to absorb the information, so I think it is important that we share the truth of the Gospels with our children at their level of understanding.*

*After Children's Liturgy had been running for a few years it was exciting for me (Wendy) to find I could teach Gospel truths at a deeper level because the children had a greater base faith knowledge. I have enjoyed leading sessions because my faith has grown as I have studied the readings while preparing and have been challenged by questions from the children.*

**Allan, can I ask you a similar question regarding your involvement with music ministry?**

*The parish went through a time where there was little music. I sang in a small group for a while. We broke new ground with songs like ‘Shout to the Lord’. It was through my involvement in a Catholic Youth conference that I was encouraged to get back into playing music. I started off quite tentatively as a beginner bass player, knowing that electric bass was not exactly a traditional Catholic worship instrument. Music has been an important part of worship since King David. It helps unite the congregation in prayer and helps to involve the whole person. I hope I can find a place to serve in a similar way in Christchurch.*

**Your whole family, apart from Sr. Joy Marie MC, who is currently serving in Taiwan, will be regathering in Christchurch – what hopes and plans do you have for your future there?**

*Yes, Sr. Joy Marie (Brenda) is in Taiwan with the Missionaries of Charity. The rest of us will be in Christchurch. We are looking forward to seeing more of our children and grandchildren and being able to explore a part of the country we have not spent much time in – lots of new opportunities for tramping, biking and skiing.*

*We also think the Lord is calling us there for a season and we await clarification of His plans.*

**Allan and Wendy, thank you for your very many years of commitment to our parish, for your example, witness and service. I am sure that all of us wish you every blessing for the future.**

[Back](#)

## The Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people.

“It is a fight between two ‘wolves’ inside us all,” he said.

“One is evil -- it is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority ... and ego.

“The other is good -- it is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion ... and Faith.”

The grandson thought about it for a while then asked: “Which wolf wins?”

The old Cherokee replied simply: “The one you feed.”

## The Hand of God?

by Patrick Horan

Walking,  
thoughts adrift,  
senses on automatic,  
I see it;  
adjust my step to avoid it,  
and continue on my way  
until  
my mind raises the question –  
‘Which way was it going?’

I retrace my four steps  
and watch it.  
It has left the grass verge,  
is on the pavement,  
heading for the road.

Should I help  
or leave it to its chosen path?

I pick it up  
and it wraps around my fingers as if in pain,  
before I drop it on the grass  
where it lies for a few moments  
before delving into mother earth.

I continue walking,  
senses aware,  
thoughts focused,  
and, somehow, feeling more relevant.



## Christian Dignity and Respect

by Michelle Anthony

Catholic Social Teaching is steeped in two values - Dignity and Respect.

God made us in his image. To most Christians, including us Catholics, human life is sacred. This is true for all human life from when it begins at conception and ends at death. Dignity and respect are deserved by all, regardless of whether one fits a pre-conceived 'normal' set by society. Do we extend these two virtues to all alike - the employed and unemployed, the rich and the poor, the healthy and the disabled, the old and the young, the worldly or the godly? Or do we afford dignity and respect only to those whom we feel we have common ties with, those whom we have a need for, or the select few we want to form mutually beneficial networks with?



It is something I, as a Catholic, have to work on, when I unconsciously or consciously discriminate against someone else, in order to dispel the notion that dignity and respect has a worldly value. In Christian reality, dignity and respect are God-given values for all his children.

*"Dear friends, it is certainly necessary to give bread to the hungry – this is an act of justice. But there is also a deeper hunger, the hunger for a happiness that only God can satisfy, the hunger for dignity. There is neither real promotion of the common good nor real human development when there is ignorance of the fundamental pillars that govern a nation, its non-material goods: life, which is a gift of God, a value always to be protected and promoted; the family, the foundation of coexistence and a remedy against social fragmentation; integral education, which cannot be reduced to the mere transmission of information for purposes of generating profit; health, which must seek the integral well-being of the person, including the spiritual dimension, essential for human balance and healthy coexistence; security, in the conviction that violence can be overcome only by changing human hearts."* Pope Francis

## Communication

by Tony Barkley

Our Parish is a busy one, with two churches, two primary schools and one college within its boundary.



*Pope Francis is happy to embrace all the latest technology when it comes to aiding communication.*

As there are so many facets to our parish life, communication is so important to ensure that everyone both inside and outside our community is aware of what is happening.

To assist with that, we have the following media options:

weekly newsletters

Stories of Hope magazines

the Parish Website

our Facebook page

***To keep the flow of information current, we all need to contribute topical articles and pictures to share.***

***I would encourage everyone to regularly submit items for publication in one or other of these media.***

The website also has a calendar which can be used to publicise coming events.

You can send items for our webpage to [hopeweb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hopeweb@xtra.co.nz) and for our Facebook page to [hpmccardle@outlook.com](mailto:hpmccardle@outlook.com) or [hopeweb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hopeweb@xtra.co.nz)

(Note: new web site since 2020, not this address)

*Please note that if you submit pictures of individuals you must obtain their permission first.*

[Back](#)

## Why Sing?

by Simon Rayner

I love to see my children unselfconsciously singing away to themselves as they play, draw, or study; the younger ones often making up new songs to accompany their activity. It expresses their being at peace, their contentment. A signal that all is right with the world for them.



Why do we have music and sing? Seemingly it fulfils no practical purpose. But all races, all peoples have been singing, chanting and dancing for as long as we know. It is in our nature, and for me is evidence of our creation in God's image, an echo of His creative spirit and His appreciation of, and connection to, His creation. It is a transcendent activity that lifts us from day-to-day concerns and can somehow connect us more with who we are, especially when we are lifting our voices to praise our loving Creator.

Has it ever struck you that many other Christian churches seem to have congregations who can sing up a storm, but we Catholics seem more reserved in that area, (with some exceptions, such as our Pacifica groups).

**Singing is a transcendent activity  
that lifts us from day-to-day concerns**



It certainly struck me while I was reconnecting with the Church and comparing it with other, seemingly more dynamic, Christian services I had attended.

Yes, we had the liturgy, the sacraments, and a depth of tradition and teaching that they couldn't match, but wasn't there something so fundamental and right about lifting our praise to God. I was struck with the thought that if I was self-conscious about singing such lyrics as "*Glory and praise to our God*" at a volume that might be heard by others, then that was totally contradictory to the song itself, and to who I am called to be. ***For are we not called to give glory to God in all we do? If I could not do that in a church with my sisters and brothers in Christ, what hope would I have in the rest of my life?***

So I sang like I meant it and found that singing-up connected me to the meaning of the song and that I *did* mean it. And I discovered that if I wasn't afraid to be the

loudest in my pew, others in the pew would unconsciously sing louder also, comfortable that they weren't the loudest in the vicinity.

The world didn't change, but I did connect more deeply with the Lord. It was the start of a journey which has not stopped. I love that singing praise to God is a way of moving the focus off me, seeing Him for who He is, and giving back to him.



Of course, not all of us are gifted with a wonderful singing voice. However, God gave us the voice we have. I am reminded of my uncle who, though tone deaf, sings with a bull-like gusto. It comes from his heart. I figure that God provided enough other people to balance out his voice. If they don't do their part, that is their loss not his!

So, next time you are at Mass, consider: do you have something to be grateful for, a reason to praise God? If so, will you sing wholeheartedly, in a way that expresses your love and gratitude to God. You never know, others may join in.

### **Have you thought about joining one of our music groups?**

All three of the regular masses in our parish have musicians and singers who lead the singing.

Any and all of these would welcome new singers or musicians or people able to help with the technology.

If you would like to be part of one of these groups,

just talk  
to any one of the current  
members after mass.



***Let the Spirit lead you!***

[Back](#)

## Catholic Women's League

by Sally Horan



The Tawa branch of the Catholic Women's League meets each month and during this year it has met in a member's home, as we have not been able to use the church.

Although we may not have been very visible, we continue to help, when requested, with serving refreshments after funerals and because of this have been able to donate money to local charities including Mary Potter Hospice and the Wellington Homeless Women's Trust.

We have also donated money and knitting to Pregnancy Help.

The League keeps us informed of current social issues and is active in raising issues and suggesting appropriate actions, including making submissions to Parliament through the national association, local group or as individuals.



### ***The more members we have the greater impact our actions have.***

Please think about joining us. Our meeting times and venue are advertised in the parish newsletter.

We hope that next year we will be able to use the church again.

*Sally Horan (Secretary, Tawa Catholic Women's League)*

“Situations can change; people can change.  
Be the first to seek to bring good.  
Do not grow accustomed to evil,  
but defeat it with good.”

Pope Francis



# TAWA CWL WELLINGTON

- Arrange liturgies for Advent and WUCWO.
- Give prayer quilts that have been prayed over by the parish to people who are seriously ill.
- Send Cenacle cards to the sick and to bereaved families.

## Service

- Knit baby clothes for Pregnancy Help.
- Alert members and parishioners by email and church notices about social concerns, such as euthanasia, and provide information about how they can react - websites, online petitions, letters, etc.
- Help with catering for birthdays, funerals, wedding anniversaries and other parish functions.

## Donate to charities, especially if they are local

- Support local Marist Sisters with monetary assistance and items such as a new bed and a printer.
- School for Teenage Mothers.
- Wellington Homeless Women's Trust.
- Pay school activity fees for two needy families
- Give money to local volunteers who provide help in the Pacific area.
- Remit money for overseas disaster relief funds through Caritas.

[Back](#)



## Dust to Dust, Ashes to ? ...

by Fr Paul O'Connor AA

If we consider our death and funeral, we have a number of choices to make. One of the most basic choices is whether I direct that my body be buried, cremated or donated to medical science. If I direct that my body be cremated, what is to happen to my ashes? (Actually ‘ashes’ is a misnomer: the end-product of the cremation process is finely granulated bone fragments.) Will my nearest and dearest bury my ashes in a cemetery plot? Will they take my ashes home? Will they divvy my ashes up or will they scatter them over the garden or at the sea shore? Technology exists to incorporate my ashes into jewellery.

***We are created in the image and likeness of God  
and we look upon creation – ourselves included –  
in a sacramental way.***

In a recent document, *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* (To rise with Christ), Pope Francis has directed that ashes are to be buried in a cemetery, in a church crypt or columbarium. Obviously it is impossible to enforce this directive. So what is pastorally important is to understand the theological background.

We are created in the image and likeness of God and we look upon creation – ourselves included – in a sacramental way. The Lord uses created realities as effective signs – sacraments - of his constant, loving presence. In the sacrament of baptism, the water and oil signify that we are icons of Christ and temples of the Spirit. At confirmation we are anointed for mission. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become living signs of the Lord’s desire for us and his presence to us. In Christian marriage, husband and wife bodily mediate the Lord to each other. We anoint the sick for bodily and emotional healing. From natural conception till natural death our bodies matter.

This reverential and sacramental care continues after death. At a Catholic funeral we bless the body of the deceased with holy water, recalling that this was a baptised – a holy – person and an embodied temple of the Holy Spirit. Then we use incense: the rising, sweet-smelling smoke symbolises our love and prayers as we commend this person to God. Then we are to commit the person to the earth



or to fire. We are to treat either the body or the ashes with integrity because both have a sacramental significance.

We live in a society that has a very functional approach to the body.

We have what is virtually

abortion on demand. How long will it be before our politicians legislate for euthanasia? A sacramental vision of life sees these as a degradation of the person who is a child of God and an embodied temple of the Spirit. The way that we choose to treat human remains can obscure or even deny this sacramental vision.

I encourage you to think about your funeral plans. All Catholic Tawa and Titahi Bay parishioners need to do this. Many of our partners, our siblings and children are not practising Catholics: they do not understand a specifically Catholic, sacramental understanding of our rituals that bless living and dying. You and I are embodied, sacramental persons. Whether we choose to be buried or cremated, our bodies or our ashes are to be treated with reverence and respect. Let your family know your wishes.

A final anecdote: some years ago, I served our 10:30am Sunday Mass. As I walked up Lyndhurst Road I observed a group scattering the ashes of a deceased person over the goal-line at Lyndhurst Park. While this may have been the deceased's specific request, I wondered what this said about the changing face of Tawa. This proved, at least to me, the temporary triumph of sentimentality over the sacramental vision of life. How, I wondered, might rugby players in Tawa react if they realized they were grinding human ashes into the turf?

[Back](#)

The merit of our actions does not depend on their importance or number, but on the degree of love of God with which we perform them.

Suzanne Aubert (Directory 12, P.5)

## St Francis Xavier School

by Joan Woods (*Principal*)

### Term 3 & 4 News

In Term 3 our school had a focus on the arts. We held an art exhibition which was a wonderful opportunity to view some of the finest art ever to be displayed at St Francis Xavier School.

Not only were amazing pieces of art-work created by our children on display, but we also had the opportunity to watch our kapa haka and ukulele group performing for us.

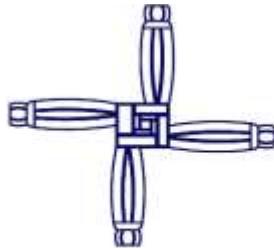
**Our Year 5 and 6 children were involved in Tawa schools' music festival, Tawa Goes to Town, and a number of our Year 3 and 4 children took part in Art Splash, joining a choir of children from schools around the region. Both these concerts were held in the Michael Fowler Centre.**

Our swimming sports were a great success and children were given every opportunity to participate. We celebrated the opening of the Olympic Games with children dressed in national costumes or the colours of countries their families identified with. We also gathered in our House groups to celebrate the Olympics. It was great to see our students **practising our values of perseverance and fair play. The children's** fitness has been tested by being involved in squash, athletics, rugby and swimming.

Some children from St Francis Xavier School were confirmed during the year by Cardinal John Dew and made their first Communion recently.

It was wonderful to see so many families at our parish/school mass in September. A large group of four-year-olds from the parish were presented with a prayer book from the parish. We have many New Entrants to look forward to welcoming to school next year. We hosted a "**5 Next Term Party**" so these New Entrants and their parents had an opportunity to meet each other and to see Room 1 in action.

A Mass was held for the Feast of Assumption in August and on All Saints Day. During October, the children had the opportunity of praying



**St Francis Xavier School**  
Strength and Gentleness  
Tu Maia, Tu Aroha

the Rosary in their classrooms and during some lunch times. Our school values for Term 4 include generosity and joyfulness and our Religious Education strands this term are Communion of Saints and Advent.

What an amazing school and parish community we have here at St Francis Xavier School. Our school fair was very successful and we wish to pass our thanks on to not only our hard-working fundraising committee but also our parents and parishioners for their very generous support of our fair. The sun did shine for us on the day, which made for a real Tawa community event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Father John and Father Paul for the continuing support that they so readily give us. They are always welcome visitors to our school. On behalf of the school staff I wish you all the very best for a happy and holy Christmas. [Back](#)



## ANZRATH

by *Sr. Francine McGovern sm*

ANZRATH stands for:

Aotearoa New Zealand Religious Against Trafficking In Humans.

This group was formed in Wellington last year to raise awareness and work together towards the elimination of human trafficking and exploitation in all its forms. in NZ. In Australia the group is called ACRATH and it was the involvement of an Australian Marist Sister, Sr Noelene Simmons that encouraged Sr Gemma Wilson, Leader of the Marist Sisters to begin a group in Auckland. Another group began in Otago this year.

Marist Sisters Margaret Vaney and Francine McGovern are part of the local group which meets to inform one another of developments, events and ways to be involved.

The first conviction in NZ for trafficking of humans was brought to the High Court and a Fijian man was convicted. He is to be sentenced in December.

For further information visit the [Anzrath](#) site NZ

Or Australia [www.acrath.org.au](http://www.acrath.org.au)

## Fr Lou Leuthard - builder of St Pius X church & community



*Photo from Nelson-Stoke parish newsletter*

Fr Lou Leuthard died on 29th August at the age of 88. He was the first parish priest at St Pius X. His vision got the existing church built, using much voluntary labour, for which he was the 'main man' directing everything. He is remembered most fondly for his commitment to his priestly ministry, his knowledge and visiting of all parishioners (and many others besides), his wise counsel and support of people in need., his advocacy for adult education and his testing the capacity of a Volkswagen Beetle to pull a trailer loaded with building materials.



Saint Pius X church community in Titahi Bay organised a memorial mass for Fr Leuthard on Tuesday 4th October

After the service we entertained at least fifty visitors and the thirteen priests on the alter with a lovely afternoon tea .

***It was a fitting farewell for a special "Man of the Bay"***

## We Remember with Love

**Margaret Whelan** was one of the oldest parishioners from St Pius X. She died on 28th September, aged 89. Growing up in England during the WW2, she was sent with her brothers and sisters to stay with her uncle and his wife in Ireland leaving her mother and father behind. Below is from the eulogy for Margaret by her daughter Mary.

Dad always said that Mum was the only girl who shared the same interests as him or she learnt to! ...

Dad even took Mum courting down in the bog lands around Ardara, Donegal cutting the turf for Nan Whelan's winter fires.

I think Mum's attitude towards life and the equal sharing of interests and responsibilities was one of the reasons that their marriage successfully reached the milestone of 64 yrs.

Margaret was a wonderful wife to Joe and a beautiful mother to Tom, Gerard, Patricia and myself, we cannot speak more highly of her and yet she would not want us to do so. She had an amazing capacity for love and forgiveness and always liked to see the good in people. ... She was famous for her letter-writing and all the Whelan family looked forward to her weekly updates, usually in the form of the blue aerogram letter. Phone calls overseas at that time were £1 a minute, so could only be an infrequent event.

In the early 60s Mum, Dad, Tom and myself embarked on the adventure of our lives by emigrating to NZ. Mum was very disappointed on arrival that we were unable to get into Catholic schools at that stage. Tom told his teacher at school that he thought he was losing his religion by going to a State school and she confided in him that she too, was a Catholic and he never looked back.

When Gerard and Patricia came along our family was complete and we were very grateful to have each other. Eventually Mum had to go into Kemp Home. Here they had music and as usual mum sang her heart out and remembered the lyrics to most of the songs. She loved to sing and had a melodic Irish lilt.

When we were supporting Mum in her final days of life it was very apparent that she was suffering and carrying her cross as the crucified Christ had done for the love of mankind. Mum carried her cross for the love of Christ and her family in an inspirational way but as always as a very humble servant.



[Back](#)

## Advent and Christmas in Our Lady of Hope Parish

**2nd December** 7:30 pm Advent Service at 131 Woodman Drive

All women welcome      Hosted by Women of Faith and Catholic Women's League groups. Please bring a donation for the SVdP Christmas hampers.

**4th December**      Combined churches of Tawa Advent Service

7pm      Our Lady of Fatima Church , Tawa

**11th December**      Rite 2 Service of Reconciliation

5pm      St Theresa's Plimmerton

7pm      Our Lady of Fatima Tawa

**24th December**      Christmas vigil services

5pm      Christmas vigil mass St Pius X, Titahi Bay

7pm      Christmas family mass Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa

11:30 pm      Carols Our Lady of Fatima

12:00      Midnight Mass Our Lady of Fatima

**25th December**      Christmas Day services

10am      Combined Churches of Tawa Christmas Service

Tawa College, Duncan Street

10:30am      Christmas Day mass Our Lady of Fatima, Tawa



[Back](#)

## Parish Notices - Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths

### Baptisms

Name of child	Parents	Baptism Date
Kyle Arwin Calixto - son of Erwin & Eloisa Calixto		21 August 2016
Hazel Sara Lunny - daughter of James & Lisa Lunny		2 October 2016
Penelope Rose Taylor-Mallon - daughter of Samuel Taylor-Mallon & Dannielle Shaw		9 October 2016
Ashley Nicholas Conroy - son of John Conroy & Stephanie Clarke		9 October 2016
Patrick Michael John McFarlane - son of Michael & Leah McFarlane		16 Oct. 2016
Connery James Lang - son of Henry & Nestia Lang		13 November 2016
Hugo Raphael Lang - son of Simon & Lyra Lang		13 November 2016
Archie Cruz Ameto Talamaivao - son of Amby Talamaivao & Faith Milkims		13 November 2016
Austin Matthew Whyte - son of Matthew Whyte & Karen O'Rourke		13 November 2016

### Deaths

Theresa Meraina Martin - died: 29 July 2016  
Carol James O'Neill - died: 30 July 2016  
Kevin Frank Hammond - died: 14 August 2016  
Steven James Gordon - died: 2 September 2016  
Margaret Theresa Philomena Whelan - died: 28 September 2016  
Patricia Madeleine Heather - died: 7 October 2016

### Joy to the World ...

*"the first word that I wish to say to you: Joy!*

*Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad!*

*Never give way to discouragement!*

*Ours is not a joy born of having many possessions,*

*but of having encountered a Person: Jesus in our midst."*

Pope Francis - The Church of Mercy

## 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 Marie Prescott - chair

Kalameli Aiono, Telesia Alaimoana, Lagi Anamani, Chantelle Anthony,

Gerard Bone, Denise Dorman, Ted Gallen, John Lafaele,

Ray Lindsay, Hannah McCurdle, Paul McCurdle, Rupi Mapusua,

Litia Meli, Joseph Mijares, Andrew Oliver, Rebekah Siave.

## Regular 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,

Marian Mothers - 2nd Monday am each month - see weekly newsletter

Women of Faith - 2nd Tuesday each month pm - see weekly newsletter

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 sponsored by Ninness Funeral Home

17 Kenepuru Drive, Porirua

ph: 04 237 4174 fax: 04 237 4172 email: info@ninness.co.nz

**Christians must become "accomplices" of love!** Pope Francis

As 2016 approaches an end the quotation from Pope Francis seems so appropriate. November has seen our community remember our loved ones who have returned to God and Christmas becomes all the more poignant for their absence.

Christian hope and faith in the afterlife mean the sting of losing a loved one does not have to leave behind a poisonous venom in our lives, Pope Francis said.

"Our loved ones have not disappeared into dark nothingness: Hope assures us that that they are in God's good and strong hands. Love is stronger than death..."

For the people of God, death never has the last word, the pope said. However, it still takes an enormous amount of love to face "the darkness of death."

He asked that today's priests and all Christians find ways to better express what the faith means when facing the death of a loved one. How as faith communities can we better express what our faith means when a loved member of our family and pastoral area has died? In what way can the language of death give way to the language of love and hope?

Christians must become "accomplices" of love, armed with the faith and able to help families navigate the "very difficult path of death as well as the sure path of the Lord, crucified and risen, with his irreversible promise of resurrection."

We, at Ninness Funeral Home, hope in some way we have been your accomplices of love during the very difficult times you have faced. Thank you for the trust that you have given us over the year. Our hope for you is in the words of Pope Francis "Just as the angels said to the shepherds, the precious gift of Christmas is peace, and Christ is our true peace: "Christ is knocking at the doors of our hearts to give us His peace. Let us open those doors to Christ!"

**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.

[Back](#)





If undelivered return to: P.O. BOX 51-029, TAWA, 5249



Flying Colours  
Print Advisory Services

Phone: 04 237 6234  
Mobile: 0274 989 314  
Fax: 04 237 4333  
Email: [flying.colours@xtra.co.nz](mailto:flying.colours@xtra.co.nz)

4 Cobham Court, Porirua  
P.O. Box 50 2011  
Porirua 5240

Stories of Hope is printed with care by Flying Colours



John Greatly



Brenden Jacobsen

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

Call us for personal service today: